



Planning of Rural Space in Serbia As a Factor of Regional Development

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Introduction

There are numerous problems on rural space in Serbia (depopulation, retardation in all spheres of living) with modest efforts for their solving. This paper deals with notes about planned action for "reviving" of the rural settlements, for improving quality of living in them, as well as defines the main concept for further development of rural space in Serbia.

Urgent intrusion of socialistic system on ideological base with intention to change the agriculture countrymen to productive workers has produced difficulty consequences on rural space development in Serbia. By the by, young people emigration towards towns according to industrial development has denoted the villages stagnating, declining and growing old.

At the end of the Second millenium the rural settlements and agriculture in all countries in transition are in the complex economic and social relationship. Situation in Serbian rural space is much more difficult, in consideration of economic sanctions, foreign political influences and wars.

This paper presents the rational seeing of "reviving" of rural settlements, as a factor of regional development in Serbia.

Previous Planned Actions

Consciousness about necessity of planned development and arrangement the regions and republics territory have been existing in the urban theory in ex Yugoslavia from the fiftieth (RPP, 1957). Conscience about needs to steer the process of urbanization development and migrations according to regional plans, as well as rural settlements development as a cause of that migrations ripped during the seventieth (KUPU, 1971; Bjelikov, 1985). At eightieth both the Republic of Serbia and a half of its regions did not have the regional plans with the intention to plan all the segments of the territory including Serbian villages.

At the end of twentieth century a greater importance is given to solve all problems and planning of the rural space. The last Law about planning and using territory of Serbia (1995) arranges the way of planning rural settlements within the urbanistic and regional plans. These plans define the conception of rural settlement arrangement. However, the aims and the strategy of rural space development are established in the space plans (regional and national plans) that comprehend wider territories than municipalities.

The Space Plan of the Republic of Serbia (1996) defines the goals of rural settlements development at the beginning of the Third millennium according to strategy of society development in future. This plan defines the settlement network, their organization, importance, relationships and urbanization steering. Regional plan defines more precisely the way of land use with balance of users, as well as free land for further settlements development and activities arrangement.

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Besides the considerable efforts, the question of advancement of living quality in rural settlements is still neglected, in spite of planned actions with regard to social-economic development or urban planning. It is, of course, hardly to expect to develop rural settlements in period when the whole country is in recession and decline process, since the rural settlements, according to tradition, belong to society segment that has the least developed. Last years scientific conferences have been organizing in connection of solving the rural space problems and about transformation of rural settlements. Synthesis of these proposals, including planned conceptions of settlements development, should be, also, presented in this paper.

Conditions for Rural Settlements Transformation

Action of "reviving" of the rural settlements must not be returned to former way of living or traditional culture style, since the rural population continually run away from them. The progressive village has to be built with modern agriculture, based towards contemporary economy and scientific-technology. Planning of villages should means to modernize development program that changes a lot of former way. The main conditions of successful realization of that project are (Mitrovic, 1996):

- powerful country as a whole bearer;
- government and other financing;
- effective local organization of the main activities etc.

As the rural settlements development considers totally riches, the whole social progress should be realized. It means better connection between urban and rural place. Financial resources are weakly movable and predominantly remain in towns, or in circles of more developed part of society. Against of finances, productive workers are maximal movable from the wider spreaded and less developed rural space (Milojevic, 1987). For that reason traditional relation between town and village should be transcended. In such a way, industry should not be tied only for urban space, but for the whole territory. That mode of organization should cause higher connection between rural settlements and surrounding potentials. Monopoly of towns, especially bigger towns, should be overcome. Suitable planning requires regional characteristics of each individual territory, good knowledge of settlements condition, as well as processes of their former uncontrolled development (Lukic, 1987).

In other words, village problems contain a lot of fundamental questions. Those questions depend on social development, aims and criterions and skillfulness of selection ways and means for solving problems and realization planned actions in the future (Radovanovic, 1972).

Rural space problems are included in general problems of planning, since the rural planning is one of the important factors of the total regional development. All principles in connection of keeping population at the countryside, agriculture modernization and other activity development, as well as better equipment in the rural settlements, have to be accepted and respected. Therefore all local potentials have to be used in the proper manner (Ribar, 1996) on term to preserve ambience and cultural values, nature values and to protect the environment with regarding to sustainable development requires.

The Main Assumption of Rural Space Planning

The key aims in connection to solving rural problems means to keep population in country and to enable the further rural space development. This conception is based on multifunctional development principles. It means combined agriculture development with other activities and adequate using of all potentials for production or service activities for population employment in country.

Besides the activating of the local potentials, the realization of this conception is established on rural settlements integration into system and communication with higher level centers.

Rural settlements connection means forming secondary centers and centers of settlement communities on the municipality's territory. The overpopulation and overconcentrated productive activities, especially service activities in towns compared to periferic areas of the

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municipalities, should be balanced by these centers. The settlements community centers should include gravitated territory from 3 to 10 thousands inhabitants. Every settlement in the system has its own appropriate functional part (Kojic, 1972). Little rural settlements, under 300 inhabitants, should be maintained against extinction by the aid of government stimulation only if they are strategically situated or lied on the localities with especially natural potentials. Functional zones of the settlements communities, with decentralization of productive activities and service activities from municipality centers to settlements community centers and other more important rural settlements have many-sided importance. This system of the settlements organizes service activities and contain consumers needs on more rational way as well as activities of local communities more effectively cooperate. The level of desirable decentralization is changeable and adapted to the character of activities. This model of the rural settlements organization influences uniformly regional development and favour integral regional development and every partially action of "reviving" concrete settlement or undeveloped rural space.

The prerequisite for effectively conducting of that settlements system is in revocation continuously prcommunicational isolation of villages towards towns. So, the term is much better traffic ties between rural and urban space.

Rural space development, and development of new manifold production areas and strengthening economic power of rural households are the basic questions of the future regular regional development. To realize that it is necessary to fill up next conditions (RPP, 2000):

- larger growing of properties, by the aid of government or local supports;
- advancement of social standard and public and communal services in villages;
- transfer of agriculture population surplus towards other activities;
- developing of manufacturers - halfproduction in rural settlements, especially in community centers, which have to be connected with towns;
- diversification of agriculture production into zones according to physical-geographic characteristics etc.

Rural settlements development and arrangement must be planned together with organization and arrangement of rural properties, as a zone of directly influences from surroundings. It is very important because of expected changes in the rural settlements production and developing of unagricultural activities, respectively rural space development as a multifunctional space of activities.

The households with mixed incomes should be induced towards employment out of agriculture on the rural space. In that way the pressure towards towns about employment, apartments, public services, communal funds, etc should be decreased. On the other hand, varieties of activity structure should be increased. Growing of other incomes from non-agriculture activities is needed on the territories which are naturally less suitable for agriculture.

Development of the multifunctional activities is in close connection with domestic economies and manufacturers with little capacities. These objects could include (Padjen, 1987):

- production activities in connection to processing of agricultural goods;
- service activities for protection of agricultural machines;
- handicrafts development;
- development of production capacities in rural settlement as a section of towns industry;
- development of rural tourism which demands development of service activities and other settlements contents etc.

The great stimulus to development of manufacturers with little capacities should be given by both private and national economy, as organizers and buyers of those goods. Government has to stimulate such way of development by better conditions (labour licence, taxes, guarantees for permanently work, etc). Special motivation should be given to migrant workers from abroad with purpose to remain on rural space, especially less developed regions, and giving them more favourable import of equipment and raw materials, taxes reductions etc.

However, the further villages development could not be based only on passive counting upon support, but on combination nationally and regionally stimulation and local initiative (PPRS, 1996).

Mountainous region of central Serbia imposes rural tourism as an alternative activity in the rural settlements with less favourable potentials for agriculture. Nowadays, in the period of

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low standard in Serbia, the rural tourism has its own priority (Kabiljo, 1978): low service prices, possibilities for residence in a short time not so far from towns, contacts between guest and host are more humanistic, that kind of tourism induces the activity of valuable motive, animates interest for recreation, it has a tourist offering during the whole year etc. Rural tourism is a good way to induce development in the less developed regions. There are some difficulties for tourism development in the backward rural settlements. They are in relations with low level of communal equipment, insufficiently exploitation of existing working fund, emigration and decreasing of young people, modestly creativity of rural population, shortage of services etc. Government has to enable better conditions for this way of rural development, too, by giving tax or credit allowances to the donors of tourist services. There is a considerable risk from mass and concentric tourism in rural space. It is reflected in the endangerment of surroundings, in destruction of ethnical and architectonic heritage as well as in spontaneously construction of tourist objects.

Table 1. Planned rural settlements equipment's in Serbia in the first half of Third millenium.

Type of function	Center of settlements community	Rural settlement
Education and culture	mainly elementary school children's object institution of culture	elementary school
health, children and public welfare services	health station, dentists office, pharmacy, veterinary pharmacy, kindergarten	ambulance, pharmacy
sports and recreation	little sports center, swimming pool	sports ground
Communal funds	service for housing keeping, sourceworks – separate waterworks	air lowvoltage lines, sourcework – separate waterworks
public services	political section, saving bank section	local office
Trade	little shopping center, supermarket, shop with civil engineering materials	shop of consumer goods
Restaurant business	Restaurant	bar
Handicrafts	service for household apparatus	traditional handicrafts
traffic	transport-office, bus station, post-office	bus stop
tourism	Motel	private accommodation
building	firm-office	
industry	business organization - office	
agriculture	Complex of farms, big warehouse	little warehouse
forestry	firm-office	

Rural settlements have to be developed only according to the regional and urban planning. Rural development has been realized only in planned settlements based on research and territory arrangement according to polycentric development concept. A starting point is rational land use and producing resources, residential building, infrastructure construction and generally planned location of activity objects (Stanivukovic, 1987).

Future development of the rural settlements requires planning of equipments with various comprise of objects (Table 1, RPP, 2000). Presented types of functions and objects in the rural centers of settlements community and primarily in rural settlements are planned in connection to local conditions (natural properties, characteristics of rural settlements network, demographic characteristics, economic orientation of territory) as well as the level of development interest of wider social community.

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Conclusions

The rural settlements and the space development as a multifunctional production, social and cultural territories, as well as strengthening of economic power of the rural households are the main aims of future equally regional development in Serbia.

Improvement of living quality in the rural space means to establish suitable coordination and combine development of agriculture and other productive and service activities. It included little and middle industrial capacities, handicrafts, trade, service and financial activities, tourism and handwork (folk arts and crafts) etc. Priority of development is making such way of development conditions for activating of rural potentials and motivating of population in the aim of growing living quality in rural space. That means formation of rural market economy with leading part of rural households capable to provide cumulative fund for reproduction and increasing productive activities.

Parallel with decentralization of productive activities and public town's activities, particularly significance is attached to development of territorially organization of the rural settlements network. This concept implies functional zones of the rural settlements communities with defined centers. Status of the center should be given to the most developed rural settlements, in fact settlements with the most favourable geographic location on the municipality territory.

Essence of this planning strategy of rural space should be contribute of rural settlements transformation in Serbia as well as selective inducing and coordinating both the economic development, on one hand and jointly development with individual development, on the other hand.

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