Urbanization, Its Causes and Effects: A Review

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Abstract- Urbanization refers to general increase in population and the amount of industrialization of a settlement. It includes increase in the number and extent of cities. It symbolizes the movement of people from rural to urban areas. Urbanization happens because of the increase in the extent and density of urban areas. Due to uncontrolled urbanization in India, environmental degradation has been occurring very rapidly and causing many problems like land insecurity, worsening water quality, excessive air pollution, noise and the problems of waste disposal. the effect of urbanization on environmental components mainly climate, biosphere, land and water resources. urbanization in India and metropolitan cities have been carried out leading to conclude on the existing causes of damage to the environment due to urbanization and preventive measures to keep a check on them. Although it is impossible to restrict urbanization it has to be ensured that urbanization proceeds in the right path causing minimum impact on environment.

Key word- urbanization, environmental, population etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is a process that leads to the growth of cities due to industrialization and economic development, and that leads to urban- specific changes in specialization, labour division and human behaviors. The population is growing at the rate of about 17 million annually which means a staggering 45,000 births per day and 31 births per minutes. If the current trend continues, by the year 2050, India would have 1620 million populations. Due to uncontrolled urbanization in India, environmental degradation has been occurring very rapidly and causing many problems like shortages of housing, worsening water quality, excessive air pollution, noise, dust and heat, and the problems of disposal of solid wastes and hazardous wastes.

Urbanization is relevant to a range of disciplines, including urban planning, geography, sociology, architecture, economics, and public health. The phenomenon has been closely linked to modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization. Urbanization can be seen as a specific condition at a set time (e.g. the proportion of total population or area in cities or towns), or as an increase in that condition over time. So urbanization can be quantified either in terms of, say, the level of urban development relative to the overall population, or as the rate at which the urban proportion of the population is increasing. Urbanization creates enormous social, economic and environmental changes, which provide an opportunity for sustainability with the "potential to use resources more efficiently, to create more

sustainable land use and to protect the biodiversity of natural ecosystems."

Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture. The first major change in settlement patterns was the accumulation of hunter-gatherers into villages many thousand years ago. Village culture is characterized by common bloodlines, intimate relationships, and communal behavior, whereas urban culture is characterized by distant bloodlines, unfamiliar relations, and competitive behavior. This unprecedented movement of people is forecast to continue and intensify during the next few decades, mushrooming cities to sizes unthinkable only a century ago. As a result, the world urban population growth curve has up till recently followed a quadratic-hyperbolic pattern.

Definition of Urban Areas

In Census of India, 2001 towns were classified into two parts:

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 have a minimum population of 5000 with at least 75% of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and a density of population for at least 400 persons per sq.km.

Urban Agglomeration:- Urban agglomeration is a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining Urban Outgrowths (OGs) or two or more physical contiguous town together and any adjoining urban outgrowths of such towns. Examples of outgrowths are railway colonies, university campus, port area, military campus that may come up near a statutory town or city. In census of India, 2001 it was decided that the core town or at least one of the constituent towns of an urban agglomeration should necessarily be a statutory town and the total population of all the constituents should not be less than 20,000.

Impacts of urbanization on various components of environment

Probably most of the major environmental problems of the next century will result from the continuation and sharpening of existing problems that currently do not receive enough political attention. The problems are not necessarily noticed in many countries or then nothing is done even the situation has been detected. The most emerging issues are climate changes, freshwater scarcity, deforestation, and fresh water pollution and population growth. These problems are very complex and

their interactions are hard to define. It is very important to examine problems trough the social-economic-cultural system. Even the interconnections between environmental problems are now better known, we still lack exact Information on how the issues are linked, on what degree they interact and what are the most effective measures. One problem is to integrate land- and water use planning to provide food and water security (UNEP 1999).

(A) Impacts on the atmosphere and climate
1. The creation of heat island
Materials like concrete, asphalt, bricks etc absorb and reflect energy differently than vegetation and soil. Cities remain warm in the night when the countryside has already cooled.

2. Changes in Air Quality
Human activities release a wide range of emissions into the environment including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, lead, and many other pollutants.

3. Changes in Patterns of Precipitation
Cities often receive more rain than the surrounding countryside since dust can provoke the condensation of water vapour into rain droplets.

(B) Impacts on the lithosphere and land resources
1. Erosion and other changes in land quality
Rapid development can result in very high levels of erosion and sedimentation in river channels.

2. Pollution
Pollutants are often dispersed across cities or concentrated in industrial areas or waste sites. Lead- based paint used on roads and highways and on buildings is one such example of a widely dispersed pollutant that found its way into soil. Burying tremendous amounts of waste in the ground at municipal and industrial dumps.

(C) Impacts on the hydrosphere and water resources
1. Flow of Water into Streams
Natural vegetation and undisturbed soil are replaced with concrete, asphalt, brick, and other impermeable surfaces. This means that, when it rains, water is less likely to be absorbed into the ground and, instead, flows directly into river channels.

2. Flow of Water through Streams
Higher, faster peak flows change streams channels that have evolved over centuries under natural conditions. Flooding can be a major problem as cities grow and stream channels attempt to keep up with these changes.

3. Degraded Water Quality
The water quality has degraded with time due to urbanization that ultimately leads to increased sedimentation there by also increasing the pollutant in run-off.

(D) Impacts on the biosphere
1. Modification of Habitats
The fertilizers that spread across lawns finds its way into water channels where it promotes the growth of plants at the expense of fish. The waste dumped into streams lowers oxygen levels during its decay and cause the die-off of plants and animals.

2. Destruction of Habitats
There is also complete eradication of habitats as an outcome of urbanization and native species are pushed out of cities.

3. Creation of New Habitats
New habitats are also created for some native and non-native species. Cities also create habitats for some species considered pests, such as pigeons, sparrows, rats, mice, flies and mosquitoes. Urbanization has, for example, eliminated many bat colonies in caves, but has provided sites such as bridges for these species to nest.

Urbanization in India shares most characteristic features of urbanization in the developing countries. It is the most significant phenomenon of 20th century which has almost affected all aspects of national life in India. Being the second most populous country in the world after China, India's growing urbanization has a regional as well as world-wide impact. The number of total population has increased from 23.84 crores in 1901 to 102.7 crores in 2001 whereas number of population residing in urban areas has increased from 2.58 crores in 1901 to 28.53 crore in 2001. India's urban population constitutes a sizeable proportion of world's urban population. This can be well corroborated form the fact that every 12th city dweller of the world and every 7th of the developing countries is from India. The breakout of hostilities with China and Pakistan in 1962 and in 1965 respectively and short recession accompanied by drought during 1967, acted as obstacles to the progress of industrialization. One can, therefore, observe that the process of industrialization though started during the sixties, could not be marked. Urbanization could hardly absorb a little more than the natural increase in urban population. As a result, a serious dent in terms of the shift of population from rural to urban areas could not be made.

II.   CAUSES OF URBANIZATION
Industrialization, Social factors, modernization and economic opportunity cause urbanization, or an increase in the number of people moving from rural to urban areas. Reasons of urbanization are given below:

Migration: People migrate themselves from rural areas to the town, industrial areas because of the relatively better employment opportunities available there. Commercialization: Commercialization and trade comes with the general perception that the towns and cities offer better commercial opportunities and returns compared to the rural areas.

i. Industrial growth:
Industrial growth is a major cause of urbanization. It has expanded the employment opportunities. Rural people have migrated to cities on account of better employment opportunities. When urban population growth rate is 40% in India, the industrial growth rate is about 60% per annum.

ii. Social Factor:
Many social factors such as attraction of cities, better standard of living, better educational facilities, need for status also

induce people to migrate to cities. There are numerous social benefits attributed to life in the cities and towns.

iii. Employment opportunities:

In rural sector people have to depend mainly on agriculture for their livelihood. But Indian agriculture is depending on monsoon. In drought situations or natural calamities, rural people have to migrate to cities. In cities and towns, there are ample job opportunities that continually draw people from the rural areas to seek better livelihood. Therefore, the majority of people frequently migrate into urban areas to access well paying jobs as urban areas have countless employment opportunities in all developmental sectors such as public health, education, transport, sports and recreation, industries, and business enterprises.

iv. Modernization:

Urban areas are characterized by sophisticated technology better infrastructure, communication, medical facilities, etc. In urban areas, people also embrace changes in the modes of living namely residential habits, attitudes, dressing, food, and beliefs.

Defective town planning:

A more alarming factor in the general deterioration in the standard of civic services is the growing sense of helplessness of our planners and administrators.

Urbanization in India

India shares most characteristic features of urbanization in the developing countries. It is the most significant phenomenon of 20th century which has almost affected all aspects of national life in India. Being the second most populous country in the world after China, India's growing

III.   CONCLUSION

Today, 54 per cent of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 66 per cent by 2050. China and India are both urbanizing rapidly, but China has embraced and shaped the process, while India is still waking up to its urban realities and opportunities. Urbanization in India began to accelerate after independence, due to the country's adoption of a mixed economy, which gave rise to the development of the private sector. From above review we conclude that Urbanization is not good for us. Urbanization impacts the environment through the strain of resources, including food, water, energy and the land itself, which increases as the population within the urban area increases.

IV.   REFERENCES

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