

A study on Emerging Trends in Demographic Features of Size Class of Cities and Towns in India

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ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 07 August 2018

Keywords

Rural- Urban migration, Urban Population, Rapid growth, Urbanisation, Cities and Towns

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization is closely linked to modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization. It can describe a specific condition at a set time, i.e. the proportion of total population or area in cities or towns, or the term can describe the increase of this proportion over time. Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture. Village culture is characterized by common bloodlines, intimate relationships, and communal behavior whereas urban culture is characterized by distant bloodlines, unfamiliar relations, and competitive behavior. Further, urbanization is a Socio-Economic phenomenon, plays a significant and dynamic role in changing the ways of life of the people. It transforms the human societies into civilized as well as modernized ones, serves as a significant agent in patterning and organizing the social processes in space. The growths of any urban center are of two types-natural growth and migration. The consequences of rapid urbanization are numerous and varied. Apart from the problems of poverty, unemployment, food supply and nutrition, water supply, sewage and solid waste disposal, transport and communication, power supply, pollution control, there are fiscal problems resulting from financing of public services such as health and education. Further, rapid urban growth has created serious shortages of shelter and thereby led to proliferation of slums and squatter settlements. Thus, the phenomenon of rapid population growth in urban areas is related to the cascading effect of one activity upon another. Moreover, the imbalance growth of population by towns and cities in recent decades has received attention in different views. Hence, the paper aims at examining the emerging pattern of urban population growth in towns and cities of India during eleven decades (1901-2011) based on census data and policy issues are suggested for balanced growth of urban population in all towns and cities.

1. Introduction

Urbanization refers to the movement of people permanently or temporarily from village to the city. From the demographic point of view, the level of urbanization is measured in terms of percentage of population living in urban areas (Davis, 1962). The urban population of the world has been growing more rapidly than the rural population even since the emergence of the first urban settlement on the world's sense. In the last two centuries, cities have consistently provide the environment for institutional and technological innovations and have often been referred to as 'engines of growth', 'agents of change', and 'incubators of innovation' (Gupta, 1989). The urban centers once established, they tend to influence the whole socio-economic milieu of the region and emerge as centers of power. It is involving a change from agricultural to non-agricultural occupation and being associated with organizational and behavioural change (Patil, 1993:44).

Urbanisation process of an increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas compared to rural areas. In recent decades, the world population is becoming predominantly urban. As per the revised estimates of United Nation's Organization, the world's urban population now exceeds 2.9 billion and today more than 47.0 per cent of the world's population lives in cities. It is predicted that by 2030 that 5 billion of the total world's population would be living in urban areas.

Growth of urban population mostly found to be occurring in the developing countries, where it is assumed that by the year 2030, the share of urban population in these developing countries of the Asian subcontinent has been witnessing very rapid growth in few large cities (Candrani Dutta, 2013). Besides, highest proportion of the population of more developed regions had already dwelling in urban areas, while the third world countries are experiencing an urban explosion in recent decades. The growth of urban population increase in developing countries roughly doubled that experienced in west at compared to the level of development (Kasarda and Chenshaw, 1991). Indian context also no exemption that urbanization followed by population explosion, rural-urban migration and industrialization has placed great strain on the country's natural resources, infrastructure and environment as well.

2. Features of urbanisation

Urbanization is a worldwide phenomenon; it is exceptionally dynamic in India, where unprecedented urban growth rates have occurred over the last 30 years. This explosive urbanization has been resulting in unplanned and uncontrolled growth of large cities in India. Proportion of population, absolute growth, share, area of urban, density and sex ratio by class size of cities and towns are the distinctive demographic features of urbanisation in India. Though the percent of urban population has been low in India (10.9 in 1901 rose to 31.2 in 2011) as

compared to developed countries, but the size of India's urban population was significantly high as 25.9 millions in 1901, which increased to 377 million by 2011 census. The urban population lives in 5,161 towns and cities in 2011. The Indian urban population equals the combined urban population of United States of America, United Kingdom, and France. Therefore, in absolute terms, the urban population in India exceeds the total population of Brazil, Britain, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Further, the area, density, sex ratio, distribution and population growth by towns and cities has been considerably varied. Growth was rapid in bigger towns as well as cities than in medium and small towns in recent decades.

3. Importance

Urbanization is the most significant phenomenon of 20th century which has almost affected all aspects of national life in India. Being the second most populous country in the world, after China, India's growing urbanization has a regional as well as worldwide impact. India's urban population constitutes a sizeable proportion of world's urban population. This can be well corroborated from the fact that every 12th city dweller of the world and every 7th of the developing countries in India. Further, in recent decades, issues such as absolute growth, unequal distribution, the area, density and trends in sex ratio by size class of towns and cities in India had created imbalance in total socio-economic, cultural and ecological development, which in-turn leads to several causes and consequences. Therefore, rapid growth of urban population leads to severe demographic issues, has received attention by the many experts of various fields. Hence, the study of emerging pattern of urban population growth by size class of cities and towns population is essential for policy formulation and effective planning.

4. Objectives

The major objectives of the paper are: to examine demographic dimensions such as the absolute growth of urban population, area of urban, population density, trends in sex ratio and share of population by size class of cities and towns in India over a period of eleven decades (i.e. 1901-2011).

5. Methodology

The paper is based on secondary source of data, collected from censuses of India over a period of eleven decades (i.e. 1901-2011). In the Census of India 2011, the definition of urban area adopted is as follows:

a. All statutory places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc. (b) A place satisfying the following three criteria simultaneously:

- i. a minimum population of 5,000;

- ii. at least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
- iii. a density of population of at least 400 per sq. km. (1,000 per sq. mile).

After defining the criteria of an urban centre, further classification has been made on the basis of size of population. The Indian Census classified size-class of urban centers as Class-I with population of 1,00,000 and above, Class-II with 50,000-99,999, Class-III consist of 20,000-49,999, Class-IV with 10,000-19,999, Class-V holds 5,000-9,999 and Class-VI with population of less than 5,000 (Census of India-1991, p.21).

6. Urban Agglomeration

The concept of Urban Agglomeration (U.A.) was first introduced in 1971 Census replacing the concept of 'town group' adopted in the 1961 Census. This concept of urban agglomeration is continued since then and also in Census 2001. It is constituted, where an urban agglomeration is a continuous urban spread consisting of a statutory town with one or more contiguous outgrowths two or more adjoining towns (of which at least one is a statutory town) with their outgrowths. The total population of all the constituents put together should not be less than 20,000. A Census Town is considered as a constituent unit of the Urban Agglomeration. The area constituting urban agglomeration may change from last Census depending upon the changing boundaries of the statutorily notified main urban units as well as the extent of the urban outgrowths. However, changing definition of urban area in some censuses is the main drawback in the study of urban population growth.

7. Results and Discussion

In the 21st century, the rate of urbanisation is much more in developing regions than developed regions. In recent decades, India also is experiencing rapid growth of urban population. Moreover, unlike other nations, dimensions of urban population in India had significantly vary interms absolute growth, concentration of population, sex ratio, area of urban and density by class size of cities and towns in 1901-2011, which are discussed briefly hereunder.

8. Growth of urban population

Urbanisation is the physical growth of urban areas as a result of rural-urban migration and even sub-concentration into cities, particularly very large ones. Hence, the study of urban in both quantitative and qualitative is of great importance and relevance to the population. Also pattern of urban population growth reveals the significant variations in the index of past and present levels along with the concentration of population by size class. Table-1 consists data on growth of urban population in India since 1901-2011.

Table-1: Growth of Urban Population in all Towns and U.A's classified by Population Size Class in 2011 with Variation Since 1901

Census year	Urban Status	Area in square kilometer	Persons	Variation since the preceding census Percentage		Males	Females	Sex ratio	Population Density
				Variation	Percentage				
1901		-	25,854,967	-	-	13512168 †	12297158 †	910	-
1911		-	25,948,431	93,464	0.36	13859659	12088772	872	-

1921	**	-	28,091,299	2,142,868	8.26	15216483**	12873772	846	-
1931	**	-	33,462,539	5,371,240	19.12	18203122**	15258228	838	-
1941	**	-	44,162,191	10,699,652	31.98	24119886**	20040989	831	-
1951	††	-	62,443,709	18,281,518	41.40	33578139	28865570	860	-
1961		38509.28	78,936,603	16,492,894	26.41	42789106	36147497	845	2050
1971		43422.24	109,113,977	30,177,374	38.23	58729333	50384644	858	2513
1981	@	52390.63	157,680,171	48,566,194	44.51	83876403	73803768	880	3010
1991	@	63832.10	215,771,612	58,091,441	36.84	113936953	101834659	894	3380
2001		78199.42	286,119,689	70,348,077	32.60	150554098	135565591	900	3659
2011		102252.00	377,106,125	90,986,436	31.80	195489200	181616925	929	3688

@ Excludes the figures of J & K where census was not conducted in 1991. Also excludes the figures of Assam where census was not held in 1981.

† In 1901, Sex wise distribution of population of Chandannagar 26,831 of West Bengal and 18,810 of Gonda Uttar Pradesh is not available.

†† (i) Includes population of P-12,019 (M-6,297, F-5,722) of Kancharapara Rural Development Colony which gave place to Kalyani and Gayeshpur Govt. Colony towns of Nadia district of West Bengal in 1961. Separate figures for 1951 of Kalyani and Gayeshpur Govt. Colony (portions) are not available and as such these figures have not been included in any class of towns but these are included in 'All Classes' only.

(ii) Excludes the 1951 population of P-225 (M-199, F-26) Police line and Dudh Line areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are outside Port Blair (M.B.) but their 1951 population was shown against Port Blair (M.B.).

* Does not include males and females of Chandannagar town in the state of West Bengal as they are not available separately.

** Sex - wise distribution of population of Sachin town in the state of Gujarat for 1921, 1931 and 1941 is not available.

Note-(i) For the area of Census year 1971 and 1981, table A-4 of the concerned years are referred.

(ii) For the census year 1971 area of 3.13 sq. KM. of Badrinath town Distt. was included by mistake (CO letter no. UP/08/2010-vl. II ct 1067 dt. 1.12.2016).

Source: Census of India, 2011, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Minister of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Table-1 depicts that urban population of India was only 25.9 million increased to 78.9 million in 1971 and reached to 377.1 million by 2011. The growth of population was 93,464 persons during 1901-1911, rose to 9,09,86,436 persons during 2001-2011. Similarly, the growth rate was only marginal (0.36 percent) in 1901-11 and rapidly increased (31.8 percent) by 2011. Considering 1901 as a base year, growth rates of population and urban area (Area in square kilometer) was calculated. It was recorded as 1,459 and was only 266 respectively in eleven decades. It is clear that the growth of urban population has been significantly increasing and rapid in recent decades the area of urban. Sex ratio (Number of females per 1000 males) of urban India was 910 in 1901, comedown to 831 in 1941 and further declined to 929 in 2011. It also significant to note that urban population density (Number of persons per square kilometre) was 2050 persons in 1961 and rose to 3688 persons in 2011 census. It reveals the high

pressure as well as imbalance sex ratio of population in urban India in recent decades than earlier.

9. Urban population growth class size of cities and towns

Urbanization in modern times is essentially an economic process. Today, the city is a focal point of productive activities. It exists and grows on the strength of the economic activities existing within the city. It is the level and nature of economic activity in the city that generates growth and, therefore, further urbanization. The analysis of growth of population across size classes reveal that the trends as well as pattern of structural changes in urban population. Indian census classified urban areas into six size classes. The distribution of population by size of cities and towns are examined hereunder. Table-2 contains data population growth in class-I size of urban agglomerations and towns.

Table-2: Growth of Population by Class-I size (100,000 and above) of 298 U.A's and 170 Towns.

Census year	Area in square kilometer	Persons	Variation since the preceding census Percentage		Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Population Density
			Variation	Percentage				
1901	-	6,812,311	-	-	3802998*	2982482*	784	-
1911	-	7,207,623	395,312	5.80	4,172,989	3,034,634	727	-
1921	-	8,437,303	1,229,680	17.06	4957694**	3478565**	702	-
1931	-	10,805,234	2,367,931	28.07	6276700**	4527345**	721	-
1941	-	17,298,624	6,493,390	60.09	10063992**	7233316**	719	-
1951	-	28,438,656	11,140,032	64.40	15,908,688	12,529,968	788	-
1961	8522.92	41,508,722	13,070,066	45.96	23,041,952	18,466,770	801	4870
1971	12464.12	63,454,904	21,946,182	52.87	34,667,255	28,787,649	830	5091
1981	18332.91	98,506,538	35,051,634	55.24	52,856,372	45,650,166	864	5373
1991	25866.21	142,358,648	43,852,110	44.52	75,527,898	66,830,750	885	5504
2001	33205.38	200,098,105	57,739,457	40.56	105,771,053	94,327,052	892	6026
2011	45662.8504	264,745,519	64,647,414	32.31	137,535,918	127,209,601	925	5798

* Does not include males and females of Chandannagar as they are not available separately.

** Sex-wise distribution of population of Sachin town for 1921, 1931 and 1941 is not available.

Source: Census of India, 2011, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Minister of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

In 1901 census, only 6.8 million inhabited in class-I size of urban agglomerations and towns, increased to 41.5 million in 1961 and rose to 264.8 million by 2011. The percentage variation was only 5.8 in 1901-11 and recorded as 32.3 in 2001-11. The area has increased only 5.4 times during 1961-2011, while population has increased by 38.9 times since 1901-2011. The sex ratio was 784 in 1901, increased to 925 in 2011. Population density was 4870 persons in 1961, increased to 5798 persons by 2011. It can be said that growth of population in Class-I size of urban agglomerations and towns has been gradually increasing, but rapid in recent decades. Evidence indicates that about two-thirds of increase in the urban population of larger cities was due to natural growth (Singh, 1992) and rest as the result of inflow of people (Oberai, 1993). In addition, most of these Class-I cities in India are economically prosperous with industrialization, commercial and other development activities. Moreover, the rapid growth can

be attributed to increased opportunities of manufacturing employment, infrastructural facilities and level of social development (Sivarama Krishnan, et al., 2006:62), which attracts huge volume of in-migration there by rapid growth.

10. Population growth in medium Cities and Towns

In general, Class-II and III size of cities as well as towns considered as medium urban dwellings in India. They are second hierarchical ones in the study of urbanisation and play a vital role in the process of urbanisation. Growth of cities / towns depends on phase of secondary and tertiary sectors in cities and towns with having better employment as well as amenities. They determine the rate of migration, causing to growth of urban population. Table-3 holds data on population growth in Class-II size of urban agglomerations and towns.

Table-3: Growth of Population by Class-II size (50,000 - 99,999) of 100 U.A's and 374 Towns.

Census year	Area in square kilometre	Persons	Variation since the preceding census Percentage		Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Density
			Variation	Percentage				
1901		3,022,439			1,560,579	1,461,860	937	
1911		2,885,028	-137,411	-4.55	1,520,243	1,364,785	898	
1921		3,156,165	271,137	9.40	1,687,744	1,468,421	870	
1931		3,891,261	735,096	23.29	2,107,022	1,784,239	847	
1941		5,182,218	1,290,957	33.18	2,747,569	2,434,649	886	
1951		6,285,865	1,103,647	21.30	3,291,098	2,994,767	910	
1961	2974.44	8,607,248	2,321,383	36.93	4,568,209	4,039,039	884	2894
1971	3631.78	11,660,063	3,052,815	35.47	6,184,182	5,475,881	885	3211
1981	4653.28	17,186,956	5,526,893	47.40	9,042,922	8,144,034	901	3694
1991	5883.65	22,739,477	5,552,521	32.31	11,900,220	10,839,257	911	3865
2001	8509.65	27,192,982	4,453,505	19.58	14,145,607	13,047,375	922	3196
2011	9693.17	32,179,677	4,986,695	18.34	16,566,438	15,613,239	942	3320

Source: Census of India, 2011, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Minister of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Table-3 depicts that the population inhabited in Class-II size of urban agglomerations and towns was only 3.0 million in 1901, increased to 32.2 million by 2011. In 1901-11, these cities/towns had loosed population might be due to out-migration, while gained 18.3 percent in 2001-11. The area of cities and towns has been increased by 3.3 times since 1961 and density was 2894 persons, increased to 3320 persons by 2011. The sex ratio was 937 in 1901 and recorded 942 in 2011, it better than class-I size of urban agglomerations and towns. The population increased by only 11 times during 1901-2011, much lower than class-I size of cities/towns.

11. Population Growth in Class -III size of Cities and Towns

Population inhabited among cities and towns has been significantly differs due to level of indistrialisation, which cause to phase of socio-economic development. The towns that consisting the various industrious, mining activity and multi-functional services were recorded the highest incentive growth rate. Thus, rapid growth rate recorded in these towns. These towns mostly belonged to either medium towns or non-metropolitan cities with meagre amenities. Tables-4 contain data on population growth in Class -III size of cities and towns.

Table-4: Population growth in Class -III size (20,000-49,999) of 75 U.A's and 1,298 Towns.

Census year	Area in square kilometre	Persons	Variation since the preceding census Percentage		Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Density
			Variation	Percentage				
1901	-	4,108,880	-	-	2,107,920	2,000,960	949	-
1911	-	4,177,907	69,027	1.68	2,170,139	2,007,768	925	-
1921	-	4,363,985	186,078	4.45	2,299,606	2,064,379	898	-
1931	-	5,496,385	1,132,400	25.95	2,909,337	2,587,048	889	-
1941	-	6,918,873	1,422,488	25.88	3,647,238	3,271,635	897	-
1951	-	9,599,200	2,680,327	38.74	5,032,050	4,567,150	908	-
1961	6676.27	12,838,221	3,239,021	33.74	6,807,061	6,031,160	886	1923

1971	7739.94	16,649,649	3,811,428	29.69	8,779,197	7,870,452	896	2151
1981	10195.99	21,038,149	4,388,500	26.36	10,987,603	10,050,546	915	2063
1991	13523.26	27,716,135	6,677,986	31.74	14,451,914	13,264,221	918	2050
2001	16589.56	33,644,241	5,928,106	21.39	17,501,043	16,143,198	922	2028
2011	19774.45	41,833,295	8,189,054	24.34	21,578,420	20,254,875	939	2116

Source: Census of India, 2011, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Minister of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Table-4 shows that the area of class-III size of urban agglomerations and towns had increased 3.0 times since 1961. Density was 1,923 persons in 1961 increased to 2,116 by 2001. In 1901, only 4.1 million inhabited rose to 41.8 million by 2011, increased at 10.2 times. The sex ratio recorded as 949 in 1901 declined to 939 in 2011. The growth rate was only 1.7 percent in the decade 1901-11, while it recorded as 24.3 percent during 2001-11. Natural growth and rate migration in these cities/towns lower than class-I size.

12. Population growth in small Towns

In general, the small towns are adjacent to rural areas, which play vital role by providing crucial services in filling the

essential necessities of vast rural population. Moreover, migration has been take place from small to major towns/ cities in search of better opportunities. Further, developmental as well as industrials are heavily concentrated in big towns or cites, which cause attraction of population, leading to declining the growth of small towns. Thus, small towns are losing their importance in recent decades. In this study, small towns (Class size of IV–VI) were considered with having a population of less than 20,000. Table-5 gives information on Population growth in Class-IV size (10,000-19,999) of urban agglomeration and towns in India

Table-5: Population growth in Class-IV size (10,000-19,999) of 1 U.A's and 1,682 Towns.

Census year	Area in square kilometre	Persons	Variation since the preceding census Percentage		Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Density
			Variation	Percentage				
1901*	-	5,254,012	-	-	2,644,924	2,590,278	979	-
1911	-	4,995,912	-258,100	-4.91	2,556,593	2,439,319	954	-
1921	-	5,016,906	20,994	0.42	2,589,800	2,427,106	937	-
1931	-	5,883,899	866,993	17.28	3,064,612	2,819,287	920	-
1941	-	6,807,135	923,236	15.69	3,538,662	3,268,473	924	-
1951	-	8,265,277	1,458,142	21.42	4,263,158	4,002,119	939	-
1961	10,859.49	9,762,267	1,496,990	18.11	5,096,940	4,665,327	915	899
1971	11,840.48	11,795,579	2,033,312	20.83	6,165,722	5,629,857	913	996
1981	12,939.96	14,475,810	2,680,231	22.72	7,560,881	6,914,929	915	1119
1991	12,237.30	16,537,659	2,061,849	14.24	8,673,524	7,864,135	907	1351
2001	13,268.40	18,344,082	1,806,423	10.92	9,559,646	8,784,436	919	1383
2011	15,690.27	24,012,860	5,668,778	30.90	12,417,498	11,595,362	934	1530

Table-5 reveals that the area of urban increased by 1.5 times since 1961, the density of population was 899 persons in 1961 raised to 1530 persons by 2011. In 1901, 5.3 million persons reside in Class-IV towns recorded as 24.0 million by 2011 increased at 4.6 times. The towns lose population in 1901-11, but drastically gained 30.9 percent in 2001-11. The sex ratio was 979 to 934 in 2011 much better than class-I size.

13. Population growth in Class-V towns

These towns generally contain with meagre secondary and territory sector activities cause to low phase socio-economic progress. They act as mediators between other towns and villages by play crucial role in rural development through providing opportunities as well as amenities. Table-6 depicts data on Population growth in Class-V size (5,000 - 9,999) of towns.

Table-6: Population growth in Class-V size (5,000 - 9,999) of 1,749 Towns.

Census year	Area in square kilometre	Persons	Variation since the preceding census Percentage		Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Density
			Variation	Percentage				
1901	-	5,098,033	-	-	2588445	2509588	970	-
1911	-	4,958,385	-139,648	-2.74	2538775	2419610	953	-
1921	-	5,117,495	159,110	3.21	2633100	2484395	944	-
1931	-	5,608,492	490,997	9.59	2906852	2701640	929	-
1941	-	6,516,910	908,418	16.20	3363091	3153819	938	-
1951	-	7,911,864	1,394,954	21.41	4060744	3851120	948	-
1961	7990.73	5,486,629	-2,425,235	-30.65	2879425	2607204	905	687
1971	6528.57	4,933,012	-553,617	-10.09	2598811	2334201	898	756
1981	5073.91	5,560,931	627,919	12.73	2938660	2622271	892	1096

1991	5253.91	5,649,245	88,314	1.59	2971854	2677391	901	1075
2001	5844.11	6,180,652	531,407	9.41	3223492	2957160	917	1058
2011	9688.14	12,656,749	6,476,097	104.78	6518575	6138174	942	1306

Source: Census of India, 2011, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Minister of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Table-6 reveals that the Class-V size of towns were stagnant with fluctuation in growth of population. In 1901, only 5.1 million were inhabited in Class-V size of Towns, fluctuated upto 2001 and recorded as 12.7 million, increased by 2.5 times by 2011. These towns lose population in 1901-11, while gained heavy by 104.8 percent in 2011. It can be attributed to meagre or nil development of industrialization and low pace of socio-economic development in earlier decades, but progress of development in 2001-11. The rapid growth can be ascribed to natural growth, inflow of people and also upgradation of Class-VI towns thereby creation of large of new towns in recent decade. The area of Class-V towns had increased by 1.2 times only in 1961. The density was 687 persons in 1901, but almost

doubled (1306) by 2011. The sex ratio was 970 in 1901 declined to 942 in 2011 better than other big towns and cities.

14. Population growth in Class-VI size of towns

In general, the Class-VI sizes are small towns holding least category of urban dwelling status and upgraded from villages. These small towns are neighbour to rural areas, which stimulate commutations from surrounding areas, especially rural areas rather migration. Small towns have both urban as well rural features with agricultural, household, small scale Industrial and commercial activities. Table-6 depicts data on Population growth in Class-VI size of towns.

Table-7: Population growth in Class-VI size (Below 5,000) of Towns

Census year	Area in square kilometre	Persons	Variation since the preceding census Percentage		Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Density
			Variation	Percentage				
1901	-	1,559,292	-	-	807302	751990	931	-
1911	-	1,723,576	164,284	10.54	900920	822656	913	-
1921	-	1,999,445	275,869	16.01	1048539	950906	907	-
1931	-	1,777,268	-222,177	-11.11	938599	838669	894	-
1941	-	1,438,431	-338,837	-19.07	759334	679097	894	-
1951	-	1,942,847	504,416	35.07	1022401	920446	900	-
1961	1,485.43	733516	-1,209,331	-62.25	395519	337997	855	494
1971	1,217.35	620,770	-112,746	-15.37	334166	286604	858	510
1981	1,194.58	911,787	291,017	46.88	489965	421822	861	763
1991	1,067.77	770,448	-141,339	-15.50	411543	358905	872	722
2001	782.32	659,627	-110,821	-14.38	353257	306370	867	843
2011	1,743.12	1,678,025	1,018,398	154.39	872351	805674	924	963

Source: Census of India, 2011, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Minister of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Table-7 shows that in 1901, only 1.6 million inhabited in Class-VI size of towns, slightly increased to 1.7 million by 2011. It is worthwhile to note that in six decades, Class-VI size of towns had lost population, while in another six decades significantly gained with rapid growth in recent decade. Decline in population might be due to upgradation of small towns as large towns and out-migration, termed as out-migrating towns. On the other hand, rapid growth of population can be attributed to emerge of new towns and in-migration of population. The area of Class-VI size of towns had increased by 1.2 times only, while density had nearly doubled since 1961-2011. The sex ratio was 931 declined to 924 in 2011 much lower than other cities/towns. Thus, majority of class-VI size towns may contain agro-based and household industry towns, which had not recorded a high growth rate.

15. Urban Morphology

Cities/ big towns are mostly either economically or industrially developed with higher per capita income, consisting with high concentration of economic activities attracts more population there by holds higher shares of urban population. While, on the other hand, service and bi-functional towns had recorded moderate share. The small towns are generally middle level administrative units as well as apex body for implementing all welfare programmes. They contain agricultural, pretty business, small commercial and services sectors activities, therefore, causes to little share. Table-8: provides data on Share of Urban Population in All Towns and Urban Agglomerations in India, 1901-2011.

Table-8: Share of Urban Population in All Towns and Urban Agglomerations in India, 1901-2011.

Census year	Share of Urban Population by All Towns and Urban Agglomerations													
	Total Urban Population	%	Class-I size	%	Class-II size	%	Class-III size	%	Class-IV size	%	Class-V size	%	Class-VI size	%
1901	25,854,967	100.0	6,812,311	26.3	3,022,439	11.7	4,108,880	15.9	5,254,012	20.3	5,098,033	19.7	1,559,292	6.1
1911	25,948,431	100.0	7,207,623	27.8	2,885,028	11.1	4,177,907	16.1	4,995,912	19.3	4,958,385	19.1	1,723,576	6.6
1921	28,091,299	100.0	8,437,303	30.0	3,156,165	11.2	4,363,985	15.5	5,016,906	17.9	5,117,495	18.2	1,999,445	7.2
1931	33,462,539	100.0	10,805,234	32.3	3,891,261	11.6	5,496,385	16.4	5,883,899	17.6	5,608,492	16.8	1,777,268	5.3
1941	44,162,191	100.0	17,298,624	39.2	5,182,218	11.7	6,918,873	15.7	6,807,135	15.4	6,516,910	14.8	1,438,431	3.2

1951	62,443,709	100.0	28,438,656	45.5	6,285,865	10.1	9,599,200	15.4	8,265,277	13.2	7,911,864	12.7	1,942,847	3.1
1961	78,936,603	100.0	41,508,722	52.6	8,607,248	10.9	12,838,221	16.3	9,762,267	12.4	5,486,629	7.0	733,516	0.8
1971	109,113,977	100.0	63,454,904	58.2	11,660,063	10.7	16,649,649	15.3	11,795,579	10.8	4,933,012	4.5	620,770	0.5
1981	157,680,171	100.0	98,506,538	62.5	17,186,956	10.9	21,038,149	13.3	14,475,810	9.2	5,560,931	3.5	911,787	0.6
1991	215,771,612	100.0	142,358,648	66.0	22,739,477	10.5	27,716,135	12.8	16,537,659	7.7	5,649,245	2.6	770,448	0.4
2001	286,119,689	100.0	200,098,105	69.9	27,192,982	9.5	33,644,241	11.8	18,344,082	6.4	6,180,652	2.2	659,627	0.2
2011	377,106,125	100.0	264,745,519	70.2	32,179,677	8.5	41,833,295	11.1	24,012,860	6.4	12,656,749	3.4	1,678,025	0.4

Source: Census of India, 2011, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Minister of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

Table-8 depicts that the urban population inhabiting in big towns (Class-I and Class-II) has been rapidly increasing, while in medium towns (Class-III and Class-IV), the concentration has been gradually declining. On the other hand, the urban population has been drastically declining in small towns (Class-V and Class-VI). This shows the inflow of people to major cities and towns, where the rate of industrialisation and economic development is greater than other urban size class centers. Moreover, expansion of tertiary sector in major urban centers is major cause for employment opportunities in organized and unorganized for skilled and unskilled workers. While, the occupational structure in most of the small towns being agro-based and household industries, which have not attracted the high volume of migration, rather some of the people out-migrated from small towns to bigger towns and cities. Moreover, in small towns, with development of medium scale industries, transport as well as communication networks and commercial functions grow, thereby the population might increase and finally the small towns may be up graded to medium towns. Thus, the small towns were gradually declining.

16. Conclusion

Urbanisation in India has been unique demographic features with proportion of urban, absolute growth, growth of area, sex ratio and share of population by all towns and urban agglomerations during 1901-2011 censuses. The percent and absolute growth of urban population has been gradually increasing in earlier decades, but rapid in recent decades. In general, population increased rapidly than the area of urban. Sex ratio and density had increased significantly. Growth of population continuously high in Class-I size cities followed by Class-III sizes and Class-II sizes of towns. Sex ratio has been

higher in Class-III to V size of towns than class-I, II and VI size of towns, which shows sex selective migration. Urban area of Class-I size followed by Class-II size and Class-III size increased rapidly, while, among small towns, Class-V size of area recorded higher rate. The area of other two small towns (Class-V-VI) had least growth rate. Density of population had higher in cities/ big towns followed by medium and small towns. This reveals volume of migration and population pressure in different class size of towns. Share of population continuously high in Class-I size of Cities/Towns, while stagnant in Class-II size of cities/towns. The inhabitants of Class size of III-V towns had been rapidly declining since 1961, while marginal in Class VI size of towns. Thus, huge volume of sex selective migration had gained by class-I size of cities /towns.

17. Suggestions

1. Providing Urban facilities in Rural Areas (PURA) as well as initiation of commercial agricultural activities with attractive incentives by allotting huge amount in budgets significantly curtails out-migration from rural areas.
2. Small towns with medium can developed with small scale agro-based, commercial industries and emerge of service sectors encourage commutation of rural population.
3. Creation of satellites centers nearby major towns / cities divert migration of people and acts as linking centers. Further, creation of new business parks on the edge of cities (on Greenfield sites) results people no longer have to travel to the city centre. People then prefer to live on the outskirts of the city to be near where they work.

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