Socio- Psychological Fallout of Urbanization

Dr. Alok Kumar

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, C.C.S. University, Meerut, U.P., India

ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to describe urbanization and its consequences as the world is in the midst of an urban explosion which has created various social problems.

INTRODUCTION

Urbanization concerns the movement of population from agricultural to industrial work and from rural to urban places of residence. Urbanization means the gradual concentration of population in towns and cities as a consequence of continuous migration from rural areas. People are attracted to the city by visions of better life or they feel compelled to leave rural places because they are disadvantaged there. The pace of urbanization has been quicker during the recent years. In Europe and North America, urbanization was the direct consequence of industrialization. In India industrialization started very late and so comparatively urbanization is also a later phenomenon. Upto 1941, urbanization was not so quick and only 43, 81 million people lived in the cities. The figures rose later on. Even now the urban population of India is only 32 percent of the total population of the country. In all other countries, the urban population is comparatively higher. For example in U.K. it is 82percent of its total population, in Japan 93 percent, in Russia 74percent and in the U.S.A. about 95percent. But none can deny that there is a tendency towards urbanization in, our country. The main cause of this urbanization is to find work and employment. There are no regular work opportunities in the villages due to the seasonal nature of agricultural operation. Industrialization in the urban areas can provide better employment opportunities. Sometimes, the villagers gravitate to urban centers to enjoy the comforts of life. There are many temptations in the city life because life in the cities is more glamorous. Mainly there are three sets of factors which are responsible for urbanization in this country. They are "Pull, push and neutral factors" "Pull factors" are the opportunities of better employment, growth of new business and educational and availability of cultural and social amenities. The "Push factors" are unemployment, insufficient income, family disputes, class tensions, indebtedness and insolvency. The "Neutral Factors" are the operation of the natural laws of the marriage and dependency.

Most of us live in cities, and we probably always will. But it was not always this way. Less than 200 years ago, in 1800, 97% of the population of the world lived in rural areas. Only 3 percent lived in communities of 5,000 or more (Hauser and Schnore 1965). A century later, the total was up to only 13 to 14%. By 1925 it ran about 40% and today about half of the entire world lives in cities. See the latest worldwide urbanization in the following table:

Page : 195

Table 1: Worldwide Urbanization: Percentage of Population living in Urban Areas

Nation	2011	2012	2013	2014
Afghanistan	25	25	26	26
Albania	53	54	55	56
Algeria	68	69	70	70
American Samoa	88	87	87	87
Andorra	87	87	86	86
Angola	41	42	42	43
Argentina	91	91	91	92
Australia	89	89	89	89
Austria	66	66	66	66
Bangladesh	31	32	33	34
Belgium	98	98	98	98
Belize	45	44	44	44
Bermuda	100	100	100	100
Bhutan	36	36	37	38
Brazil	85	85	85	85
Bulgaria	73	73	73	74
Canada	81	81	81	82
Chile	89	89	89	89
China	51	52	53	54
Colombia	75	76	76	76
Cuba	77	77	77	77
Cyprus	67	67	67	67
Czech Republic	73	73	73	73
Denmark	87	87	87	88
Egypt, Arab Rep.	43	43	43	43
Ethiopia	18	18	19	19
Finland	84	84	84	84
France	79	79	79	79
Germany	74	75	75	75

Ghana	51	52	53	53
Greece	77	77	77	78
Greenland	85	85	86	86
Guinea	35	36	36	37
Guinea-Bissau	46	47	48	49
Guyana	28	28	28	28
Haiti	53	55	56	57
Hong Kong	100	100	100	100
Hungary	69	70	70	71
Iceland	94	94	94	94
India	31	32	32	32
Indonesia	51	51	52	53
Iran, Islamic Rep.	71	72	72	73
Iraq	69	69	69	69
Ireland	62	62	63	63
Israel	92	92	92	92
Italy	68	69	69	69
Japan	91	92	92	93
Jordan	83	83	83	83
Kenya	24	24	25	25
Korea, Dem. Rep.	60	60	61	61
Korea, Rep.	82	82	82	82
Kuwait	98	98	98	98
Libya	78	78	78	78
Malaysia	72	73	73	74
Maldives	41	42	43	44
Mauritius	40	40	40	40
Mexico	78	78	79	79
Mongolia	69	69	70	71
Morocco	58	59	59	60
Myanmar	32	32	33	34

Namibia	43	44	45	46
Nepal	17	18	18	18
Netherlands	88	89	89	90
New Zealand	86	86	86	86
Nigeria	44	45	46	47
Norway	79	80	80	80
Oman	76	76	77	77
Pakistan	37	37	38	38
Peru	77	78	78	78
Philippines	45	45	45	44
Poland	61	61	61	61
Portugal	61	62	62	63
Puerto Rico	94	94	94	94
Qatar	99	99	99	99
Romania	54	54	54	54
Russian Federation	74	74	74	74
Rwanda	25	26	27	28
Samoa	20	20	19	19
San Marino	94	94	94	94
Sao Tome and Principe	63	63	64	65
Saudi Arabia	82	83	83	83
Senegal	42	43	43	43
Serbia	55	55	55	55
Seychelles	53	53	53	54
Sierra Leone	39	39	39	40
Singapore	100	100	100	100
South Africa	63	63	64	64
South Sudan	18	18	18	19
Spain	79	79	79	79
Sri Lanka	18	18	18	18
Sudan	33	33	33	34

Suriname	66	66	66	66
Swaziland	21	21	21	21
Sweden	85	85	86	86
Switzerland	74	74	74	74
Thailand	45	47	48	49
Turkey	71	72	72	73
Uganda	15	15	15	16
Ukraine	69	69	69	69
United Arab Emirates	84	85	85	85
United Kingdom	82	82	82	82
United States	81	81	81	81
Uzbekistan	36	36	36	36
Venezuela, RB	89	89	89	89
Vietnam	31	32	32	33
Zambia	39	40	40	40
Zimbabwe	33	33	33	33

(Source:United Nations World Urbanization Prospects).

THE EVOLUTION OF CITIES

The evolution of cities depends on the development of agriculture. Only when agriculture produces a surplus can people withdraw their labour from food production and gather in cities to spend time in other pursuits. A city, in fact can be defined as a large number of people who are permanently based and do not produce their own food. Thus, more efficient agricultural techniques provide impetus to urban development. The invention of the flow during the fourth millennium B.C. was especially significant, for by creating a widespread agricultural surplus it stimulated the development of towns and cities (Curvin and Hart, 1961). The surplus, however, allowed only a small minority of the world's population to live in urban areas over the following 5 millennia. It took the industrial revolution of the 1700s and 1800s to set off the urban revolution that we are experiencing today. The industrial revolution provided work opportunities in central locations, stimulated the invention of mechanical means of transportation and communication, allowed people, resources and products to be efficiently moved cities are overcrowded.They contain many essential factors upon which the modern city depends. In India too, today more people than the number for whom they can comfortably provide civic amenities. Cities which are State'scapitals have become overburdened. The cities of Delhi, Bangalore and Jaipur have shown rapid increase in' their population over the past two decades. Population of urban population in India and the differentstates of India, according to 2011 census is shown in Table 2.As per census data 2011, the total population of India is: 1,210,193,422.

State or union territory	Population (2011 Census) (% of Population of India)	%Decadal Growth (2001–2011)	Rural Pop. (%)	Urban Pop.(%)
Uttar Pradesh	199,281,477 (16.49%)	20.1%	155,111,022 (77.72%)	44,470,455 (22.28%)
Maharashtra	112,372,972 (9.28%)	16.0%	61,545,441 (54.77%)	50,827,531 (45.23%)
Bihar	103,804,637 (8.58%)	25.1%	92,075,028 (88.70%)	11,729,609 (11.30%)
West Bengal	91,347,736 (7.55%)	13.9%	62,213,676 (68.11%)	29,134,060 (31.89%)
Tamil Nadu	72,138,958 (5.96%)	15.6%	37,189,229 (51.55%)	34,949,729 (48.45%)
Rajasthan	68,621,012 (5.67%)	21.4%	51,540,236 (75.11%)	17,080,776 (24.89%)
Karnataka	61,130,704 (5.05%)	15.7%	37,552,529 (61.43%)	23,578,175 (38.57%)
Gujarat	60,383,628 (5.00%)	19.2%	34,670,817 (57.42%)	25,712,811 (42.58%)
Odisha	41,947,358 (3.47%)	14.0%	34,951,234 (83.32%)	6,996,124 (16.68%)
Telangana	35,286,757 (2.97%)	17.87%	21,585,313 (61.33%)	13,608,665 (38.66%)
Kerala	33,387,677 (2.76%)	4.9%	17,445,506 (52.28%)	15,932,171 (47.72%)
Jharkhand	32,966,238 (2.72%)	22.3%	25,036,946 (75.95%)	7,929,292 (24.05%)
Assam	31,169,272 (2.58%)	16.9%	26,780,526 (85.92%)	4,388,756 (14.08%)
Punjab	27,704,236 (2.30%)	13.7%	17,316,800 (62.51%)	10,387,436 (37.49%)
Chhattisgarh	25,540,196 (2.11%)	22.6%	19,603,658 (76.76%)	5,936,538 (23.24%)
Haryana	25,353,081 (2.09%)	19.9%	16,531,493 (75.75%)	8,821,588 (24.25%)
Jammu and Kashmir	12,548,926 (1.04%)	23.7%	9,134,820 (72.79%)	3,414,106 (27.21%)

State or union territory	Population (2011 Census) (% of Population of India)	%Decadal Growth (2001–2011)	Rural Pop. (%)	Urban Pop.(%)
Chhattisgarh	25,540,196 (2.11%)	22.6%	19,603,658 (76.76%)	5,936,538 (23.24%)
Haryana	25,353,081 (2.09%)	19.9%	16,531,493 (75.75%)	8,821,588 (24.25%)
Jammu and Kashmir	12,548,926 (1.04%)	23.7%	9,134,820 (72.79%)	3,414,106 (27.21%)
Uttarakhand	10,116,752 (0.84%)	19.2%	7,025,583 (69.45%)	3,091,169 (30.55%)
Himachal Pradesh	6,856,509 (0.57%)	12.8%	6,167,805 (89.96%)	688,704 (10.04%)
Meghalaya	2,964,007 (0.24%)	27.8%	2,368,971 (79.92%)	595,036 (20.08%)
Tripura	3,671,032 (0.30%)	14.7%	2,710,051 (73.82%)	960,981 (26.18%)
Manipur	2,721,756 (0.22%)	18.7%	1,899,624 (79.79%)	822,132 (20.21%)
Nagaland	1,980,602 (0.16%)	-0.5%	1,406,861 (71.03%)	573,741 (28.97%)
Goa	1,457,723 (0.12%)	8.2%	551,414 (37.83%)	906,309 (62.17%)
Arunachal Pradesh	1,382,611 (0.11%)	25.9%	1,069,165 (77.33%)	313,446 (22.67%)
Mizoram	1,091,014 (0.09%)	22.8%	529,037 (48.49%)	561,997 (51.51%)
Sikkim	607,688 (0.05%)	12.4%	455,962 (75.03%)	151,726 (24.97%)
Delhi	16,753,235 (1.38%)	21%	419,319 (02.50%)	16,333,916 (97.50%)
Puducherry	1,244,464 (0.10%)	27.7%	394,341 (31.69%)	850,123 (68.31%)
Chandigarh	1,054,686 (0.09%)	17.1%	29,004 (02.75%)	1,025,682 (97.25%)

State or union territory	Population (2011 Census) (% of Population of India)	%Decadal Growth (2001–2011)	Rural Pop. (%)	Urban Pop.(%)
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	379,944 (0.03%)	6.7%	244,411 (64.33%)	135,533 (35.67%)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	342,853 (0.03%)	55.5%	183,024 (53.38%)	159,829 (46.62%)
Daman and Diu	242,911 (0.02%)	53.5%	60,331 (24.84%)	182,580 (75.16%)
Lakshadweep	64,429 (0.01%)	6.2%	14,121 (21.92%)	50,308 (78.08%)
Total India	1,210,193,422 (100%)	17.64%	833,087,662 (68.84%)	377,105,760 (31.16%)

(Source: Government of India, 2011).

According to Census 2011, Sikkimhas the maximum urban components of 51.51% while Himachal Pradesh has the urban component at 10.04. Uttar Pradesh has an urban component of 22.28%, a growth of 20.1% on 2011 census.

CONSEQUENCESOF URBANIZATION

Urbanization due to industrialization and mechanization has given rise to a host of social problems. The main consequences of urbanization on social life in cities are the following:

(1)   Decline in Social Sympathy: The first consequence of overcrowding and increasing population in urban areas of cities is the decline in fellow feeling and sympathy. In villages we find a lot of sympathy and communal feeling. A villager knows almost every other man in his village, knows about his problems, joys and sorrows, he feels for them. On the other hand, the question of knowing others does not arise in cities. And obviously there is little sympathy for those who are unknown. In cities everyone is concerned about himself or his friends and lacks sympathy for others. Community –'the feeling of belonging' is totally lacking in urban cities. People live in isolation and fear.

(2)   Lack of Social Control: With the decline in fellow feeling, sympathy and concern for others, there is also decline in the social control in cities. As the population increases in cities there is decline in control of family, caste and class on the behaviour of an individual. This infection of no control and arbitrary behaviour in cities is catching even rural population. Now-a-days the control of caste and panchayat has declined considerably in villages.

(3)   Decline in Family Control: The rise in the urban population has led to decline in family control. The family ties have lost their orthodox value and have become rather lax. In cities there are a number of families which have no control-over children. Lakhs of labourers live in cities without their families. Obviously, there is no question of family control over

their behavior. After coming to cities they start indulging in licentious behavior because there is no one there to check them. They go to cinemas and visit houses of ill repute. In cities, the individuals' behavior is controlled by polices, law courts etc. known as secondary control.

(4)   Decline in Religious Values: In cities the philosophy of materialism is ascendant. Everybody has become self-centered and is madly pursuing his self-interest without any consideration for others. All this is a direct result of thedecline in the influence of religion in the urban life. Faith in God, spiritualism, non-violence, tolerance, simplicity, social service and selfless service have become values of the past as people are offing towards modern life styles and in the process are leaving their traditional way of life.

(5)   Change in the Status of Women: There has been a considerable change in the status of women in cities. There is great awakening among women. They are no longer slaves to their husbands. Commenting on this great change in the very status in cities, I can very well state that the husband is no longer the head of the household in many families, in spite of the fact that he still provides the family name. The wife on the other hand, finds herself quite equal to her husband in the family circle, if not superior. However, there is an evil side of this awakening among women. There is an increase in the incidence of illicit sex contacts, divorce, premarital and extramarital sex.

(6)   Changes in Family Structure: Traditionally, most of the Indian families were joint families. As a result of urbanization most of these joint families are breaking up and are being replaced by nuclear families. The reasons being that in cities or urban areas, there is acute shortage of residential and accommodation and secondly as a result of industrialization and urbanization, the cost of living has gone up. At the same time standard of living has also gone up considerably. Everybody wants good clothes, houses and other comforts of life which cannot be attained in a big family resulting in increasing tendency to have limited families confined to husband, wife and their offspring.

(7)   Increase in slums: In cities there is acute shortage of accommodation. In cities like Bombay, Calcutta, and Delhi people are compelled to sleep on footpath. Even those who find a roof overhead, live like cattles. Even then 10-20 persons are found to stay in a single room. As a consequence of shortage of living space, there are sprawling slums in big Indian towns. In Kanpur, these slums are called Ahatas; in Delhi Basti; in Bombay Chawland in Madras cheri. These slums are a blot on the fair of India. Naturally this gives rise to all sorts of evils.

(8)   Change in Moral Values: On account of the lack of community feeling, lack of homogenous family, western influence and an atmosphere of luxury and comfort prevailing in the cities, moral laxity occurs. In the hustle-bustle of city, there is no control over individual's behaviour and the incidence of premarital and extra marital sex is fairly high in the cities. In western cities polygamous tendencies are clearly accepted and people freely enjoy themselves. People are losing their faith in honesty, truthfulness, moral stability and good character. Modern cities have proved to be a bane for these values. Moral values which form part and parcel of character are nowhere to be seen in urban cities.

(9)   Increase in evil professions: In cities many evil professions flourish. Due to frustrating working conditions in factory, workers drink, gamble and go to prostitutes.

(10)   Increase in the incidence of crime: In urban areas as a result of industrialization, manhood is unquestionably brutalized, women dishonored and childhood poisoned at the

very source. Not only this infanticide, abortion, theft and promiscuity all occur in great number and with high frequency.

(11)   Environment pollution: Due to dense and congested localities of the cities, the houses are dark and dingy and unwashed by sunlight and due to the carbon and foul gases emitted by the industrial chimneys, the atmosphere of cities is therefore full of pollution and harmful to breathe. Thus, due to overcrowding as a result of urbanization, the cities are full of environmental pollution.

(12)Increase in juvenile delinquency: In cities there is a sharp increase in juvenile delinquency. Due to industrialization, unscrupulous employers engage child labour. This is an important factor in producing juvenile delinquency. Besides, the children of these parents who go to work are not properly attended to by their parents. They are left to their own and tend to become juvenile delinquents. They indulge in burglary, robbery, alcoholism and rape.

(13)Corruption, conflict and cooperation: In cities we find cut-throat competition in economic field. Not only among businessmen but among mill-owners there is furious competition.When this competition becomes fierce, evil practices are resorted to. Black-market is a direct consequence of this fierce competition.

(14)Social disorganization: Again owing to above mentioned features, we find social disorganization in the cities. People are dissatisfied and discontented. Many conflicts both direct and indirect constantly ravage the mental and physical health of city dwellers. The class and status feelingsare very acute. The evils of communalism are quite rampant. The urban society is a divided society and urban life a divided life shots with conflicts and tensions.

(15)Unbalanced Personality: A combination and mixture of such facts aslooseness of character and morals, artificial environment, the deleteriousinfluence of cinema and other means of entertainment, high ambition and lustful desires, general mentality of materialism have resulted in producingunbalanced personality among city dwellers.

(16)   Problem of Pollution: In industrialized cities pollution is a major problems. It may be caused by industries or by excessive movement of vehicles**.**

(17)   Stress: Urban life is characterised by stress which may even strain family relations. In cities employment of women is almost inevitable to meet the increasing cost of living. Changing role of women in the family creates stress in the family which may result in divorce or strained relations.Thus urbanisation has its own merits and de-merits. Urbanization can't be avoided, but the negative effect of urbanization can be minimized by adopting certain strategies.

REMEDIES

Undoubtedly, the economic development is associated with growth of urbanization but the problems created by such migration from rural areas have baffled not only the people at large but also the administration. Moreover, the benefits of economic growth through industrialization areconcentrated into certain hands and certain pockets of the country resulting in unbalanced urban and economic growth.

Excessive urbanization is veryharmfu1. It tends to convert men into soul-less mechanical morons lacking human qualities. Efforts should be made to persuade the large number of people migrating to cities to settle in a coordinated way so that it becomes easier to provide services to settle in a coordinated way to provide services. Resources should be concentrated on creating planned areas for people to settle in. The problem of excessive urbanization cannot be solved until and unless effective measures are taken to alleviate poverty of the masses. First of all, sustained growth of agricultural farms is crucial to the well-being of the villages. But in our country where agriculture primarily depends upon the vagaries of the monsoon, it is difficult to generate much net income from agriculture. Modernization of agriculture is necessary besides expansion of banking facilities in rural areas, as well as providing proper and adequate irrigation facilities, improving marketing and transport facilities, modified storage of agricultural produce, and strengthening the various units in cooperative sector which are providing credit facilities, etc.

Various public policies and special employment programmes are needed to provide employment to the landless and new entrants to the labour force, not only in agricultural sector, but also in the non-farm sector through extensive application of science, and adoption of new and profitable scientific technology. Assistance should be provided to small and marginal farmers with regard to subsidiary occupation like poultry, dairy, fishery and preservation of farm products. Mobilization of locally available resources by creating consumer products can help uplift the rural people. To achieve this goal, educating the rural people in the field of effective utilization of naturally available resources and controlling pollution to preserve surrounding environment etc., is very essential. Rural areas, development schemes should be chalked out and implemented to provide basic amenities like healthy facilities, education, market, transport facilities and electricity etc., in or villages to stop migration. Until the basic needs of villagers are met in the village itself, there can be little hope of stopping the exodus of rural population to urban areas. Creating and preserving a healthy and well regulated environment is a pre-requisite to prevent excessive urbanization.

CONCLUSION

In and of themselves cities are not problems. On the contrary, citiesare intended to be solution to problems. Cities are human endeavours to improve life collectively, to develop a way of life that transcends the limitations of farm and village. Cities hold out the hope of improving one'slot in life, of gaining employment, education and other advantages. It is forthis reason that people in the developing nations are flocking to the cities, and in the process leaving their old way of life behind. But when large number of people come together and form cities, problems are created especially those of adequately meeting people's needs which lead to crime and violence for surviving. Thus, States and Nations and World as a whole has to solve this problem of urbanization as it is a global phenomenon which can lead to various social evils.

REFERENCES

i.   Curwin, E, Cecil and Gudmond Hart(1961).Plough and Pasture, New York: Collier Books.

ii.   Government of India (2011). Ranking of States and Union territories by population size). Census of India. Retrieved 2011-07-23.

iii. Hauser, Philip and Leo Schnore. (1965). Study of Urbanization. NewYork: Wiley.

iv.   Singer, Milton, (1973). When a Great Tradition Modernizes.New York: Praeger Publishers.

v.   Singh, Yogendra, (1973). Modernization of Indian Tradition, Faridabad:Thomson Press (India).

.