

ABSTRACT

Author: Juan Pedro Hormigo Ventura
Tutor: Manuel Herce Vallejo

The importance of this topic is the knowledge of the factors of location as the basis of the offer of externalities and utilities of a city that attract economic development. The evolution of these factors is giving priority to more and more spatial advantages offered in every territory for its concentration of infrastructures and the topology of its networks. It gives a new direction to the civil engineering.

The traditional analysis of the urban economy has left a wide and productive scientific production but it has given up itself before the deep changes that the new economy has raised. This way, the most studied topic that has been the industrial location at present not only loses importance as a factor of development of the cities, but it also begins to show very deep conceptual weaknesses. On the other hand, traditional sectors as commerce, offices and residences show very distinguishing factors with regard to past times that also alter the rule of its locational and spatial analysis.

The diversity, alternation and ephemeral character of manners of new activities emphasize that possibly the interesting thing is not to study the existence of factors of location but of a concentration of services and infrastructures in a certain space that favor the support of activities, the specialization of the territory and a concentration of multiple externalities in different nodes of the space. The engineering is put then before a new challenge: the networks cannot be only seen (as it has been done in this discipline till now) for its functional aspects (capacity, load, etc) but it takes a fundamental role in structuring the territory, in the production of wealth and even in the social distribution of the revenue.

The creation of infrastructures not only constitutes an economical support to our territories but it creates inequalities of distribution of services or accessibility in the territory generating at the same time territorial shortages that need interventions and investments. These territorial lacks are continuously claimed entering a model that tries to obtain an absolutely homogeneous and isotropic territory. This continuous expansion of networks is nothing more than the extension of the urban added values that generates a diffuse city of the highest cost of provisions services.

This society of the dispersion of the services and the extension of the networks not only generates a society based on the squandering but also produces great inequalities generating a territorial model that is only possible with deep differences in accessing the services, both due to gradients in its spatial production and the need of a private funding that establishes differences of accessings according to the economic capacity of people.

It is necessary to find in the renewal of the urban services and in the improvement of its mechanisms of management, the same level of investment that generates the production of new infrastructures, and to alter a politics based on models of demand that often look for economic interests tied to the extension of the added values by offer models.