

URBANISERING URBANIZATION

Keld Jensen

Nr. 32, august 2019

No. 32, August 2019

Urbanisering

Overalt i verden foregår der en urbanisering. Mennesker flytter fra de små samfund til storbyerne. De unge mennesker ønsker et liv i en storby med alle de tilbud det indebærer med uddannelse, kulturaktiviteter og arbejde.

Den typiske udvikling i et land er, at de store metropoler forøger deres befolkningsandel betydeligt, og på regionalt niveau sker der også en vandring fra små bosætninger til regionernes større byer.

Denne udvikling foregår også i Grønland. I Grønland skelnes der mellem byer og bygder. Byer er defineret som hovedbyerne i kommunerne, da Grønland var opdelt i atten kommuner. Resten er bygder.

Bygderne i Grønland oplever år for år en tilbagegang i befolkningstallet. I 1950 boede 11.819 borgere i bygder, incl. borgere på

fåreholdersteder og militærbaser m.v. I dag er dette tal skrumpet til 7.269 borgere. Bygdens andel af den samlede befolkning er også faldet. Hvor hver fjerde borger i 1980 boede uden for byerne, er dette tal nu skrumpet til hver ottende borger.

Denne udvikling foregår, selv om politikerne forsøger at begrænse tilflytningerne til de større byer. Det er mange politikeres vurdering, at bygderne i høj grad giver grund for videreførelse af Inuiternes traditionelle værdi i form af et liv i samspil med naturen med udnyttelse af lokale naturressourcer.

Men det er vanskeligt at forsvare et højt serviceniveau i små bosætninger. F.eks. er det vanskeligt at videreføre en folkeskole, når elevantallet falder drastisk.

Mange økonomer anser drastiske ændrin-

ger i bosætningsmønstret som et strukturelt problem, der nemt kan løses. Det er det ikke. Det drejer sig om mennesker, der må rejse bort fra deres hjem med bristede drømme og længsel i deres kuffert.

I dag fastholdes de fleste bygder, men historisk har udviklingen betydet, at de mindste bosætninger har måttet forlades. Dette skete med bygden Kangeq i munden af Godthåbsfjorden ved hovedstaden Nuuk. Officielt blev bygden nedlagt i 1970'erne, og i dag ligger mange af bygdens bygninger som ruiner.

En ny udvikling kan forlænge disse bosætningers tilstedeværelse. Bymennesker har et ønske om at opleve naturen på nært hold, og flere bygninger i blandt andet Kangeq er nu anvendt som sommerhuse.

Urbanization

Throughout the world the urbanization takes place. People are moving from the small communities to the big cities. The young people want a life in a city with all the offers it entails including education, cultural activities and work.

The typical development of a country is that the large metropolises increase their population significantly, and at regional level there is also a migration from small settlements to the larger towns of the regions.

This development is also taking place in Greenland. In Greenland there is a distinction between what is categorized as towns, in Danish 'by' and villages, in Danish 'bygd'. The towns are defined as the main settlements of the municipalities, as Greenland was divided into eighteen municipalities. The rest of the settlements are categorized as village or 'bygd'.

Year by year the villages in Greenland are

experiencing a decline in population. In 1950, 11,819 citizens lived in villages, including citizens in sheep farms and military bases, etc. Today, this number has declined to 7,269 citizens. The villages share of the total population has also fallen. Where every fourth citizen of 1980 lived outside the towns, this figure has now declined to every eighth citizen.

This development is taking place, even if politicians try to limit relocation to the towns. Many politicians believe that the settlements provide a major breeding ground for the continuation of the traditional values of Inuit in the form of a life interacting with nature and with the exploitation of local natural resources.

But it is difficult to defend a high level of service in small settlements. For example, it is difficult to pursue a primary school when the number of pupils falls sharply.

Many economists regard drastic changes in the settlement pattern as a structural problem that can easily be solved. It is not. These are people who must resettle away from their homes with dashed dreams and deep longing in their suitcase.

Today, most settlements are maintained, but historically the development has meant that the smallest settlements have been abandoned. This happened with the village of Kangeq in the mouth of the fiord, Godthåbfjorden, at the capital Nuuk. Officially, the settlement was closed down in the 1970s, and today many of the houses are ruins.

A new development may extend the presence of these settlements. Urban people have a request to experience to live in the nature, and several buildings in Kangeq and in other abandoned settlements are now used as holiday cottages.



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, West Greenland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, West Greenland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012



Kangeq, Vestgrønland, august 2012

Kangeq, West Greenland, August 2012

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Urbanisering
Af Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1
Oprindeligt publiceret august 2019*

Alle billeder og tekst © 2019 Keld Jensen

COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Urbanization
By Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1
Originally Published August 2019*

All images and text © 2019 Keld Jensen