

URBANISATION : CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Urbanisation

When an increasing proportion of the population live in towns and cities

Two main causes of urbanisation

Natural population growth

Rural to urban migration

Push factors for rural-urban migration

Rural areas have young age profiles. Young adults (15-40) migrate. These migrants are in their fertile years and so the rates of natural increase are higher in cities than rural increase

Negative things which cause people to move away:

Civil conflict - flee war

Lack of jobs

Population growth causing over-cultivation, soil erosion, low yields

Agricultural problems - desertification

Natural disasters - floods, tropical storms, earthquakes

Inadequate services - medical, educational

Pull factors for rural to urban migration

Employment - in factories and service industries, better paid than in rural areas

Better quality of life - better education, Health care, entertainment and tourism

Earning money from informal sector - selling goods on the street, taxi driver

Impacts of urbanisation

Urban sprawl

Housing shortage

Unemployment

Transport issues

Urban sprawl as a consequence of urbanisation

Urban areas spread into surrounding countryside in an unplanned and uncontrolled fashion. Bad because:

- requires more roads and infrastructure -> more impermeable surfaces -> risk of flooding
- main cause of wildlife habitat loss
- causes more commuting from suburbs to city -> more fuel consumption and traffic congestion
- homogenisation - cities become indistinct from each other

Housing shortage in low income countries as a consequence of urbanisation

High population in urban areas leads to areas of informal and inadequate housing:

- on the edge of the city
- at risk of natural hazards, lots of pollution
- limited access to basic infrastructure and services e.g. Favelas in Rio de Janeiro

Strategies for improving slums

Eradicate slums

Self-help schemes - people improve their own homes with materials provided by government

Site and service schemes

Slum upgrading programmes

Shortage of housing in higher-income countries caused by urbanisation

Rising demand for accommodation has led to dramatic increase in house prices and rental costs

E.G. London experienced a 50% rise in average house prices between 2013 and 2015

Unemployment & underemployment as a consequence of urban sprawl

Unemployment rates are high and many migrants find employment in informal work such as street hawking.

Underemployment is when a person is not doing work which makes full use of their skills and abilities, may occur when migrants move to a city

Transport issues as a consequence of urban sprawl

Increased traffic has led to more congestion and pollution, damaging human health and wasting money in lost productivity. Spread of houses to the suburbs mean more commuters

Suburbanisation

The movement of people from the inner city to the outer edges, spreading out the urban area and swallowing up surrounding villages and rural areas

Causes of Suburbanisation (timeline)

- People wanted to escape from the decline, pollution and stress of the inner city
- facilitated by the growth of public transport, new roads and increased car ownership which allowed people to commute to work
- 1930's: not many planning controls so urban growth occurred along main roads, called Ribbon Development
- 1940's: growth caused concern which led to protected areas called Green Belts around cities to control further development
- 1950's onwards: suburbanisation increased but was more planned
- 1950/1960's: large scale construction of council housing in suburbs on Greenfield Sites
- 1970's: increasing home ownership of private housing estates on Greenfield Sites in suburbs
- 1980's onwards: housing estates built with shopping parades, retail parks, leisure parks & schools.

Social segregation as a negative impact of Suburbanisation

The wealthy move to the suburbs and the poorer remain in inner city. Particular issue in USA

Funding diverted from inner cities as a negative impact on Suburbanisation

Diverted to suburbs to pay for new infrastructure and services

Counter-urbanisation

Movement of people from urban areas to rural areas, leap-frogging the rural-urban fringe. Difference between rural and urban is reduced

Causes of counter-urbanisation

- people want to escape, pollution & crime of urban areas
- want the pleasant, quiet & clean countryside with cheaper land & house prices
- car ownership & wealth allows people to commute to work
- employers move out of city
- new technology allows freedom of location for work

Affects of counter-urbanisation on rural settlements

- modern housing estates built
- industrial estates built along main roads
- open green spaces built on
- old properties converted and modernised
- tension and conflict between newcomers and locals

The rural turnaround

Outmigration of young, village-born adults, decline in elderly village-born.

In-migration of young couples with children

In-migration of wealthier people → increased house prices

Evidence for counter-urbanisation

More commuters and public transport

Increased value of houses

More executive housing & new developments

Counter-urbanisation results in
suburbanised villages

Urban resurgence

The economic and structural regeneration of an urban area which has suffered decline, initiated by redevelopment schemes

Deindustrialisation

The loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector, occurred in UK in 20th century

Decentralisation

Movement of industry away from inner city

Causes of urban resurgence in UK

- gentrification and regeneration schemes make city living more attractive, caused by deindustrialisation
- cities have reinvented themselves as cities of culture and commerce
- resulted in changing urban landscapes - run-down areas rebranded as fashionable 'quarters'
- driven by government schemes and major sporting events e.g, London 2012 olympics

Positive impact of urban resurgence

Multiplier effect - redevelopment sets up further improvements and attracts greater investment

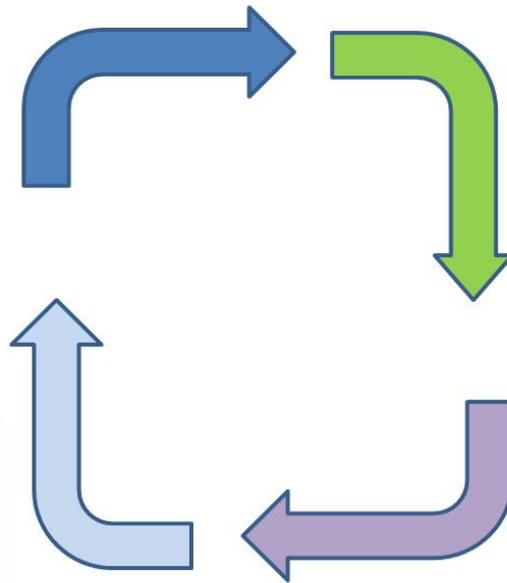
Negative impacts of urban resurgence

- puts pressure on urban infrastructure so some residents may be displaced as house prices rise
- increases inequalities between rich and poor

The Cycle of Urbanisation: UK example

Re-urbanisation- beginning in the 1990s people have begun to return to urban areas due to redevelopment, reduction in crime and new housing

Counterurbanisation- From 1960 onwards people have left urban areas to move to smaller settlements outside the city



Urbanisation- the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities (industrial revolution 1800s)

Suburbanisation (1860-1960) Urban areas spread outwards as railway lines allowed people to live further away from work