



An Overview of Development of Transport Geography in India through Research Articles

Mrs. Jyoti Sudhir Acharya

Dr. Vilas Ugale

Abstract:

Transport plays a crucial role in the development of any region. Transport geography is an emerging branch of economic geography which is gaining importance in 21st century. Through this research article an attempt is made to see the progress of transport geography as an independent subject in India through various articles published in research journals. Initially study of transport geography was scattered and restricted to regional approach but it has changed to systematic, behavioral, economical approaches. Even transport related articles used to get published other than dedicated transport journals. Since 1980s, there is a drastic change in number of transport related articles and journals.

Introduction:

While writing a research paper, we do refer other research articles with reference to the subject. When we do carry out Literature Review means we read other research papers. The way research papers are written, it may give us the direction how the subject could have developed, what researchers or scientists think, how the subject is taken further, how the new or same concepts could have seen, investigated. Many research journals are available today and some are interdisciplinary also. Considering the importance of research papers, an effort has been made to find out how the subject like Transport Geography would have emerged and progress.

Geography of Transportation is a part of Economic Geography, a separate branch concerned with the study of Transportation, its development, location and operation within the territorial-economic complexes of countries and regions and its interrelationships with the location of Industry and agriculture, of population and cities, and of natural phenomena and resources. Although transport was not a new concept, it was associated with the movement of people from ancient times when walking was the primitive mode of transport from the early times. As the time progressed, Transport Geography has become as an independent branch of study with new modes of transport, concepts, terminologies, techniques and approaches etc. Today transportation is considered as a multidisciplinary subject.

In this research paper, an attempt has been made to study the development of Transport Geography in India through various research papers published in research journals.

Keywords: *Research article, research journal, transport geography, transportation*

Objectives:

- To see the progress of 'Transport Geography' in India through various research articles published in Research Journals.
- To study the growth of Transport Geography in different time frame.

Literature of Review:

An article "How the Journal of Transport Geography has evolved since 1993" by Richard Knowles talked on the need for separate independent research journal in the field of Transport Geography. Established year of Journal of Transport Geography, its editorial board members,

research agendas, top most cited papers, citation scores from 2008-2017 etc. were briefly explained by the author in the Journal as a critical review in Volume 81, Dec 2019.

In the editorial notes published in March 1977, Volume 6, Issue 1 in the Journal Springer, Hills wrote on “Priorities for Research in Transport” as an Introduction and Editorial Comment. Davis Bayliss, Chief Planner (Transportation) of the Greater London Council London S.E.1 has mentioned in his article about changing scene in Transport Planning and Management in London. His article was published in the Journal Springer on March 1977 Volume 6, Issue 1 (pages 3-17). He stated that apart from formerly Public Transport Planning and Management, Highway Planning and Management carried out by engineers now professional involvement has widened to include land use, social and environmental planners and perhaps most significant of all, the general public has become much more involved in transport issues. He mentioned the decision making process is now much more open to debate and language and style of this debate is different from that traditional in 50s and 60s. Davis Bayliss has thrown light on how priorities, thought process has changed from decade to decade. “Making links: On (re)engaging with transport and transport geography” by Jon Shaw and James Sidaway in the journal SAGE Progress in Human Geography, Volume 35, Issue 4 in Nov 2010 (Pages 502-520) has taken broad review on articles published in various research journals and the area of research in the field of Transport Geography. Initial development of Transport Geography, linkages of transport with Pilgrimage, tourism, geopolitics, ports etc. were discussed in details.

In Elsevier Journal of Transport Geography, in Volume 2, Issue 3 September 1994 (Pages 155-168), authors Edward Taaffe and Howard Gauthier have enlightened the development of Transport Geography in United States. In the research paper titled “Transportation Geography and geographic thoughts in the United States: an overview”, both the authors considered pre and post 1970s period of United States and revealed the study based on model building, spatial analysis, paradigm, positivism, controversial aspects of transport geography, pluralism etc. The paper included the study on post 1970s pluralism with respect to spatial organization, area studies and ecological studies with their contributors. Paper was concluded with hopes and future directions of Transport Geography in 21st century.

In the article “The shifting position of the Journal of Transport Geography in 'transport geography research': A bibliometric analysis”, published in Journal of Transport Geography Volume 81, December 2019, the authors Ben Derudder and et al. focus on comparing (evolutions in) the research covered in JTRG (Journal of Transport Geography) with (evolutions in) the research at the intersection of the geographical and transport sciences published in other journals (LIGTS).

In the present article, an attempt has been made to find out the development of Transport Geography in India through various research articles published in research journals.

Methodology:

The research article is based on mainly secondary data. Various research articles published in research journals like Journal of Transport Geography (Elsevier), Journal of Modern Transportation (Scimago Journal and Country Rank- SJR), Transport , Transport Reviews (Taylor and Francis), Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Transportation (Springer), Transportation, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, SAGE journals etc. were taken into account. The articles related to India in the title of the article are considered.

Brief information about few articles in the field of Transportation and Transport Geography:- Transport Reviews:

The first issues of Transport Reviews appeared in 1981 and published by Taylor and Francis. It served as a main academic review journal in the field of transport from last 40 years.

Transport journal has started publishing research articles since 1986. Periodicity of the journal was one volume (issue) per year and publications were prepared in Russian. From 2002, papers were published in the English language only and from 2011 to 2017, the journal was published by Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in partnership with Taylor and Francis.

Journal of Transport Geography (Elsevier) is a quarterly peer reviewed scientific journal published by Elsevier in association with the Transport Geography Research group of the Royal Geographical Society (with the institute of British Geographers). The journal was established in 1993 and covers all the aspects of transportation.

The **Annals** of the American Association of Geographers has been in publication since 1911. It is recognized as the Association's premier journal for major research articles for all fields of geography.

Transportation(Springer) journal published its first issue in the month of May 1972. With the key words policy and planning, research and practice, it is intended to promote the free and vigorous exchange of ideas and experience among the worldwide community actively concerned with transportation policy, planning and practice.

The present article is divided into 3 different time periods.

1. In the year 1947 and before
2. In the years between 1948-2000
3. In the year 2000 and onwards

1. Articles published during British India (1947 and before)

Transport related articles were very less in number and those used to get published in Economics related publications. In case of India, only one article is found published during this period. An article 'Road and Motor transport in India (1915-19)' written by Brigadier General Lord Montagu of Beaulieu who worked as an advisor on Mechanical Transport Services in India (1915-19) published his article in the year 1920 in the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce (No 3529, Volume LXVIII). The writer threw light on the scenario of roads during British India.

2. Articles published in the years 1948-2000

Gradually it is seen that scholars started paying attention towards the subject of Transportation, articles were written on various issues of transport in India and abroad. In late 1980, separate Transport journals came into existence like Transport Reviews, Transport, and Journal of Transport Geography etc. which are the signs of getting attention of scholars in the field of Transport Geography. Transport related issues like urban transport, public transport, and review of public transport, traffic problems, and comparison between developed and developing countries, employment opportunities in Transport, transport model in land use, study of transport in major cities of India etc. were discussed.

Few articles during this period are listed below

The article titled 'A disaggregated land use-transport model for Delhi, India' was written by A.C. Sarna and B.C. Hutchinson and got published in the journal Transportation (Springer), Volume 8, Issue 1 (pages 73-87) in the year 1979, focused on application of the calibrated models to the analysis of alternative development concepts for the Delhi urban region. A Lowry type land use transport model stratified both by socio-economic group and urban sub region is described in the article.

'Employment in Transport: A case study of India' paper revealed scope of employment generation in India in transport sector. The article was written by M.Q. Dalvi and M.C. Verma who were the part of Planning Commission, New Delhi, India and this paper was prepared for a seminar on Employment in Transport held by INTRA, Paris 21-23 March 1983.

The paper titled 'Bombay's Traffic problems' written by P.G. Patankar in the year 1986 highlighted on the traffic issues faced by metropolitan city of India.

Title of the paper is 'Exploring the scope of private participation for urban public transport supply in India.' Article was published in Transport Reviews journal in 1989 by Umriger, Sikdar and Khanna. The authors commented on role and scope of private sector in the urban public transport.

Astrop A and et.al paper presented at the National Conference on Women's Travel Issues, Baltimore, Maryland October 23-26, 1996 on 'The urban travel behaviour and constraints of low income households and females in Pune, India revealed socio economic aspects behind the mode of travel used.

The article titled 'Airline competition and deregulation in developed and developing country contexts- Australia and India' compared between two different physical, social, economic environments with respect to air transport and its services.

3. Articles published in the year 2000 and onwards

There are seen overwhelming responses towards the subject in the form of no of research articles as well as no of Transport related journals coming up. The subject has become multidimensional hence scholars from various other disciplines have also shared their thoughts. The scope and concept of transportation has widen and included fundamentals concepts of transport, manufacturing, management, safety, environment, travel behavior, travel policies, service quality, user satisfaction level, scientific and statistical analysis, network analysis etc. were main among them. Along with regional approach, behavioral, economic (cost effective) approaches are also included in the study. Due to vast number of articles and journals, it is difficult to mention all the articles during this period; some fields of research are listed below:

- Study of public transport in India
- Travel Behaviour and perceptions (Socio-economic factors influencing on choice of mode, urban and rural travel characteristics, safety related issues etc.)
- Case studies in different parts of India e.g. Delhi, Kanpur, Mumbai, Chennai, Surat, Bengaluru, kharagpur & Asansol, Vishakhapatnam, Hooghly, Pune etc.
- Comparison between the cities from developed and developing countries like Delhi and London, India and China etc.
- Network Analysis
- Use of new technology in Transportation like use of GPS tracking, vehicle speed controlling, control of emission of carbon, energy consumption, environmental aspects etc.

Within the main journal, sub journals are also getting space. For example Taylor and Francis Routledge is having separate journals and editions like Journal of Urban Technology, Transportation Planning and Technology, The International Journal of Transportation Research, Journal of Transportation Safety and Security, Journal of Intelligent Transportation System etc. in which scholars have given their contribution by writing on various aspects of transport in India.

Scholars have contributed a lot in the field of Transportation and Transport Geography, especially after 2000 A.D. various subjects are investigated in the transport related articles; one can see the diversified topics handled very adeptly.

Discussion:

Transport Geography did not have its own journal, transport related articles used to get published in various economic related journals. Number of research journals writing about Transport Geography has increased substantially. Initially regional study or economic aspects were there for the study of Transport Geography, but now behavioral, planning point of view, technological things have

been added by research scholars, it may be methodology related articles, socio-economic behavioral of passengers in making choice of mode, rural-urban land use, environmental aspects, policies and plans of transport modes etc. have been added. Even the renowned research journals have taken a note of growth of Transport Geography and published separate editions and journals later on. The study of Transport did not remain with geography or economics, now it has become interdisciplinary.

Summary and Conclusion:

Initially ignored but later on emerging as an independent, important and multidimensional subject, Transport Geography has gained a lot of attention of scholars in India as well as in the world. With the no of articles published in various journals, one can notice ever growing pool of researchers in the field of transport geography in India. Handling with diversified topics, Transport Geography is moving ahead confidently and positively.

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*** Mrs. Jyoti Sudhir Acharya**
Research Student,
Department of Geography,
Sir Parashurambhau College,
Pune, Maharashtra

****Dr. Vilas Ugale**
Associate Professor,
Department of Geography,
Sir Parashurambhau College,
Pune, Maharashtra