

IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON INDIA

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Abstract

Urbanization is a population shift from rural to urban areas and the ways in which society adapts to change. It predominately results in the physical growth of urban areas, be it horizontally or vertically. Main objectives of present research paper are as under: To study the Impact of urbanization on India and its related problems. To suggest the appropriate measures to solve the urban problems. In this paper we use data from two different sources: Census of India 2001 and 2011, and the all-India household Survey of Employment and Unemployment and Migration Particulars periodically conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), India. Redirection of investment is recommended to develop strong economic base for small and medium cities neglected so far. Redirection of migration flows is required. Since the mega cities have reached saturation level for employment generation and to avoid over-crowding into the over congested slums of mega cities i.e. Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras etc it is required to build strong economic sector (Kundu and Basu, 1998) in the urban economy, growth efforts and investments should be directed towards small cities which have been neglected so far so that functional base of urban economy is strengthened. Then redirection of migration to this desirable destination will be possible.

Key Words: Urbanization, Industrialization.

Introduction

Urbanization is a population shift from rural to urban areas and the ways in which society adapts to change. It predominately results in the physical growth of urban areas, be it horizontally or vertically. The United Nations projected that half of the world's population would live in urban areas at the end of 2008. There is great diversity in the characteristics of the world's urban environs: close to half of urban dwellers reside in relatively small settlements of less than 500,000 inhabitants, while nearly one in eight live in the 28 mega-cities of 10 million inhabitants or more. The number of mega-cities has nearly tripled since 1990; and by 2030, 41 urban agglomerations are projected to house at least 10 million inhabitants each. Whereas several decades ago most of the world's largest urban agglomerations were found in the more developed regions, today's large cities are concentrated in the global South, and the fastest-growing agglomerations are medium-sized cities and cities with 500,000 to 1 million inhabitants located in Asia and Africa. It is predicted that by 2050 about 64% of the world's population will live in urban areas. So India's main problems arising from urbanization and its related problems so need for planning to solve the India urbanization problems. Urbanization is key to development but not a negative impact of the development on the country. Rural areas are backward and urban areas spread effects so the increasing population and not available for the urban land and conjugated to live in urban areas. So the study of the research topic is impact of urbanization on India and causes, consequences, impact, and environmental problems.

Objective

Main objectives of present research paper are as under: To study the Impact of urbanization on India and its related problems. To suggest the appropriate measures to solve the urban problems.

Indian Census Definition of Urban Area

In Census of India, 2001 two types of town were identified (R.G,2001)

a) Statutory towns : All places with a municipality, corporation, Cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc. so declared by state law.

b) Census towns : Places which satisfy following criteria :-

- i) A minimum population of 5000 ;
- ii) At least 75% of male working population engaged in non agricultural pursuits; and
- iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq km

Research Methodology

In this paper we use data from two different sources: Census of India 2001 and 2011, and the all-India household Survey of Employment and Unemployment and Migration Particulars periodically conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), India. The Census of India is conducted at the beginning of every decade by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India³. Data from Census of India has detailed information on distribution of population across rural and urban areas at the sub national level. However, put together, these two sources help provide a composite picture in order to shed light on the above mentioned questions.

Volume and Trend of Urbanization in India

India shares most characteristic features of urbanization in the developing countries. Number of urban agglomeration /town has grown from 1827 in 1901 to 5161 in 2001. Number of total population has increased from 23.84 cores in 1901 to 102.7 cores in 2001 whereas number. of population residing in urban areas has increased from 2.58 cores in 1901 to 28.53 corer in 2001. (table 2) This process of urbanization in India is shown in Fig 1 . It reflects a gradual increasing trend of urbanization. India is at acceleration stage of the process of urbanization

Degree of Urbanization

The degree or level of urbanization is defined as relative number of people who live in urban areas. Percent urban $[(U/P)*100]$ and percent rural $[(R/P)*100]$ and urban-rural ratio $[(U/R)*100]$ are used to measure degree of urbanization These are most commonly used for measuring degree of urbanization. The ratio U/P has lower limit 0 and upper limit 1 i.e. $0 < U/P < 1$. The index is 0 for total population equal to rural population. When whole population is urban, this index is one. When 50 percent of the population is rural, it means that there is one urbanite for each rural person. The urban-rural ratio has a lower limit of zero and upper limit ∞ i.e $0 < U/R < \infty$. Theoretically upper limit will be infinite when there is no rural population ($R=0$) but this is impossible. From table 4 it is clear that percent urban has increased from 11% in 1901 to 28% in 2001, whereas percent rural has shown gradual decrease from 89% to 72% over a century. Urban rural ratio which is a simple index measuring number of urbanites for each rural person in an areal unit experiences an increasing trend during hundred years in the process of urbanization in India. The urban-rural ratio for India in 2001 turns out to be 6 around 38, meaning that against every 100 ruralites there are 38 urbanites in India in 2001. All these indices pin point that India is in the process of urbanization (Sovani, 1966) and it is at the acceleration stage of urbanization. These are presented graphically in the table

Table 1. Degree/Index of Urbanization 1901-2001

Census years	Percent urban	Percent Rural	Urban- Rural Ratio(percent)
1901	10.84	89.15	12.16
1911	10.29	89.71	11.47
1921	11.18	88.82	12.58
1931	11.99	88.01	13.63
1941	13.86	86.14	16.08
1951	17.29	82.71	20.91
1961	17.97	82.03	21.91
1971	18.24	81.76	22.31
1981	23.33	76.66	30.44
1991	25.72	74.28	34.63
2001	27.78	72.22	38.47

Problem of Urbanization:

1) Problem of urbanization is manifestation of lopsided urbanization, faulty urban planning, and urbanization with poor economic base and without having functional categories. Hence India's urbanization is followed by some basic problems in the field of:

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| 1) Housing, | 2) Slums, |
| 3) Transport | 4) Water supply and sanitation, |
| 5) Water pollution and air pollution, | 6) Inadequate provision for social |
| Infrastructure (school, hospital, etc) | 7) Industrialization |
| 8) Social factor | 9) Employment opportunities |
| 10) Modernization | 11) Rural Urban Transformation |
| 12) Spread of education | 13) Problems of Population |
| 14) Migration | 15) Employment |
| 16) Transport and communication | 17) Education Facilities |
| 18) Increase the standard of living | 19) Disintegration of joint family |
| 20) Cost of living | 21) Increase in Crime rates |
| 22) Impersonal relations | 23) Problems of pollution |
| 24) Stress | |

Class I cities such as Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Madras etc have reached saturation level of employment generating capacity (Kundu,1997). Since these cities are suffering from of urban poverty, unemployment, housing shortage, crisis in urban infra-structural services these large cities can not absorb these distressed rural migrants i.e. poor landless illiterate and unskilled agricultural laborers. Hence this migration to urban class I cities causes' urban crisis more acute.

2) Most of these cities using capital intensive technologies can not generate employment for these distress rural poor. So there is transfer of rural poverty to urban poverty. Poverty induced migration of illiterate and unskilled laborer occurs in class I cities addressing urban involution and urban decay.

3) Indian urbanization is involutes not evaluated (Mukherji, 1995). Poverty induced migration occurs due to rural push. Megacities grow in urban population (Nayak,1962) not in urban

prosperity, and culture. Hence it is urbanization without urban functional characteristics. These mega cities are subject to extreme filthy slum and very cruel mega city denying shelter, 14 drinking water, electricity, sanitation (Kundu,,Bagchi and Kundu, 1999) to the extreme poor and rural migrants.

4) Urbanization is degenerating social and economic inequalities (Kundu and Gupta, 1996) which arrant social conflicts, crimes and anti-social activities. Lopsided and uncontrolled urbanization led to environmental degradation and degradation in the quality of urban life---- pollution in sound, air, water, created by disposal of hazardous waste. Illiterate, low- skill or no-skill migrants from rural areas are absorbed in poor low grade urban informal sector at a very low wage rate and urban informal sector becomes in-efficient and unproductive.

The Challenges of Urbanization in India

Urbanization in India has occurred more slowly than in other developing countries and the proportion of the population in urban areas has been only 28 per cent based on the 2001 census. The pace of urbanization is ow set to accelerate as the country sets to a more rapid growth. Economic reform has already unleashed investment and growth offering its citizens rich opportunities. Surging growth and employment in cities will prove a powerful magnet. 300 million Indians currently live in towns and cities. Within 20-25 years, another 300 million people will get added to Indian towns and cities. This urban expansion will happen at a speed quite unlike anything that India has seen efore. It took nearly forty years for India's urban population to rise by 230 million. It could take only half the time to add the next 250 million. If not well managed, this inevitable increase in India's urban population will place enormous stress on the system.

The speed of urbanization poses an unprecedented managerial and policy challenge—yet India has not engaged in a national discussion about how to handle the seismic shift in the makeup of the nation. Urban India today is “distributed” in shape—with a diverse range of large and small cities spread widely around the nation. India will probably continue on a path of distributed model of urbanization because this suits its federal structure and helps to ensure that migration flows aren't unbalanced toward any particular city or cities. As the urban population and incomes increase, demand for every key service such as water, transportation, sewage treatment, low income housing will increase five- to sevenfold in cities of every size and type. And if India continues on its current path, urban infrastructure will fall woefully short of what is necessary to sustain prosperous cities. Recent reports suggest that India spends \$17 per capita per year in urban infrastructure, whereas the most benchmarks suggest a requirement \$100. The investment required for building urban infrastructure in India, over the next 20 years, is estimated at approximately US\$ 1 trillion. There has been an incomplete devolution of functions to the elected bodies as per 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, possibly because of the unwillingness of the state governments. In addition, very few Indian cities have 2030 master plans that take into account peak transportation loads, requirements for low-income affordable ousting and climate change. In general, the capacity to execute the urban reforms and projects at the municipal and state level has been historically inadequate.

India needs to work on several areas to manage its urbanization: The following are perhaps the most important: Inclusive cities, urban governance, funding, planning, capacity building and low-income housing India also needs to start a political process where the urban issues are debated with evolution of meaningful solutions. The sub-committee of the NDC that has been recently constituted under the chairmanship of the Minister Urban Development with several States' Chief Ministers as members should spearhead this process.

Inclusive Cities

The poor and lower income groups must be brought into the mainstream in cities. Regulations intended to manage densities and discourage migration both limit the supply of land **and** require many households to consume more land than they would choose. This drives urban sprawl and pushes up the price of land and the cost of service delivery for all. High standards for parking, coverage limits, setbacks, elevators, road widths, reservations for health centers schools etc. (often not used) prevent the poor from choosing how much to consume of the costliest resource (urban land) to put a roof over their heads, and comply with legal requirements. Informality is now the only path to affordable housing for the bulk of the population in India's cities. But informality implies illegality and therefore vulnerability. While lower income groups pay dearly for shelter and services—they are bereft of normal property rights protections and their investments are thus far riskier than those of the well off. They must instead depend on the good will of bureaucrats and politicians—to safeguard their homes and places of business. These barriers to healthy urbanization come not only at a high human cost, but take a toll on productivity. Chronic informality discourages the very investments in education, health and housing improvements the lower classes need to improve their own lot and contribute more to the national economy.

Urban Governance

Meaningful reforms have to happen that enable true devolution of power and responsibilities from the states to the local and metropolitan bodies according to the 74th Amendment. This is because by 2030, India's largest cities will be bigger than many countries today. India's urban governance of cities needs an over-haul. India's current urban governance is in sharp contrast to large cities elsewhere that have

Empowered mayors with long tenures and clear accountability for the city's performance. India also needs to clearly define the relative roles of its metropolitan and municipal structures for its 20 largest metropolitan areas. With cities growing beyond municipal boundaries, having fully formed metropolitan authorities with early defined roles will be essential for the successful management of large cities in India.

Financing

Devolution has to be supported by more reforms in urban financing that will reduce cities' dependence on the Centre and the states and unleash internal revenue sources. Consistent with most international examples, there are several sources of funding that Indian cities could tap into, to a far greater extent than today: Monetizing land assets; higher collection of property taxes, user charges that reflect costs; debt and public-private partnerships (PPPs); and central/state government funding. However, internal funding alone will not be enough, even in large cities. A portion has to come from the central and state governments. Here one can use central schemes such as JNNURM and Rajiv Awas Yojana but eventually India needs to move towards a systematic formula rather than ad-hoc grants. For large cities with deep economies, this might mean allowing them to retain 20 percent of goods and services tax (GST) revenues. This is consistent with the 13th Central Finance Commission's assessment that GST—a consumption-based tax that creates local incentives for growth and that is therefore well suited for direct allocation to the third tier of government. For smaller cities, however, a better option would be to give guaranteed annual grants.

Planning

India needs to make urban planning a central, respected function, investing in skilled people, rigorous fact base and innovative urban form. This can be done through a “cascaded” planning structure in which large cities have 40-year and 20-year plans at the metropolitan level that are binding on municipal development plans. Central to planning in any city is the optimal allocation of space, especially land use and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) planning. Both should focus on linking public transportation with zoning for affordable houses for low-income groups. These plans need to be detailed, comprehensive, and enforceable.

Local capacity building

A real step-up in the capabilities and expertise of urban local bodies will be critical to devolution and improvement of service delivery. Forms will have to address the development of professional managers for urban management functions, who are in short supply and will be required in large numbers. New innovative approaches will have to be explored to tap into the expertise available in the private and social sectors. India needs to build technical and managerial depth in its city administrations. In the Indian Civil Services, India has a benchmark for how to build a dedicated cadre for governance. India now needs to create an equivalent cadre for cities, as well as allow for lateral entry of private-sector executives.

Affordable housing

Affordable housing is a particularly critical concern for low-income groups—in the absence of a viable model that caters to their needs, India can meet the challenge through a set of policies and incentives that will bridge the gap between price and affordability. This will enable a sustainable and economically viable affordable housing model for both government housing agencies and as well as private developers. India also needs to encourage rental housing as an option particularly for the poorest of the poor, who may not be able to afford a home even with these incentives. With the 74th amendment to India’s constitution and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), India took the first steps toward urban reforms. Going forward, the central government has to play a catalytic role accompanied by a supporting package of incentives. States should recognize that starting early on the urban transformation will give them competitive advantage, attract investment, and create jobs—getting them ahead of the curve.

Suggestion

Redirection of investment is recommended to develop strong economic base for small and medium city neglected so far. Redirection of migration flows is required. Since the mega cities have reached saturation level for employment generation and to avoid over-crowding into the over congested slums of mega cities i.e Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras etc it is required to build strong economic sector (Kundu and Basu,1998) in the urban economy, growth efforts and investments should be directed towards small cities which have been neglected so far so that functional base of urban economy is strengthened. Then redirection of migration to this desirable destination will be possible.

Policy should also relate to proper urban planning where city planning will consist of operational, developmental and restorative planning. Operational planning should take care of improvement of urban infrastructure, e.g roads, traffic, transport etc. Developmental planning should emphasize on development of newly annexed urban areas. Various urban renewal processes can be used. Restorative planning should aim to restore original status of

old building monuments which have historic value. In general urban planning must aim at :
 a) Balanced regional and urban planning (Mukherji, 2001). b) Development of strong economic base for urban economy. c) Integration of rural and urban (Kundu, Sarangi and Dash, 2003) economy--emphasis on agro-based industry. Raw material should be processed in rural economy and then transferred to urban economy. d) Urban planning and housing for slum people with human face.

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