

Realignment of Rural Spaces, Cultures and Regulations to Foster Sustainability

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Abstract

Rural spaces are relied upon as the producers of food, raw materials and many essential resources that are depended upon for sustenance. These spaces being characterized by tranquility and ecological richness act as the foundations of the conservation and ecological reforms that ground sustainability. However, the current state of these spaces exhibit worrying developments and alterations that are threatening sustainability. Socio-cultural practices catalyzed by population increase are reshaping the rural in ways that have led to the shrinking of agricultural lands, encroachment into forested hills and escarpments, disappearance of wetlands and depletion of riverine vegetation that has influenced river discharge, blockage and drying up of natural water springs. As population increases, the pressure is exerted on available land resource, land fragmentation aided by the current state of land tenure and inheritance laws, the farm sizes continue to shrink calling for the need for measures to foster land reforms and rural planning. Given that the land resource on earth is not expanding as these happens, the entire human existence is under threat, that food production is going down and as the natural environment gets depleted. This study examines the need for rural spaces to be planned and its consumption, development and exploitation be regulated by reforms that will govern sustainable land subdivision as per household sizes. The study also aims to illuminate the gaps existing in the implementation of laws regarding environmental conservation of riverine vegetation and other ecological features in the rural spaces.

Keywords: Rural spaces, sustainability, socio-cultural practices, reforms