

The Villages of Apuseni Mountains

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Keywords: rural habitat, sustainable development, village, environment, peasant household

ABSTRACT

The concept of rural location or rural habitat supposes the presence and interrelationship of social and territorial components, which define the rural system. A central part of my research, in the area of rural geography, being owned by the role and the place held by the rural households in the entirety of socio-economic activities in the area of the Apuseni Mountains. In addition, my research was also motivated by the manner in which the rural households have been and are still established in the present, as the basic core of rural development / phenomenon.

1. INTRODUCTION

The study of depression areas from the Apuseni Mountains represents both a personal passion and a scientific concern. This particular area of the Apuseni Mountains has fascinated me since childhood, with its rural households and all socio-economic activities specific to depressions in the Apuseni Mountains. The rural household has been and still is the core of the development of the so-called “*rural phenomenon*” [1]. On the other hand, my roots come from the village and I think, without exaggeration, that the villages are marked by valences of progress in all areas of everyday life. Therefore, this paper focuses on the presentation of the types of rural households of this area. Much more, I will try to highlight the trends towards sustainable development of the most popular and valuable part of the Romanian village “*the peasant household*”!

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Overview of the rural domain from Apuseni Mountains. The concept of rural settlement requires the

presence and interaction of social and territorial components, defining complex areas.

The fundamental components of the areas are the villages, the population.

The contemporary science defines the nature as a succession of inter-conditioned systems, it appears as a hierarchy based on the complexity of organization and functioning, factors that influence its dynamics. The geographical concept of rural settlement should not be taken into consideration only in relation to all environmental elements [3].

The village is the basic cell of life. It is the geographical landscape of Romanian human continuity, as old as the organization and housing of the Carpatho-Danubian-Pontic space.

The village is located in space and time in a very balanced side that blends social, natural, economic and technical. At the core of any rural settlements, specific also to the Apuseni mountain area, were found the benefits what they provide, the certain allowance and a most efficient use by humans.

The relationship with the natural environment, human settlements are closely connected with the environment, growing what we call the frame or position of a settlement. That position on certain

routes of communication or the natural environment as a whole. Such sociological influences are also very important, especially economically. They include agricultural production, trade, traffic, livestock, industry, etc. In this category, we can include social organization in different cultural and historical periods, with religious influences. We can say that the village is an ancient form of organization, which by its functions,

agricultural, pastoral, craft, has kept most authentic characteristics of material and spiritual culture of the peoples.

Romanian village especially that located in mountainous areas is an element of continuity; it remains well organized as a rural entity, being the most widespread habitat in the Carpathians, the most characteristic element of the humanized landscape.

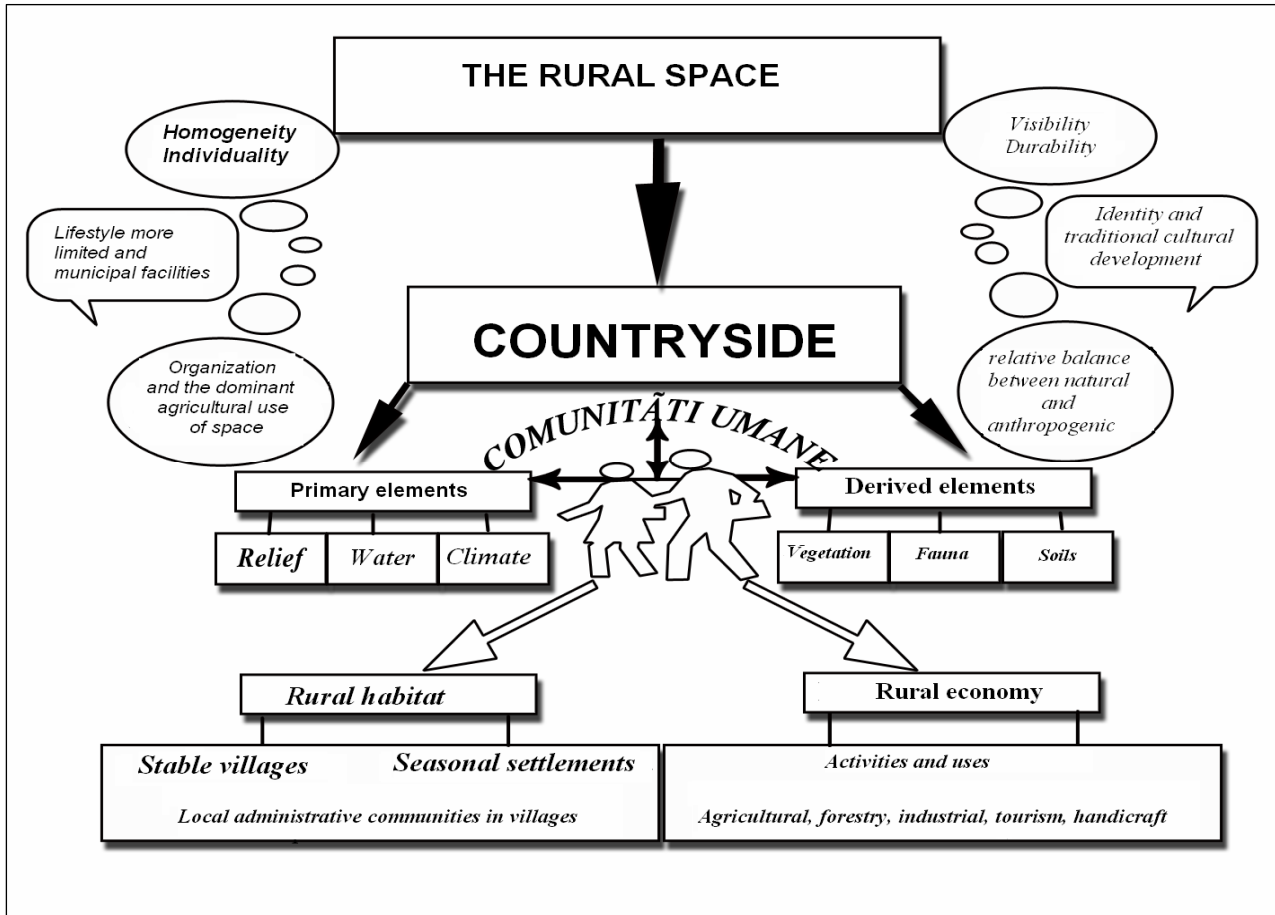


Fig. 1. Hierarchy, organization, functionality and features of the space and countryside (source: Zonneveld, 1972; Rougerie and Beroutchavili, 1991; Dumitracu, 2005).

The Carpathians Depressions, in special the Apuseni Mountains represent a geographical area in which the rural represents a high proportion; it is the defining element in those areas. They adopted a very specific area-modelling fell into the mountains, the element type is observed in its typology

Apuseni Mountains' specific habitat has several specific features of general relief, generally fragmented and very diverse on one hand and the presence of large platforms of erosion, the valley passes, the peak pasture, on the other side. The habitat has two forms of organization of living space: permanent and seasonal settlements. A specific from the rest of the Romanian of Carpathians is that it has a number of special features, which give the mountain habitat of Western originality and specificity. Apuseni Mountains are the most highly populated from all the Romanian

Carpathians. The large number of human settlements in the area due to their accessibility and that it is surrounded by big depressions, with great possibilities of farming, crop cultivation and in the superior part is characterized by high erosion platforms that offer extensive lawns, some of them converted into agricultural land. These defining features were gradually emerged throughout history [4].

Scattered villages on the heights, households are bonded in groves, inhabited in the past and sometimes even today. Apuseni Mountains village history seen to graft on a hearth Dacian settlement, in most cases have occurred over the past social changes, and then how to use natural resources differently in different historical stages. Whatever the difficulties, the Apuseni Mountains village played a significant role in growing their own spiritual background. However over

the years have occurred spatial shifts in these areas. The extent of a large area of land so made difficult land, small fields or fields often gritty subject torrential, did not give good fruit. This area is specific to potatoes, oats or barley, fine, but all involve difficult working conditions and little harvest. Orchards were also restricted, and gardeners do not cover consumption needs in the area [5]. The post-war years, particularly those of the socialist system have not essentially radical improvement of the area. Anomalous process of systematization of villages, contrary to what he wanted to be, tending to a Romanian village for patterns of some settlements generally faced with an exodus of population to industries, leaving the villages (especially the young people), aging population and villages ... etc.

The period after 1989 marked a new period in rural development. Extensive programs like conversion of labour, agro-tourism development and upgrading utilities will be discussed in Parliament in our country like international programs. We hope that soon the so-called "Tara Moților" will be capitalized in all respects to its fair value.



Fig. 2. Wooden house model from Apuseni Mountains (foto: Nemes Loredana Mihaela, 2007).

Rural household in the late 1999, early 2009. Rural home areas (situated at high altitudinal) have a total record of 103,000 living rooms, a rural prominence by 69% the number of dwellings and 67.4% in the number of living rooms.

Total area of permanently living rooms amounts rise to 95.3% and 4.7% remained unfilled. Most homes have been unoccupied in cities Cîmpeni (14.5%) and Zlatna (8.3%) and municipalities Ciobulești Șoharu and Gura Ciobulești (approximately 9.3 to 8.1%). Most of the homes were constructed during the years 1961-1985, 45.4% respectively. During the period 1986-1992 their share has fallen considerably, building is only 0.8%.

The difference between urban and rural mountains area, is that buildings are in rural areas declined from those in urban areas. This phenomenon is explained in conjunction with economic development especially in industrial areas.

Regarding these housing facilities in rural areas shows that this area in the Apuseni Mountains is under of "European standards"!

Although today we notice an increase in living rooms from the past, about 15% (double glazing, thermal insulation materials have become more frequent usefulness of bath, the toilet from inside moves outside etc). However, the average is below the European standards. This is also another positive and negative nature.

Because we find some positive developments, it tends to be negative for destroying traditional peasant village type or modernization stands a much slower.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We can distinguish the following issues regarding rural mountains area:

- 1900-1940 stage is the stage when the Apuseni Mountains village had a flourishing, especially after unification in 1918, after which the standard of living has improved considerably, bounded specifically and rising gold and silver mines in the area. Cities such as Brad, Abrud, Cîmpeni were raising urban centres, which takes its toll over the surrounding villages and the respective depressions. For example: Roșia Montană has sewer, paved roads, hotels, casinos, restaurants etc;

- 1940-1945 phases are a period of reorganization under urban layout and then the second stage of reconstruction and renewal. For example: Brad town had a college with mining profile which in 1957 moved to Bucharest, which resulted in a decrease in relation to culture, but also economically;

- 1970-1989 phase marks a renewal of villages with dispensaries, schools, houses of culture, shared libraries (e.g.: Ștei, Băița, Lonciu, Țebea de Jos). However, it comes at another aspect of environmental degradation in the famous case being due to depression Zlatna mine exploitation. During this period, the "moți" construct a relatively large number of houses, which increased with 34.4% in rural areas. However, it was noted a decrease in technologies relating to water, sewerage, heating, will remain backward areas to other areas, like Brașov. In many villages, access is becoming increasingly difficult, more difficult; some vehicles could not be used anymore. Even some county roads e.g. DN 74 Oradea-Deva-Brad is one of the most modern;

- after 1990, we meet as both positive and negative effects. Positive is that the economy creates competition type premise beneficial development of private property, change the appearance of many villages, especially the physiognomy of houses. Renewal index stands at 22% during 1990-1997.

Then increases the capacity of residential facilities, grow the number of houses with central heating, sanitation etc.

On the other hand the villages of "hamlet" type are abandonment, which belonged to the common depression, especially where access was difficult, which require longer time, low production efficiency, reduced efficiency. In addition, a negative aspect is that the urban influence is lower, especially by reducing the mining areas: Brad, Băița, Roșia Poieni, Zlatna Cîmpeni. Instead, villages know some upgrades in terms of facilities for tourism, agro-tourism in the more common mountain taking a real scale;

- stage 2000-2015, is a unique stage characterized by social and functional mutations, a step that will prioritize sustainable development of intra-depression areas.

Under functional aspect it was manifested a total extinction of mining in villages. This phenomena involved mutation of the social type: many families have emigrated permanently or temporarily, especially to work in Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria [2]. Some households, especially those who were thriving 10 years ago, are now closed almost all the year. Others are in a stage of great prosperity, especially where the remaining family members at home is about 1-2 and households have invested heavily in resources received from other family members which are working abroad.

4. CONCLUSION

Characteristic of the Apuseni Mountains is the absolute dominance of small and very small villages.

Socio-economic problems of the Western Mountains region, including western part of Alba County and the adjacent territories belonging to the counties of Cluj, Bihor (northwest region), Arad and Hunedoara (western region) are related to the high degree of dispersion in the area of human settlements.

However, we have to note both positive aspects such as rural development and negative in the Apuseni Mountains. It is noted tourism development in the rural part of the Apuseni depression area, particularly in villages on the mountain range, which occurred in recent years with both internal and external customers. The natural tourism background of Apuseni Mountains is extremely rich and varied, but used only partially.

These occurrences lead to default and mutations in the region both in town as part of structural changes to employment, especially rural settlements. Ethnographic and historical resources are great: many historical social objectives (Avram Iancu, Țebea, Albac etc.). Traditional folk events (Girls Fair on Găina Mountain, Autumn Fair from Negreni in Vadu Crișului) in ethnographic areas of great originality – Țara Moșilor from the upper basin of the White Cris, Country Zarand, Beiuș Depression, Sălaj area and Huedin etc. All these aspects are added and phenomena associated with mining at Roșia Montană, with all its implications. Nevertheless, what is regrettable is that the tradition is lost, the default values.

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