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PROBLEMS OF GROWING INDIA CITIES AND ITS EFFECTS ON COMMERCE

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Abstract: The growing Indian cities face a quite large no. of problem of varied nature and dimension. The analysis of each and every aspect is difficult. As such only important environment, transportation, economic, social, commercial & some other problem faced by towns & cities of India have been taken into consideration with a view to find solution to improve the above noted problem

Index Terms - Infrastructure, Slums, Migrants, industrial problem, environment & demographic

. The growing Indian cities face quite a large number of problems of various nature and dimensions. The analysis of each and one is very difficult. As such, only important environmental, economic, transportation, migration, social and other problems faced by towns and cities of India have been taken into consideration. The problems have been discussed in a generalised way in order to consider the city of Bhagalpur as case study. Innumerable and complex problems faced by urban centres of India have been categorized into environmental, economic, social and political for the convenience of analysis

The first category of urban problems deals with environmental problems of the urban centres which includes the lack of suitable space for the expansion of the city, water logging, water scarcity, drainage, health hazards etc. The second category of urban problems include all those problems concerning economic conditions like paucity of fund for the development of infrastructure facilities. provision of financial help for the development of better housing, industries, eradication of slums and renovation of old settled areas, generation of job opportunities etc. Social problems from the third category of Indian urban problems. As a matter of fact, in growing Indian cities social problems are not less important because of the increasing trend of rural-urban migration. During post-independence years most, people have developed the tendency of leading more comfortable and honorable life. They hold the view that unless they engage themselves in white collar job or non-agricultural occupation or do some lucrative business, they cannot accumulate wealth, purchase luxurious items and lead comfortable life by holding high social position. They also feel that these facilities are not easily available in most rural parts of the country and unless they move to the urban centres, they cannot fulfil their desires. This process has caused influx of migrants of different cultural regions as well as different socio-economic background and in the adjustment of migrants of different nature, several problems spring up.

Apart from social adjustment of migrants, formulation of social network socialization pattern, increasing anti-social activities, there are several other related problems like shortage of house, growth of slums, encroachment over public land, development of religious site, transport problems etc. are worth mentioning. Indian Urban Centre have also become the centre of growing political problem. Migrants coming from different areas hold different political thinking and ideology: Whenever they assemble at the place, they exchange their ideas with the migrants of other or with the original inhabitants some changes in political ideology take place. Whenever they return to their native places, they try to impress upon the villagers and bring changes in their political attitude. At the same time, the arrival of migrants consisting of more numbers than the original inhabitants change the political structure of the urban centres. The exodus of rural people to the towns also creates problems for local administration. The migration of people, if they come from key strata of population, trends to affect the structure of power both in the society from which they come and in those in which they move. Physical, environmental conditions play an important role in the growth and development of urban centre. Integration of physical factors with social and economic variables is very crucial when analysing urban development. Till recently, urban physical environment was neglected mostly due to the prevailing philosophy of the ultimate superiority of the human being. It was thought that physical and environmental impediments of urban development could be overcome by human ingenuity. This may be true to a considerable extent but there is a great awareness in recent years to safeguard urban environment and to maintain at least semblance of ecological balance. As such, efforts are being made to reduce pollution of urban ecological factors specially air, water and vegetation. As such, there is need to consider thoroughly the characteristics before the growth and development of urban centres development of drainage system, prevention of waterlogging specially of refused water, ruthless cutting of vegetation etc. Urban centres located in homogenous plains, dissected plateau arena and mountainous region possess site characteristics of entirely different nature and problems concerning site conditions also arise distinctly. In homogenous plains also physical problems arise based on their site and situation. Towns located along the river bank have problems of different nature. It may be mentioned that most of the larger ancient cities are located along the river. Most of them have developed on levee land having larger extension along the river bank and areas lying beyond the levee remain subject to flood. In earlier days relatively higher land provided ideal site for the development of the cities or towns, but the recent swelling of population size by the rapid growth of rural-urban migration limited flood free space existing along the river banks is not in a position to accommodate increasing population. As such, most of these people are grabbing even unsuitable

areas having problem of waterlogging, poor drainage and unhygienic places. The most obvious example is the city of Bhagalpur. Thus, lack of large habitable space poses problem in the expansion of the city. It also causes congestion of settlement area, disappearance of open spaces even front yard, backyard spaces and infra - house spaces etc.

In comparison with the elongated levee site, towns having location in homogenous flood free areas avail adequate space for the expansion of the urban landscape in all the directions and compact growth. Certainly, in such site, the easy run of drainage poses problems due to lack of slope and such towns experience the problem of waterlogging. Towns having location in undulated plateau areas or in mountainous areas do not avail the facility of having adequate space at one site for the development of built up areas because of physical barriers like steep slope, valleys, rocky projection etc. As such, the compact growth of township becomes difficult and different.

Certainly, in such areas the problem of quick runoff drainage does not arise and the township remains relatively neater and cleaner having no problem of waterlogging and high congestion. Similar conditions prevail in most towns of southern parts of Bihar where undulated plateau area prevails. Certainly, in these urban areas, the problem of drinking water arises because of the problem of fetching underground water by boring. But such problem does not arise in alluvial plains where underground water remains easily available for the supply of drinking water in the town. In homogenous alluvial plains of Bihar, the facility of water from both sources, the adequate river water and the underground water can be supplied by purification but in undulated areas only artificial reservoirs solve the problem of water supply.

In the development of roads, lanes, by-lanes and sewer lines also the topographic features play important role. Areas having homogeneous land surface with gentle or moderate slope, the construction of drainage or sewer lines or even roads and lanes remain convenient. But in highly undulated or even in low-lying water-logged areas it becomes rather difficult. The soil of the area also plays an important role. Areas having hard base provides the easy construction of multistoried building with less construction cost, while areas having very soft soil or waterlogging, adequate precautions before the construction of multi-storeyed houses are taken which involves lot of unnecessary expenditure. Sometimes, the problems of shifting courses in case of river side urban centres, erosion of river banks having built up areas face the problem of resettlement or the control of river erosion causes too much expense.

Urban centres also face the problem of environmental hazards and such problems are being caused by the presence of depressed areas of low-lying land having accumulation of use water or rain water, open drains, lack of natural vegetation etc. The incidence of malaria specially in slum areas having settlements of rural migrants prevails. In such areas other diseases like Jaundice poses problems because unhygienic water supply and lack of tap water supply. Such problems are also prevalent in the metropolitan city of Kolkata because this city is located on a natural alluvial levee which offers a narrow strip of land just above the flood height along the strand. This city of Kolkata together with its huge conurbation comprising more than 100 towns and cities is basically enormous, linear metropolitan formation stretching for more than 70 km. from Budge-Budge in the South to Kalyan in the north on the both flanks of the Hooghly river. This city faces acute problem of waterlogging in comparison with other towns in the Ganga basin, failure of drainage due to siltation problem. During the flood, the city ceases to function normally and the waterlogging cripples the entire life and activity. The city of Patna is bounded by the rivers – Ganga, Son and Punpun. The city is always vulnerable to flood problem and waterlogging. The drainage problem is the most acute problem in Kankan Bag and other low-lying areas.

Although the planners have diagnosed the problems but have no access yet to solution which will mitigate conditions and there are some precautions to be taken like transhumance from areas which are decidedly low and for which land filling would be an excessively costly proposition, restriction in land use through exercise of control by Government agencies, lands permanently prone to flood may be purchased by the Government ruling out all settlements within such enclosures ignoring huge cost involvement, clearly demarcating the flood limits and the pattern of encroachment with a view to adopting engineering devices for tackling flood devastation.

Apart from the problem of site condition, environmental hazards are also of prime consideration because environmental hazards affect the health of urbanites. These hazards include air pollution, water pollution, light, waste disposal, sewage, drought, flood, earthquakes etc. Urban areas where space is a problem, face difficulties in providing good and spacious sites for the buildings. As a matter of fact, most growing Indian cities are so rapidly increasing that they hardly provide enough time for proper planned development. As such, unplanned and haphazard growth of urban areas having socio economic development have led to many problems like air and water pollution and ultimately leading to disturbed bio-aesthetic set up of urban environment. In most Indian cities industries do not form a separate zone having outside location, as such, it creates problem of air and water pollution. In urban areas the environment pollution through air and water common sense the industries are the main agents which pollute air and water, the treatment of affluent before they join the natural drainage like stream or river, is essential. The effluents should be treated and diluted to the standard prescribed. In case of pollution of air, planting trees in the vicinity of industrial areas become essential as they are supposed to absorb ample carbon dioxide present in the contaminated air and reproduce pure oxygen in turn by natural processes and thus, help purification of air or the environment. Besides, purification of air, trees also absorb the noise to some extent. Apart from the above requirement, urban centres should have public parks and playgrounds which can provide entertainment and healthy atmosphere for the relaxation of the strained brains. In most Indian urban centres underground and open drainage lines of sewage are not properly functioning. As such, they cause waterlogging and water-borne-diseases.

Most of the urban centres have been facing the transport problems. Rapid increase in the population and the intensity of economic activity in urban areas without commensurate increase in transport supply led to severe congestion delay, increase in accident rates. Most of the urban centres have mixed traffic with slow moving vehicles being dominant on the roads. In terms of private mode of transport, the shift is from the care to expensive motorbikes, scooters and mopeds.

The effectiveness of a business which is dynamic in nature and exists for its economic performance in a city and which contributes to the welfare of a community, enhances the happiness of the people in the community and influences the culture, is judged by its economic results and these results to a large extent depend upon the effective utilization of the human assets, i.e., qualitatively and quantitatively. Large growth of population with poor quality and with high quantity greatly affects the commercial growth of a city. Poor economic result is the outcome in totality. Apart from other problems, with the dense settlements the market area is too much congested, even cycles and bikes cannot ply easily. There is heavy pressure of population on available roads, as a result market share is captured by different marketers which also affect the growth of trade and commerce. Due to growth of population, the city faces grave crime incidences. The law and order situation is not congenial. Murders, dacoity, rape are common features in the city. Due to demand ransom, industrialists leave the city and migrate to other cities where there is peace and law. Thus, a large number of problems are seen in and around the city which cause low commercial growth of a city. Unemployment, loots, poverty illiteracy, low life standard, consumption of liquor, gambling etc. are the outcome of population growth which equally influence the commercial growth.

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