

Urban-Rural Land Linkages: Concept Explained Using ‘continuum’ Theory and Metaphor

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SUMMARY

Land-related urban and rural development challenges exist in every country around the world. Land management (and land administration) provide instruments for tackling these problems. Harmonious strategies that broadly respond to urban and rural challenges (concerning the people and the geographical and non-geographical components of these settlements) are much needed to ensure improved living conditions. Such strategies are also necessary to foster good land governance within and across urban-rural borders. Ongoing discourse suggests the need to embrace land-focused development approaches for simultaneously tackling these urban and rural development challenges. Some efforts have already been made in formulating concepts, principles and frameworks toward achieving spatially interdependent urban-rural development. This development condition mutually benefits urban and rural areas. It makes the concept of ‘continuum’ a mandatory component in urban-rural spatial planning and development.

As both theory and metaphor, the ‘continuum’ can describe and explain land management activities (e.g., property rights, land tenure, and spatial situations) from different ideological and theoretical dimensions. It can also illustrate scenarios about how land management situations are or are likely to evolve. The urban-rural land linkages (URLLs) are one of those aspects of land management that still need to become fully understood before subjecting to practical applications, especially in the majority world. This paper dug into contemporary literature to unveil various sociospatial schemas around the ‘continuum’ to explain the relevance of URLLs in improving urban-rural development situations. By explaining the URLLs from different ‘continuum’ perspectives, the paper presents various aspects of URLLs’ functionality necessary for achieving interdependent urban-rural development.

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