National Institute of Technology Rourkela

Progress Seminar

Seminar Title : A Framework for Understanding Population Mobility by Rural Accessibility Measurement Approach

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Venue : MS Teams

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Abstract : Even thou

: Even though two-thirds of the population residing in the rural part, rural transport policy has been overlooked by policymakers in India. It has remained more intentional than directional in the Indian context. There is the absence of a dedicated transport policy in the Indian rural transport context. An efficient rural transport system can achieve more than half of Sustainable Development Goals directly and indirectly. The short distance trip to be covered by non-motorized transport, while the long-distance trips by public transport modes are the policy goals of most policy documents throughout the world. And reduce the dependency on the private vehicle for the sustainable development of the region. Previous studies have conceptualized rural accessibility as a policy goal and policy instruments while understanding mobility in the rural context is at the infant stage, especially in developing countries. Vehicle ownership and accessibility are important determinants overlooked in recent studies. The present study measures and validate the dimensions as the sets of rural accessibility measures in the Indian context and associate it with rural mobility by non-motorized and public transport mode via cross-sectional analysis of the region. The cumulative measure has been used to measure the location-based accessibility in the rural context. Stepwise regression is used to validate and identify the best fit sets of dimensions of accessibility. Ordinary Least Square regression being used to find the determinants of commuting mobility in the study region. The study outcome suggests inter-mode trade-offs among the modal choice to travel to work. Bicycle is the enabler, even though public transport is in proximity to the rural settlement, majority options for the bicycle as the mode to commute as it is affordable. The study's outcome has significant rural transport policy implications and formulations at the regional level and inferences for further spatial analysis and planning. Key Words: rural transport, accessibility, vehicle ownership, public transport, walking, bicycling, rural commuting