

ABSTRACTDETERMINANTS OF RURAL TRAVEL

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The main purpose of this study is to identify the facts, to establish relationships, and thereby to contribute to the understanding of the process of rural travel.

This study aims at the following objectives.

1. To delineate and quantify the travel characteristics of the rural population by mode and purpose.
2. To identify the socio-economic, accessibility and other variables which influence the demand for travel in rural areas.
3. To establish a quantitative relationship between the trip generation and the variables that are identified in the previous objective.
4. To identify the travel needs and also the gap between the travel demand and travel need.

In the absence of any secondary data on rural travel, primary data was collected through structured interview schedules covering 327 households, spread over 16 villages falling in 3 revenue districts in the State of Tamil Nadu. The sample households were selected through a multi-stage stratified random sampling procedure.

Travel characteristics have been identified at the level of a village, household and the individual. Survey data have been split into two groups, with a view to use one group to develop hypotheses and the other one to test these hypotheses. Influence of settlement size, and the availability

of road transport facilities, on the average trip generation rates of the households have been identified. Roles played by various transport modes have been analysed.

Regression models have been used to establish a quantitative relationship between the trips generated on one hand and the variables that influence trip generation on the other. Disaggregate models were found to be more significant than that of aggregate models.

The conceptual difference between the travel demand and travel need has been identified. The efficacy of various methodologics that were proposed in Western countries have been discussed. Household travel needs were estimated using the method of household perceptions.

Policy implications arising out of this study and also the areas of future research are also discussed.