

# URBANIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## Abstract :

### Urbanization an ongoing process over

The post half century, a great rural – to – urban population shift has occurred and the process of urbanization is set to continue we into the 21<sup>st</sup> century to day urbanization & the increasing infrastructure development has taken toll on the environment. This rapid change due to urbanization that is presently taking place will leave the ecosystem vulnerable. It unbearable pressure such as an explosively growing. Population and its settlements load are brought to bear the natural resources, and to over use it and over exploit its resources, the ecological balance will not be up set but will be lost. Therefore it rather becomes imperative to under stand the relationship of man and nature. Understanding the effects of natural and human activates & their inter venations on elimate change will help in liking explicitly the urbanization process and the micro climate.

Environmental implications, poverty, waste recalling new challenge of sustain bility causal factors behind urbanization: these are estimated to contribute about 60 percent of the region’s urban growth while natural increase count for same 40 present. It is of ten pointed out that many urban environmental problems are the result of poor management, poor planning and absence of coherent coherent urgent policies rather than of urbanization it self.

### Urbanization and its impact on economic development

#### Urbanization –An ongoing process

Over the past half century , a great –to- urban population shift has occurred and the process of urbanization (the concentration of people and activities into areas classified as urban ) is set to continue well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century .major demographic evidence has indicated that already the Asia –Pacific region is well advanced in transition from predominantly rural to predominantly urban societies . although population growth rates have slowed down in many countries for the past decade , 62 percent of the world ‘population will live in urban areas by the year 2020 , while the Asia- pacific region will contain about 49 percent of that urban population and will contained a level of urbanization of 55 percent .An additional 1.2 billion people will be living in the urban centers of the Asia- Pacific region by 2020.

There is strong positive link between national levels of human development and urbanization levels , while cities spearhead their countries ‘ economics development transforming society through extraordinary growth in the productivity of labour and promising to liberate the masses from poverty ,hunger ,disease and premature death. However , the implications of rapid urban growth include increasing unemployment , lack of urban services, overburdening of existing infrastructure and lack of access to land ,finance and adequate shelter, increasing violent crime and sexually transmitted diseases, and environmental degradation. **Evan as national output is rising, a decline in the quality of life for a majority of population offsets the benefit of national economic growth is often witnessed . Urbanization thus imposes significant burden to sustainable development.**

#### Problem Focus –Challenges of urbanization

#### Environmental Implications

It should be noted that urban growth has a number of positive impacts on the environment and human well- being , I e higher population densities man lower per capital costs of providing energy , health care , infrastructure and services .Also ,urbanization has historically been associated with declining birth rates , which reduces population pressure on land and nature resources. despite all these positive impacts , almost all major cities of the region are increasingly plagued by environmental problems . some major aspects are as follows :

a) As a direct result of urbanization, great threat to health and safety in cities comes from water and air pollution, especially at the household and community levels while ambient air pollution impairs the health of almost all urban residents in many cities, indoors air pollution is particularly hazardous for women and children of low-income households who are regularly exposed to higher concentrations of air pollutants from cooking and heating sources in poorly ventilated housing. Waterborne diseases are found most commonly in low-income neighborhoods as a result of inadequate sanitation, drainage and solid waste

collection services. Health risks, especially to the poor, are also posed by pesticides and industrial effluents.

(b) The productivity of many cities is adversely affected by traffic congestion and water pollution. The loss in productivity includes the total productive time wasted in traffic and the associated increase in the costs of operating and maintaining vehicles. The rising costs of treating polluted water for industrial and domestic purposes are damaging the productivity of urban economies. Fisheries are also being severely harmed by water pollution.

(c) Uncollected and improperly handled solid waste can have serious health consequences. They block drainage systems and contaminate groundwater at landfill sites. In many cities, particularly those in Pacific island countries; it is difficult to secure land for waste disposal facilities, especially onshore landfill sites. Most cities in the region are also unable to manage the increasing amounts of hazardous wastes generated by rapid industrialization.

(d) Conversion of agricultural land and forest, as well as reclaiming of wetlands, for urban uses and infrastructure is associated with widespread removal of vegetation to support urban ecosystem and put additional pressure on nearby areas that may be even more ecologically sensitive. Groundwater overdraft has led to land subsidence and a higher frequency of flooding, particularly in the lowest-lying and poorest areas.

(e) Urbanization in coastal areas often leads to the destruction of sensitive ecosystems and can also alter the hydrology of coasts and their natural features such as mangrove swamps, reefs and beaches that serve as barriers to erosion and form important habitats. Swamps, reefs and beaches that serve as barriers to erosion and form important habitats for species. Urbanization does not have only local environmental impacts but also large so-called 'ecological footprints' beyond their immediate vicinity. Intensive and extensive exploitation of natural resources to support urban economy includes excessive extraction of energy resources (including fuel wood), quarrying and other extraction of sand, gravel and building materials at large scales, and over extraction of water. These all contribute to degradation of the natural support systems and irreversible loss of critical ecosystem functions, such as the hydrological cycle, carbon cycle and biological diversity, in addition to conflicts with rural uses of such limited resources. Other effects can be felt further afield such as pollution of waterways long-range air pollution that impact on human health as well as on vegetation and soils at a considerable distance.

### **Poverty**

The growth of large cities, particularly in developing countries, has been accompanied by an increase in urban poverty which tends to be concentrated in certain social groups and in particular locations. Pollution especially affects the poor who live at the urban periphery, where manufacturing and processing plants are built and where environmental protection is frequently weak. Environmental sensitive sites such as steep hillsides, flood plains, dry land of the most polluted sites near solid waste dumps and next to open drains and sewers are often the only places where low-income groups can live without the fear of eviction. The poorest groups thus suffer the most from the floods, landslides or other disasters that increasingly batter the cities of developing countries.

### **Waste Recycling – New Challenges of Sustainability**

Waste generation in urban areas continues to increase world-wide in tandem with concentration of populations and increase in living standards, and has reached to unmanageable levels in many localities. High proportion of the waste could be recycled, not simply to reduce the amount of waste to be disposed of. The practice also provides an opportunity to generate income for the urban poor, to prevent environmental damages of waste dumping, and further to demonstrate less material- and energy-intensive consumption patterns. There is a need to develop an integrated approach where the public, private and community sectors work together to develop local solutions promoting sustainable waste management of material recycling.

### **Causal Factors behind Urbanization**

#### **General**

The major reasons for increasing urban population are rural to urban migration, including international migration to a lesser extent, and the re-classification of expansion of existing city boundaries to include populations that were hitherto classified as being resident outside the city limits. These are estimated to contribute about 60 per cent of the region's urban growth, while natural increase counts for some 40 per cent.

### Rural – Urban Migration

Primary driving forces of rural – urban migration include the opportunities and services offered in urban areas especially jobs and education, while in some cases, conflict, land degradation and exhaustion of natural resources in rural areas are also important.

The patterns of rural – urban migration may be city-specific, reflecting, among other things, changes in the city's economic base, labour market and age structure.

### Links to Globalization

The steady increase in the level of urbanization reflects the fact that the size of the world's economy has grown many times and has also changed from one dominated by relatively closed national economic of trading blocs to one where most countries have more open economies and where production and the services it needs, including financial services, are increasingly integrated internationally. These trends appear to be strengthening, reinforced especially by the freer and faster flows of information and knowledge under the impact of new information technologies.

### Mismanagement

It is often pointed out that many urban environmental problems are the result of poor management, poor planning and absence of coherent urban policies rather than of urbanization itself. The problem of urbanization has significantly been exacerbated by inappropriate incentive systems, such as the “growth – first” strategy adopted by the Governments of many countries in the region, especially in developing countries. And incentive packages, including low-taxes tax regulations and subsidized infrastructure, with target to urban areas, Industrial growth, combined with inadequate infrastructure, inappropriate pricing of resources and services, and inadequate institutional mechanism to ensure environment protection further accelerates environmental degradation in urban areas. The land market factors that accounted for exacerbating urbanization problems include inappropriate regulation, lack of tenure security, inadequate infrastructure capacity inadequate information, inadequate pricing and taxation, and weak institutions and poorly coordinated actors in the land market. All these factors necessitate significant improvements in overall urban governance to effectively reduce and bypass the urbanization problems.

### Ecopolis

An Ecopolis is a large city that follows ecological principles the term:

**Eco** : created from ecology i.e. interactions between living organisms & the environment.

**Polis** : a city state. It was used in a 1991 article by architect Paul F. Downtown, who later founded the company Ecopolis architects. The term was used more recently in a 2006 article by New Scientist. An ecopolis can feed & power itself with minimal reliance on the result in a countryside & creates the smallest possible eco foot print for its residents this result in a city that is friendly to the surrounding environment, in terms of pollution land use & alleviation of global warming.

It is estimated that by 2007, over half of the world's population will in urban areas & this provides both challenges & opportunities for environmentally conscious Use of materials, energy and development space

#### 1) Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency is perhaps the most important single goal of sustainable architecture.

Architects use many different techniques to reduce the energy needs of building and increase their ability to capture or generate their own energy.

- Cooling efficiency
- Heating efficiency
- Alternative energy production and building design.
- Cooling efficiency – in warmer climates where cooling is a primary concern passive solar designs can also be very effective.

Masonry building materials with high thermal mass are very valuable for retaining the cool temperature of night throughout the day. In addition, building after opt for sprouting single storey in order to maximize surface area and heat loss.

Buildings are after designed to capture and channel existing winds particularly the especially cool winds coming from nearby bodies of water.

Many of these valuable strategies are employed in some way by the traditional architecture of warm regions.

- Heating efficiency :-

In cold regions, heating systems are a primary focus for sustainable architecture because they are typically one of the largest single energy demands in buildings.

Passive solar designs allow buildings to harness the energy of the sun efficiently without the use of any active solar mechanisms such as photovoltaic cells.

Typically passive solar building designs incorporate materials with high thermal mass that retain heat effectively and strong insulation that works to prevent heat escape.

### **Alternative energy production and building design :-**

Active solar devices such as photovoltaic solar panels help to provide sustainable electricity for any use.

Roofs are often angled towards the sun to allow photovoltaic panels to collect at maximum efficiency.

Active solar water heater systems are used.

Occasionally houses that use a combination of these methods achieve the lofty goal of 'zero energy', and can even begin generating excess energy for use in other structures.

## **2) Building placement**

One central and often ignored aspect of sustainable architecture is building placement.

Although many environmentalists envision the ideal house or office structure as an isolated place in the middle of the woods, this kind of placement is often detrimental to the environment. They usually increase the energy consumption required for transportation and lead to unnecessary auto emissions.

Ideally, most buildings should avoid suburban sprawl in favor of the kind of light urban development articulated by the new urbanist movement.

Developers.

### **Ecological cities can be achieved through various means such as-**

- Small scale, private agriculture & agricultural plots in the city's suburbs to reduce the distance foods have to travel from field to work.
- Renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines, solar cells & bio-gas created from sewage.

Cities provide economies of scale that make such energy sources viable.

Various methods to reduce the need for air conditioning –

- Low lying buildings that allow this air to circulate.
- Green spaces equaling 20% of the city's surface.
- An increase in water features.

### **This counters the environmental heating caused.**

- Improved public transport & an increase in pedestrian stations to reduce car emissions.

This requires a radically different approach to city planning with integrated business, industrial and residential zones.

- Optimal public density to make public transport viable but avoid the creation of urban heat islands.

### Few real life examples of ecopolises exist.

- On a small scale, green building such as the Melbourne city council building in Australia produce much of their own energy supplies.
- Many towns in developing countries already practice the principles of an ecopolis.
- Efficient power use
- Recycling
- Private agriculture
- Pedestrianisation

This idea of ecopolises is a new approach towards sustainable living.

Environmentalists used to believe that city living was pollutive and destructive to the environment because of the amount of sewage, trash and unsanitary conditions created and dumped onto the environment.

However, the alternative was to live in the suburbs, which is also damaging to the environment because cars are needed for transportation and the amount of energy used in a house by a single family is much more per person than the amount of energy used in an apartment for multiple family housing.

Sustainable architecture also known as green architecture or green building is an approach to architecture design. That emphasizes the place of building within both local ecosystem and the global environment.

Sustainable architecture framed by the larger discussion of sustainability having to do with the pressing economic and political issues of our world, seeks to minimize the negative environmental impact of building by enhancing efficiency and moderation in the

Careful mixed use zoning can make commercial, residential and light industrial areas more accessible for those traveling by foot, bicycle or public transport.

### 3) Waste Management :-

Sustainable architecture focuses on the on-site use of waste, incorporating things such as grey water system for use on garden beds, and composting toilets to reduce sewage.

### 4) Re-using structures and materials :-

Some sustainable architecture incorporates recycled or second hand materials. The reduction in use of new materials creates a corresponding reduction in embodied energy.

Often sustainable architects attempt to retrofit old structures to serve new needs in order to avoid unnecessary development.

### 5) Social Sustainability in architecture :-

Architectural design can play a large part in influencing the ways that social groups interact. Communist fusion constructivist social condensers are good examples of this, buildings which were designed with the specific intention of controlling or directing the flow of energy day life to “create socially equitable spaces”

The improvement of our lives requires a change in the way of thinking, perceptions and morals of the modern people. I believe it's high time the management of natural resources to be done with the consent of nature itself.”

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