

METROPOLITAN CITIES AND THEIR GROWTH IN PUNJAB

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Abstract-The paper highlighted the emergence of metropolitan cities out of the urbanization scenario of the Punjab state. The urbanization in Punjab is more inclined towards class I cities that need to be checked in order to avoid regional disparities. The Punjab has two metropolitan cities namely Ludhiana and Amritsar. The paper further explores the factors such as historical, physical linkages and economic activities responsible for attaining the status of metropolitan cities by these cities.

Keywords-Urbanization, Metropolitan, Physical Linkages, Economic Activities

1. Introduction

Punjab is located in the north-western part of India and lies between latitude 29° 30' to 32° 32' north latitude and from 73° 55' to 76° 50' east latitude. As per census of India 2011, Punjab has 37.49 per cent of urban population. After independence, Punjab has achieved remarkable growth and emerged as the richest State in India (Singh and Singh, 2014). Punjab is one among the league of the most urbanized states after Mizoram (51.51%), Tamil Nadu (48.45%), Kerala (47.72%), Maharashtra (45.23%), Gujarat (42.58%) and Karnataka (38.57%). The major factors that contributed towards the growth of Punjab are Green Revolution in 1966-67, resulted from adaptation of new technology in agriculture. The 1990's era of liberalisation and globalisation policies also gave boom to Punjab economy.

As per census of India, a city with population of 10 lakh and more is classified as the metropolitan city. The emergence of metropolitan cities took place due to concentration of economic, administrative and political factors. Punjab has two metropolitan cities namely Ludhiana and Amritsar having the population of 16, 18,879 and 11, 59,227 respectively as per census of Punjab 2011. This paper tried to explore the reasons behind emergence of these two cities as the metropolitan cities of Punjab.

2. Urbanization in Punjab

The state of Punjab had shown a remarkable increase in its urban population since independence. The population of urban areas in Punjab increased rapidly after 1970's. The urban population of Punjab has increased to 33.95 per cent, against 27.78 per cent for the country as a whole at the beginning of the twenty-first century (Planning Commission). According to the 2011 census, the share of urban population in Punjab is 37.49 per cent and this urban population contributes nearly 60 per cent to State's GDP.

Table no.1 shows the growth rate of urban population in Punjab as compared to India from where it can be observed that the urban population of Punjab is growing at faster rate than the nation as a whole. Table no.1 further shows that Punjab has maintained its lead over the nation in level of urbanization since 1951. However, in the decade 2001-2011, 60 villages have graduated as census towns this is one of the major factors of increase in urban population, besides natural increase, change of municipal boundaries and migration (Sharma S.L., R.S. Sandhu & Manoj K. Teotia, 2012).

Table 1: Urbanization in Punjab and India during 1951-2011

Year	Percentage of Urban population	
	Punjab	India
1951	21.0	17.29
1961	22.9	17.97
1971	23.7	19.41
1981	26.1	23.34
1991	29.7	25.72
2001	33.95	27.78
2011	37.49	31.16

Source: Census of India 2011

Punjab's total population in 2011 stands at 27,704,236 persons of whom 17,316,800 reside in rural areas and 10,387,436 in urban areas as shown in table 2. The urban population constitutes 37.49 percent which makes the State is one among the highly urbanized States in India. In 1991, the urban population of Punjab was 5.99 million which constitutes 29.7 per cent of the total population and whereas in 2001 it has increased to 37.49 per cent. The decadal (2001 - 2011) growth rate of urban population is much higher as compared to rural population (more than 3 times) as well as the total population (nearly twice).

Table 2: Rural and Urban Population in Punjab

	Population Distribution			Decadal Growth rate	
	1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
Total Population	20,281,969	24,358,999	27,704,236	20.10	13.73
Urban Population	5,993,225	8,262,511	10,387,436	37.86	25.72
Rural Population	14,288,744	16,096,488	17,316,800	12.65	7.58

Source: Census of India (1991-2011)

In order to do further analyses Table 3 show the growth of different class of towns. From table it can be observed that the total number of towns have been increased from 106 in 1961 to 217 in 2011.

Table 3: Number of different class towns in Punjab

Year	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Total
1951	3	2	17	20	36	2	110
1961	4	5	23	20	35	19	106
1971	4	8	2	31	29	12	106
1981	7	10	27	36	40	14	134
1991	10	18	25	46	14	7	120
2001	14	19	35	54	28	7	157
2011	17	23	49	60	50	18	217

Source: Census of India (1951-2011)

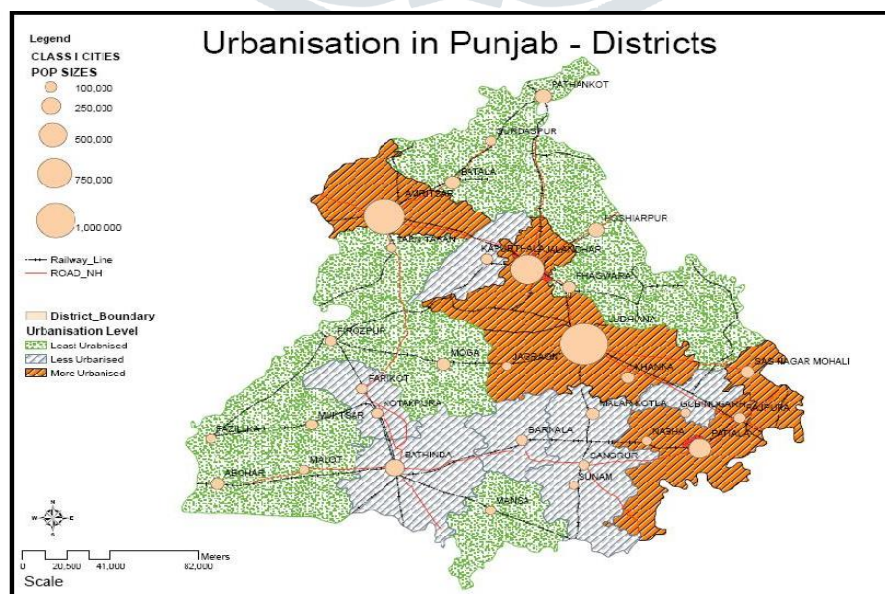
It can also be observed that the number of Class I, Class II and Class III towns are increasing in every decade. As per 2011 census, the number of Class I, Class II and Class III are 17, 23 and 49 respectively, which were just 4, 5 and 23 in numbers in 1961 whereas the number of Class V and Class VI are decreasing in each decade. This shows that there is more inclination of population towards higher order settlements due to presence of employment opportunities and better facilities related to education, medical etc.

Table 4: List of Class I towns in Punjab

S.no.	Name of Town	District	Population (2011)
1.	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	1613878
2.	Amritsar	Amritsar	1132761
3.	Jalandhar	Jalandhar	862196
4.	Patiala	Patiala	405164
5.	Bathinda	Bathinda	285813
6.	Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	168443
7.	S.A.S Nagar	S.A.S Nagar	146104
8.	Moga	Moga	150432
9.	Batala	Gurdaspur	156400
10.	Pathankot	Pathankot	148357
11.	Abohar	Fazilka	145238
12.	Malerkotla	Sangrur	135330
13.	Khanna	Ludhiana	128130
14.	Muktsar	Muktsar	117085
15.	Barnala	Barnala	116454
16.	Firozpur	Firozpur	110091
17.	Kapurthala	Kapurthala	101654

Source: Census of India, 2011 and Cities in Punjab, <http://www.punjabdata.com/Cities-in-Punjab.aspx>

Table 4 shows that the Class I towns together constitute around 57 per cent of urban population in Punjab. It can also be observed that majority of the class I towns are the district headquarters and located along the major roads of the state. Better accessibility leads to concentration of economic activities. The level of urbanization among various districts as shown in map.



Source: Sharma S.L., R.S. Sandhu & Manoj K. Teotia, 2012

3. Metropolitan Cities in Punjab

Punjab has two metropolitan cities namely Ludhiana and Amritsar both located along National Highway -1. Ludhiana became the first metro city of Punjab in 1991 whereas Amritsar joined the list of metro cities in 2001. In the history of urbanization of both the cities, it is interesting to note that in 1901, Amritsar was the largest city of the state having the population of 162,429. Ludhiana was having the population of 48,649. Till 1941, Amritsar leads Ludhiana in terms of population. However, in 1981, Ludhiana overtook Amritsar. In 1991, population of Ludhiana and Amritsar Municipal Corporations was 1,042,740 and 708,835 respectively. The comparative decadal population growth between Punjab state and the cities of Ludhiana and Amritsar metropolitan centre indicates that Ludhiana has grown much faster as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Percentage of Urban Population

Year	Percentage of urban population in Punjab	Population of Ludhiana Municipal Corporation as Percentage of Total Urban Population of Punjab	Population of Amritsar Municipal Corporation as Percentage of Total Urban Population of Punjab
1981	27.68	13.06	12.79
1991	29.55	17.40	11.82
2001	33.95	16.92	12.32
2011	37.49	15.53	10.90

Source: Computed Values from Census of India, 2011

These two cities attained the status of metropolitan due to number of reasons such as historical evolution, location, better accessibility and concentration of economic activities. These reasons are discussed below:

3.1 Ludhiana

Geographically the city lies between north latitude 30°34' and 31°01' and east longitude 75°18' and 76°20'. The city is well connected with road (NH-1) and rail (Amritsar- Ambala) network. The city is located in the north-west of Chandigarh. Ludhiana city was founded in 1481 A.D. having its origin in the "Fort" during the reign of Sikander Lodhi. The city grew up in size with the passage of time and came to be known as "Lodhi-ana" meaning the town of Lodhis", which subsequently came to be popularly known as Ludhiana. (Master Plan, Ludhiana 2011-31). The city got connected to rail in 1870 under the British rule which gave boom to the industrial development in the city. The machine knitting was started during late 9th century and city developed into a big trade and commerce centre.

Ludhiana is also known as 'Manchester of India' due to concentration of small scale industry especially the hosiery. The city of Ludhiana has number of Gurudwaras as well as institutions such as Medical Colleges, Engineering College and the famous Punjab Agricultural University. It is also known as "Small Scale Industrial Capital of India" (Master Plan Ludhiana 2011-31).

3.1.1 Physical Linkages

Ludhiana is well connected as NH-1 passes through the city and the major road network connecting the city with other parts of the state/country is Ludhiana-Ambala, Ludhiana-Amritsar, Ludhiana-Chandigarh, Ludhiana-Ferozepur, Ludhiana-Malerkotla and Ludhiana-Bhatinda. Ludhiana lies on the main broad gauge line and is identified as a junction. The main railway lines passing through the city are Amritsar-Delhi Railway Line, Delhi-Jammu, Ludhiana- Ferozepur and Ludhiana-Dhuri railway line (Master Plan Ludhiana, 2011-31). These linkages act as backbone for the city economy to develop.

3.1.2 Economic Activities

The economy of the city and its Local Planning Area is mainly based on manufacturing industry including hosiery, cycle, sewing machine, textile and other industries (Master Plan Ludhiana 2011-31). About 37 percent of the population of city comes under working class. The percentage of workers involved in primary activities is decreasing due to the impact of urbanization and industrialization. Workers involved in secondary and tertiary activities are growing i.e. 79.6 per cent in 1991 and 84.4 per cent in 2001. In 2001, 35897 units of small scale industries were established with the investment of Rs. 95663.78 lacs. (Master Plan Ludhiana 2011-31)

Ludhiana is the manufacturing as well as the textile hub of the state. Out of 32 mega housing projects 8 are established in the city. The major developers operating are DLF, Ansals, Aerens, Omaxe, Today homes, Ponty Chaddha, Northern Housing, Chhabra Land and Housing Ltd., Munshi Promoters and Developers, Basant Estates and Housing Ltd. In case of the residential development Ansal is the only major developer. This shows that all the major developers are concentrating in major cities of the state having demand for sophisticated housing in the form of villas.

3.2 Amritsar

The city was the fourth guru, Sri Guru Ram Dass Ji in 1577 AD. The city is also commonly named as "Pool of Nectar". The city was earlier named as "Guru Ka Chak". After Ferozpur and Gurdaspur, Amritsar is the third largest border district of the state after. During the British period the establishment of railway station took place in 1931. This acted as major backbone for the economy. Amritsar got the status of District Headquarter in 1849, Civil Hospital came in 1849 and district court in 1877. In 2001, Amritsar became the second metropolitan city of Punjab with population of 10, 16,079 persons (including out growth) and ranked 33rd in the list of 35 metropolitan cities of India. Besides being the District Headquarter and an important tourist destination (due to the existence of Golden Temple, Durgiana Mandir, Jallianwala Bagh, etc.), around 1 lakh tourists visit to Golden Temple every day. The Presence of "International Border" in the north-west acts as both constraints for the development as well a major tourist attraction also (Draft Master Plan Amritsar, 2011- 2031).

3.2.1 Physical Linkages

The city is well connected with road and rail network. NH 1 and NH 15, three State Highways, four M.D.R's and twenty four O.D.R's are connecting the city with other parts of the state and the nation. The city is also having good connectivity with railway line and airport as well.

3.2.2 Economic Activity

As per draft master plan of Amritsar 2010-2031, about 93% of the workers in Amritsar city are engaged in tertiary activities, 4% in household industry and 3% in primary activities. Similarly in case of the Local Planning Area of Amritsar 77.9% of the working population is engaged in the tertiary activities. There are approximately 25,000 industrial units in the district Amritsar.

Amritsar is one of the historical and religious cities of the state. In real estate residential sector, 3 out of 32 mega housing projects are established in the city. The plotted developments are coming up by Ansals and other local developers. Today Homes and Omaze are coming up with Mall projects. Lastly, Bathinda is an industrial hub as well as focus for upcoming government projects. Omaze and Ansal are the major developers contributing in mega residential projects in the city.

4. Conclusion

The Punjab is among one of the highly urbanized states of India with 37.49 per cent of urban population. The urbanization in Punjab is more inclined towards Class-I, Class-II and Class-III whereas the number of Class-V and Class-VI towns are decreasing that leads to regional disparities. Which need to be checked by development of small and medium order towns through government schemes such as The Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UDSSIMT).

The historical evolution of the city acted as main base for development of Ludhiana and Amritsar as metropolitan in Punjab. The British period, brought better physical linkages through road and rail. The cities are developed along the major transport corridor due to which concentration of economic activities took place in these cities. Ludhiana, with time emerged as the industrial hub with more working population engaged in industrial activities. Whereas Amritsar has more number of workers engaged in tertiary activities due to potential of tourism. So there is a need to manage the growth of these cities by developing nearby towns.

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