



# ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION: OBSERVATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN SRIGANGANAGAR CITY

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## ABSTRACT

In India, the cities are considered the hub of all activities that lead to progress and prosperity because they provide opportunities for employment, trade and commerce, health facilities, education, and entertainment etc. The availability of physical facilities as well as opportunities of employment attracts people towards cities so there is a rapid migration of people from villages to cities. Sri Ganganagar is growing city which is also the district headquarter attract people to avail the facilities present there. This expansion of city, the growing urbanization of the region introduces environment problems like soil, air, water pollution etc. The present paper deals with discussion on environmental issues of the city and attempts to suggest some remedial and protective measures for safeguarding the environment.

**KEY WORDS:** Environment, Pollution, Master plan, Environmental education.

## INTRODUCTION

Sri Ganganagar city which is known as 'Food Basket of Rajasthan' is district headquarter in Rajasthan state. It is the neighbor city of the Punjab state. Adjoining villages of the city are canal irrigated; wheat, cotton, mustard, sugarcane are the main crops of villages. Keeping pace with the changing times, the city is growing in terms of better medical, educational, market, transport, trade and commerce and entertainment facilities. Being the district headquarter, all the government office located here. The facilities available in the city cause mass movement of the people from rural areas to urban settings. No doubt, the city is becoming the center of economic growth, but with the increasing urbanization, the city is facing environmental problems. The objective of this study is to discuss environmental issues of the city and suggest some solutions.

## URBANIZATION AND CHANGING PICTURE OF THE CITY

Urbanization is defined as a process which takes place when populations move from rural to urban areas, enabling cities and towns to grow. Looking at its co-relation with technological and industrial advancements, it is identified as a progressive increase in the number of people living in towns and cities. This bright picture of urbanization is highly influenced by the notion that cities and towns have achieved better economic, political, and social mileages compared to rural areas. The city of Sriganaganagar is no exception to this very fact. The positive side of the picture shows the progress and prosperity related with urbanization. Now-a days, there are better transport facilities of buses and trains which connect the city directly to capitalcities like Jaipur, Delhi and Chandigarh. The availability of shopping malls showrooms which provide different Ranges of commodities adds to the economic prosperity. The city is growing in terms of education and health facilities too. There are medical Colleges, dental colleges along with several hospitals with expert teams of doctors. The growth in field of education is also visible in the form of a great number of National level English medium schools, Government and private colleges, coaching institutes for preparation of national level competitive examination. One cannot deny the better opportunities of job in private sector with growing trade and commerce. The glory of this growth in physical and materialistic terms gets blurred when one looks meticulously at the problems which are caused by this growing urbanization. The growing population density of the city is not a good sign for the natural environment.

## RISKS TO ENVIRONMENT: A DISMAL PICTURE

- Sri Ganganagar city is rapidly expanding on Suratgarh road and Hanumangarh road. This unplanned expansion of the boundaries of the city is reducing green cover around city. These unplanned expansions also reduce the basic facilities of residents.
- Increasing number of personal vehicles in the city is causing harm to the physical environment. There is not any public transport system in the city. The roads are not broad and are encroached so traffic jam is common problem in market and main pathways of city. This creates noise pollution along with air pollution.
- Mostly the air of cities polluted due to automobiles and industries. In Sri Ganganagar city the industrial area is outside the city so automobiles are the main source of air pollution. Automobiles release carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxides of Sulphur and nitrogen etc. which affect the human health. Construction related activities also add in air pollution. Dusty environment is common on main Pathways.
- Sri Ganganagar City gets its water supply from gang canal which comes from Punjab state. Industries and cities of Punjab state release their waste in gang canal so city gets polluted water. This polluted water is responsible for increasing number of cancer patients of the district. The supply of water in the city is regulated by the government agencies. Water is supplied by the network of pipelines which are very often get damaged. This damage result in mixing of drainage with supply water lines which result in many diseases.
- City produced large amount of solid waste. This solid waste include municipal waste household waste etc. Solid waste is collected by the municipal bodies and dumped near the city. No suitable methodology is available to dispose this huge amount of solid waste. This solid waste produced foul smell, poisonous gases and vectors of different disease. Some time hazardous wastes are also dumped in the dumping area.
- Adjoining villages farmers are also use large amount of fertilizers and pesticides in the fields which also affects the people health.

## PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT: SOME SOLUTIONS

- A master plan is developed by the government for the city but it is not effectively implemented which result in many environmental problems. So effective and proper implementation of master plan is essential. It is necessary to take confidence the citizen for planning and implementation of this plan.
- A proper traffic plan and traffic light system is the emergent need of the city. Development of traffic sense in citizen also required. Pollution certificate should be issued after checking regularly all the automobiles.
- Commercial activities which cause air pollution should banned in the residential areas.
- Inter-state government collaboration and coordination is required to reduce water pollution in gang canal.
- Proper mechanism should be employed for proper management of solid waste. Citizen can help municipal bodies in this regard by avoiding the use of plastic carry bags.
- Environmental issues of the city could be addressed by implementation of proper city plan by the government bodies, environmental education and citizen involvement.

## CONCLUSION

The forgoing discussion attempts to underline the need to rethink the concept of progress and advancement. To make the city a better place to live, there is a dire need to plan and work for the ideal of progress and growth in terms of strengthening the relationship between human society and environment. To strengthen the bond between human beings and nature, the policy makers as well as all the city-dwellers has to plan and practice the sustainable use of urban resources and support an economy based on the sustainable environments such as investment in green infrastructure, sustainable industries, recycling based waste-management mechanism and pollution management and environmental awareness campaigns.

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