

Urbanization in India – Pattern, Planning and Problems

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ABSTRACT

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In India, urbanization has developed into a significant and irreversible phenomenon that plays a key role in driving economic growth and eradicating poverty. India is still in the process of changing from a largely rural to a quasi-urban society, despite the fact that the process of urbanization is characterised by an increase in the number of large cities. Economic expansion is intimately tied to urbanization, which is a natural process. In demographic sense, the level of urbanization is measured by the percentage of population living in urban areas with some specific pattern of settlement.

INTRODUCTION

In India urban areas are define on the basis of two criteria

- i. To a settlement the state government grant municipal status – corporation, municipal council, nagar panchayat or notified town area committee etc. Such settlements are known as statutory or municipal towns in the census definition of urban areas.
- ii. If a settlement does not have such civic status, but satisfies demographic and economic criteria, like a population of more than 5000, a density of 400 persons per square kilometer and 75 percentage male workforces working in the non-agricultural sector, it can be declared as urban.

According to the census 2011, about 37.7 crore Indians comprising 31.14 % of country's population lived in urban areas. The urban population is projected to grow to about 60 crores comprising 40% by 2031 and 850 crores by (50%) by 2050. urbanisation and city growth are critical for assessing current and future needs with respect to urban growth and for setting policies priorities to promote inclusive and equitable urban and rural development. Globally more than half of the world's population (54 percentage) lives in urban areas although level of urbanization is still varying cross the countries.

While urbanization has been a mechanism of economic, social, and political progress, its immense serious socio-economic problems in the country. the rapid growth of urban population both on the basis of natural growth of population and though migration, has put immense presser on facilities like sanitization, transportation, housing, electricity, water supply health and education. Peoples moves into the cities for availing better employment opportunities, education and health facilities. Industries are mostly located in

urban areas and capable to create huge job opportunities which makes people migrate to urban areas in search of these jobs. In order to reduce time and expenses in commuting and transportation people move to urban areas.

Objective

The study has been undertaken keeping in view of the following objectives:

1. To study trends of urbanization in India.
2. To study problem of urbanization.
3. To study changing environment of urbanization.
4. To study the significance and contribution of government policies and schemes.
5. To study implementation of new policies of the present government.

Research methodology

The collection of data for this paper is only from secondary source that include research papers, journals, books and various websites for analyzing and techniques.

Trends in Urbanization

The office of registrar general and census commission of India Projected the urban population for the year 2011 to 358 million, and estimated that urban population growth rates would decline from 2.75% per annum observed during 2001 – 2011 (Registrar general and census commissioner 2006). Urban experts also believed that India's urbanisation would slow down because of its exclusionary nature and its inability to spur rural to urban migration (Kundu2007, 2011) however, the 2011 Census Shows some unexpected results.

According to the 2011 census, there were 377 million people living in urban areas, an increase of 2.76% year from 2001 to 2011. The overall level of urbanisation in the nation went from 27.7% in 2001 to 31.1% in 2011 — a 3.3%-point rise from 2001 to 2011 compared to a 2.1-point gain from 1991 to 2001. It should be remembered that the Indian economy grew by about 8% annually throughout the first decade of the 2000s, up from about 6% annually during the 1990s (Ahluwalia 2011). This amply demonstrates the ability of economic expansion to hasten urbanisation between 2001 and 2011.

Table No. 1 shows that India had an urban population of about 79 million in 1961,

Table No. 1: - Trends in Urbanisation in India (1961-2011)

Census Year	Urban population (in million)	Percentage Urban	Annual Exponential Urban Growth Rate (%)
1961	78.94	17.97	-----
1971	109.11	19.91	3.23
1981	159.46	23.34	3.79
1991	217.18	25.72	3.09
2001	286.12	27.86	2.75
2011	377.10	31.16	2.76

As the 1981 census was not conducted in Assam, and the 1991 census was not held in Jammu and Kashmir, the population of India includes projected figures these states in those periods. Source: census of India various years.

Table No. 2: rural urban population growth differentials (1971- 2011)

Decade	Rural	Urban	Urban- Rural Growth Differentials (Annual Exponential growth rate, in %)
1971-1981	1.76	3.79	2.03
1981-1991	1.80	3.09	1.29
1991-2001	1.69	2.75	1.06
2001-2011	1.15	2.76	1.61

Source: census of India, various years.

Which constituted about 18% of the total population. The average growth rate of the urban population was 2.32% during 1951-61 which accelerated up to 3.79% during 1971-81. This was the highest urban growth since independence. After 1981, the urban growth rate decelerated to 3.09 during 1981- 91 and further declined to 2.75 during 1991-2001. However, the declining growth rate was slightly reversed during 2001-2011.

It is worthwhile to note that urban population growth alone cannot speed up urbanization. More importantly if urbanization has to occur, the urban population growth rate needs to be higher than the rural population growth rate. Table 2 shows that urban rural growth rate differentials increased from about 1 percentage per annum during 1991- 2001 to 1.61 percentage per annum during 2001-2011. It is also evident from table 2 that the rural population growth has declined much faster during 2001-2011 compare to earlier decades. Rural urban population growth differential is a product of the differentials in the natural increase between rural and urban areas (births-deaths), net rural urban classification and net rural urban migration. The urban rural natural increase growth differentials remained almost constant that is 4 per thousand population during 1991-2001 to 2001-2011. That means, it was the net rural urban classification and net rural urban migration that were responsible for higher urban rural growth differentials and the higher rate of urbanisation during 2001-2011.

Ranking of states/UTs by percentage of urban population to total population

Table No. 3

Ranking of states/UTs by percentage of urban population to total population, 2001- 2011				
Ranking in 2001	States/ UTs	Percentage of urban population to total population		Ranking in 2011
		2001	2011	
1	Delhi	93.18	97.50	1
2	Chandigarh	89.77	97.25	2
3	Puducherry	66.57	68.31	5
4	Goa	49.76	62.17	6
5	Mizoram	49.63	51.51	7
6	Lakshadweep	44.46	78.08	3
7	Tamilnadu	44.04	48.45	8
8	Maharashtra	42.43	45.23	11
9	Gujrat	37.36	42.58	12
10	Daman & Due	36.25	75.16	4

11	Karnataka	33.99	38.57	13
12	Punjab	33.92	37.49	14
13	Andaman Nicobar Island	32.63	35.67	15
14	Haryana	28.92	34.79	16
15	West Bengal	27.97	31.89	18
16	Andhra Pradesh	27.3	33.49	17
17	Madhya Pradesh	27.46	27.63	22
18	Kerala	25.96	47.72	9
19	Uttarakhand	25.67	30.55	19
20	Manipur	25.11	30.21	20
21	Jammu Kashmir	24.81	27.21	23
22	Rajasthan	23.39	24.89	26
23	Dadar Nagar Haveli	22.89	46.62	10
24	Jharkhand	22.24	24.05	27
25	Utter Pradesh	20.78	2.28	30
26	Arunachal Pradesh	20.75	22.67	29
27	Chhattisgarh	20.09	23.24	28
28	Meghalaya	19.58	20.08	31
29	Nagaland	17.23	28.97	21
30	Tripura	17.06	26.18	24
31	Odisha	14.99	16.68	32
32	Assam	12.9	14.08	33
33	Sikkim	11.07	24.97	25
34	Bihar	10.46	11.3	34
35	Himachal Pradesh	9.8	10.4	35

Source: Census of India 2001 and 2011

In all Indian states and union territories, the proportion of urban residents to the overall population has increased between 2001 and 2011, according to Table 2. In India, Delhi is the state or union territory with the highest level of urbanization, followed by Chandigarh, which ranked first and second in both 2011 and 2001. The least urbanized state or union territory in both 2001 and 2011 was Himachal Pradesh and followed by Bihar, which placed 35th and 34th, respectively. In case of Himachal Pradesh only 9.8 and 10.4 percentage population was urbanized in both 2001 and 2011 which in list in both the years. In case of Bihar, which is second least urbanized states of India in both the census year 2001 and 2011 and percentage of urban population was 10.46 and 11.3 respectively.

At the state level, the pattern of urbanization is very diverse, but economically advanced states show higher level of urbanization in compare to economically weaker states. All southern states, along with Punjab, Haryana, Gujrat, Maharastra and West Bengal, have higher urbanization levels than the national level of urbanization. Some small states like Goa (62%) and Mizoram (51.5%) continue to be the top list of urbanization. Other states like Utter Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh continue to have lower level of urbanization.

Urbanization – Five Year Plans

The planning commission has given more importance for urbanization during different five years plans. In first Two five years plans focused on institution and organization hence town and country planning organizations were formed during this period. The third plan (1961-66) emphasized on importance of town and cities in balanced regional development and the need for urban land regulation, checking of urban land prices, preparation of master plan etc. the fourth plan (1969-74), continued with the theme of third plan and development plans for 72 urban areas were undertaken. In the fifth plan, urban land ceiling act was passed in 1976. Mumbai metropolitan region development authority (MMRDA) in 1974 and housing and urban development corporation in 1975 were established. It also emphasized the urban and industrial decentralization. The sixth plan (1978-83) stressed the need to develop small and medium sized towns (less than 1 lakh). In the seventh plan an attempt was made to give urban local bodies a constitutional status with three tier federal structure. But it was not passed and was finally passed in 1992 as constitutional amendment act and come into force in 1993. In eighth plan, the Mega city scheme was introduced in 1993-94 covering five mega cities of Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. The ninth plan continue with the schemes of eighth plan and also emphasized on decentralization and financial autonomy of local bodies. A new program Swarna Jayanti ShahariRojgarjana (SJSRY) was started in 1997. The tenth plan (2002-2007) recognized the fact that urbanization played a vital role in accelerating the economic liberalization and also stressed to strengthen the urban local bodies. In the eleventh plan (2007-2012) introduced some innovative changes using technology as a tool for rapid urbanization. In this direction major initiative launched by central government was JNNURM (JawaharlatNeharu National Urban Renewal mission) in 2005 for focused and integrated development of urban infrastructure and service, initially for 63 cities. Focus on JNNURM was on provision for urban poor, including housing, water supply and sanitation, urban transport, road network and development of inner/old city areas, etc. the twelfth plan (2012-17) proposed to consolidate JNNURM and envisaged its wider role in urban reforms. The plan has also highlighted the reasons which are acting as hurdles as failure to mainstream the urban planning, incomplete reform and slow progress in project implementation, delay in securing land for project and delay in getting approval from various regulators.

The planning commission was changed as NITI Ayog in 1st January 2015 under the chairmanship of prime minister of India and the vice Chairman was Dr. Arvind Panagariya. NITI Ayog has launched Urban Management Programme in New Delhi on 27 April 2016. The government of India has come forward to resolve issue related to urbanization by upgrading urban operating model. Indian government initiated Swachh Bharat Programme to improve cleanliness in India's town and cities. The government focus more on solid waste management and waste water treatment and took initiative for clean city and green city and more emphasis on providing basic amenities in town and city areas. There is an urgent need to develop social mechanisms which will assist to reduce inequality and make sure basic amenities like health, sanitization, education to access those who have been underprivileged of the same.

The prime minister Mr. Narendra Modi launched the Smart City Mission on 25th June 2015. It is for boost up core infrastructure and support decent quality of life, and clean and sustainable environment to its residents. This mission will cover 100 cities for five-year time duration (financial year 2015-16 to financial year 2019-20). Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme is launched by the prime minister on 25th June 2015 for development of basic infrastructure in 500 cities. objective of this mission is to ensure access of each and every household have tap water supply and sewerage connection. The national Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) Scheme, aims at preserving and revitalizing the soul of and unique character of the heritage cities in India. In first phase, twelve cities have been identified

for implementation under this scheme. These are Ajmer, Amritsar, Amaravati, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni, and Warangal. The first phase of the HRIDAY Scheme was launched in January, 2015 for a period of 27 months with a total outlay of Rs. 500crore, fully funded by central government. Aim of this scheme is to restoring, reviving and strengthening the soul and heritage of these cities under projects of HRIDAY.

Problems and effect of urbanization in India- Urbanisation is linked to a number of problems, including overpopulation, settlements, transportation, health, sanitization, education, and unemployment. Issues relating to the environment, waste management, insufficient budget, inefficiency of urban local governments, city planning, government negligence, a lack of necessary research, bad administration, etc. As the population increases, this trend will worsen and escalate, leading to even deteriorating living conditions.

Some of the steps taken to address the issues stated above and to improve the situation include: -

- **Over-Population:** The Increasing level of education and need of employment drawing the youth towards cities. To overcome this, the scope of cities geographical area should be increased. Along the projects such as Smart Cities Mission, projects to make the Smart Village should also be developed.
- **Settlements:** Overcrowding leads to development of slum areas and congestion in cities. At present, more the 40% of the urban population live in slums. Affordable housing projects, obsolete land acquisition from the government and people, smart and innovative solution for housing such as multi-storeyed buildings, clearing of illegal settlements could be some of the solutions to this.
- **Health and Sanitation:** Increase in Population results in deterioration in living condition and causes disease burden. Poor housing and slums create disease outbreak and make the condition even more worrisome. Availability of safe and clean drinking water, proper sanitation drills through municipalities, affordable medical facilities, and awareness generation can definitely be helpful.
- **Transportation:** Lack of availability of transportation facilities and connectivity is a major issue. The Metro Rail Project, Public transport availability and frequency enhancement, better traffic rules and implementation, Roads improvement, accident insurance can be done to improve the scenario.
- **Un-Employment:** Overcrowding leads to reduction in employment opportunities in cities. The development should not be restrictive in terms of places and employment generation should also be done at rural areas and due consideration should be given to village economy apart from the agrarian centric development. Villages should also be developed along cities.
- **Waste Management and Environment:** Solid waste management is one of the biggest problems as there are no proper facilities and places for the waste treatment and its disposal. Lack of availability of spaces makes the outer areas prone for disposal and accumulation of garbage. This further aggravates the situation by causing water and air pollution. An effective waste disposal and treatment policy should be formulated and implemented to get rid of this.
- **Finance:** According to NitiAayog, India needs around INR 400 trillion to overhaul its infrastructure but it only raises only INR 20 trillion through urban bodies, which is just around 1% of its GDP. This is far behind the economies such as South Africa and Brazil (8%), Denmark (37%). Inefficiency has increased manifold after the GST as it had taken over some of its taxes such as octroi and local body tax. ULBs should be given with more devolution of grants and power to raise funds. Municipal bonds could be one of the options to raise funds for the cities management.

- Research work and innovation: More innovative ideas should be evolved for affordable and better cities management. The Private – Public partnerships should be invited for research work. The lessons should also be learnt from the other countries to manage the cities.

The better and efficient management of cities can have multiple impacts on the economy, society and development of the country. This would lead to allocation of resources in right direction and will ease up the situation for the people and government as well.

Conclusions : - The process of urbanization may be characterized by increase in the number of large cities, but still India is in the midst of transition from a predominantly rural to a quasi-urban society. Urbanization can also be defined as a process of concentration of population in particular territory. During 1980 and 1990 declining trend of urban population growth rate observed and it was reversed at the national level, and the level of urbanization increased faster during 2001-2011. The urban population grew from 286 million in 2001 to 377 million in 2011, which is larger than the rural population increment of 91 million for the first time since independence. This substantial increase in urban population is due to a net rural urban classification and rural to urban migration. Urbanization is linked to various problems such as Overcrowding, Settlements, Transportation, Health, Sanitation, Education, Un-Employment Environmental problems, Waste management, Inadequate finances, Inefficiency at Urban Local Bodies, Planning of cities, Government negligence, Lack of needed research work, etc. With the increasing population this trend is going to enhance and would lead to degradation of living conditions more. A holistic approach of urban planning and management is needed to improve living standards of urban dwellers. Sustainable urbanisation requires that cities generate better income and employment opportunities expand the necessary infrastructure for water and sanitation, energy, transportation, information and communication, ensure equal access to services, reduce the number of people living in slums and preserve the natural assets within the city and surrounding areas.

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