

# A STUDY ON URBANIZATION IN INDIA- ISSUES AND CHALLENGESS

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## Abstract

Urbanization in India began to accelerate after independence, due to the country's adoption of a mixed economy, which gave rise to the development of the private sector. Urbanization is taking place at a faster rate in India. Economy residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census, was 11.4%. This count increased to 28.53% according to 2001 census, and crossing 30% as per 2011 census, standing at 31.16%. According to a survey by UN State of the World Population report in 2007, by 2030, 40.76% of country's population is expected to reside in urban areas. As per World Bank, India, along with China, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the United States, will lead the world's urban population surge by 2050.

Rapid rise in urban population, in India, is leading to many problems like increasing slums, decrease in standard of living in urban areas, also causing environmental damage. This paper studies Issues and challenges of urbanization,

**Keywords:** Economy, Population, Urbanization.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization has become a common feature of Indian society. Growth of Industries has contributed to the growth of cities. As a result of industrialization people have started moving towards the industrial areas in search of employment. This has resulted in the growth of towns and cities. Urbanization can also be defined as a process of concentration of population in a particular territory. According to Mitchell urbanization is a process of becoming urban, moving to cities, changing from agriculture to other pursuits common to cities. Urban population (% of total) in India was last measured at 32.75 in 2015, according to the World Bank. Urban population refers to people living in urban areas as defined by national statistical offices. It is calculated using World Bank population estimates and urban ratios from the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects. This page has the latest values, historical data, forecasts, charts, statistics, an economic calendar and news for urban population (% of total) in India



### Causes of Urbanization:

Various reasons have led to the growth of cities. They are as follows:

- **Industrialization:**

Industrialization is a major cause of urbanization. It has expanded the employment opportunities. Rural people have migrated to cities on account of better employment opportunities.

- **Social factors:**

Many social factors such as attraction of cities, better standard of living, better educational facilities, need for status also induce people to migrate to cities.

- **Employment opportunities:**

In rural sector people have to depend mainly on agriculture for their livelihood. But Indian agriculture is depending on monsoon. In drought situations or natural calamities, rural people have to migrate to cities.

- **Modernization:**

Urban areas are characterized by sophisticated technology better infrastructure, communication, medical facilities, etc. People feel that they can lead a comfortable life in cities and migrate to cities.

- **Rural urban transformation:**

It is an interesting aspect that not only cities are growing in number but rural community is adopting urban culture, no longer rural communities are retaining their unique rural culture. Rural people are following the material culture of urban people. Urban rural transformation can be observed in the following areas.

- **Spread of education:**

The literacy rate has increased among the rural people. They have become more modernized.

- **Effect of Urbanization:**

With a high rate of urbanization significant changes have taken place. The effect of urbanization can be summed up as follows:

**Positive effect:**

- i. Migration of rural people to urban areas.
- ii. Employment opportunities in urban centres.
- iii. Transport and communication facilities.
- iv. Educational facilities.
- v. Increase in the standard of living.

The twelfth five year plan (2012-2017) proposed to consolidate JNNURM and envisaged its wider role in urban reforms. During twelfth plan, the components of JNNURM are:-

- Urban infrastructure governance(UIG)
- Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY)
- Slum rehabilitation in cities not covered under RAY
- Capacity building
  - The plan has also highlighted the reasons which are acting as hurdles in the success of the program as:-
- Failure to mainstream the urban planning
- Incomplete reform and slow progress in project implementation
- Delay in securing land for projects
- Delay in getting approval from various regulators

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the Urbanization in India
- To study Urbanization Issues and challenges in India

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is a descriptive method. The Secondary data were collected from different sources, such as, text books, magazines, articles and websites.

#### IV.URBANIZATION IN INDIA- ISSUES AND CHALLENGESS

Although India is one of the less urbanized countries of the world with only 27.78 per cent of her population living in urban agglomerations/towns, this country is facing a serious crisis of urban growth at the present time. Whereas urbanization has been an instrument of economic, social and political progress, it has led to serious socio-economic problems.

The sheer magnitude of the urban population, haphazard and unplanned growth of urban areas, and a desperate lack of infrastructure are the main causes of such a situation. The rapid growth of urban population both natural and through migration, has put heavy pressure on public utilities like housing, sanitation, transport, water, electricity, health, education and so on. Poverty, unemployment and under employment among the rural immigrants, beggary, thefts, dacoities, burglaries and other social evils are on rampage. Urban sprawl is rapidly encroaching the precious agricultural land. The urban population of India had already crossed the 285 million mark.. By 2030, more than 50 per cent of India's population is expected to live in urban areas. Following problems need to be highlighted.

##### ➤ Major Problems of Urbanization in India



- **Urban Sprawl:**

Urban sprawl or real expansion of the cities, both in population and geographical area, of rapidly growing cities is the root cause of urban problems. In most cities the economic base is incapable of dealing with the problems created by their excessive size. Massive immigration from rural areas as well as from small towns into big cities has taken place almost consistently; thereby adding to the size of cities. The first large flow of migration from rural to urban areas was during the “depression” of late 1930s when people migrated in search of jobs. Later, during the decade 1941-51, another a million persons moved to urban places in response to wartime industrialization and partition of the country in 1947. During 1991-2001, well over 20 million people migrated to cities. The greatest pressure of the immigrating population has been felt in the central districts of the city (the old city) where the immigrants flock to their relatives and friends before they search for housing. Population densities beyond the “old city” decline sharply. Brush (1968) has referred to this situation in the central parts of the cities as “urban impulsion” which results from concentration of people in the centre of the city close to their work and shopping. Incidentally many of the fastest growing urban centres are large cities.

- **Overcrowding:**

Overcrowding is a situation in which too many people live in too little space. Overcrowding is a logical consequence of over-population in urban areas. It is naturally expected that cities having a large size of population squeezed in a small space must suffer from overcrowding. This is well exhibited by almost all the big cities of India. For example, Mumbai has one-sixth of an acre open space per thousand populations though four acre is suggested standard by the Master Plan of Greater Mumbai. Metropolitan cities of India are overcrowded both in ‘absolute’ and ‘relative’ terms. Absolute in the sense that these cities have a real high density of population, relative in the sense that even if the densities are not very high the problem of providing services and other facilities to the city dwellers makes it so.

- **Housing:**

Overcrowding leads to a chronic problem of shortage of houses in urban areas. This problem is specifically more acute in those urban areas where there is large influx of unemployed or underemployed immigrants who have no place to live in when they enter cities/towns from the surrounding areas. An Indian Sample Survey in 1959 indicated that 44 per cent of urban households (as compared to 34 per cent of rural families) occupied one room or less. In larger cities the proportion of families occupying one room or less was as high as 67 per cent. (Roy Turner, 1962). Moreover, the current rate of housing construction is very slow which makes the problem further complicated. Indian cities require annually about 2.5 million new dwelling but less than 15 per cent of the requirement is being constructed

For about a third of urban Indian families, a house does not include a kitchen, a bathroom, and a toilet and in many cases there is no power and water supply. Only 79 per cent (42.6 million) urban household live in

permanent (pucca) houses. 67 per cent (36 million) of the urban houses are owned by the households while 29 per cent (15 million) are rented.

- **Unemployment:**

The problem of unemployment is no less serious than the problem of housing mentioned above. Urban unemployment in India is estimated at 15 to 25 per cent of the labor force. This percentage is even higher among the educated people. It is estimated that about half of all educated urban unemployed are concentrated in four metropolitan cities (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai). Furthermore, although urban incomes are higher than the rural incomes, they are appallingly low in view of high cost of living in urban areas.

One of the major causes of urban unemployment is the large scale migration of people from rural to urban areas. Rural-urban migration has been continuing for a pretty long time but it has not always been as great a problem as it is today. The general poverty among the rural people pushes them out to urban areas to migrate in search of livelihood and in the hope of a better living.

- **Slums and Squatter Settlements:**

The natural sequel of unchecked, unplanned and haphazard growth of urban areas is the growth and spread of slums and squatter settlements which present a striking feature in the ecological structure of Indian cities, especially of metropolitan centers. The rapid urbanization in conjunction with industrialization has resulted in the growth of slums. The proliferation of slums occurs due to many factors, such as, the shortage of developed land for housing, the high prices of land beyond the reach of urban poor, a large influx of rural migrants to the cities in search of jobs etc. In spite of several efforts by the Central and State Governments to contain the number of slum dwellers, their growth has been increasing sharply exerting tremendous pressure on the existing civic amenities and social infrastructure.

- **Transport:**

With traffic bottleneck and traffic congestion, almost all cities and towns of India are suffering from acute form of transport problem. Transport problems increase and become more complex as the town grows in size. With its growth, the town performs varied and complex functions and more people travel to work or shop. This puts tremendous pressure on public transport and causes journeys to take much longer period than they normally would. In most cities the rush hour or peak traffic hour lasts for about two hours and during that period buses and trains are crammed to capacity, roads are overcrowded with vehicles and the movement of traffic becomes very slow.

- **Water:**

What is one of the most essential elements of nature to sustain life and right from the beginning of urban civilization, sites for settlements have always been chosen keeping in view the availability of water to the

inhabitants of the settlement. However, supply of water started falling short of demand as the cities grew in size and number. Today we have reached a stage where practically no city in India/ gets sufficient water to meet the needs of city dwellers. In many cities people get water from the municipal sources for less than half an hour every alternate day. In dry summer season, taps remain dry for days together and people are denied water supply at a time when they need it the most.

- **Sewerage Problems:**

Urban areas in India are almost invariably plagued with insufficient and inefficient sewage facilities. Not a single city in India is fully sewered. Resource crunch faced by the municipalities and unauthorized growth of the cities are two major causes of this pathetic state of affairs. According to latest estimates, only 35-40 per cent of the urban population has the privilege of sewage system. Most of the cities have old sewerage lines which are not looked after properly. Often sewerage lines break down or they are overflowing. Most cities do not have proper arrangements for treating the sewerage waste and it is drained into a nearby river (as in Delhi) or in sea (as in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai), thereby polluting the water bodies. In most Indian cities, water pipes run in close proximity to sewer lines. Any leakage leads to contamination of water which results in the spread of several water borne diseases.



- **Trash Disposal:**

As Indian cities grow in number and size the problem of trash disposal is assuming alarming proportions. Huge quantities of garbage produced by our cities pose a serious health problem. Most cities do not have proper arrangements for garbage disposal and the existing landfills are full to the brim. These landfills are hotbeds of disease and innumerable poisons leaking into their surroundings. Wastes putrefy in the open inviting disease carrying flies and rats and a filthy, poisonous liquid, called leachate, which leaks out from below and contaminates ground water. People who live near the rotting garbage and raw sewage fall easy victims to several diseases like dysentery, malaria, plague, jaundice, diarrhoea, typhoid, etc.



- **Problem of Urban Pollution:**

With rapid pace of urbanization, industries and transport systems grow rather out of proportion. These developments are primarily responsible for pollution of environment, particularly the urban environment. We cannot think of strong India, economically, socially and culturally, when our cities remain squalor, quality of urban life declines and the urban environment is damaged beyond repair. As a matter of fact, cities comprise the backbone of economic expansion and urbanization is being seen in a positive light as an engine of economic growth and agent of socio-political transformation.

## V. Steps Taken by Government to improve urban Development

- **The Constitution (74th Amendment) Act**

came into effect in 1993, emphasizes to strengthen urban planning, regulation of land use, roads and bridges and providing urban amenities.

- **National Urban Transport Policy, 2006:**

Its main purpose is to provide affordable, comfortable, safe and rapid, reliable and sustainable urban transport system, for the growing number of city resident to jobs, education and recreation and such other needs with in our cities. Encouraging integrated land use and transport planning in all cities so that travel distances are minimized and access to livelihoods, education, and other social needs, especially for the marginal segments of the urban population is improved National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM), 2005.

The primary objective of the JnNURM is to create economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive cities. The JnNURM consists of two sub-missions Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) and Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP).

The Mission focuses on: Integrated development of infrastructure services; securing linkages between asset creation and maintenance for long run project sustainability; accelerating the flow of investment into urban infrastructure services; planned development of cities including the peri-urban areas, out growths, and urban corridors; renewal and re-development of inner city areas;

- **Introduction to Metro trains**

In Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore etc. are part of above mentioned initiatives. Recently cabinet has also passes proposal for second phase of Bangalore Metro (*Namma Metro*). In addition to this government has done many feasibility studies in Tier-II & III cities. Now one million plus cities can go for metro project according to new urban policy.

### **India's first monorail**

It will be thrown open to the public, eight years after it was first proposed, with the Maharashtra government. With this, India will join countries like the U.S., Germany, China, Japan, Australia and Malaysia that run monorails.

- **Smart city concept**

In the budget, 2014, it was projected for 'one hundred Smart cities', as satellite towns of larger cities and modernizing the existing mid- sized cities. Though there is no clear definition of smart cities, but it may include creative, cyber, digital, e-governed, entrepreneurial, intelligent, knowledge, harnessing the power of Information and communication technology (ICT). Smartness has to be there with respect to governance and service delivery.

Its feature can be:-

e-governance (through Digital India initiative, National e-governance plan, National Optical fiber network, e-*panchayat* project of MRD)

- Continuous improvements in design and management
- Climate oriented development
- Mass transit oriented development
- People centric technological applications (m-health, e- learning )
- Planning can be bottom up for future urbanization
- Smart PDS rationing
- Social inclusive and economically diverse.

- **Swach Bharat**

Clean urban areas will attract tourists and can increase the economic diversity of the urban dwellers and it will be also source for revenue generation for ULB.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Urbanization has undermined old forms of political mobilization based on caste and religious identities and favors local issues to be resolved on right based approach. Urbanization has its impact on all aspects of day-to-day life. Family structure has also been influenced by urbanization. In the rural society the concept of family living is different from that in the urban society. In the urban society usually the families are nuclear, a very small percentage of households' have joint families, whereas in rural society most of the households have joint families. This change in family structure is a direct result of urbanization. In urban areas, especially in the metropolitan cities, people of extremely divergent cultures live together. This has a positive impact. People come to know about each other's culture and they exchange their ideas, breaking the barriers which earlier used to exist between them. This results in cultural hybridization.

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