

## THE PROBLEM OF URBANIZATION IN INDIA: A SOCIAL STUDY

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Gohil Bhagyashree Bhupatbhai\*

### ABSTRACT

*The process of urbanization is one of the main factors of social change and economic development in modern times. The process of urbanization in India dates back to ancient times. History of Urbanization in India Many reasons have been responsible for the causes of urbanization. Since the beginning of the 19th century, cities and towns around the world have started to develop at a rapid pace. Due to the extensive impact of urban life on the activities of human life, many changes have been observed. Hence many of the learned thinkers of the 19th century social thinkers gave a special place to the study of cities in the history of human society and civilization. India's cities have seen a steady growth since independence, with rural employment shortages seen as an important reason. Similarly, there is a tendency of people to live and settle in cities due to the abundance of education, employment, modern lifestyle and entertainment facilities in cities. People have been seen settling in cities for a modern lifestyle. In cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Surat in India, the population is increasing day by day. Urbanization has grown very rapidly in such cities. With increasing urbanization many problems have arisen in the city. In which many problems like poverty, unemployment, dirty habitations, crime, addiction, drugs, gambling, fights urban housing problem, clean water problem, proper waste disposal have surrounded the city. Urbanization has developed very rapidly after independence, so before we take note of the observed problem of urbanization let us look at the meaning of urbanization.*

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Economic Development, Human Life, Social Thinkers, Gambling.

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### Introduction

#### Urbanization Means

- According to Kotis the increase in proportion of population living in cities is called urbanization.
- According to Bargel, urbanization is the process of transformation of village into city, and urbanization is the process of emergence and development of city.

Thus, as seen above, urbanization means the development of cities, as well as the growth of cities, the increasing movement of people from villages to cities, due to which the population in cities is continuously increasing. Due to which the city develops and grows. After looking at the meaning of urbanization let us look at the problem caused by urbanization.

#### Problems Caused by Urbanization

Due to urbanization in India many problems have arisen. Which can be said to have arisen due to urban development. Crime and prostitution, problems of social deviance, problems related to housing etc. are related to urbanization, besides crime, prostitution, housing, dirty living, environment, health etc. problems are attributed to urbanization itself. Which is discussed in detail below.

#### Problems Related to Civil Life

- **Accommodation Problem**

Due to urbanization, the problem of housing in cities becomes very serious, and it has become very difficult to get housing in big cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Surat, Ahmedabad in India. There is a severe housing shortage in big cities these days.

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\* Assistant Professor, Maharani Shree Nandkumbar College of Arts and Commerce for Women, Nilambagh, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India.

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- **Problems of Civic Amenities in Cities**

In cities with increasing population, many civic amenities like drinking water, clean air, ventilated houses, proper disposal of waste, clean environment are not properly available to the people. The growth of cities in India is seen to be much higher than the economic, industrial and civil service capacity of the city and to provide various amenities. Because, the population is found to be more than the required facilities and at such times people get inadequate facilities. Traffic has become a huge problem in cities at present.

- **Pollution Problem**

Due to urbanization, a very serious form of pollution has been observed in cities nowadays. Due to increasing pollution, people in cities have also faced many diseases. People do not get a clean environment, the problem of pollution has become very acute. In cities in India, population density and cramped airless buildings create pollution. Similarly, due to the growth of industrialization in cities, the problem of pollution has also become severe.

### **Social Problems Arising out of Urbanization**

- **Pollution Problem**

With the growth of urbanization in India, the population of Indian cities has increased very rapidly. On the other hand, new houses have not been built in the cities, as a result of which the labourers and low-income people have faced very serious housing problems. Due to the dense population in the city, people do not get housing easily, so they are forced to live in dirty habitats. A large number of the population in the cities of India live in filthy habitations, which are unfit for human habitation and have also proved to be very dangerous. Mumbai's Dharavi has proven to be the world's largest slum. Such habitats lack ventilation and lack proper drainage. Due to this, people have to suffer from many diseases.

- **Problem of Poverty**

In big cities there are both poor and rich classes. There is a lot of inequality between these two classes. Due to the increase in population in the city, people are not getting enough employment. A study of many cities has found that the lives of people living in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Lucknow are not satisfactory. Because, due to the increase in population density in the city, the rate of poverty in the cities has been seen to increase a lot. The standard of living of the people has been found to be very low. Many families in the cities have been seen living below the poverty line.

- **Problem of Unemployment**

The problem of unemployment in the cities has increased greatly. Due to the lack of employment in the villages, a large number of people come to live in the cities for employment. On the other hand, there is not enough employment in the cities to meet the growing population, and the city has not been able to provide employment to all the people. Hence a large class of unemployed has arisen in the cities. Some studies have found that cities have more educated unemployed than uneducated unemployed. Because, against the growing population, there is no employment, so one has to remain unemployed.

- **Crime Problem**

Due to the increasing population, the problem of crime is increasing in the city nowadays. Due to factors such as distant control, distant relations, poverty, unemployment, lack of sense of security, various crimes have been increasing in the city. For example, many crimes like theft, robbery, assault, kidnapping, gambling, alcohol, fraud have been seen increasing.

- **Problem of Juvenile Delinquency**

Currently, the incidence of juvenile delinquency in cities has also increased, which is a very serious matter. Children are also driven to engage in criminal activities. In cities, children have been found involved in many activities like pickpocketing in places like railway stations, bus stations, bazaars. There is evidence of juvenile delinquency as the number of juvenile court cases increases. Studies have shown that children living in squalid areas tend to commit crimes due to lack of adequate supplies.

- **Problem of Prostitution**

The problem of prostitution is also seen in the city. Women facing poverty in cities have joined the prostitution business to earn money. Men are also involved in this profession. Men work to take

women from one place to another. In the cities, there is a large number of buyers of female body, as well as brokers related to this business of women. Who manages the entire woman and brings his customers to the woman, in return they get huge profits. A woman joins the prostitution business against her will to earn money.

- **Problem of Begging**

The problem of begging in urban society in India is unique, it is not only an economic problem but also has socio-cultural factors at its base. In social terms, begging has received socio-cultural and religious support, fostering the spirit of charity, and this problem has become more acute with increasing industrialization. People maintain their standard of living by receiving alms. An increase in the number of beggars has been reported in the urban society.

### Urbanization in India

- **Urbanization in Pre-Independence India**

In historical times there were cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. Cities also existed in antiquity and the Middle Ages, but adequate information is not available on the scale and characteristics of urbanization at that time. However, the cities of Kashi, Prayag, Ayodhya, Haridwar, Mathura etc. are notable among the ancient cities. Some information is available which throws light on the processes of urbanization in India during the Mauryan era. The number of cities during the Mauryan period increased as small towns began to transform into large cities. Among these, Nalanda, Meerut, Pataliputra, Somnath etc. have been mentioned. Many cities developed during the Mauryan era. Many new towns were established during the Gupta era, cities like Nashik, Ujjain flourished. On the other hand, Delhi, Agra, Ferozpur are notable among the new cities that emerged during the Muslim and Mughal periods. During the reign of Akbar, old towns were destroyed and new towns were built, among them Fatehpur, Shikhar, Ferozabad.

During the British period, the process of urbanization accelerated due to factors such as industrialization, development of transport equipment, development of education etc. The process of urbanization can be known from the following information which makes the data available to know the extent of the process of urbanization with the commencement of census during British rule.

| Year | % of City Population | % of Rural Population |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1872 | 8.72                 | 9.28                  |
| 1881 | 9.41                 | 90.59                 |
| 1891 | 9.46                 | 90.54                 |
| 1901 | 10.80                | 89.16                 |
| 1911 | 10.29                | 89.71                 |
| 1921 | 11.99                | 88.01                 |
| 1941 | 13.85                | 86.15                 |

Thus, the number of cities has decreased in the first decade, but the number of cities has gradually increased in the subsequent decades. During the four decades from 1901 to 1941 there was an increase in the number of cities by 507. Thus we see the process of urbanization in pre-independence India, in which some cities have been destroyed. So some cities have arisen. As the population of the city increases, the size, density and number of cities also increase.

### Urbanization in India after Independence

After independence various cities of India have developed. In which cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata have developed. The pace of urbanization in India has increased since independence, especially the factors of planned development have played a significant part in it. Since independence, India has seen a steady decline in the percentage of rural population, and an increase in the percentage of urban population. It is proved from the following table.

| Year | Urban Population    | Percentage Of Urban Population To Total Population |
|------|---------------------|--|
| 1951 | More than 6 crores  | 17.3   |
| 1961 | About 8 crores      | 18.0   |
| 1971 | More than 10 crores | 19.9   |
| 1981 | More than 15 crores | 23.3   |
| 1991 | More than 21 crores | 25.7   |

Thus, it can be seen from the above information that 82.3 percent of India's total population was living in rural areas at the initial stage after India's independence. Which decreased to 74% in the year 1991. All these numerical data are related to the process of urbanization in India.

#### Status of Urbanization in Indian States

The growth of urbanization is observed differently in each state of India. If we look at the states of India, states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana are witnessing very rapid urbanization. Also, most parts of India's Middle East and North East India have seen very low urbanization, similarly, large cities of these states such as Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Surat have seen large population growth. Due to this, the rate of urbanization of those states has been seen to be high. Let us understand the urbanization of the states of India as well as the head of city population from the following table.

#### Urbanization of Indian States

| Sr. No. | State                  | Urban Population (in millions) | Urban % | Average annual urban growth rate | Average annual rural growth rate |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1       | Andhra Pradesh         | 28.35                          | 33.4    | 3.09                             | 0.19                             |
| 2       | Arunachal Pradesh      | 0.31                           | 22.6    | 3.18                             | 2.07                             |
| 3       | Assam                  | 4.38                           | 14.0    | 2.43                             | 1.41                             |
| 4       | Bihar                  | 11.72                          | 11.30   | 3.01                             | 2.15                             |
| 5       | Chhattisgarh           | 5.93                           | 23.2    | 3.49                             | 1.65                             |
| 6       | Goa                    | 0.90                           | 62.1    | 3.01                             | -2.02                            |
| 7       | Gujarat                | 25.71                          | 42.5    | 3.06                             | 0.89                             |
| 8       | Haryana                | 8.82                           | 34.7    | 3.66                             | 0.99                             |
| 9       | Himachal Pradesh       | 0.68                           | 10.0    | 1.45                             | 1.17                             |
| 10      | Jammu Kashmir          | 3.41                           | 27.2    | 3.04                             | 1.88                             |
| 11      | Jharkhand              | 7.92                           | 24.0    | 2.79                             | 1.79                             |
| 12      | Karnataka              | 23.57                          | 38.5    | 2.72                             | 0.75                             |
| 13      | Kerala                 | 15.93                          | 47.7    | 6.56                             | -3.00                            |
| 14      | Madhya Pradesh         | 20.05                          | 27.6    | 2.28                             | 1.70                             |
| 15      | Maharashtra            | 50.82                          | 45.2    | 2.12                             | 0.99                             |
| 16      | Manipur                | 0.82                           | 30.2    | 3.55                             | 0.43                             |
| 17      | Meghalaya              | 0.59                           | 20.0    | 2.7                              | 2.45                             |
| 18      | Mizoram                | 0.56                           | 51.5    | 2.42                             | 1.61                             |
| 19      | Nagaland               | 0.57                           | 28.9    | 5.15                             | -1.5                             |
| 20      | Orissa                 | 6.99                           | 16.6    | 2.37                             | 1.13                             |
| 21      | Punjab                 | 10.38                          | 37.4    | 2.28                             | 0.76                             |
| 22      | Rajasthan              | 17.08                          | 22.8    | 2.56                             | 1.74                             |
| 23      | Sikkim                 | 0.15                           | 24.9    | 9.29                             | -0.52                            |
| 24      | Tamil Nadu             | 34.94                          | 48.4    | 2.4                              | 0.64                             |
| 25      | Tripura                | 0.96                           | 26.1    | 5.65                             | 0.23                             |
| 26      | Uttar Pradesh          | 44.47                          | 22.2    | 2.52                             | 1.64                             |
| 27      | Uttarakhand            | 3.09                           | 30.5    | 3.49                             | 1.07                             |
| 28      | West Bengal            | 29.13                          | 31.8    | 2.61                             | 0.74                             |
| 29      | Andaman Nicobar Temple | 0.13                           | 35.6    | 1.53                             | 0.18                             |
| 30      | Chandigarh             | 1.02                           | 97.2    | 1.3                              | -11.55                           |
| 31      | Dadra-Nagar Haveli     | 0.15                           | 46.6    | 11.52                            | 0.73                             |
| 32      | Diu Daman              | 0.18                           | 75.1    | 11.58                            | -5.12                            |
| 33      | Delhi                  | 16.33                          | 97.5    | 2.35                             | -8.31                            |
| 34      | Lakshadweep            | 0.05                           | 78.0    | 6.23                             | -8.68                            |
| 35      | Pondicherry            | 0.85                           | 68.3    | 2.71                             | 1.91                             |
| 36      | India                  | 377.10                         | 31.1    | 2.76                             | 1.16                             |

Thus, as seen above, the status of urbanization in each of India is different. Urbanization represents differences in urban-rural development. Some states have seen very rapid urbanization, some states have seen less.

#### Overpopulated Cities in India

Some cities in India have a population of over a million. It has increased from 5 in 1951 to 23 in 1991 and to 35 in 2001. About 37% of the total urban population lives in these cities. As per 2001 census, the following cities have population.

| Overcrowded Cities 1951-2001 |           |                          |      |       |       |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Sr. No.                      | City Name | Population (in millions) |      |       |       |
|                              |           | 1951                     | 1971 | 1991  | 2001  |
| 1                            | Mumbai    | 2.97                     | 5.97 | 12.57 | 16.37 |
| 2                            | Calcutta  | 4.67                     | 7.42 | 10.92 | 13.22 |
| 3                            | Delhi     | 1.44                     | 3.65 | 8.38  | 12.79 |
| 4                            | Chennai   | 1.54                     | 3.17 | 5.36  | 6.42  |
| 5                            | Ahmedabad | 0.88                     | 1.75 | 3.30  | 4.52  |
| 6                            | Pune      | 0.61                     | 1.14 | 2.49  | 3.75  |
| 7                            | Kanpur    | 0.71                     | 1.28 | 2.11  | 2.59  |
| 8                            | Nagpur    | 0.48                     | 0.93 | 1.66  | 2.12  |

Thus, looking at the above mentioned cities, it is known that the population in the above mentioned cities has grown very fast. So the urbanization of these cities has become very fast.

#### Urban Population of India

India's urban population has seen a tremendous increase in recent years. We see the number of urban population by the table given below.

| Year | Population  | % Of Total | Difference |
|------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 2022 | 508,368,361 | 35.87      | 2.2 %      |
| 2021 | 498,179,071 | 35.39      | 2.13 %     |
| 2020 | 487,72,168  | 34.93      | 2.26 %     |
| 2019 | 476,786,386 | 34.47      | 2.32 %     |
| 2018 | 465,871,825 | 34.03      | 2.36 %     |
| 2017 | 455,009,748 | 33.60      | 2.41 %     |
| 2016 | 444,595,954 | 32.78      | 2.39 %     |
| 2015 | 433,595,954 | 32.38      | 2.42 %     |
| 2014 | 423,338,709 | 32.38      | 2.42 %     |
| 2013 | 413,200,994 | 32.00      | 2.46 %     |
| 2012 | 403,171,286 | 31.63      | 2.47 %     |
| 2011 | 393,333,604 | 31.28      | 2.47 %     |
| 2010 | 383,721,793 | 30.93      | 2.49 %     |
| 2009 | 374,274,816 | 30.59      | 2.51 %     |
| 2008 | 364,989,009 | 30.25      | 2.55 %     |
| 2007 | 355,789,232 | 29.91      | 2.60 %     |
| 2006 | 346,659,205 | 29.57      | 2.66 %     |
| 2005 | 337,558,628 | 29.24      | 2.75 %     |
| 2004 | 328,414,552 | 28.90      | 2.82 %     |
| 2003 | 319,267,849 | 28.57      | 2.88 %     |
| 2002 | 310,207,535 | 28.24      | 2.94 %     |
| 2001 | 301,227,098 | 27.92      | 2.71 %     |
| 2000 | 293,168,849 | 27.67      | 2.60 %     |

Thus, it will be seen from the above table that the population in the cities is increasing day by day due to which the urbanization has happened very fast. Against this, the urbanizing cities have developed very fast, but the cities have to face many problems.

### **Conclusion**

Thus India has seen very rapid urbanization since independence. Many problems have also arisen in the Indian society due to increasing urbanization. The problem that has plagued the cities with many problems, the problem has hindered the development of many cities. Some of the positive effects of urbanization also flow into society. On the other hand, due to urbanization, cities have also faced many problems, among them, many problems like poverty, unemployment, crime, drug consumption, housing problem, drinking water problem, clean environment have engulfed the society due to urbanization. Thus urbanization has created problems in the city.

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