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THE IMPACT OF RECREATION ON SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE

S. Šprincová: *The impact of recreation on settlement structure*. — Sborník ČSGS 84:4:282—286 (1979). — On the example of 177 settlements in the districts of Bruntál and Šumperk (North Moravia, Czechoslovakia) the author finds out the impact of recreation on the development of settlements of various largeness and of various types. She studies particularly some special signs of recreational (second) homing in marginal zones of towns (outskirts) and simultaneously she deals with interactions with the permanent housing, increasing very quickly nowadays. In the article she indicates also the prognosis of future development of second homing in the investigated area. (R.)

The impact of tourism and recreation on settlement structure of recreational areas has for a long time attracted much interest of specialists in geography. The spatial relationships brought about by recreational mobility and spending leisure time has been studied systematically by geographers from the Alpine lands in the first place. In those countries, where the recreational or „second“ homing stands out as an important settlement phenomenon, geographical investigation is focused just on its spatial manifestations.

Author of the present paper has since 1959 been studying, among other topics, the problems of the relations between permanent and recreational housing within its systematic regional investigation. North Moravia and North West Silesia have been selected for the model area. It is an economically less intensive region, its agricultural production being predominantly of the highland type with vast areas of forest and intensive wood production, industry of medium size at best, scattered in a series of smaller localities, with numerous small settlements*) and very good conditions of recreation including winter sports. The axis of all this region is the mountain range of the Hrubý Jeseník including a number of peaks over 1,300 m above sea level. From the administrative point of view it belongs to two districts, i. e. to Bruntál and Šumperk.

The first part of our investigation consisted in all-round analysis and characteristics of the economical and settlement conditions in the selected area. Special attention has been paid to the impact of tourism and recreation on economics (1). The next part was devoted to detailed analysis of the conditions for tourism and recreation, distribution of infrastructure and visiting directions according to season, places of collision with other economic activity, calculation of the proportion of tourist functions in individual places and definition of subareas. The result was a monograph on tourism and recreation in the whole region in the

*) There are 479 settlements on the total area of 3,697 square km, almost 80 % of them of not more than 500 inhabitants.

first phase of the mass development of recreation in Czechoslovakia, i. e. up to 1965 (2). The investigation has confirmed this to be an area possessing remarkably good conditions for recreation. There are, however, great differences in the quality of these conditions.

Since various mathematical methods were, in the course of our investigation, found to be only of limited application to the estimation of the capacity of the recreational environment and intensity of the interaction with various components of the natural and socioeconomical spheres, the next stages of our exploration were based, as before, on the basic geographical method, i. e. exploration in site and evaluation of individual factors from place to place. This meant a restriction of the extent of the area covered by the investigation only to a part of the region to be studied, i. e. to that extending to the East of the main mountain ridge of the Hrubý Jeseník falling within the administrative district of Bruntál**). The process of functional changes in the settlements and their impact on the use of buildings was then set out as the principal issue. Two mountain settlements, Malá Morávka and Karlov, were chosen for a model of this study (in 1970 the numbers of inhabitants were 580 and 203 respectively). The reason why Malá Morávka was selected is that it is a settlement of many functions including a minor industrial enterprise, that there are services of larger than local significance and that in the past there was a strong component of forestry and agriculture of the typically highland nature. This place had facilities for tourism already before World War I, the village having been used for summer holiday making by the town inhabitants of Silesia. Karlov, on the contrary, was settled mostly by people working in the forests and industry. Its population structure was naturally much simpler. The use of each house was followed from the data for the year 1921 (based on the population count) and for the present period (study of official documents and verification of the actual state by observation in site). Both findings were entered in cadastral maps. The comparison then showed the changes for the past 50 years (3). In both settlements, particularly after 1960, the houses of farms or other farming premises had for the most part been turned into recreational objects (in Malá Morávka 56 %, in Karlov 80 %) owned by either individuals (private, individual property) or collectives (collective property of Trade Unions, enterprises or sports organizations).

This fact is also reflected in the proportion of the recreational functions both these settlements have***). This index makes 182 recreation beds per 100 inhabitants for Malá Morávka, and 1000 for Karlov. This high proportion of recreational functions found in Karlov is due to the high number of beds in the collective recreational objects.

The distribution of permanent and recreational housing in Karlov and Malá Morávka is remarkably different. In Karlov permanent housing is spread over the village evenly among recreational houses. In Malá Morávka, on the contrary, we can see local differentiation and polarisation between permanent and recreational housing. The upper end of the village, with few exceptions, serves for recreational accommodation which is being constantly extended. On the contrary, the lower end where all the facilities are concentrated and where there is industrial enterprise, is expanding as a permanent housing estate with increasing new building activity.

Based on the experience derived from these two model settlements is our

**) Bruntál District: the total of 177 settlements on the area of 1,745 square km.

***) I. e. the ratio between beds for holiday makers and for permanent settlers.

broader study of the use of the housing fund in the other sites of the Bruntál District to be made in the next years.

The network of settlements is the result of long historical development. In the Bruntál region the foundations of settlement structure can be traced far back into the period of feudalism. In the course of time this structure had become adapted to production relations. This process has been going on till now having, moreover, been accelerated by deep both economical and social structural changes following World War II. The turn to agricultural mass production is associated with the concentration of population in towns or country settlements fulfilling special functions and offering the fundamental facilities. At the same time other places having lost their independent social function are becoming depopulated. They are mostly small places in peripheral areas (relative to the centres of economical activity) whose inhabitants had in the past been active in primitive production (agriculture, forestry, or mining).

Recreation and temporary migration associated with it becomes manifested in this structure in various ways.

The most affected were the smallest places (up to 500 inhabitants****) having lost, through the ebb of the population formerly working in basic production, the substantial part of their original production and housing functions. Buildings, especially houses, that had become vacant due to this process have since the end of the fifties been more and more used for recreational accomodation. This process had first been taking place in peripheral areas with optimum conditions for recreation, especially for winter sports. Those interested in the vacated objects were usually inhabitants of large cities and industrial centres more than 100 km away from this area. In these small settlements recreation has gradually become their principal function, which can be expected to continue in future.

From the very moment when no new objects had been available in these settlements suitable for adaptation to recreational houses and construction of new housing was not permitted for the reasons of environment protection, the interest of the prospective buyers of second homing objects turned to other little settlements sited in areas with more modest conditions for recreation. There is a larger number of these settlements than those having optimum conditions, but their attractiveness is owing to worse recreational qualities much lower. They arouse the interest only of people from less distant towns of the region.

Changes of the objects of permanent to recreational housing occurs also in settlements which have never lost, sometimes even strenghtened their special economical functions, be it villages or small towns. The second homes are quite exceptionally found in the intervillanum or on the outskirts of such a village or small town, but in local parts in the past representing separate villages of similar development as the above described small places in peripheral positions. In the course of time these separate villages have lost their administrative independence having become parts of the nearby centre village. There is functional differentiation between them. While the „chef-lieu“ places constantly develop their specialized and residential funcions, the neighbouring integrated villages gradually extend recreational accomodation. At that, it is not only a functional transformation of the vacated houses to second homes, but new construction, often highly extensive.

The development of second homing in towns proceeds in a similar way but there are some different features. It also occurs in the first place in the pe-

****) In the Bruntál District (according to 1970 records) there are 141 settlements of this category.

ripheral integrated settlements. They are, however not only small places, but sometimes of medium size (1000 to 2000 inhabitants).

The next difference is in the constantly rising number of second homers in these suburban areas recruiting from the inhabitants of the town centres. Second homing has, in this way, a different nature than in the other recreational areas.

Another new feature becoming evident particularly at present is gradual penetration of flat construction intended for permanent housing, not only of family houses but also buildings of several floors in these recreational suburban areas. The boundary line between these two fundamental types of residential areas (permanent and recreational) is here highly labile. In a number of cases the originally fully recreational objects start changing in their function so that in certain situations (retirement, etc.) they stop being lived in only for leisure but, on the contrary, turn into permanent homes; on the other hand, places, used for permanent homes (e. g. in case the user dies and the object is inherited by active inhabitants) become recreational in nature. What is more, some new objects are designed and built with regard to both of these possibilities of use. A new category of population living in these country houses in suburban zones are the so-called „rurbans“. They work in towns but move to the country, where they build new comfortable permanent homes contributing in this way to the change from rural to urban nature of country environment near the cities.

Taking into account the results of the investigation made and the perspectives of further development contained in long-term surveying plans, further expected development of the settlement structure in the model area looks like this:

The basis of ongoing development of settlements will be the towns and cities in a still greater extent. Round them there are zones of country housing in a broad circle inhabited by agricultural workers and commuters going to work to the towns, both original settlers or immigrants from towns (rurbans). Besides, recreational housing is maintained in various degrees in these zones and further developed.

The country places more distant from the cities will see the continuing process of the concentration of their inhabitants in centre villages providing all the facilities. Small non-central places without specialized functions will go on becoming depopulated. Agricultural production here will be mostly done by workers commuting from the centre villages. The free housing space will continue to be turned into objects of recreational living. In this way it will be possible to save the houses, to guarantee sufficient scatter of recreational housing over the whole region, use of the built infrastructure, and to help to preserve the typical character of housing specific for the given type of landscape. Part of the further required capacity will be obtained by planned new construction. Its development is restricted by the possible collisions with the land interests of the priority branches of the state economy (industry, agriculture, mining, wood production, etc.) or with the interests of environment protection. In this perspective second homing must be taken for a permanent part of settlement structure in areas with recreational conditions.

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České shrnutí

VLIV REKREACE NA STRUKTURU SÍDEL

Otázkami vztahu rekreace a sídel se zabývá řada geografů, zvláště v alpských zemích. V zemích, kde má na rekreačním ubytování vysoký podíl druhé bydlení (a k nim náleží i ČSSR), bývá tento jev často předmětem výzkumů územních projevů rekreačních aktivit a mobility. Autorka referuje o svých výzkumech, vztahujících se k těmto otázkám i o použitých metodách práce.

Na základě pozorování provedených ve 177 sídlech bruntálského okresu byl zjišťován vliv rekreace na sídla různé velikosti a různého typu. Do popředí se dostává rekreační funkce v malých sídlech, ležících v optimálních areálech pro zimní sporty. V dalších etapách docházelo k rozvoji rekreačního bydlení i v řadě malých sídel na území se skromnějšími předpoklady pro rekreaci. Atraktivita těchto lokalit je však menší než u předchozích, a proto o ně projevuje zájem obyvatelstvo jen z bližších měst. V obcích větších, zvláště poloměstského a městského typu, soustřeďuje se rekreační bydlení především v jejich okrajových částech, představovaných malými sídly, těmito obcemi administrativně integrovanými. Autorka sleduje zejména některé specifické znaky rekreačního bydlení v okrajových zónách měst a jeho interakce s nově narůstajícím trvalým osídlením.

V závěru jsou naznačeny tendence dalšího vývoje rekreačního bydlení. Je usměrňováno i územními plány, zpracovávanými v souladu s usneseními vlády ČSR o dlouhodobém rozvoji osídlení.