ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF URBANISATION IN INDIA: AN INTROSPECTIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization, the process of population shift from rural to urban areas, has become a defining feature of the modern world. The rapid growth of cities has sparked debates about its impact on human development and economic growth. It brings both positive and negative impacts on human development and economic growth. The objective of the study has tried to find out some disadvantages and advantages of urbanization. Method: The data are collected from various census reports, books, articles, websites and web-based journals published in different times. Result and Discussion: Different disadvantages and advantages of urbanization have been sought. Conclusion: it creates obstacles to inclusive, equitable, and balanced development. However, as people learn about one another's cultures and share ideas, the barriers that once separated them are now broken. , planning for all the facilities and resources needed for public comfort without adding to the strain on the environment and society should be the main strategy to reduce the issues brought on by urbanization.

Keywords: Modern, Human Development, Economic growth, Disadvantages, Balanced development.
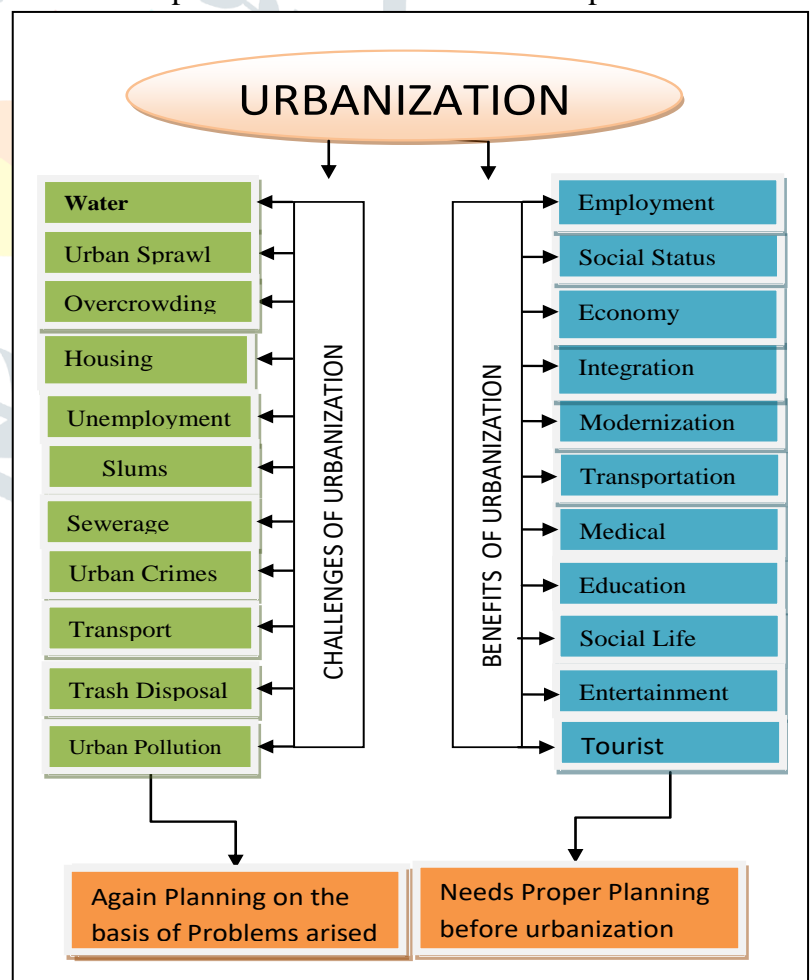
I.   INTRODUCTION

India is urbanizing rapidly and more or less 377 million people are living in 7935 towns/cities as per 2011 across the country which constitutes about 31.2 % of her total population. Urbanization is mainly due to liberalization of its economy after the 1990s, which accelerate the development of private sector. Presently,

urbanization is going at a fast rate in India, though nearly one-third of her population lives in urban areas. The metropolitan areas will become major economic powerhouses that have higher GDP. Urbanization has significant environmental implications. Cities are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and waste generation. The concentration of industries, transportation networks, and energy consumption in urban areas intensifies these environmental impacts. However, well-planned urbanization can also provide opportunities for sustainable development. Compact urban designs, efficient transportation systems, and green infrastructure can reduce emissions and promote sustainable resource management. Smart city initiatives and renewable energy integration can further mitigate the environmental footprint of cities, fostering a more sustainable urban future. Urbanization has both positive and negative impacts on human development and economic growth. While cities offer opportunities for economic advancement, improved infrastructure, and access to services, they also face challenges such as inequality, environmental degradation, and social disparities. To harness the benefits of urbanization, sustainable and inclusive urban planning is essential. This includes addressing inequality, improving access to basic services, promoting sustainable resource management, and fostering social resilience. By prioritizing these aspects, urbanization can contribute to human development, economic growth, and a sustainable future for all.The Indian economy is primarily rural, but there has been a rapid tendency toward urbanization (Agarwal and Agarwal, 2016). Moving from rural to urban areas, or the fast population increase in urban settlements, presents a number of difficulties and issues for the urban communities. The nation is currently dealing with a severe urbanization challenge. While urbanization has been a tool for social, political, and economic advancement, it has also resulted in significant socioeconomic issues. Poverty, a lack of growth in formal employment leading to the expansion of the urban informal sector, unemployment and underemployment among rural immigrants in urban areas, an inability of the urban physical and social infrastructure to keep up with population growth, impoverishment, theft, burglary, and other social ills are all on the rise. In the diagram, some disadvantages and advantages raised due to urbanization are shown.

OBJECTIVE: The study has tried to find out some disadvantages and advantages of urbanization.
II. METHOD AND MATERIALS
This study is descriptive type by nature based on secondary sources.
Sources of Data: The data are collected from various census reports, books, articles, websites and web-based journals published in different times.

Analysis: The many resources gathered from various sources have been examined, validated, and methodically arranged under the proper heading to support the necessary presentation and conclusion.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
Disadvantages/Challenges/ Negative Effects/ Problems of Urbanization

1.   Water: Water is one of the most important natural resources for life, and from the dawn of urban civilization, the locations of settlements have always been determined by the accessibility of water to the settlement's residents. However, as the cities grew in size and population, the supply of water began to fall short of the demand. As of right now, almost no Indian city has access to enough water to meet the needs of its residents. Water from municipal sources is available to residents of many cities for less than 30 minutes on alternate days. During the arid summer months, people are deprived of water during their most vulnerable time when the taps stay dry for days on end. Greater volumes of water are needed for each of the individual towns. Numerous small towns rely on sources like individual tube wells, household open wells, or even rivers for their water supply, as many do not have a main supply at all. The goal of the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) is to supply water to towns with fewer than 20,000 residents. The Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) set 125–200 litres of water per head per day for cities with a population of more than 50,000, 100–125 litres for populations between 10,000 and 50,000, and 70–100 litres for towns with a population of less than 10,000 in consideration of the increased demands for water by the urban population. The Zakaria Committee suggested that cities with populations between 5 lakh and 2 million should have a daily water requirement of 204 litres per head, and cities with populations over 2 million should have a daily water requirement of 272 litres. This volume of water should be utilised for gardening, floor and car washing, bathing, cooking, and drinking. Unfortunately, most cities and towns do not

receive the recommended amount of water. The difference between the supply and demand of water in Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, and other four major cities ranges from 10 to 20 percent. Small towns and cities still have worse conditions. Many cities are attempting to access outside water supplies in order to meet the increasing demand for water. Mumbai gets its water from sources up to 125 kilometres away in the Western Ghats as well as from nearby areas. Chennai uses water express trains to supply the city's expanding water needs. Bangalore, which is situated on a plateau, gets its water from the Cauvery River, which is 100 kilometres away. Pumps for lifting must be used to raise water for Bangalore by approximately 700 metres. Hyderabad is dependent upon 137-kilometer-distance Nagarjuna Sagar. A significant portion of Delhi's water needs are met by Tajiwala in Haryana. Water is also extracted up to 180 kilometres from the Ramganga. It will receive the increasing amount of water it needs from the Tehri, Renuka, and Kishau barrages under the proposed scheme.

2.   Urban Sprawl: The core cause of urban problems is urban sprawl, or the actual growth of cities in terms of population and geographic area at a rate of rapid expansion. Most cities' economic bases are too small to handle the issues brought on by their excessive size. Cities have grown in size as a result of the nearly constant large-scale immigration of residents from small towns and rural areas. This is because many immigrants are drawn to these big cities due to their modern lifestyle and abundance of employment opportunities. Large-scale population migration from the surrounding areas has resulted in urban sprawl in places like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, and so on. Rich people in many large cities are continuously relocating from the congested city centres to the more pleasant suburbs, where they can construct larger homes and take advantage of the seclusion and space provided by a garden surrounding the home. Squatters, who have no official claim to the land, add to the outskirts of some cities by erecting improvised shacks on vacant land. The majority of cities and towns are encircled by large rings of suburbs, making it extremely difficult to control town growth.

3.   Overcrowding: A situation known as overcrowding occurs when there are too many people residing in a small area. The natural result of urban overpopulation is overcrowding. It is only reasonable to assume that cities with sizable populations crammed into limited areas would experience overcrowding. Nearly all of India's major cities are excellent examples of this. For instance, Mumbai has one-sixth of an acre of open space for every thousand residents, despite the Master Plan of Greater Mumbai suggesting four acres. India's major cities are overcrowded in both "absolute" and "relative" senses. As per 2011Census,   Delhi has a population density of 11297 persons per sq. km., Mumbai City has 21,261 people per sq. km., Chennai has population density of 26,902 per sq. km. and Kolkata has population 24.760/ sq. km. There may be a significantly higher population density in Delhi's central region. This puts a lot of strain on the infrastructure that supports things like housing, electricity, water, transport, employment, etc. The necessary progress has not been made in ring town development attempts to relieve traffic in Delhi.

4.   Housing: The chronic issue of a shortage of housing in urban areas is a result of overcrowding. This issue is particularly worse in urban areas experiencing a significant influx of underemployed or unemployed immigrants from surrounding areas who come to cities and towns without anywhere to live. To make matters worse, the rate at which homes are being built at the moment is extremely slow. Every year, Indian cities need to build roughly 2.5 million new homes, but less than 15% of that total is being built. The results of the first-ever and largest survey of household assets and amenities, the Census of India 2001, provide an unprecedented profile of housing-related issues in India. The result is entertaining and educational. There are a number of reasons behind the depressing situation regarding urban residents' housing issues that was previously mentioned. Lack of funding and building materials, poor public utility expansion into suburban areas, urban immigrant poverty and unemployment, strong caste and familial ties, and inadequate transportation to suburban areas—where the majority of undeveloped land for new construction is located—are the main contributing factors.

5.   Unemployment: In cities and towns, the issue of unemployment is also very problematic. In India, it is estimated that between 15 and 25 percent of the labour force is unemployed in cities. The educated population has an even higher percentage of this group. Five major cities—Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and

Bangalore—are thought to contain the majority of the educated urban unemployed. Additionally, despite being higher than in rural areas, urban incomes are horribly low given the high cost of living there. The widespread migration of people from rural to urban areas is one of the main causes of unemployment in urban areas. Migration from rural to urban areas has been happening for a while, but it hasn't always been as problematic as it is now. Rural residents are generally impoverished, which forces them to migrate to cities in quest of work and the promise of a better life. However, the rate of increase in economic opportunities is not keeping up with the volume of immigration. Urban areas' limited capacity prevented them from producing enough jobs and from accommodating the city's labour force's rapid expansion. The federal and state governments haven't had much luck in their attempts to stop the large-scale rural-urban migration and to provide jobs in rural areas.

6.   Slums and Squatter Settlements: Slums and squatter settlements have grown and spread as a natural byproduct of the unplanned, uncontrolled, and haphazard growth of urban areas. This phenomenon is a prominent aspect of the ecological structure of Indian cities, particularly metropolitan centres. Slums have expanded as a result of the fast industrialization and urbanisation. Numerous factors contribute to the growth of slums, including a lack of developed land for housing, high land prices that are out of reach for the urban poor, a large influx of rural migrants seeking employment in the cities, etc. The number of slum dwellers has been rising sharply in spite of multiple attempts by the federal and state governments to control their population, placing a great deal of strain on the social infrastructure and civic amenities currently in place. Section 3 of the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act 1956 defines slums in India. An area meets the following criteria to be classified as a slum: (i) Any area designated as a "slum" by the state government pursuant to any Act.(ii) Any areas designated as slums by the State government but not formally designated as such by any Act.(iii) A small area with a population of at least 300 people, or roughly 60–70 households living in crowded, poorly constructed tenements in an unsanitary environment, typically with poor infrastructure and no access to clean drinking water. Socially speaking, slums are typically socially isolated from other parts of urban society and display pathological social symptoms, such as drug and alcohol abuse, criminal activity, vandalism, and other deviant behaviour. Both a lack of skills and cultural barriers are reflected in the inability of slum dwellers to integrate into urban life.

7.   Sewerage Problems: Because of overpopulation and rapid population in most urban centers, it is common to find that there are inadequate sewage facilities. Municipalities and local governments are facing with serious resource crisis in the management of sewage facilities. As a result, sanitation becomes poor and sewages flow chaotically, and they are drained into neighboring streams, rivers, lakes, or seas. Eventually, communicable diseases such as typhoid, dysentery, plague, and diarrhea spread very fast leading to suffering and even deaths. Overcrowding also highly contributes to water scarcity as supply falls short of demand. Inadequate and ineffective sewage infrastructure is a common problem in Indian urban areas. India has not a single fully sewered city. The municipalities' resource shortage and the unchecked urban growth are the two main causes of this deplorable situation. Recent estimates indicate that only 35–40% of urban residents have access to a sewage system. The majority of cities have outdated sewage systems that are not properly maintained.

8.   Urban Crime: Modern cities offer a gathering place for individuals from diverse backgrounds who have no personal connection to one another. Crime is a problem that gets worse as cities get bigger, just like other problems. Actually, the rising trend in urban crimes tends to disturb the tranquilly and peace of the cities, making them dangerous places to live, especially for women. Some of the main reasons behind the concerning trends in urban crime are growing materialism, consumerism, and competition in daily life; other factors include selfishness, extravagance; shocking socioeconomic disparities; growing unemployment; and a sense of being alone in the crowd. Young people from wealthy homes also turn to crime to meet their needs for a luxurious lifestyle and to make quick money. It's not just the impoverished and slum dwellers who turn to crime. Periodic setbacks in life also lead young people to commit crimes. Because politicians, bureaucrats, and the urban elite class frequently provide protection to criminals, the issue of urban crime is becoming more complex in today's world. Some of the criminals use their wealth and physical strength to rise to prominent political positions.

9.   Transport: Almost every Indian city and town faces a severe form of transportation issue due to traffic jams and bottlenecks. The larger the town, the more complicated and numerous the transportation issues become. As the town grows, more people travel there for work or shopping, and it fulfills a variety of intricate tasks. As the town grows, even those who live in the developed area must use a bus or car to get around, and visitors will inevitably bring their own vehicles or take public transportation. Commercial vehicles like vans and trucks will exacerbate traffic problems wherever trade is significant. The Central Business District (C.B.D.), which houses the majority of the towns' commercial activity, is where traffic is most congested. There is still traffic in other areas of the town, though. These places include the roads that lead to factories, offices, schools, and other establishments that are crowded with people in the morning and evening; small shopping centres that sprout up in the suburbs; stadiums and entertainment districts that are bustling at night; and the roads that lead to residential and dorm towns that are busy with commuters who travel to the cities early in the morning for work and return late at night. Because everyone leaves the building quickly after work to make their way home, traffic congestion is worse in the centre when it is composed of tall skyscraper blocks with offices that occasionally employ thousands of people. Travel times increase significantly and there is extreme strain on public transport as a result. Rush hour, also known as peak traffic hour, lasts for roughly two hours in most cities. During that time, buses and trains are packed, cars are jam-packed onto the roads, and traffic moves very slowly. In other towns, the primary causes of traffic congestion are the small streets—many of which were constructed before motorised transportation—and the absence of parking spaces. Vehicles parked on the edges of the roads can limit traffic to a single, narrow lane. The abundance of these streets, along with their sharp turns and queues for turning into lanes, can further impede traffic flow and worsen congestion.

10.   **Trash Disposal**: The issue of disposing of waste is becoming increasingly problematic as Indian cities expand in both population and size. Our cities produce enormous amounts of trash, which is a major health concern. The majority of cities lack adequate garbage disposal plans, and the landfills that do exist are completely full. These landfills are disease hotspots where a myriad of toxins seep into the surrounding environment. The open decomposition of wastes attracts disease-carrying flies, rats, and a toxic liquid known as leachate that seeps out from below and taints ground water. Living close to raw sewage and decaying waste makes people more susceptible to a number of illnesses, including typhoid, malaria, plague, jaundice, diarrhoea, and dysentery.

11.   **Squatter Settlements:** In reality, there is no clear distinction between slums and squatter settlements other than the fact that slums are older, more stable areas of cities while squatter settlements are more ephemeral and frequently dispersed throughout the entire city, particularly in the outer zones where urban areas merge with their rural hinterland. Squatter settlements typically consist of improvised homes built on unapproved land without official permission. Any available material, such as cardboard, tin, straw mats, or sacks, is used to build these settlements. Squatter communities are built haphazardly and severely lack basic utilities like electricity, water, and sewage. A setting like this causes a number of health issues. The task of estimating the size of a squatter settlement is challenging. Some may happen alone or in tiny clusters of ten to twenty homes, while others happen in enormous agglomerations of thousands of homes. They can happen as a result of planned, swift, and nearly overnight invasions of a region by a sizable number of people, or they can happen gradually, family by family.

12.   **Urban Pollution:** Pollution is the introduction of harmful materials into the environment. These harmful materials are called pollutants. They can be created by human activity, such as trash or runoff produced by factories. Pollutants damage the quality of air, water, and land. Urbanization, inadequate treatment capacity, and disposal of untreated wastes cause severe pollution in urban and peri-urban areas. Vehicle emissions produce over 90 percent of air pollution in urban areas. The air quality index of million plus cities of India showed that more than 50 percent of cities have moderate to poor air quality. Ever-increasing population along with swift industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural growth has caused water quality deterioration in India. Urbanization is accelerating at a rate that causes industries and transport networks to expand disproportionately. The environment, especially the urban environment, is being polluted mainly by these developments.

BENEFITS/ADVANTAGES/POSITIVE EFFECTS OF URBANIZATION

1.   **Employment opportunities:** The cities in the urban areas offer a wider range of employment opportunities, which are not available in a rural area. Most of the jobs in the urban areas are white-collar jobs with much better remuneration and provide a better standard of living. So the first and foremost benefit of urbanization is generating better opportunities for employment. Urban regions provide more income earning opportunities to people. They can lure people to leave their rural area, and enjoy a higher-paying job and a better life. Where finding a decent paying job in rural area is hard, there are ample of employment opportunities for people in urban areas. The major reason behind increasing employment opportunities is due to industrialization, and different business activities. Due migration of agriculture to production, there is seen reduction of agriculture-based jobs and a rise in the production-based jobs. Tempted by alluring employment opportunities, more and more people are compelled to move to urban locations. This leads to more industrialization and urbanization in the world.

2.   **Social Status:** As people make more money in urban locations, it lifts the social status of the person. Better job opportunities enhance the lifestyle of the person. With better employment access one gets access to improved medical care, education, cultural activities, communication, social services, transportation networks and trade opportunities. Urbanization opens up a door of opportunities to people to raise their social standards so that they are no more stuck to social status they were born with. Urban lifestyle is seen to be a lot easier to people. Everything is so easy to access.

3.   **Better Economy:** Urbanization boosts the economic condition of the country. It is closely linked to industrialism that a major reason for economic progress. People are seen to move mostly due to enhanced job opportunities. With building of more enterprises and organizations, more people will have access to jobs. With more workers, more revenue is generated in the different organizations in the country. This ultimately result in more flow of money and improves economy of a nation. Cities have a higher concentration of businesses and industries. *Fi*nding a job in a city is easier than in a rural area. There are more employment opportunities in the city because there are more businesses there.

4.   **Social Integration:** Urbanization leads to improved social integration. People of varying social layers, races and religions live and work together. Urban cities accommodate everyone without distinguishing them. This "living together" results in tolerance, acceptance and better understanding among individuals. Living together and work together raise the feeling of brotherhood under single umbrella. It binds them under social integration.

5.   **Modernization:** Cities are comparatively modern than rural areas. The food, fashion, ideas, liveliness of urban cities attracts rural people. They want to know more about experience, culture, and the fast pace of city life.

6.   **Transportation:** The urban areas are connected with different means of transportation networks from a high-speed rail system for passengers and cargo rails for moving goods from and to the city. The city boast of a taxi and bus system with bus-stops strategically located at different points around the city for easy movement, Seaports, and Airports for both domestic and international travel, cargo trades and freight, an efficient communication system, and high-speed internet broadband, all this impacting positively the economic growth of the city. The city is a beehive of activities with a myriad of well-structured entertainment arenas such as Theme parks, Hotels, Event Centers, Sporting Arena, Movie Theaters, Gyms, Museums, Clubs, and Traditional Recreational Parks where people can ride, jog and walk their dogs.

7.   **Effective Medical Services:** Medical facility means a facility for the delivery of healthcare services. Regardless of where one lives, healthcare is essential. It is very simple to get medical assistance in a city for medical emergency. To get assistance, there are numerous ways to contact for medical facilities. There is available of urgent care, a large number of ambulances for a hospital. The cities provide access to diverse service centres such as big medical centers, and, a variety of public social services. Hospital, maternity home, nursing home, pharmacies and drug stores, medical laboratory and research, dispensary, clinic, sanatorium,

diagnosis, treatment or care for illness, injury, deformity, abnormality, etc. Technology advances have provided many mass notification solutions available for healthcare facilities in the cities. Therefore, there are more options to get medical care since the city has many hospitals, *where a variety of specialties* is available. There is no choice in rural areas because there are no many doctors there. Mothers can visit Planned Parenthood and other family planning services in the city, where there is greater access to family planning services. Mothers who live in rural areas might not have access to this service.

8.   Better Education: City locations typically have the best schools. The options for students seeking a better education are scarce in small towns because there are not many schools to choose from. Public and private schools, for example, are more numerous and more varied in urban areas. Schools can have lots of teachers to instruct students. City is also centre of higher education. Cities have superior public and private schools in addition to superior colleges and universities. Students will pursue careers in the fields they are interested in because there are many courses available at the schools in the city.

9.   Improved Social Life: People from all different backgrounds and occupations can be found in large cities. There are numerous opportunities to interact with various people. *Due to* the variety of people, it is an opportunities` to learn about various cultures. In the city, it is common to unite with different people every day. There is lot of opportunities to meet new people in larger areas.

10.   Better Housing: There are plenty of apartments in the city with maximum medical, shopping, recreational and social facilities that are close to other locations. It would be difficult to find an apartment in a rural area because there are not many rental apartments there. For those who want to live in a community, this is ideal.

11.   More Options for Entertainment: Because of the available entertainment, the city is thriving. There is plenty to do both during the day and at night, and people can visit museums, libraries, beaches, casinos, parks, bars, clubs, restaurants, theatres, and other locations. There are more options for entertainment in the city than village.

12.   Tourist Attractions: Major cities are preferred by visitors from all over the world. People can visit a variety of locations throughout the city. Visitors can see monuments, landmarks, museums, and other attractions. Visitors spend a significant amount of money in the city, which benefits the economy. Rural areas are not typical tourist destinations. People decide to move to a city because of so many conveniences in every field. People now have simpler access to services like healthcare, education, and others that they might not have had in a rural area.

IV. POLICY IMPLICATION

Redirecting investment is advised to help small and medium-sized cities—which have been overlooked thus far—develop a solid economic foundation. Migration flows must be redirected. Strong economic sectors must be developed in the urban economy since megacities, such as Bombay, Kolkata, Delhi, and Chennai, have reached a saturation point for the creation of jobs and to prevent people from packing into their overcrowded slums. Small cities that have previously received little attention should be the focus of growth initiatives and investments in order to strengthen the foundation of the urban economy. It will then be feasible to reroute migration to this desired location.

Proper urban planning, which includes restorative, developmental, and operational planning, should also be covered by policy. Enhancing the city's transport, roads, and other infrastructure should be the focus of operational planning. The development of recently annexed urban areas should be prioritised in development planning. There are numerous urban renewal techniques available. The goal of restorative planning should be to return historically significant old buildings to their original state. Urban planning should generally strive for balanced regional and urban planning (Mukherji, 2001); it should also integrate the rural and urban economies (Kundu, Sarangi, and Dash, 2003); priorities agro-based industries; and process raw materials in the rural economy before transferring them to the urban economy.

V. CONCLUSION

Planning for all the facilities and resources needed for public comfort without adding to the strain on the environment and society should be the main strategy to reduce the issues brought on by urbanization. Rather than letting cities grow on their own, they should apply the cardinal rule, which plans their growth. In order to improve service provision, residential areas should be situated close to civic bodies, and the local government should ensure that the city has the infrastructure needed to support its expanding population. It is possible to decrease rural-urban migration by creating jobs in rural areas. This will lessen the strain that cities experience from growing populations. Limiting migration to urban areas is not a viable solution for addressing issues related to urbanization. This is due to the fact that every citizen is free to relocate and settle anywhere as long as they do not violate the rights of others.

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