

# Urbanisation & The Development of Cities

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## ARTICLE DETAILS

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## ABSTRACT

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This paper highlights the way of growth of cities from time to time and how urbanisation boosts up. The major factor that leads to urbanisation is the migration of people from rural area towards cities, especially in search of work. To understand the concept of origin of towns or development of cities, one has to be very clear about two most important terms i.e. Neolithic Revolution and Urban Revolution. This paper shows that how ancient cities were transformed into modern cities and how the industrial cities came into existence. The different models and theories are also discussed for the topic to be more clear. The main models discussed below are concentric model theory, multiple nuclei theory, grid system etc. The negative impacts are also discussed that how due to rapid increase of urbanisation affects the environment and human life as well.

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## 1. Research Questions

1. What were the main factors that leads to urbanisation?
2. How cities were formed in ancient times?
3. What is the process of urbanisation?
4. How industrial Reet flourish?
5. How the different models are helpful for the structure arrangement of cities?

## 2. Research objectives

1. To find out the various factors that leads to urbanisation.
2. To know about the structure of ancient cities.
3. To study about the process of urbanisation.
4. To find out the role of industrial revolution in urbanisation.
5. To study various models of urban structure.
6. To Trace the historical background of urbanization in India
7. To critically evaluate the principles of urbanization and analyze the environmental impacts and problems of urbanization.

## 3. Research Methodology

1. Secondary data has been used in this paper from various previous studies on the topic.
2. In depth study of various models and examining their importance on the development of cities.
3. Study based mainly on secondary data and articles.

## 4. Introduction

Surely you must have heard the term "urbanisation" and are well acquainted with its meaning. You would probably relate it to the growth of cities. Urbanisation, becoming virtually urban; urban migration; other industries common in agriculture, For example, business is a process of moving to manufacturing, industry and management; and is a process of adaptive changes in the behavioural paradigm. Increasing the size of towns and cities tending to increase urban population is the most important dimension of urbanisation. Urban centres

are essentially non-agricultural in nature. In ancient times there were many cities , but when Industrialisation and industrial production and sector-level production have increased, cities have grown incompletely and now urbanisation has become an integral part of our present life.

Urbanisation is basically the increased concentration of population in the cities and the towns. The major factor that leads to urbanisation is the migration of people from rural area towards cities, specially in search of work.

In this paper we are going to discuss about various factors that leads to urbanisation and the development of cities.

To understand the concept of origin of towns or development of cities, one has to be very clear about two most important terms i.e. **Neolithic Revolution and Urban Revolution.**

Neolithic Revolution or the first agricultural revolution is transition of society or human culture from hunting and gathering to agricultural society and settlements.

Second is Urban Revolution in which social changes and social development was started. According to Gorden Childe an urban geographer , In Urban Revolution, he said that we are moving from a pre-literate agricultural society to a more complex industrial society.

Most important factor which leads to Urban Revolution are:

- cause and growth in technology
- surplus of food chain
- building of the capital
- These three are the pre conditions for the formation of city.

## 5. Ancient Cities:

The ancient cities were developed for the reason of agricultural production and economic scale.

In the early times there were many cities developed in the regions of Mesopotamia, Asia and in America

The very first cities were founded in Mesopotamia after the Neolithic Revolution around 7500 BC.

There were many old world cities like Erdu, Uruk and Ur. In Mesopotamia region and In America cities were formed in Andes and Mesoamerica.

In Indus Valley Mohanjodaro which is one of the largest early old city is located in present Pakistan.

The early old world cities used to have geographical diversity and mostly cities were formed based on their different forms and functions.

According to many archeologists and also excavations are the proof that earlier some cities were political capitals, some are trade centres and some are religious centres. Some of them are densely populated while others being political capitals still with less population pressure.

## 6. Formation of cities:

For a city to be formed there are two necessities i.e. a good environment and a strong social organisation.

In good environment all necessary amenities like clean water, good air, good living environment, etc. and in good and strong social organisations integration among people from different societies is very important for the different kinds of functions to be performed in the city. So like a good environment offers favourable conditions for growing crops and agriculture, similarly strong sense of organisations helps newly formed cities work together in times of need. Both must go hand in hand for the betterment of the city as it allows people to develop various functions to assist in further development also. Cities finally provide protection for people and the valuable things.

## 7. Process of urbanisation:

Urbanization as a structural process of change is usually associated with industrialization. But it is not always the result of urbanization. Urbanization Concentrations of large scale and small scale industrial and commercial, financial and administrative establishments in cities; Technological development in transport and communication; Cultural and fun - due to fun activities etc. The excess of urbanization over industrialisation which makes it possible to provide employment for all persons coming into urban areas is, in fact, the one that sometimes leads to over-urbanisation. A distinct visual phenomenon is observed in India: industrial development without any significant transfer of population from agriculture to industry, and the growth of urban population without any significant increase in the ratio of urban to total population. While in proportion, there may not be much transfer from rural to urban activities, but there is still widespread migration of population from rural areas to urban areas. Due to this, urban areas are completely filled up, so the population growth also creates a lack of structural facilities.

Urbanization is the name of a cultural and social psychological process by which people acquire physical and non-physical culture, including behavioural patterns, forms of organization, and ideas that originate in, or differ from, the city. Although cultural influences flow in both directions, both towards and away from the city, there is considerable agreement that the cultural effects used by the city on non-urban people are likely to be broader rather than adverse. Viewed in this light, urbanization has also resulted in the "westernization" of the world, as Toynbee says.-

## 8. Industrial Cities:

When the industrial revolution flourish, the cities expanded largely as then they became centres of the population growth and production.

During, Industrial era many cities grew briskly and attracted more population from the rural areas and so the concentration of population increased.

In 18<sup>th</sup> century rapid urbanisation was experienced. Many new cities were risen, first of all great cities were formed in Europe and then in other regions as well.

With the rise of new cities, new opportunities also attracted many migrants from the rural society into Urban areas.

In and around 1800 only about 3% of population used to live in Urban areas where as after the industrial revolution in the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century this figure was around 50 %.

Due to rapid growth to urbanisation many urban problems also arises side by side. Aggressively expanding cities are with full of danger to health as well as safety as industrial cities are quite deadly. Poor people used to live in slums with shared toilets, open sewers and contaminated water supplies.

Health conditions were improved in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with better sanitation but still small children continued to die due to cramped living conditions .

## 9. The structure of cities:

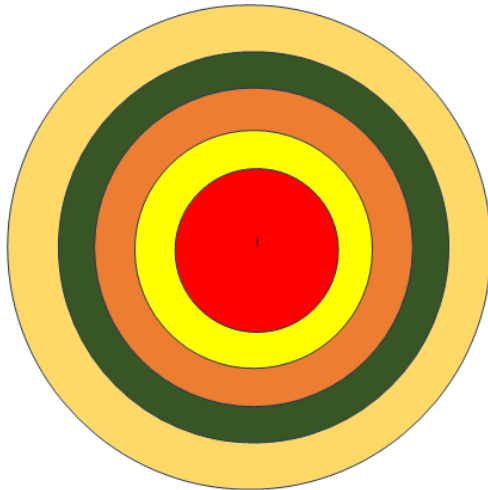
Different models need to be understood for the structure arrangement of cities: Different urban structure models are discussed as follows:

### Grid Model:

- According to grid model town planners used to divide land area into grids that means streets bisects each other at right angle.

### Concentric Ring Model:

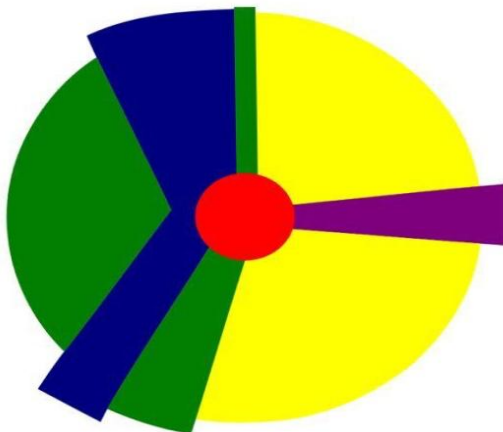
- The concentric zone theory was given by a sociologist Ernest Burgess in 1924, based on his observations of Chicago. He divided the city into different zones, the innermost zone represents the central business district (CBD), called zone A which is surrounded by zone B known as transition zone in which poor quality housing can be seen. The third zone C includes the housing of working class known as zone of independent workers' homes. The fourth zone is residents of middle class . Here new and large settlements can be seen. The last and outermost ring is commuter zone where high class residents are there.



**Concentric zone model**

This model divided city into different zones according to different groups and social functions.

This model was later failed due to topographical challenges. Even in Chicago, the concentric circles were not proper and were semi circles due to the location of Lake Michigan.



**Sector Theory:**

- Economist named Homer Hoyt gave this concept of sector theory in year 1939, he considered that cities develop in form of wedge shaped sector rather than in form of rings. According to this model certain areas of the city can flourish in various activities may be due to geographical phenomenon or any other reason and the sector gets expanded outwards becoming city sectors.

**Multiple Nuclei Theory:**

- This model was developed in 1945 to explain that how city formed after the spread of automobile. Now in this people are more comfortable with transportation due to increased car ownership and this leads to greater movement due to which different many centres can be seen in the city carrying out different activities with many nodes. This also prevents clustering at one particular place.

**Harris and Ullman's Multiple Nuclei Model**



**Irregular patterns:**

- In this model the cities were built with irregular blocks with no fixed order. This model used to explain the urban structure of the new cities. This shows that there were no planning for the construction of houses in the earlier times.

**10. Environmental and economic impact:**

•As the urbanisation increased the demand of good and services also increases and same as the price of land also shoots up due to which many poor or local working class will be pushed out of the real estate market and may be forced to live in undesirable social and cultural environment due to not coping up with high rates in the main core of city.

As the urbanisation increases it also hinders environment as for development, green areas have to be cleared for setting up buildings, industries, market, etc.

Urbanisation can also lead to "urban heat islands " which is caused due to replaced vegetation covering or open soil. Vegetation helps to evaporate water of soil and vegetation by using large amount of incoming solar radiation and temperature can be regulated and cools the environment.

On the other hand in cities one reason or urban heat island is less vegetation cover and second is more concentration of industries which also contribute to increasing temperature and global warming, also where there is more population there will be more vehicles which also adds to environmental pollution.

**11. Suburbanisation and counter-urbanisation:**

Suburbanisation and counter urbanisation means walking away from the cities.

This process can be mostly seen in developed nations in which people prefer to live in peace .

After a specific time during the process of development of cities, the city faces lack of safety, more theft, riots, murders, etc. can be experienced. So people specially middle and upper class tend to reside away from cities or we can say on the fringe of cities, as due to good transportation systems, good services, and good communication systems has been developed in cities, so people living in outer areas don't face lack of services.

Many cities can be seen with many adjoining small towns are result offers suburbanisation.

## 12. Urbanisation In India:

Here, we will explore the historical background of urbanisation in India and will see how the history of urban places was present and how effective the urbanization process was. Urbanization did not happen at one time but in history from time to time as societies became urbanized in different periods. It is an ongoing process and never stopped and rarely slowed down from its start. India has a long history of urbanization with spatial and temporal disjunctions. The first phase of urbanization in the Indus Valley is associated with the Harappan civilization in 2350 BC. Mohenjodaro and two cities named Harappa represent the climax of urban development in Harappan culture. This great urban civilization ended 1500 BC, possibly after the arrival of the Aryans. The second round of urbanization in India began around 600 BC. Architects of this era Arya in the north and Dravid in the south. After this period, for nearly 2500 years, India had a more or less continuous history of urbanization. This period saw the formation of early historical cities and the growth of cities in number and size, especially in the Maurya and Post-Mauryan period. The Mughal period has been another hallmark of urbanization in India (the first identity was in the Mauryan period), while many cities were established in India. The early period of British rule saw a decline in the level of Indian urbanization. The main reasons responsible for the decline of cities during this period were:

1) Lack of interest from the British in the prosperity and economic development of India and

2) Herald of Industrial Revolution in England. Indian cities regained some of their past importance in the latter half of British rule; Apart from this, the British gave birth to many new cities and cities, which was in addition to bringing out the new urban forms in the existing cities. Permanent components of the Indian urban system included the following elements:

1) Strategic - political city that played the role of a center for capital-flow interconnected and often redistributive systems in society;

And 2) temples or fully developed temple cities. The development of large variations between different periods and regions was associated with

(a) the level of existence of a fairly centralized inheritance:

(b) the comparative importance of coastal towns connected by remote territories;

And (c) the importance of temple centers and systems connected to more political and commercial cities. Aspects of British Influence on Urbanization The urban landscape of India went through a period of radical change during the 150 years of British rule. The contribution of the British to the Indian urban landscape can be expressed mainly in the following points:

- 1) The emergence of three metropolitan port cities (Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai) which emerged as the world's leading colonies - cities.
- 2) Rise of hill-stations (Shimla, Darjeeling, Mahavaleshwar, etc.) and plantation settlements in Assam, Kerala and elsewhere.
- 3) Installation of civil lines and cantonments. Civil lines had administrative offices and courts, as well as

residential areas for the officer class, while the cantonments were, most often, built near the major cities for safety.

- 4) the introduction of railways and modern industry that led to the creation of new industrial cities, such as Jamshedpur, Asansol, Dhanbad, etc., and
- 5) improvement in urban amenities and urban administration. Indian cities became the focal point of westernization in the British period. Schools and colleges trained boys and girls in Western thought and languages. A new western-oriented urban elite emerged, whose costumes, food habits and social behavior reflected post-colonial values and trends. Along with the westernization process, the urban elite saw a concomitant alienation from the urban and rural masses.

### Urbanization in the Post-Independence Period:

In this period, rapid urbanization was seen in India on a large scale, which had never been seen before. The following major changes occurred in India's urban landscape after independence:

- 1) Transfusion of refugees and their settlements, mainly in urban areas of northern India.
- 2) Formation of new administrative cities like Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Gandhinagar.
- 3) Formation of new industrial cities and urban areas near major cities.
- 4) Rapid development of one lakh and one million cities.
- 5) Dismantling and collapse of small towns.
- 6) Comprehensive growth of slums and rural-urban areas, and
- 7) Initiation of city plan and general improvement in civic amenities.

## 13. Conclusion

As you have seen, urbanization is an ongoing visual phenomenon, which is very difficult to understand from one point of view or analysis, especially India. In this unit we have tried to understand various aspects of urbanization - from history to the present situation, different approaches to study the problems of urbanization and its consequences. And we find that it is a process which is connected to many large structures and processes. As the globalization process is progressing rapidly, connecting the world in unprecedented ways, there is an indication that cities around the world will progressively show the same organizational form as technology is becoming more accessible throughout the world system. Some theorists state that the various forms of urban organization vary between the time and speed of the urbanization process, the difference in the status of cities in the world system, and the movement of different values and, for that reason, pursuing diverse goals for the future. The increasing effectiveness of judicious planning of the urbanization process by centralized governments has begun to emerge.

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