



Morphology of Munger City Bihar

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Abstract

Morphology is the science of form and structure and development which influence the form of the city. It deals development of forms and pattern of the present city. In this paper an attempt has been made to discuss the morphology of Munger city it is also known as 'YOGA NAGARI'. Munger is a historical city situated between the broad Ganaga washing it on two sides and the ancient hill of Dharwarian period in the background. Thus the morphology of Munger city is highly influenced by the river Ganga and the adjoining low lying and hilly areas. It lies in the loop of the Ganga which incircles it from the West and north. The rectangular fortifying wall is situated at the point of turn in the river. Hence the city has expanded eastward and southward from the fort and in the absence of any low lying area or hill restricting its growth it is likely to maintain its rectangular shape. The internal shape of the city has been changed after highly destructive earthquake on 15 January 1934.

Keywords: Morphology, Dharwarian age, loop, destructive, earthquake fortifying, 'YOGA NAGARI', habitat, Natural levee.

Introduction

The term morphology refers to all those features that combine to determine the existing layout of a town. It is the science of form and structure and development which influences the form of the city (stamp, 1961) [1]. Morphology deals development of forms and pattern of the present city. It is concurred with the plan and build of the habitat viewed and interpreted in terms of its origin growth and function. In this paper an attempt has been made to discuss the morphology of Munger city. The city is also famous as 'YOGA NAGARI'. Morphology of Munger city is highly influenced by the river Ganga and adjoining low lying as well as hill of Dharwarian period. The internal shape of the city has been changed after the highly destructive earthquake on 15 January 1934. Post independence morphology of the city has experienced a lot of changes. In the census of 1961^[2] and 1971 many rural settlement and old markets have been added into municipal area of the city. Development of the city has stopped during end 2-3 decades of 20th century due to separation of the district, but expansion of the city has restarted during 1st and

2nd decades of this century after opening of railway bridge over the Ganga and declaration of headquarter of Munger division and Munger university.

The study area

The city of Munger is 11th largest city of Bihar. It is located at the right bank of the river Ganga. It spans over an area of 18 km having 2.13 lakh population as per census 2011. It is bounded by the river Ganga in the north and west. It is one of the historical city located on 25°37'N Latitude and 86°44'E longitude (fig.01). It is connected with, good connectivity notably railway, roadway and waterway. It has also small airport. Being a part of middle Ganga plain an in transition zones between the wetter Bengal in the east and the drier areas in the west. It experiences a bracing and healthy subsumed monsoon climate. Political history of the city and the district is very glorious. At present it is the headquarter of Munger district Munger division as well as Munger university, 'YOGA UNIVERSITY' provides National and International significances of this city.

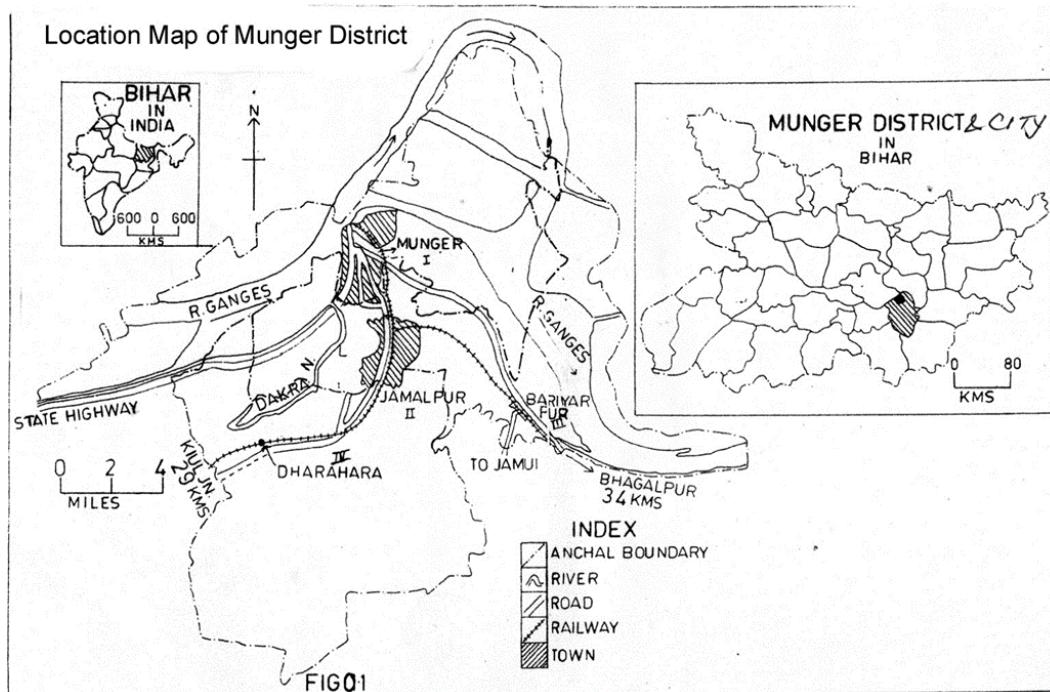


Fig 1

Historical background of the city

Munger is historical city its morphology history is very old. There is a lot of controversy over its nomenclature. It is believed to have been built by Chandra Gupta but is considered to even older as it was the place of Mudgal Rishi in pauranic period. In Mahabharata Munger town has been identified with 'Modagiri' (Choudhary, 1960) [2]. It was also known as "Modagalayya Giri" after Mandagalayya, a famed Buddhist monk. (Census, 1961) [3], General Cunningham has suggested that the place used to be original called Mudgalpuri, Mudagalasram or Mudgalagiri after a Rishi named Mudgala, who was supposed to have been contemporary to Jarasandha. He has also suggested that the original name may have been connected with Mudgal tribes, who occupied this part of the country before the advent of the Aryans. The account of Hiuen-Tsiang mentions a place named 'Hiranya – Parvata', which has been identified as the place where Mudgalaputra, a Buddhist disciple lived. The District Gazetteer of Monghyr (1926) states that in the 6th century a Hindu sage named Mudgal Muni appeared in the town and established two shrines, one of them being at kashtaharini Ghat, The rock at this place began to be called Mudgal Munigir (the rock Mudgal Muni) which was subsequently abbreviated into Munigir and eventually corrupted into Munger from which modern Muger derives its name, it is also possible that the original name was Munigriha i.e, the house of the Muni from 1981 the survey of India accepted 'Munger' as correct name in place of Monghyr.

The history of fort area of Munger city is concerned with Royal fortified residences of Pala king since 18 A.D. and Jarasandha also, It has been believed that Munger was the capital of Anga kingdom during Mahabharata period.

In 1197 Bakhtiyar Khilji established a new settlement under the name of Munghal Bazar in the north east corner of the Garh area. This new settlement acted as nucleus for further growth of the settlement in the east. After 1494 Husain Shah, the greatest of the king of Bengal affected a comprehensive change in the town. He said to have built the

present fort (Diwakar 1958) [4], during the regime of Akbar a new settlement came into the fort under the name of Dilawarpur. This was revealed by a stone inscription found here, This new settlement also acted as the nucleus for further development of the town in the north and north-east. The town got new life in 1761 when Mir Quasim transferred his capital from Murshidabad to Munger during the early days of East India Company rules, when Siraj-Ud- Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal was defeated by the company led by lerial live in the battle of Pallassy (1757), Mir Quasim was made the Nawab of Bengal, Since he reverted against the company he had to flee away with his faithful soldiers and band of skilled artisans, who use to make guns for his soldiers, from here the settlement of Munger fort and manufacturing of guns started during the time of British rule (fig.02&03).

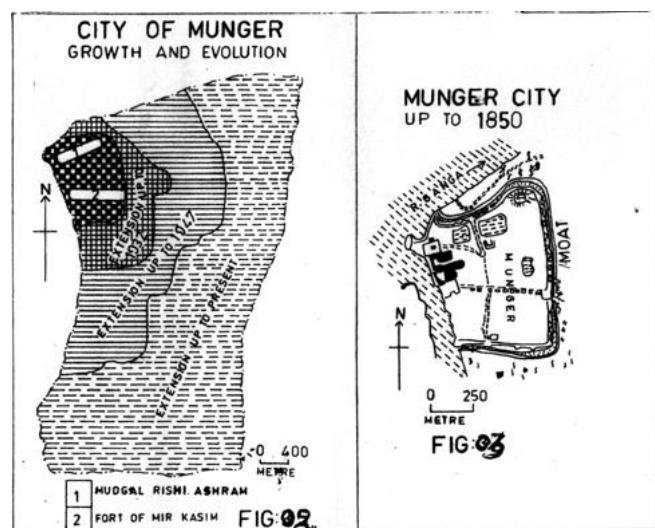
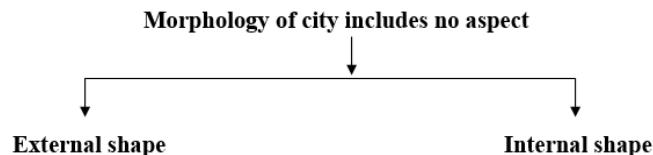


Fig 2:

Monghyr (present Munger) flourished as district town, after the devastating earthquake of 1934 a large part of the city was

rebuilt. Thus morphology of Munger city may be described on two ways -



External shape of Munger city is highly influenced by the Ganga river and the adjoining low lying area. It lies in the loop of the Ganga encircle it from the west and north. The rectangular fortifying area is situated at the point of turn in the river. Hence the city has expanded eastward and southward from the fort and in the absence of any low lying area restricting its growth it is likely to maintain its rectangular shape.

Internal layout of the city may be described in term of the physical forms and arrangement of the spaces and building that composed urban landscape. It includes density of house, build up street pattern. In fact various urban functions use

land in different ways and thus different land uses appear on the urban landscape. Since function themselves are interrelated different associations of land use also emerge, This short of action and interaction of urban function and land use development processes make the morphology a town always dynamic and changing. And yet in temporal frame, the urban places always show some distinguishable structural areas, which are arranged by an integrated system of location urinations and associations, the entire subject covering the function and form of an urban area makes the subject matter of an urban morphology study (Singh, 1966) [5]. In this regard Dickinson has expressed that, the city is not merely an assembly of pattern and empty building. It is a habited and arrangement of these parts must be examined in the light of the process that determine their function (Dickinson 1963) [6]

In spite of high concentration of miscellaneous economic activities in almost unplanned city like Munger the authors have attempted to demarcate the city into different functional zones on the basis of dominancy of function (fig.4)

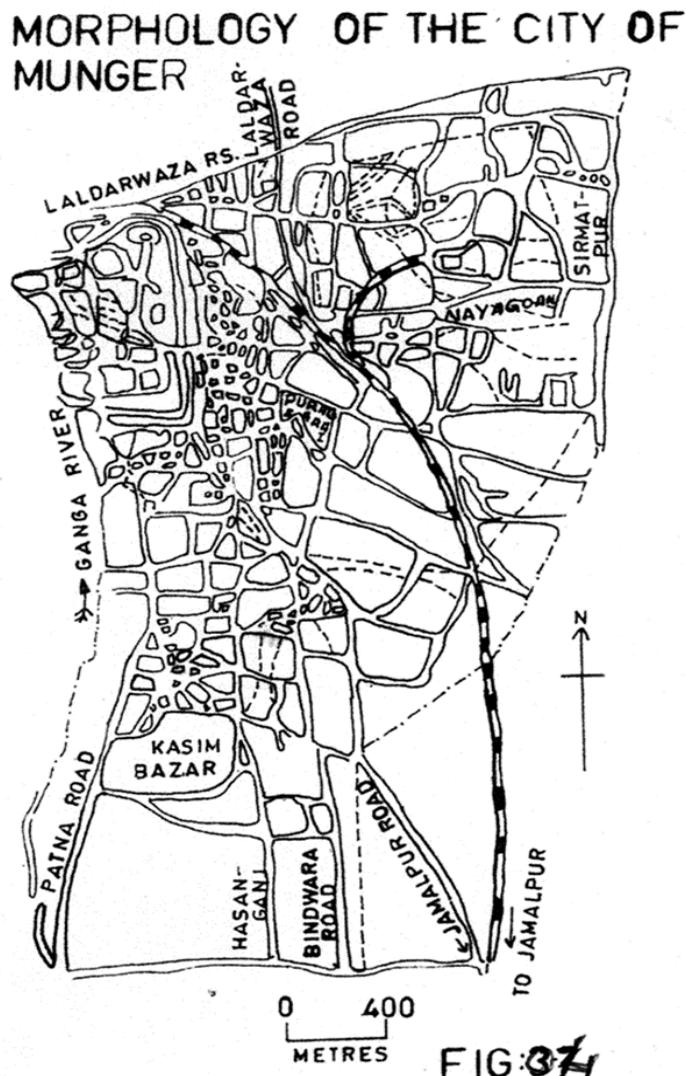


Fig 3

1. Administrative Zone – The characteristic features of Munger is that the administrative zone lies mainly in fort area, This area of administrative use includes

district court, sub-divisional court, collectoriate, superintendent of police office and education offices, The zone is usually considered as the best site for any

office or establishment lying on the natural levee of the Ganga well above the flood level, This area lies in close proximity to the Ferry service point. Bus stand and Munger and railway station.

2. Commercial Zone – The central part of the city is settled compactly, Here a mixture of different categories of land uses like commercial cum residential, commercial cum religious or educational etc, may be observed, vertical expansion of building are much common due to the higher value of land, upper story of building is generally used for residential, storage or other similar purpose. The commercial factor helps in the formation of central business area which comprise the area from Chauk Bazar to Purabsarai having different locations of outlying nodes like Moghal Bazar, Kaura Mida, Munger Ghat, Chua Bag and Sandalpur. The commercial zone is not expanding much due to higher price of the land in the city centre besides the barriers created by residential areas.

3. Industrial Zone – The industrial sector is found in discontinuous manner such as cigarette factory of Basudepur, Gun factory of fort area, thresher and guill making near Neelam road, Chauk Bazar, Bekapur and Neematalla, other industries of the city are mostly house hold industries or small scale industries such as bidi making, hand spinning basket, weaving, oil crushing and medicine and near Khanaquah and other places. The cigarette factory (I.T.C,ltd) is equipped with modern machinery, This industry has help in the development of Munger since 1921 up to present day. There were 2500 workers in the year 2000, This factory has its own printing press as a separate department for its own purpose, A separate large development of saw mill is also there which fabricates all types of cigarette packet, It is the oldest and largest cigarette factory of Asia. There are about 25 gun manufactures which are manufacturing gun under a shed provided by the Government at the feet of Karn Chaura, This factory was previously working in Munger jail compound. Although Munger made gun is sold all over India but presently this factory is facing competition with other unauthorised manufactures located at different centres of the country. There are five (5) dairy industries in Munger located in different mohallas. Ashirbad Dairy is important.

4. Residential Zone – Residential area occupies the greater part of the city area. More than 50% of the area has been occupied by residential houses in different mohallas, Better living conditional and charm of city life have attracted high income group people from adjoining areas toward city localities like Madhopura, Raisar, Sadipur, Ghositola, Kaura Midan, Topkhana Bazar Dilawarpur, Moghal Bazar, Basudepur, Shastrinagar, Lallu Pokhar and other are more or less completely residential areas, Almost all the people are immigrant to the city who come from rural areas either permanently or temporarily to work in industries government offices, transport and educational institutions.

5. Educational Zone – Educational zone of the city is very small where R.&D.J. college, J.R.S. college, J.M.S. college, B.R.M. college, R.L.S.Y science college Wishwanath Singh, Bidho Sansthan besides a number of schools like teachers training school at Purabsarai,

Durga Sanstha Sehed at Shahzubair road, Urdu school at Chaureramba, Nand Kumar High school at Basudepur, Balika Girls High School at Madhopur, Notree Dame Academy, Upendua Training school and Baijnath Govt. Girl High School at Pipalpanti Road, Zila Sachool, Model School, Town School etc. are some of the important centres of learning found in Munger. The number of different types of schools in the city arte follows:

Recognised Shorthand Typecasting centre –	04
Private computer centre –	15
Other vocational Training institute –	
23	
High Secondary or Secondary School -	12
Junior Secondary/Middle School -	28
Primary School -	
76	
Public Library including Reading Room -	02
Private Coaching Centre -	62

6. Recreational Zone – This zone of the city of Munger is poorly adjussted where only five cinema halls like Neelam Talkies, Vijay Talkies, Baidyanath Talkies, Kinark Talkies and Sidhartha Talkies are located, The last one is closed since last two years other recreational centres are at company Bagh, POLO Ground as play field, R.D & D.J. college play ground, Munger lions club, Ashok club, I.T.C. workers clubs and Patel club etc. Almost recreational centres have been temporary closed during Covid-19 period.

7. Medical Zone – Munger as a commission headquarter is also an important medical centre where Sadar Hospital, Matri Seva Sadan, Chakchudan Yagya Samiti, E.S.I Health Centre etc. are located Munger Sadar hospital has 182 beds besides a family planning centres, Recently Sanjivani hospital was development near Konark cinema but has been closed, Sevayan a new hospital cum nursing home near Neelam cinema road.

8. Cultural Zone-Munger is an ancient religious and cultural place on Kastharnigateach year lakhs of people use to take holy bath in Maghi Purnima and Kartik Purnima. These people came after travelling many kilometre in rural areas. Other religious centres are chandius than, Bihar School of Yoga, Mahabir Asthan Shivalaya, Khankah Mazar of pir Nafa Saheb besides, Bari Durga Asthan and several other temple of lord Shiva. Goddess Durga and Lord Hanuman etc. A number of churches and mosques are also found in several part of the city.

9. Open space and Agriculture Zone – Open space and agriculture field are some of the important use of land on the outskirt of the city of Munger Agriculture field are more commonly found in Sandalpur, Gudhia Pokhar, Laldarwaza, Sadipur, Hemjapur. In these areas varieties of crop such as wheat paddy and vegetable are grown in order to feed city population, long the railway track there are a number of open space especially north of Purabsarai railway station. The open space is also found in Safiabad and Naulakha mohallas.

10. Other functional Areas – These are a number of other functional areas like water supply, electric supply, centre of power house etc.

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