



# “Impact of Urbanization on Environment and Public Health ”

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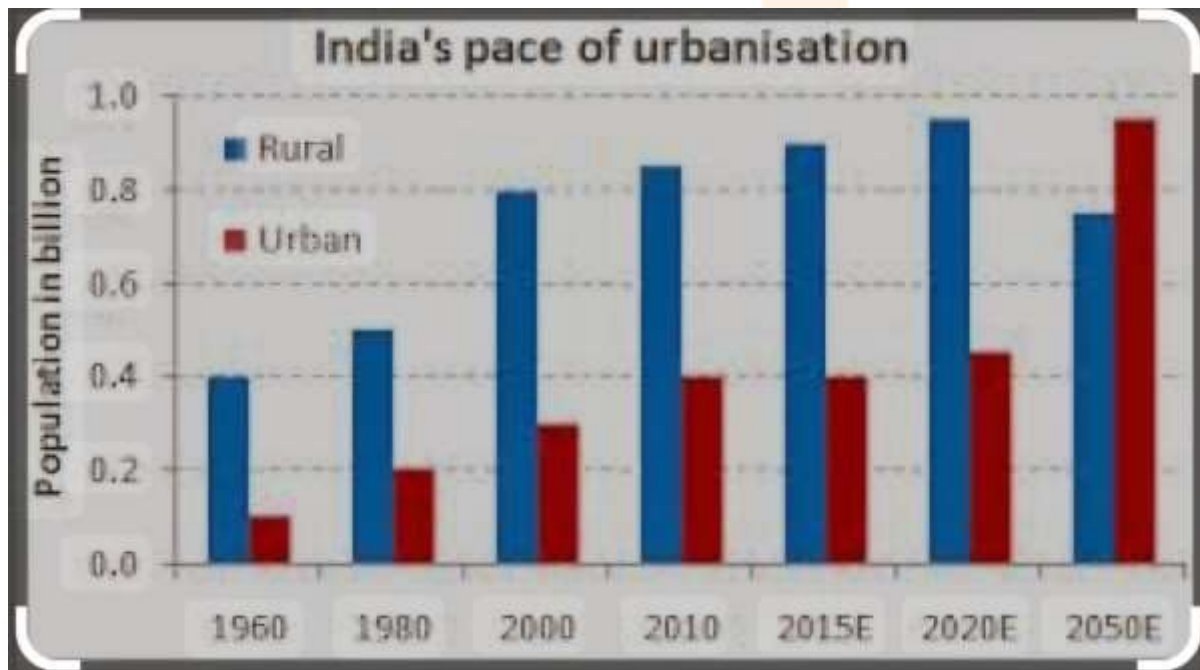
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**Abstract:** Urbanization is closely linked to modernization, industrialization, environment, public health and the sociological process of rationalization. Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historical transformation of human social roots, on a global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture.

Urbanization predominantly results in the physical growth of urban areas, be it horizontally or vertically.

The urban population was 11.14% in the 1901 census. It increased 28.53% in the 2001 census. And now it is 36.6% according to 2024.



Urbanization occurs as individuals, Commercial and governmental efforts reduce time and expense of commuting and improve opportunities for jobs, education, housing and transportation. The main objective of presenting this research paper is as under:- to study the impact of urbanization on Environment and Public Health and its related problems. Many rural inhabitants come to the city for reasons of seeking fortunes and social mobility. But the picture of urbanization is not so much glorious as it apparently seems. Modern cities have grown in a haphazard and unplanned manner due to fast industrialization. Cities in developing countries

become overpopulated and overcrowded partly as a result of the increase in population over the decades and partly as a result of migration.

**Keywords:** urbanization, rationalization, public health, Industrialization, multidimensional.

**Introduction:** Urbanization is the process of investing in something with an urban character, the condition being urbanized (Oxford English Dictionary, 1989). It is a process by which more and more people leave the countryside to live in cities. It is a progressive concentration of population in urban units. It is a finite process, a cycle through which a nation passes as they evolved to agrarian to industrial society. (Davis 1954) He has mentioned three stages in the process of urbanization :- the first stage is the initial stage in which rural society was predominantly agriculture. The second stage accelerated the economic investment and developmental work like basic facilities, transportation, communication etc. The third stage is the Terminal stage in which urban population exceeds 70% or more, in this stage the level of urbanization remains constant.

In developing countries like India, the process of urbanization has been significantly accelerated by rural-urban migration.

### **Definition of urban areas:**

Defining an urban area can be complex, as different countries and organizations use different criteria. However, here are some common characteristics:

General Characteristics:

- \* High Population Density: Urban areas have a significantly higher concentration of people compared to rural areas. This density often leads to a concentration of buildings, roads, and other infrastructure.
- \* Non-Agricultural Economic Activities: In urban areas, most economic activities are non-agricultural, such as industry, commerce, and services. In rural areas, agriculture is the primary economic activity.
- \* Developed Infrastructure and Amenities: Urban areas typically have better infrastructure and amenities, including:
  - \* Transportation networks (roads, public transport)
  - \* Healthcare facilities (hospitals, clinics)
  - \* Educational institutions (schools, colleges)
  - \* Recreational facilities (cinemas, parks)

Definitions:

India: 'In India, an urban area is generally defined as an area with a minimum population of 5,000, a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometer, and where at least 75% of the male working population is engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.'

In essence, urban areas are characterized by high population density, non-agricultural economic activities, and relatively advanced infrastructure and amenities.

United Nations: 'The UN generally defines urban areas based on national definitions, recognizing that these vary widely. However, they emphasize population density and the presence of urban characteristics.'

United States Census Bureau: 'The U.S. Census Bureau defines urban areas as densely developed territory that contains residential, commercial, and other nonresidential areas.'

According to the 2001 Census of India, towns and urban areas were classified primarily based on population size. Classification based on population:

| Class of city | Population Range |
|---------------|------------------|
| Class I       | 100,000 & above  |
| Class II      | 50,000-99,999    |
| Class III     | 20,000-49,999    |
| Class IV      | 10,000-19,999    |
| Class V       | 5,000-9,999      |
| Class VI      | Less than 5,000  |

### Key points:

Towns with a population of 100,000 and above are generally referred to as "cities."

Additionally, "million-plus" urban agglomerations/cities are those with a population of 1 million (10 lakh) or more.

It is also important to know that the census of India also defines "census towns" and "statutory towns."

**Census towns:** These towns have a minimum population of 5,000, at least 75 percent of the male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and a density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km.

**Statutory town:** refers to a town that has been legally notified as such town with a

Municipality Corporation,  
Cantonment board, notified town area committee. A statutory town is governed by a legally established urban local body.

### Urbanization in India:

Urbanization in India is a dynamic and rapidly evolving process with significant implications for the country's social, economic, and environmental landscape.

India is experiencing a significant increase in its urban population. This trend is driven by factors such as rural-to-urban migration, natural population growth in urban areas, and the reclassification of rural areas as urban.

The total population has increased from 23.84 crore in 1901 to 102.7 crore in 2001 whereas the urban population has increased 2.58 crore in 1901 to 28.53 crore in 2001.

Every 12th city dweller of the world and every 7th of the developing countries is from India.

India's urban population contributes 11% of world population.

Urban population increased from 26 million in 1901 to 62 million in 1951. Next three decades, the population increased to 94 million in 1981. This indicates the developmental policies of the government, industrialization, proper food supply and health facilities are influencing the country's population.

| <u>Census Year</u> | <u>Number of urban towns</u> | <u>Total population</u> | <u>Urban population</u> | <u>Rural population</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>1901</u>        | <u>1827</u>                  | <u>238396337</u>        | <u>25851873</u>         | <u>212644454</u>        |
| <u>1911</u>        | <u>1825</u>                  | <u>252093390</u>        | <u>25941633</u>         | <u>226151757</u>        |
| <u>1921</u>        | <u>1949</u>                  | <u>251321213</u>        | <u>28086167</u>         | <u>223235046</u>        |

|             |             |                   |                  |                  |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>1931</u> | <u>2072</u> | <u>278977238</u>  | <u>33455989</u>  | <u>245521249</u> |
| <u>1941</u> | <u>2250</u> | <u>318660580</u>  | <u>44153297</u>  | <u>274507283</u> |
| <u>1951</u> | <u>2843</u> | <u>361088090</u>  | <u>62443709</u>  | <u>298644381</u> |
| <u>1961</u> | <u>2363</u> | <u>439234771</u>  | <u>78936603</u>  | <u>360298168</u> |
| <u>1971</u> | <u>2590</u> | <u>598159652</u>  | <u>109113977</u> | <u>489045675</u> |
| <u>1981</u> | <u>3378</u> | <u>683329097</u>  | <u>159462547</u> | <u>523866550</u> |
| <u>1991</u> | <u>3768</u> | <u>844324222</u>  | <u>217177625</u> | <u>627146597</u> |
| <u>2001</u> | <u>5161</u> | <u>1027015247</u> | <u>285354954</u> | <u>741660293</u> |

### **Basic features of Urbanization in India:**

India's population is rapidly changing into urban population. Urbanization of India is characterized by rapid growth, migration, and the development of infrastructure and services. The main features of Urbanization are following:-

Population growth:- In India urban population is increasing at fast speed.

Infrastructure:- Roads, bridges, railways and Public utility are developed according to increasing population.

Housing:- Number Of houses increased in urban areas according to increasing population.

Land Use:- Land use pattern changed due to changes in the economy pattern of the population.

Economic activities:- When rural population changed into urban population, then economic activities also changed.

Culture:- When the population converted from rural to urban areas, then their culture also changed.

High density population:- In urban areas a number of people lived in a small urban area.

Dense Settlement:- In urban areas population density is high so houses are also close to each other.

### **Basic Problems of urbanization in India:-**

Urbanization is a trading trend in India. Urbanization causes various problems for urban areas. Some of these problems are following:-

Basic Problems of urban areas are:- housing, sanitation, water supply, transportation, slums, environmental pollution ( air pollution, water Pollution, land pollution, noise pollution etc).

Financial problems of urban areas:- increasing population increased the problem of capital investment in urban areas. It creates the problems of unemployment In urban areas.

Generally here are some common problems are:-

Houses are very compact and in congestion.

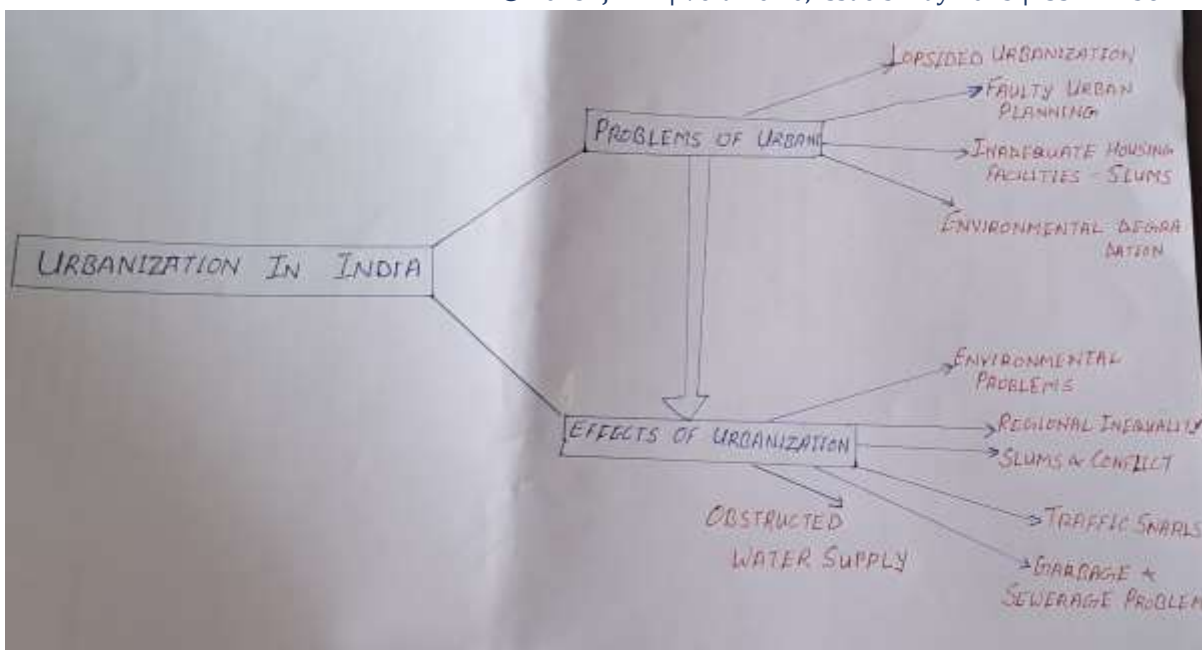
In urban areas sanitation and cleanliness is a big problem.

Due to high population density, transportation networks also fail.

In Urban areas high environmental problems are faced by the urban population. Some of these are:- Trash Disposal, Sewerage problems, Water-Air-Noise- Land pollution, etc.

Problems of slums, overcrowded cities, transportation, congestion, and unemployment are the major problems.

We can show as follow also



**Conclusion:-** When the megacities have reached saturation level for the employment generation and to avoid overcrowding into the over congested slums of megacities i.e. Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, it is required to build strong economic policies for the urban economies. Growth efforts and investments should be directed towards small cities which have been neglected so that the functional base of the urban economy is strengthening.

Developmental planning should give importance to development of newly annexed urban areas. New planning should aim to restore the original status of buildings and monuments which have historical value.

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