

URBANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization is a global phenomenon experienced by economically advanced as well as developing countries. As countries place emphasis on industrial development, there is movement of people from village to towns and cities. Cities provide a variety of facilities such as educational facilities, health care services, entertainment pleasures that are not available in small towns. People migrate to cities for employment opportunities to improve economic status and urban lifestyles. In the process of social evolution urbanization is an inextricable phenomenon. Urbanization exercises a growing influence on all aspects of human's life affecting the nature of economic development and social change. It is an indication of modernization, the sign of growth and economic progress. Urbanization is a natural consequence of economic change that take place, as the nation develops. It is indispensable to economic growth and leads to social equity.

Keywords: *Urban growth and development, Planning.*

Introduction

Urbanization has been one of the most significant vehicles for the transformation of the societies over the last century. All the countries to a greater or lesser extent have gone through the process.¹ Urbanization is a global phenomenon experienced by economically advanced as well as developing countries. As countries place emphasis on industrial development, there is exodus of people from villages, town, cities and an impetus to the growth of metropolitan areas. Cities provide a variety of facilities such as educational facilities, health care services, entertainment pleasures and even friends to people that are not available in small towns. People migrate to cities by employment opportunities, to improve economic status and urban lifestyles. Even the anonymity that an urban area provides can be an attraction to some. Although urbanization brings about development in the social, economic and cultural spheres of life it disturbs ecological systems. The increase in urban population results in asymmetric patterns in resource utilization, land use and transportation. Rapid and uncontrolled growth of urban agglomerations generates a series of negative

¹ Bourne, Sunclair (1984). "Introduction", in urbanization and settlement systems". International Perspectives United States, New York, Oxford University Press, p.1.

environmental and social effects. These include lack of infrastructure and basic services, housing problems, congestion, health problems, etc.²

Rao³ has defined urbanisation as a worldwide process and an important factor of social change. Davis and Peacock⁴ have looked at urbanisation as a process of change from rural way of life to urban life paternal and also as a shift from the agricultural economy to the industrial economy. In other words, urbanisation not only covers the spatial movement of people permanently or temporarily from village to town or city. It also refers to the effects of city habits upon the village manners.⁵ Urbanization is an indicator of modernization, the sign of growth and economic progress. It is a natural consequence of economic changes that take place, as the nation develops. It is indispensable to economic growth and leads to social equity. Urbanization is the result of more avenues of industrialization but it is not marched to a commensurate degree of energy and transportation. Migration from rural areas into towns is not peculiar to developing countries alone, but is a worldwide phenomenon. In the 21st century, the ratio of urbanization is much more in developing countries than in developed countries.⁶

The extraordinary growth of population taking place is generally made up of two processes namely urban growth and urbanization. And it is essential to distinguish them. Urban growth is the enormous and absolute increase in the number of people living in the urban areas. Urbanization on the other hand, is the relative shift of population from the country side to the towns and cities, urbanization refers to the concentration of population at a centre. So long as there is no increase in this proportion of urban population to total population there is urbanization.⁷ With this brief background this paper attempts to study the

1. Growth of urbanisation in India, and
2. Problems of urabnisation

Urbanization is process involving two aspects.

- (i) The migration of people from rural to urban places where they engage in primarily non-rural functions or occupations; and
- (ii) The change in their life-style from rural to urban with its associated values, attitudes and behaviours. The important variables in the former are population density and economic functions, the important variables in the later depend on social psychological and behavioural factors. These two aspects are mutually supportive.⁸

² Sudhakara Reddy, B. (2002). "The Urban Challenge" in Indian Development Report, Kirit, S. Parik Radha Krishna, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, p.108.

³ Rao, M.S.A. (ed.). A Reader in urban sociology (1991), p.2.

⁴ David, Kingsley. "The Urbanization of Human Population", *Scientific American*, Vol. 213 (No.3), 1965, p.42.

⁵ Vishwakarma, R.K. (1981). Urban and Regional Planning Policy in India.

⁶ Inderjeet Singh, Sodhi (2004). "Challenges and prospective of urbanization, need for better approach and strategy", *Nagarlok*, XXXVI, No.2, June-April 2004, p.21.

⁷ Shivshankarvarma (1989). "Introduction to conceptual background", in urbanization and regional development in India, Sheoshankarvarma (ed.). Allahabad: Singh Publications, p.18.

⁸ Ashok Rajan Basu (1988). Urban squatters in South Asia, in south Asia in South Asian Urban experience, R.C. Sarma (ed.) New Delhi: Criterion Publications, p.111.

Review of Literature

Bert F. Hoselitz (1962)⁹ in the article “The Role of Urbanization in Economic Development; Some International Comparison” summarises the significant differences between European urbanisation and Indian urbanization in the following words: “Compared with European cities during a corresponding period of economic development, the cities of India, therefore show the following economic features. Urban industry is less developed and characterised by a larger number of small scale and cottage type enterprises; the labour force, therefore, is made up of a smaller portion of industrial workers and a larger portion of persons in miscellaneous, usually mental, unskilled services, the urban labour market is fractionalised and composed of mutually non-competing groups, thus impeding optimum allocation of resources and preventing upward social mobility and relief in the amount of unemployment. All these features make economic development more difficult in India today than was the case in Europe in the 19th century.

Louis Wirth (1964)¹⁰ in his book “Urbanism As a Way of Life” observed that urbanism is a way of life of the people who lives in urban areas tend to be highly mobile; there are weak bond between them, pace of life is faster, larger number of people live in close proximity to one another without knowing each other personally. Most contact between city dwellers are fleeting and partial rather than being satisfying relationships in themselves.

Dewaram A. Nagdeve (2006)¹¹ in his paper entitled “Population, Poverty and Environment in India” examined the relationship of population to the environment and with growing population, poverty and urbanization, the environment is degrading. The study reveals that the country’s population growth is imposing an increasing burden on the country’s limited and continually degrading natural resource base. The natural resources are under increasing strain, even though the majority of people survive at subsistence level. Population pressure on arable land contributes to the land degradation.

Peter Newman (2006)¹² in his paper entitled “The environmental impact of cities” has analysed that cities are growing inexorably, causing many to think that inevitably their environmental impact will worsen. The positive role of urbanization is often over-shadowed by the evident deterioration in the physical environment and quality of life in the urban areas caused by widening gap between demand and supply of essential services and infrastructure. The challenge of reorienting the urbanization process, thus, lies in overcoming the infrastructural deficiencies and taking the best advantage of economic momentum inherent in urbanization.

Chetan Vaidya (2009)¹³ in his paper entitled “Urban Issues, Reforms and Way Forward in India” has examined that India has to improve its urban areas to achieve

⁹ Hoselitz, Bert F. (1962). The role of urbanisation in Economic development, Some International comparisons, in Turner, Roy (ed.) India’s Urban Future, Oxford University Press, Bombay, p.168.

¹⁰ Wirth, Louis (1964): “Urbanisation as a way of life”. Cities and Society, Chicago University, Chicago.

¹¹ Nagdeve, A. and Dewaram (2006). “Population, Poverty and Environment in India”, Vol.3, No.3, *Population*, ENVIS Centre IIPS, Deonar, Mumbai.

¹²Newman and Peter (2006). “The environmental impact of cities,” *Environment and Urbanization*, Vol.18, No.2, pp.275-294.

¹³ Vaidya, Chetan (2009). “Urban Issues, Reforms and Way Forward in India”, Working Paper No.4, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, GOI.

objectives of economic development. However, urban governance and management of the services is far from satisfactory. In this context, the Government has launched a reform-linked urban investment programme, JNNURM. The paper has analysed urban trends, projected population, service delivery, institutional arrangements, municipal finance etc.

Thus, the urbanization's the result of three components: (i) natural science (ii) increase due to migration, and (iii) appearance of new urban centres. Rural to urban migration is the moving force behind the progress of urbanization. Hence urbanization is now a shift of people from low productive agricultural employment to another section of employment marked by low productivity as handicraft production, retail trading, and domestic services in urban areas.

As per 2011 census, the population of India is 1,210,193,422, out of which 833,087,662 i.e. 68.84% is rural population and 31.16% say 377,105,760 crores is urban population.

Table 1
Urbanization in India

Census year	Total Population (in million)	Urban Population (in million)	Number of towns	Urban population as% of total population (%)	Decimal growth rate of urban population (%)	Annual exponential growth rate
1901	238.40	25.85	1,827	10.84	--	--
1911	252.09	25.94	1,815	10.29	0.35	0.03
1921	252.32	28.09	1,949	11.18	8.27	0.79
1931	278.98	33.46	2,072	11.99	19.12	1.75
1941	318.66	44.15	2,250	13.86	31.97	2.77
1951	361.09	62.44	2,843	17.29	41.42	3.47
1961	439.24	78.93	2,355	17.97	26.41	2.34
1971	548.16	109.11	2,590	19.91	38.23	3.21
1981	683.33	159.46	3,378	23.34	46.14	3.83
1991	844.32	217.18	3,368	25.72	36.19	3.09
2001	1027.02	285.35	5,761	27.78	31.39	2.71
2011	1210.2	377.1	7,935	31.2	31.8	-

Source: Census of India 2011 and 2001 population tables.

Urbanisation in India reveals that

- The country's urban population has increased by a little over eleven times.
- The proportion of urban population and the total number of towns have been increasing decade after decade.
- There is a decline in the total number of town during 1951-61.
- There is a steady rise in the total number of towns after 1961.

The growth of urban population in India is attributed to a large extent to migration factor, which is generally experienced in the initial stage of the urbanization. The growth of urbanization during the pre-independence period was slow. In the earlier part of 20th century in 1901, the level of urbanization was only 10.84 per cent with only 25.85 million people in

1827 cities. During post-independence period the growth of urbanization was fast. In 1951, at the starting point of planned economic development, the level was 17.29 per cent with 62.45 million urban population. India had urbanized at fast rate upto 1981 while during 1981-1991 and 1991-2001 decades, the rate had slow down. Between 1991 and 2001, even though the extent of urbanization is low at 25.72 per cent and 27.78 respectively, the magnitude of urban population of 217.18 million and 285.35 million respectively was very high while the percentage of population living in urban areas had increased from 10.84 in 1901 to 31.2 per cent in 2011, the increase in the absolute growth from 25.85 million to 377.01 million during the period was about eleventh and a half times. This can be seen in Table 1.

Table 2
Trends in Urbanisation in Andhra Pradesh: 1961-2011

Year	Total Number of towns	Total population (in millions)	Urban Population (in millions)	Percentage of Urban Population	Growth of urban population
1961	223	36	6.3	17.4	1.5
1971	224	43.5	8.4	19.3	3
1981	252	53.5	12.5	23.3	4
1991	264	66.5	17.9	26.9	3.7
2001	210	75.7	20.5	27.1	1.4
2011	353	84.7	28.4	33.5	3.1

Source: Rural-Urban Distribution of Population India, Census of India, 2011, Paper 2 Vol.2 of 2011, A.P.

The number of towns and population in Andhra Pradesh is presented in the table 2. The most striking feature of India's urbanization is accelerated rate of clustered urbanization with relatively low degree of urbanization which also prevails in Andhra Pradesh. The phenomenal increase in urban population takes place mostly in class-1 cities. The population of cities and larger towns increases faster than that of small towns without a commensurate growth in the number of Class-I cities. Three larger cities (Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, and Vijayawada) in Andhra Pradesh account for more than 40% of the total urban population in the state. This kind of top-heavy bottom-slim urban pattern in the state is a matter of concern. According to 2001 census there are 173 towns and urban agglomerations in Andhra Pradesh which can be categorised as 39 class I towns including 28 urban agglomerations, 43 class II towns including 8 agglomerations, 46 class III towns including one agglomeration 23 class IV towns, 20 class V towns and 2 class VI towns. There is a heavy concentration of population in class I cities in Andhra Pradesh.

Table 3
Estimates of incidence of poverty in India

Year	Poverty ratio (%)			Number of poor (million)		
	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined
1973-74	56.4	49.0	54.9	261.3	60.0	321.3
1977-78	53.1	45.2	51.3	264.3	64.6	328.9
1983	45.7	40.8	44.5	252.0	70.9	322.9
1987-88	39.1	38.2	38.9	231.9	75.2	307.1
1993-94	37.3	32.4	36.0	244.0	76.3	320.3
2004-05 URP	28.3	5.7	27.5	220.9	80.8	301.7

Source: 1. Government of India (2003).

2. Southern Economist, March 1, 2006.

3. Uniform Recall Period Consumption

From table 3 we found that the poverty ratio in India was 55 per cent in 1973-74 declined to 27.5 per cent in 2004-05. The urban poverty declined from 49 per cent in 1973-74 to 25.7 per cent in 2004-05 in the country as a whole. In the urban areas, the employment opportunities are better as compared to the rural areas, therefore, the ratio of urban poverty is less as compared to rural poverty at the national as well as state level. According to the data of 2001 census, 70 per cent of the urban household had bathrooms in their houses. The figure was 23 per cent only for the rural households. The households that have power connection to the urban areas is concerned, about 88 per cent of the urban households had electricity connection. This figure was just 44 per cent for the rural areas.

Problems of Urbanisation

Rapid urbanisation in developing nations is trading to the creation of slums, dropping living standards in urban areas and causing serious environmental damage. However, current urbanisation is causing more bad than good. Rural migration to cities is usually caused by economic or personal problems. They are:

1. High population density
2. Inadequate infrastructure
3. Lack of affordable housing
4. Unemployment and underemployment
5. Pollution
6. Slum creation, suffers from inadequate health, water, poor housing etc.
7. Crime
8. Congestion and poverty
9. Wastes and Pollution
10. Public Health and Sanitation

Urbanisation affects the physical environment through the imparts of the number of people.

Conclusion

Urbanization is a continuous process and cannot be stopped. Coming years shall further witness expansion of cities and all the associated problems. To ensure proper urban growth, government has to make the urban areas clean, comfortable, safe place to live in. The level of investments to the urban infrastructure and services will require, the supplementing of government efforts by the private sector. To attract private sector investment in urban infrastructure and service, several models for private sector participation will need to be offed. In addition, a range of other pre conditions will here to be met.

In the race of development, we must not lose what we have in our hands. There cannot be any progress without health and needless to say, mental health is as important as physical health. We must focus on the changing structure of society and its impact on mental health of women. Policy makers need to be made aware of this issue and appropriate plans need to be formulated. Increasing general awareness of the society and mental health professionals about this burning issue shall go a long way in finding a lasting solution to this problem.

Suggestions

1. Population growth in large cities, particularly in slum areas where the population growth rate is very high, should be checked with all available family welfare measures. Proper targets for each city should be planned, and the progress should be reviewed from time to time by the urban development authorities.
2. Massive rural employment programmes should be undertaken to prevent the flight of people from Rural to Urban areas. This can be done only through well planned rural development programmes, co-ordination between rural industrialisation programmes, family welfare programmes and agricultural development programmes, should be worked out with a perspective plan to integrate rural hinterlands with small and medium towns.
3. New urban areas will have to be planned and developed in adequate numbers to accommodate the growth of urban population and to provide them basic infrastructure services, and
4. Urban development should be viewed as an integral part of the total development process.
