

THE DEGREE OF URBANISATION OF A COUNTRY IS RELATED TO ITS LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT (UN)

HIGH INCOME COUNTRIES (HIC's) >80%
MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES (MIC's) 50-70%
LOW INCOME COUNTRIES (LIC's) <50%

THE RATE OF URBANISATION AT THE PRESENT TIME ALSO DEPENDS ON THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

HIC's SLOW
MIC's MODERATE BUT SLOWING DOWN
LIC's RAPID

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF WHAT CONSTITUTES AN URBAN AREA

IT COULD BE A MINIMUM TOTAL POPULATION, A MINIMUM POPULATION DENSITY OR BASED ON EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (A HIGH PERCENTAGE EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES)

THERE IS NO UNIVERSAL DEFINITION USED AROUND THE WORLD SO COMPARISONS ARE DIFFICULT

BUT WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE TERM 'URBAN' AND 'URBAN AREA'?

EXAMPLES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD SHOW THE VARIATIONS :-

INDIA

MINIMUM POPULATION 5000, >75% EMPLOYED IN NON AGRICULTURE, A MINIMUM POPULATION DENSITY

ARGENTINA

MINIMUM POPULATION 2000

JAPAN

MINIMUM POPULATION 50,000, >60% EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES

DENMARK

MINIMUM POPULATION 200?

SOME SAY THAT THE UN FIGURES SHOW ABOVE ARE AN UNDERESTIMATION

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION SAYS :-

WORLD	85%	ASIA	89%
AFRICA	81%	EUROPE	73%
N. AMERICA	73%		

THIS INCLUDES URBAN CENTRES >50,000 AND URBAN CLUSTERS >5000

BUT MOST PEOPLE ACCEPT THE UN DATA AND CONSIDER THIS DATA TO BE A GROSS OVERESTIMATION