

Urbanization - Boon or Curse: An Analytical Study

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ABSTRACT

The goal of the current research is to examine the idea of urbanisation, including its dimensions and causes that have always drawn attention. Populations move from rural to urban areas and towns as a result of urbanisation. Urbanization is a multifaceted, global process that shows up in fast shifting human population levels and altered land uses. In short, the paper deals with the what are the responsible factors of urbanization and effects of urbanization. Urbanization as a process has proved to be a blessing or curse, have been pointed out in a systematic manner.

1. Introduction

"Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas, the corresponding decrease in the proportion of people living in rural areas, and the ways in which societies adapt to this change. It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people begin living and working in central areas."

The majority of people opt to live in cities and towns because they believe that rural areas have hard times and primitive lifestyles. Population shifts to more developed areas directly cause urbanisation (i.e., towns and cities).

People move from rural to urban areas through the process of urbanisation, which encourages the growth of cities and towns. It could also be characterised as a steady increase in urban and rural population. The notion that urban areas have excelled rural ones in terms of economic, political, and social growth strongly influences it.

Urbanization is very common in both developing and developed countries because more and more people want to live closer to towns and cities to get "privileged" social and economic services and benefits. These include social and economic advantages such better housing options, employment opportunities, access to transportation, access to health care, education, and hygienic conditions.

The inevitable result of social and economic growth is urbanisation. Global urbanisation is expanding quickly, which not only causes complex changes in land cover but also impacts the amount of vegetation, the city's surface albedo, the city's surface roughness, the area around it, the flow of urban hydrological and ecological systems, and the climate both above and below ground. For estimating the size of the city, tracking the process of urban growth, and assessing the effects of urbanisation, remote sensing provides comprehensive, accurate, impartial, and easily accessible information.

Urbanization is a multifaceted, global phenomenon that takes many different forms, including rapidly shifting land

cover and population densities. More species are seen as being in risk from urbanisation today than from any other human activity, and it is also the main factor pushing

Force for accelerating flora and animal homogeneity. The idea of ecosystem services has been effective in illustrating how urban ecosystems help people. Urban vegetation, for instance, may dramatically lower air pollution, lessen the impact of the urban heat island effect, reduce noise, and boost recreational and cultural elements that are vital to the wellbeing of city dwellers. There are new opportunities because metropolitan environments are where knowledge innovation, human and financial resources, and potential solutions to the world's environmental challenges are most likely to be found.

We might conclude that the world is growing increasingly urbanised and that society is evolving. What is the primary concept of urbanisation? The term "urbanisation" itself describes the movement of people from rural to urban locations. Urbanization is a more civilised way of life than the way we typically live. Urban and Rural these two are the most significant part of India. Urbanization is a major parameter of a social economic form of a country. But also in urban life these are so many difficulties that people have to face that everyday.

Still we can say that if urbanization had not been there then we would be living in a world where still no concept of cities and towns had been in place Urbanization has brought this world closer and the whole population seems to work as a single entity. The Urbanization concept has led to some of the greatest inventions and discoveries of the modern world and it is still giving motivations for the development of new technologies and exploring new areas.

But on the other side we see that it has led to one of the biggest menace i.e. pollution and a change in the ecosystem balance. It has now become a curse which we can not get rid of due to our own dependency on it. It looks like we are addicted to urbanization, and it has become our master.

India has many of the same characteristics of urbanisation as underdeveloped nations. It is the most important phenomenon of the 20th century and has almost impacted every facet of Indian national life.

The Urbanization has proved blessings in disguise for various reasons.

1. **Industrialization-** It refers to the growth of industries in urban areas to the large scale providing the opportunity of employment and acting as magnet for the attraction of people from rural areas and other small town. Through the industrial revolution, more people have been attracted to move from rural to urban areas on account of improved employment opportunities
2. **Improvement in Transportaton-** Urban centers are known for good means of transports on which whole economy of the cities is dependent. These also act as means of attraction from rural people and thus proving as blessing for them.
3. **Improved Communication-** Means of communication have played a vital role in the cities economic development and which in turn have proved blessing in attracting people from rural areas as well as for those people living in the cities.
4. **Higher Educational Facilities-** These are the most important reasons for the urban centers to prove as blessing. It is the established fact that governments have established all the higher educational centers in the big and small urban areas which have acted as source for attraction to all kinds of people seeking the facilities for higher education.
5. **Commercialization-** Trade and commerce are important factors in urbanisation. The distribution of goods and commercial transactions have given rise to modern marketing institutions and exchange systems, considerably accelerating the growth of towns and cities.
6. **Social Services and Advantages** - There are a number of social benefits to residing in a city or town. It includes things like better housing and sanitation, educational possibilities, health care, recreational activities, and social life in general. As a result, more people are being enticed to relocate to cities and towns so they can take advantage of a variety of social advantages and services that are unavailable in rural areas.
7. **Employment Prospects** - Because there are so many jobs accessible in cities and towns, people from rural areas are constantly lured there in quest of better employment prospects.

The majority of individuals often move to metropolitan areas in quest of well-paying employment due to the abundance of employment opportunities in all development sectors, including public health, education, transportation, sports and recreation, industries, and business enterprises.

8. **Modernization and Change in the Mode of Living** - The process of urbanisation cannot be completed without modernization. When metropolitan regions

have access to highly sophisticated communication, infrastructure, medical facilities, dress code, enlightenment, liberalism, and other social amenities, people believe they can live peacefully in cities.

As a result, people relocate to cities, and cities grow to accommodate the daily rise in population.

9. **Rural Urban Transformation-** Cities begin to emerge when the rural areas transition into urbanism as localities get more and more fertile and affluent as a result of the discovery of minerals, resource exploitation, or agricultural activities. Productivity growth generates economic expansion and more high-value employment possibilities.

As a result, rural areas begin to absorb metropolitan culture and eventually develop into urban centres that continue to expand as more people relocate there in quest of a higher quality of life.

On one side urbanization is a major parameter of a social-economic form of a country. But also in urban life, there are so many difficulties that people have to face that everyday. It has also bad side to the life of human.

Urbanization's effects

1. **Housing Issues:** As a result of urbanisation, there is a significant growth in population in cities and towns. The number of people residing in metropolitan areas is rising, contributing to the ongoing housing shortage. Even so, the government is making every effort to give them housing.
2. **Overcrowding Population-** Overcrowding or population refers to a scenario in which a large number of people reside in a small area. Due to overpopulation, urban areas frequently experience this type of congestion.
3. **Unemployment** is a problem that is most prevalent in metropolitan areas and is especially more prevalent among educated people.
4. **Slum development:** The expense of living in cities is extremely high. Slums and squatter communities, which are examples of illegal resident settlements, are on the rise as a result of this, random and unanticipated expansion, and unemployment.
5. **Water and sanitation** issues are frequently caused by inadequate sewage systems due to overpopulation and a rapid increase in population in most urban locations. As a result, sanitary conditions deteriorate.
6. **Poor Health Spread of Diseases-** Access to and use of public health care services is impacted by the socioeconomic and living circumstances in congested urban regions. Slum populations are typically more susceptible to communicable diseases such as allergies, asthma, food poisoning, cancer, and early mortality due to inadequate sanitation and limited water supplies.
7. **Traffic Congestion-** It is the transportation system is one of the key issues that arises as more people move to towns and cities.
8. **Urban Crime:** Issues including poverty, unemployment, overpopulation, and a lack of social

services and education frequently cause a wide range of social issues, such as violence, drug misuse, and crime.

Murder, rape, kidnapping, riots, assault theft, robbery, and hijacking are among the crimes that are reportedly more common in metropolitan areas. Urbanization is thereby creating social and economic disparities that are responsible for social tensions, crime, and extracurricular activities.

9. **Environmental Population:** In metropolitan areas, environmental population becomes a major issue. Very little greenery can be found in metropolitan settings, which would help some of the gases that are absorbed by plants to minimise their harmful presence in the atmosphere. The commuting and rural lifestyles have a negative impact on the quality of the air in urban regions. Environmental pollution is a problem nowadays and has an impact on people's health.

In order for people to be able to make a livelihood and pay for the upkeep of the services, it is necessary to supply and implement wealth development and employment opportunities.

3. **Creation of More Jobs** - Private investments should be promoted in order to exploit natural resources and increase job possibilities in order to decrease the adverse consequences of fast urbanisation while also maintaining natural ecosystems.
4. **Population control** - Important stakeholders in metropolitan areas must run campaigns and offer advice on family planning and efficient medical clinics to deal with the high rates of population increase and disease control.

India's population is growing quickly, and Mr. Narendra Modi, the country's prime minister, has stepped up to address urbanization-related problems.

Remedies for urbanisation

1. **Building Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Cities:** Given that people shouldn't live in dangerous or polluting locations, the government should enact laws that design and supply environmentally sound cities and smart growth approaches.

The goal is to create sustainable cities that prioritise bettering the environment and providing secure homes for all urban residents.

The government should also promote the efficient use of urban resources and support an economy built on environmentally sound practises, such as investing in green infrastructure, environmentally sound businesses, recycling and environmental campaigns, pollution control, green public transportation powered by renewable energy, and water recycling and reclamation.

2. **Provision of Vital Services** - Urban stakeholders must make sure that all residents have access to the necessary essential social services, including enough education, proper health care, sanitation and clean water technology, energy, food, and communication systems.

Making the economics of small towns and villages viable is the most effective strategy to address urbanisation challenges. It is suggested that in order for surplus labour to move to cities, it must first be absorbed in rural areas. Government should offer funding to promote entrepreneurship and identify solutions to issues that affect both urban and rural areas.

Numerous studies indicate that urbanisation is advantageous for a nation's financial development, but careful planning is needed to build cities and provide the necessities for a quality life.

Urbanization has been considered as both a blessing and a curse. On the one hand, it has helped the economy grow overall through industrialization and related activities, but on the other, unchecked and endless flow of people into urban areas has overwhelmed all the resources. In this way, urbanisation has been both a blessing and a curse for city people, causing a variety of issues like congestion.

Whether one likes it or not, urbanisation is here to stay, whether it is a blessing or a curse (bane). While we cannot halt the urbanisation train, the government can enforce certain laws and regulations to at least lessen its negative effects.

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