



Urbanization & Expansion in Cities

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Abstract: As in the other countries of the world, in India too, the rate of urbanization is too high, and for various reasons the people of the Indian villages are leaving their villages and having settlements in the various cities. In fact, the more the times are advancing, the more people from the Indian villages are settling down in cities. Urbanization is not bad, and that it is now considered good for a balanced personality of the individual, but it has changed the picture of the villages. There are, no doubt, big houses in villages built in a large area, but they lack people to live in.

Urbanization is responsible for the creation of new towns and cities which provide shelter to the new arrivals and which attract them to settle down there abandoning their rural homes. The cities too are affected adversely as the more density of population there is, the more problems there arise. Under the influence of those who are already settled in cities and attracted by the city culture, thousands of people leave the villages, but the surface reality is that in cities they face several unknown problems.

As a result of the ongoing process of urbanization, the cities in India are expanding day-by-day and illegal housing is taking place which often result into the untimely death of the people there. At present, probably there is no city in India where expansion is not taking place in the form of slums, urban sprawl etc.

The paper is a theoretical study on the urbanization and expansion of cities. It deals with the causes and effects of urbanization, and highlights the picture of expansion in the Indian cities in general.

Key Words: *Urbanization, Settlements, Modernity, Migration, Urban Sprawl, Extension*

Introduction

The global demographic trend is that there is a constant increase in population despite the implementation of several laws and policies meant for the check in population. In India, a large majority of population (31.6%) lives in villages, but in the other countries of the world, the scenario is different, as there the much of the population lives in cities and towns.

It forces the sensible people in the world to brood over the issue of population growth rate in future. The Government is enhancing the productivity of urban areas considering the ongoing trend of urbanization.

Cities are believed to have everything for the people that is associated with development, perfect living and satisfactory progress because they are supposed to create jobs for the people and provide job-oriented education.

For the sake of the economic growth of the nation, the cities should be full of urban productive in order to fulfill the needs and demands of the people. In the developed countries like America, the cities are productive enough to satisfy the demands of the people and to accommodate the people who settle down there, but the case of the Indian cities is different.

They still lack perfection and growth-oriented productivity. Under the impact of circumstances that are promoting urbanization, it is essential that they should have some world class urban system.

The HPEC (2011) recommended for a regular investment of millions of rupees in India for the next two decades in order to have a developed infrastructure in the cities of India. Undoubtedly, there are several challenges before the cities, and this is the reason why fiscal financial reforms have been made and why such other initiatives are being taken. .

The service delivery process in the urban areas in India seems to be too lengthy, and has failed to make proper and timely services. The result is that the people residing in the urban areas do not get at once what they need.

The service delivery in the urban area can be improved and can be made effective through the local self governments. The 74th Amendment not only recognized it, but also approved it.

Reforms through decades

For the successful functioning of the urban authorities and bodies, several reforms were targeted and achieved. Some of them include- introduction of municipal accounting system, service level benchmarks for urban water supply service, sanitation urban transport service etc.

Despite the fact that several reforms were aimed at, the expansion of cities all over India was noted. The more the times are advancing, the more expansion is taking place bringing new challenges to the urban people.



The process of urbanization distracts the rural folks from their nativity and rural life and attracts them to the urban culture through the presence of modernity, education, job-opportunities, gender equality and the availability of all the basic facilities required by the people to survive successfully and to make a balanced development of their personality.

It is judicious to deduce that day-by-day the size of urban areas is increasing and expanding forcing the inhabitants to live in the areas adjoining the ones that are called the 'city heart'. The census report of 2011 reveals this fact clearly. Hereunder is the list of the largest cities of India-

Largest Cities in India by population

Sl. No.	City	Population
1	Mumbai	18,394,912
2	Delhi	16,349,831
3	Kolkata	14,112,536
4	Chennai	8,696,010
5	Bengaluru	8,520,435
6	Hyderabad	7,749,334
7	Ahmedabad	6,361,084
8	Pune	5,057,709
9	Surat	4,591,246
10	Jaipur	3,073,350
11	Kanpur	2,920,496
12	Lucknow	2,902,920
13	Nagpur	2,497,870
14	Ghaziabad	2,375,820
15	Indore	2,170,295
16	Coimbatore	2,151,466
17	Kochi	2,119,724
18	Patna	2,049,156
19	Kozhikode	2,030,519
20	Bhopal	1,886,100
21	Thrissur	1,861,269
22	Vadodara	1,822,221
23	Agra	1,760,285
24	Vishakhapatnam	1,730,320
25	Malappuram	1,699,060
26	Thiruvananthapuram	1,687,406
27	Kannur	1,642,892
28	Ludhiana	1,618,879
29	Nashik	1,562,769
30	Vijayawada	1,491,202
31	Madurai	1,465,625
32	Varanasi	1,435,113
33	Meerut	1,424,908
34	Faridabad	1,414,050
35	Rajkot	1,390,933
36	Jamshedpur	1,339,438
37	Srinagar	1,273,312
38	Jabalpur	1,268,848
39	Asansol	1,243,414
40	Vasai-Virar	1,222,390
41	Allahabad	1,216,719
42	Dhanbad	1,196,214
43	Aurangabad	1,193,167
44	Amritsar	1,183,705



45	Jodhpur	1,138,300
46	Ranchi	1,126,741
47	Raipur	1,123,558
48	Kollam	1,110,668
49	Gwalior	1,102,884
50	Bhilai	1,064,222
51	Chandigarh	1,026,459
52	Tiruchirappalli	1,022,518
53	Kota	1,001,694
54	Mysore	990,900

Source: (2011 census)

Objectives of the Study

- To study the process of urbanization
- To study the causes of urbanization
- To find out the positive and the negative consequences of urbanization
- To explore the challenges before the success of the process of urbanization
- To describe the reforms made to develop the urban areas
- To discuss expansion of cities as a cause of urbanization in India

Review of Related Literature

- **The APN Project Report (2009)**, under the head **Peri-Urban Development and Environmental Sustainability: Examples from China and India**, discussed the environmental change issue in relation to India and China, saying that of the various factors that are causing environmental change in India and China, large scale urban development which is constantly threatening the ecology of these countries and which is giving rise to urban expansion is there. The report suggests that urban development is essential to safeguard environment of the countries.
- **David Satterthwaite, Gordon McGranahan, and Cecilia Tacoli (2010)**, in **Urbanization and its implications for food and farming**, discuss the issue of scarcity of food and farming in the urbanized world which lacks the sufficient number of food producers to satisfy the public food demands.
Urbanization brings the people from the villages to the cities, and hence, the population growth and population explosion is being faced. Failing to be accommodated in the central parts of the urban areas, they seek shelter in the nearby localities and thus, contribute in the expansion of the urban areas. Owing to the scarcity of farmers and peasants in the urbanized world, the dwellers are often found under nutrition and facing several other problems.
- **Shirish Sankhe, Ireena Vittal, Richard Dobbs, Ajit Mohan, Ankur Gulati, Jonathan Ablett, Shishir Gupta, Alex Kim, Sudipto Paul, Aditya Sanghvi, and Gurpreet Sethy (2010)**, in **India's Urban Awakening: Building Inclusive Cities, sustaining economic growth**, observe that in India, urbanization which is magnetically drawing the rural population to the cities, is a revolutionary issue, but it needs to be managed well in order for the cities and the people to enjoy the benefits of urbanization.
The scope of the markets in the cities of India like markets associated with recreation, education, transportation etc. is absolutely there at present. No doubt, much of the investment in the country is being made at different levels on the growth and development of the cities, the Indian cities still fail to guarantee a basic standard of living to the people which is essential. Until and unless some basic standard of living is not guaranteed to the people, the process of urbanization cannot be complete and perfect in India.
- **Amitabh Kundu (2011)**, in **Trends and Processes of Urbanisation in India**, discusses the trend of urbanization in keeping in centre the poor villagers of India who are leaving their villages with a hope that their settling down in cities and their working there will reduce their poverty and they will be capable of earning enough to manage themselves and their families. It is true that in India there is some urban development, but it is still lagging behind the targeted development.
Contrary to the hope of the people and the government, the results of urbanization in India are not always positive. Only very few of the poor villagers succeed in getting rid of their poverty. The study concludes that there should be increased job opportunities for such people in the cities so that they can manage their home affairs properly and can earn their livelihood.



- **J. Chadchan & R Shankar (2012)**, in **An analysis of urban growth trends in the post-economic reforms period in India**, hold that owing to the population explosion and urbanization the density of population in the urban areas in India is increasing fast. As viewed by the researchers, There are many burning issues related to urbanization, and they should be resolved with no delay.

Owing to the city-expansion, urban sprawl and unauthorized construction in India, several natural calamities keep taking place from time-to-time. Not only this, the recent trend has given rise to expansion of cities through the formation of the slums and urban sprawl which force the urban dwellers to live under risk to life and property. All this has brought unknown problems the solution of which is quite essential.

Hypothesis

- Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, unhealthy socialization, imbalanced personality development, lower status of women etc. distract the people from their nativity
- Urbanization is a global process
- Urbanization detaches the rural people from their native places through the belief that only the cities and urban spaces are able to fulfill all the needs at present
- Urbanization brings several challenges and problems to the urban space
- Expansion of cities takes place mainly because of urbanization

Method

The paper is a qualitative study with a special focus on the urban expansion due to unplanned urbanization under which the people from the villages are joining the cities and their culture for education, employment, freedom, socialization etc. The systematic shaping was given to the present study with the following steps that were adopted for it-

- Selection of the title keeping in view and considering its appropriateness
- Selection of the relevant and related studies on internet
- Review making of the studies considering the various aspects
- Relating the contents of the study with the contents of paper
- Putting the collected stuff at the proper place
- Concluding the issue

Findings & Conclusion

Through the study the following findings were drawn about urbanization and about expansion of cities as a major cause of urbanization and population growth-

- Urbanization is a global process, and no country is untouched by urbanization
- Urbanization makes the people believe of the superiority of cities and urbanity over the villages and rurality
- The villages are characterized by poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, unhealthy socialization, imbalanced personality development, lower status of women etc.
- India is famous for its long-age culture and for its traditions which are blindly believed to be unquestionable by the rural people
- As in the other countries, in India too, urbanization is going on causing several new and unknown problems and challenges
- The Indian villagers leave their villages and settle down in cities and towns considering future security, accessible education, job opportunities, betterment of life etc.
- Urbanization brings several challenges and problems to the urban space. Urban sprawl, slums, expansion of cities, pollution, population explosion and growth etc. are urbanization-related ones.
- The magnitude urban spaces is constantly increasing and expanding
- Urbanization is the major cause of expansion of cities.

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