

Urbanization in India: A Study of Causes & Effects

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Abstract: The fact is that urbanization is a common feature of Indian society. The growth of Industrialization has made a significant contribution to growth of urban cities in India. Consequently the process of migration from rural areas to urban areas has started and still is in process. Actually urbanization is a process of concentration of population in a particular territory which is also a process of becoming urban and moving to cities. It is very closely linked to modernization, industrialization and sociological process of rationalization. It occurs as individuals, commercial, and the governmental efforts reduce time and expense in commuting and improve opportunities for jobs, education, health, housing and transportation in a particular area. Therefore, a large number of rural people come to that area to seek better opportunities for jobs. As a result, rural-urban transformation process starts which has some positive and negative effects in future.

Keywords: Urbanization, Industrialization, Urban Population, Job Opportunities.

Introduction: The process of globalization has given a momentum to the rapid growth of urbanization in the decades of 21st century. The growing rate of Industrialization has enforced the rural people for migration in urban areas. It is a well-known fact that there are better opportunities of education, health, transportation and employment in urban areas. That is why India's rural population is continuously migrating towards cities. But we can't ignore the fact that India's urbanization process is increasing some negative impacts on the urban areas such as; lack of basic amenities, infrastructure, pure drinking water, housing, health, education and transportation system.

Research Methodology: The present research paper is descriptive and exploratory in nature. The study is based on the primary and secondary sources of the data collection. Most of the study data has been collected from government records on census, reputed books, various research articles and official websites. To pace the study the researcher has also used some observational facts about the process of urbanization in India.

Research Objectives: The present study has the following research objectives:

- To highlight the concept of urbanization.
- To find out the challenges of urbanization.
- To analyze the causes and effects of urbanization.

A Review of Literature: Urbanization is an index of transformation from traditional rural economies to modern industrial one. It is a progressive concentration of population in urban areas. Kingsley Davis has explained it as a process of switch from spread out pattern of human settlements to one of concentration in urban centers. Moreover, it is a finite process through which a nation passes from agrarian to Industrial society. India shares most characteristic features of urbanization. In the wake of globalization, it has seen a growing change in the sphere of population studies in the country. It is the second most populous country after China; therefore, urbanization in India has some regional as well as global effects.

Lalit Batra in his research paper entitled, "A Review of Urbanization and Urban Policy in Post Independent India" (2009) has pointed out that the current neo-liberal reforms undergoing in the field of urban affairs has given a new look to urban policy in the recent years. Likewise, I.J. Ahulwalia in his study, 'Transforming Our Cities: Postcards of Change' (2014) has discussed about the process of urbanization in India. He has pointed out that the majority of Cities in India have been facing huge challenges in all the fronts of like; lack of basic facilities such as good roads, water, housing, parks, electricity etc. However, the government of India has taken some positive steps in solving these problems. Nevertheless we can't ignore the fact that we still need to frame some effective policies to tackle such problems of Indian cities.

Neelmani Jaysawal and Sudeshna Saha in their study, "Urbanization in India: An Impact Assessment" (2014) has revealed the concept of urbanization, basic features of urbanization, basic problems of urbanization and effects of urbanization in the perspective of India. The present study emphasizes that India needs to implement developmental planning in urban areas to tackle the problem of negative effects of urbanization.

P.K. Mohanty in his study 'Cities and Public Policy: An Urban Agenda for India' (2014) has explored the importance of cities in catalyzing growth, which in turn leads to the overall development of the country. He further points out some negative aspects of urbanization which can be overcome through meaningful urban public policy are undertaking reforms in various fields of urban areas like urban planning, finance and management etc.

T. Sadashivam and S. Tabassu in their article, "Trends of Urbanization in India: Issues and Challenges in the 21st Century" (2016) have pointed out that the globalization has led to the rapid growth in the developing economies of the world. The study also reveals the fact that urbanization and industrialization are inseparable just as agriculture fosters villages whereas industry encourages growth of towns. The researchers have clearly explained the concept of urbanization and urbanization in India. Moreover, the study points out some issues and challenges in the process of urbanization in India including its negative implications for the country in the present global scenario.

Challenges in Urbanization: Today India is moving on the path of rapid urbanization. Consequently there are some new challenges in the way of urbanization. However, urbanization in India has resulted into economic growth, nevertheless, we can't ignore the fact that the process of urbanization has also created a large number of problems and challenges. Some of them are as under:

- It has adversely affected the climate of India by building up of green house gases and such others in atmosphere. Consequently we can observe a rise in the temperature of India.
- Due to the rising temperature crop pattern in India has changed and agriculture has become a villain for the rural peoples. According to an estimate 55% of the Indian consumers draw their livelihood directly from agriculture as cultivators and labourers. Moreover, it has decreased the growth of farmer's income. It is also said that in the coming years India will have to face severe droughts in many parts.
- The climate change has put pressure on basic amenities in urban areas because it has adversely affected the overall climate.
- The increasing urban population has put a pressure on agricultural land by constructing houses, bridge and highways.
- It is said that over the few next decades the population grown in urban areas will create more problems such as lack of water, energy, education, pollution, health and transportation.
- It has led to the increasing rate of urban unemployment. Consequently the urban poor occupy the lowest rungs of the social hierarchy and deprive of basic services and amenities. However, the government of India has also implemented various policies and programmes to remove the urban poverty.

- There are many sociological implications of the process of urbanization if we look it in the perspective of metropolitan cities like Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, and Kolkata there are lack of parking spaces and traffic jams and problem of excessive of air pollution.
- In the perspective of social sociological implications of urbanization, health issues in urban areas have become a key of concern. According to the NCRB in the year 2014, more than 1 lakh suicides have taken place in India out of which half of them are from Urban Areas.

Slum Population as a Challenge: Today urban population is suffered by the problem of slums and unauthorized colonies. It is said that most of the urban problems are closely related to this problem. The slum population data has been shown in the below table.

Table: Slums population in India 2011- 2017 (in millions)

State	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.034	0.035	0.037	0.038	0.040	0.041	0.043
Andhra Pradesh	8.188	8.273	8.357	8.440	8.522	8.603	8.681
Arunachal Pradesh	0.098	0.103	0.109	0.114	0.120	0.126	0.131
Assam	1.071	1.100	1.130	1.160	1.191	1.222	1.254
Bihar	1.684	1.707	1.730	1.753	1.774	1.796	1.817
Chandigarh	0.332	0.349	0.365	0.382	0.397	0.411	0.430
Chhattisgarh	2.112	2.169	2.228	2.288	2.348	2.410	2.471
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.026	0.029	0.032	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.043
Daman & Diu	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.010	0.010
Delhi	3.163	3.261	3.361	3.464	3.571	3.682	3.793
Goa	0.155	0.161	0.168	0.175	0.181	0.186	0.192
Gujarat	4.663	4.760	4.857	4.954	5.052	5.150	5.246
Haryana	3.288	3.391	3.495	3.600	3.707	3.815	3.924
Himachal Pradesh	0.087	0.089	0.091	0.093	0.095	0.097	0.099
Jammu & Kashmir	0.494	0.504	0.514	0.524	0.534	0.544	0.554
Jharkhand	0.932	0.949	0.966	0.984	1.001	1.019	1.037
Karnataka	3.631	3.700	3.770	3.840	3.910	3.981	4.049
Kerala	0.533	0.536	0.539	0.541	0.544	0.546	0.548
Lakshadweep	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Madhya Pradesh	6.393	6.523	6.654	6.786	6.918	7.051	7.181
Maharashtra	18.151	18.550	18.951	19.353	19.754	20.153	20.557
Manipur	0.075	0.076	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.078	0.079
Meghalaya	0.205	0.209	0.212	0.215	0.219	0.223	0.226
Mizoram	0.106	0.108	0.110	0.112	0.114	0.116	0.118
Nagaland	0.083	0.084	0.085	0.086	0.087	0.088	0.089
Orissa	1.736	1.771	1.805	1.841	1.876	1.912	1.948
Puducherry	0.137	0.143	0.150	0.156	0.162	0.167	0.174
Punjab	2.798	2.864	2.930	2.996	3.063	3.128	3.194
Rajasthan	3.826	3.895	3.962	4.030	4.095	4.160	4.225
Sikkim	0.013	0.014	0.014	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.016
Tamil Nadu	8.645	8.863	9.081	9.299	9.515	9.730	9.940
Tripura	0.131	0.134	0.137	0.140	0.143	0.146	0.149
Uttar Pradesh	10.878	11.127	11.379	11.631	11.885	12.140	12.394
Uttarakhand	0.826	0.846	0.866	0.887	0.907	0.927	0.948
West Bengal	8.547	8.641	8.733	8.825	8.919	9.014	9.106
India	93.056	94.978	96.908	98.845	100.787	102.729	104.668

Source: Report of the Working Group on Urban Poverty, 2011 & Steering

Committee on Urbanization of Planning Commission Report 2017.

Causes of Urbanization: There are some main causes of urbanization as under:

- **Industrialization:** We can't ignore the fact that urbanization and Industrialization are inseparable concept. Due to the process of Industrialization, better job opportunities have been created and consequently a large number of rural peoples have migrated to the urban areas.
- **Social Factors:** In the wake of globalization the government of India has provided better health, education, transportation, electricity etc. facilities in urban areas. Consequently a process of migration from rural areas to urban areas began which is still in process.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Indian agriculture is based on Monsoon. It is seen that rain pattern has changed which has badly affected the crop pattern. Today agriculture sector is not attractive for rural people. Therefore they migrate to cities for their livelihood.
- **The process of Modernization:** It is well-known fact that the process of modernization had attracted rural people because urban areas are characterized by better technology, better infrastructure, and better communication and better medical facilities including the better education facilities.

Effects of Urbanization: There are some positive as well as negative effects of urbanization as under:

Negative Impacts:

- It has created the problem of housing facilities in Indian cities. Slums and associated problems have become a well-known identity of metropolitan cities like Delhi.
- It has adversely affected the quality of environment. For eg. Environment pollution in Delhi has crossed the quality line many times.
- It has created the problems of traffic jams and it results fuel problems in the country.
- Today we are facing the problem of urban solid waste management. We know it very well that the solid waste consists of building materials, plastic containers, hospital waste in urban areas.
- It has created the problem of sanitation. Most of the urban areas in India are facing this problem due to hazardous plastic material, metals and packing garbage.
- It has created the problem of sewerage. However, some of unauthorized constructions in an around the cities create this problem. In the rainy season this problem becomes more unbearable.

- Today most of the Indian cities are facing the problem of water shortage. In the summer season a drastic change in water supply occurs and people have to live without pure drinking water.

Positive Impacts:

- Migration of rural people to urban areas.
- Better job or employment opportunities.
- Better transport and communication facilities in cities.
- Better education facilities
- Better standard of living.
- Modern way of living in urban areas.

Conclusion: Thus we can say that the process of urbanization has created some problems in the present time. Today metropolitan cities and mega cities have reached saturation level for employment generation and slums are become identity for urban life. Nowadays Indian cities are facing the problem of water, energy, traffic jams, air pollution, slums, sewerage, solid waste etc. Therefore, we need to emphasize on developmental planning for future. It is suggested that the urban agencies should be given more financial and independent powers to tackle the various health related problems. Today the basic infrastructure of urban areas needs to be developed and path of sustainable development should be adopted at all levels. In other words urbanization needs to equally benefit all the people in the social inclusive and environmentally sustainable in the changing perspective.

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