

# **URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

**B.A.(Sociology) – Second Year**

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**URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

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**Unit - I**

Introduction to Urban Sociology: Origin, Nature and Scope, Importance of the Study of Urban Sociology in India.

**Unit - II**

Basic Concepts: The City, Urbanization, Urbanism, Urbanity, Suburb, Metropolitan, Corporation and Neighborhood

**Unit - III**

Process of Urbanization in India: Growth of Urban Population in India, Emergence of Cities, Causes and Consequences of Urbanization

**Unit - IV**

Urban Social Structure: Urban Family, Urban Social Stratification Caste and Class, Occupational Divisions.

**Unit - V**

Urban Slums: Problems and Challenges, Urban Development Programmes.

**Unit - VI**

Urban Governance: Meaning and Principle of Urban Governance, Urban Governance in India, Urban Violence: Challenges to Urban Governance.

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**UNIT - I****Lesson 1.1 - Introduction to Urban Sociology****Structure**

- 1.1 Learning Objectives
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- 1.5 Importance of Urban Sociology
- 1.6 Nature and Scope of Urban Sociology
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**1.1 Learning Objectives**

*After reading this unit, you will be able to:*

- Understand the meaning, nature of urban sociology.
- Come to know about the origin and development of urban sociology.
- Have a comprehensive understanding about the significance of the Chicago School in the origin and development of urban sociology.
- Know in detail about the subject matter and scope of urban sociology.
- Understand the importance of the study of urban sociology in India.
- Comprehend some of the urban sociological studies done in India.

**1.2 Introduction**

For a common man a resident of a village is referred to as folk and urbanite is the term reserved for a resident of a city. In common parlance, town or city is generally considered as the opposite of village. The term 'Urbane' can be traced to the old French term 'urbain' which means French pattern of stress. The words 'urban' and 'urbane' were derived from the Latin word 'Urbanus' having the meaning 'belonging to a city'. Both the words urban and urbane were used interchangeably.

The history of cities can be tracked to some ten thousand years ago. It is perhaps only a few hundred years ago that the scientific interest in the city grew up. The science of urban Sociology is a recent phenomenon. Giovanni Botero's book "Delle Cause della grandezza della citta" was most probably the first book on city which was published in 1598. The English translation of the book was published in the year 1806 titled 'A Treatise Concerning the Causes of the Magnificence of and Greatness of Cities.' The importance of the lies in the fact that it came to public notice that the city as an object of scientific enquiry started to occupy the minds of the scholars, who have attempted to study the city from an empirical perspective. Scholars from diverse backgrounds took keen interest in the study of urban life or city life i.e. the statisticians, the economists, the historians, scholars related to population studies, administrators, planners and social reformers etc. have devoted much attention to the study of city in concrete manner.

Some of the basic urban problems were investigated by scholars like Mayr, Ruecher, Supan, Gault, Adna Weber, Hurd, Willcox and Ravenstein. The irony is that none of these scholars work was urban sociology in true sense. In spite of Sociology being established as a distinctive branch of science, urban study was not in focus till very late. The 1910 publication "L'Origine et la fonction economique des villes" by Rene Maurier who was a sociologist was the first monograph on city. In this book urban study had largely economic connotations. The other famous works on urban sociology were by George Simmel (*Die Grosstadte und das Geistesleben*; translated as 'The Metropolitan and Mental Life'), 1903; Max Weber's *Die Stadt* (The City), 1921 and R. Maurier's (*Le Village et la ville*), 1929. Some of the famous explorative studies on urban sociology of that time included Jane Addam's *Hull House Maps and Papers* published in 1893 and Robert Woods "The City and Wilderness" published in 1899. Following the footsteps of Charles Booth's study of life and labour in London in 1888, Sophonisba P. Breckinridge studied the housing in Chicago in 1908. Roundtree's study of town life and destitution in New York was an important study on the problems of city life. The real turning point in city study came from the writings of Robert E. Park's article 'The City' which was first published in the *American Journal of Sociology* in 1915.

The real recognition to urban sociology came in 1925 when American Sociological Society conducted an annual meeting on Urban Sociology. E.W. Burgess published the papers presented in this meeting



under the title 'The Urban Community'. The pioneering efforts of Park, Burgess and McKenzie have been unforgettable because they had published 'The City'. Due to the efforts of the students of Park and Burgess the Chicago School of Urban Sociology flourished.

The common characteristics of Sociology and Urban Sociology is that both the disciplines have emerged and developed in the Western societies. There is significant contribution of Chicago School behind the origin and growth of Urban Sociology. It can be safely concluded that an urban area has the following characteristics:

- The population of a city generally rely on occupations other than agriculture for their sustenance.
- Generally, city refers to a larger settlement of population and the structure of neighborhood is differentiated.
- The city is characterized with high density of population along with complex form of division of labour.
- The city life boasts of diverse pattern of interaction and the interpersonal relationship is distinct from village folk.

Therefore, to give you the right perspective about this branch of sociology many of the details and discussions are given in this unit.

### 1.3 Meaning of Urban Sociology

The name Urban Sociology indicates the study of urban life and urban areas. The Latin word 'Urbanus' which means belonging to a city is the precursor of the word 'urban'. The word 'Urbane' seeks its origin from the French word 'Urbain'. At many instances both the words are used interchangeably which had similar meaning. In common parlance, the word 'urban' is used to mean being polite, refined, specialized or elegant. The reason behind this may be due to the fact that these characteristics are typically found among the urban residents in contrast to the village people.

#### Definition

According to **Jary and Jary** "The study of social relationships and structures in the city".

According to **Flanagan** "A cohesive sub-discipline within sociology, related in some systematic manner to a particular kind of special space, the urban arena".

According to **Barker** “urban sociology deals with the impact of the city life on social action, social relationship, social instruction and the types of civilization derived from and based on urban modes of living.”

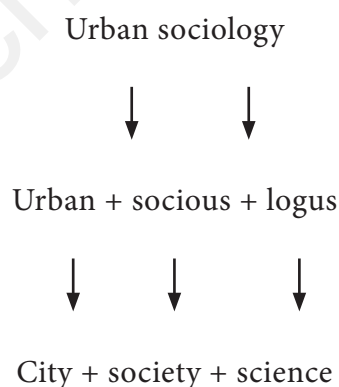
According to **Professor House** urban sociology defined as ‘the specialized study of city life and problems.

According to **Nels Anderson** - “Urban sociology concerns society and living in towns and cities”.

According to **E.Bergal** – “Urban sociology deals with the impact of city life on social actions, social relationships, social institutions and types of civilizations derived form and based on urban modes of living”.

According to **Quinn** - “In sociological sense, the science related to the study of structure of cities and urbane in urban sociology.

Urban sociology is a study of impact of city life on man’s social actions, social relationships, social institutions and types of civilization derived from and based on urban modes of living. it is a normative discipline of sociology seeping to study the structures, environmental processes, changes and problem of an urban area and by doing so provide inputs for urban planning and policy making.



It can be said that urban sociology is scientific study of urban society.

### The Earliest Cities

Early cities developed in a few regions, from Mesopotamia to Asia to the Americas. The very first cities were founded in Mesopotamia after the Neolithic Revolution, around 7500 BCE. Mesopotamian cities included Eridu, Uruk, and Ur. Early cities also arose in the Indus Valley and ancient China. Among the early Old-World cities, one of the largest was Mohenjodaro, located in the Indus Valley (present-day Pakistan); it existed from about 2600 BCE, and had a population of 50,000 or more. In the ancient Americas, the earliest cities were built in the Andes and Mesoamerica and flourished between the 30th century BCE and the 18th century BCE.

## 1.4 Origin and Development of Urban Sociology

Cities appeared some ten thousand years ago. The scientific interest in the city is, however, a few hundred years old and the science of urban sociology is still more recent. The origin of Urban Sociology is a distinct branch of the sociology discipline. It is associated with the Chicago School. The concept of urban sociology evolved from a series of studies conducted at the University of Chicago during the 1920s and 1930s.

The first department of Sociology in the U.S.A. was started at University of Chicago in the year 1892. The department was headed by Albion. W. Small and scholars such as Charles R. Henderson, W.I. Thomas and George E. Vincent were part of the department. Early in the 1920s sociologists at Chicago began the rigorous work of gathering the facts of urban life, guided by theoretical notions concerning the growth and structure of cities and the nature of human beings and its institutions.

Urban sociology emerged as a distinct branch of the sociology around early 20th century in the West, especially after the Industrial Revolution. It became popular in America: Cities, such as, Chicago became the hub of urban sociology. The social changes caused by Industrial Revolution and the development of cities motivated social scientists to make the city the subject matter of study. Due to the rapid process of urbanization that took place from the late 19th century through the first part of the 20th century 'Urban sociology' emerged as an attempt to understand this process, and the consequences that it had for social life. At the core of this field was the increasingly prominent and rapidly growing

American city.

The studies on urban centers or cities developed as the subject matter of study in Social Science disciplines through the writings of the Chicago School of thought. The theoretical formulations of social thinkers such as Karl Marx, Max Weber and Durkheim had focused on cities or urban centers. The central concern of all these writers was with social, economic and political implications of the development of capitalism in the West, they did not consider it useful to develop a specifically urban theory. During that period there was a rapid growth of cities in the west which was natural for the disruptive social change in the societies. It is very obvious that the theories of Durkheim (disintegration of moral cohesion), Weber (the growth of calculative rationality) and Marx (the destructive forces unleashed by the development of capitalism) are centered on urban life.

After the Industrial Revolution, sociologists such as Max Weber and Georg Simmel began to focus on the accelerating process of urbanization and the effects it had on feelings of social alienation and anonymity. Notably, Georg Simmel is widely considered the father of urban sociology for his contributions to the field in his works such as: *The Metropolis and Mental Life*: published in 1903.

The early three sociological classics on urban sociology were —G. Simmel, *Die Grosstadte und das Geistesleben*, 1903; Max Weber, *Die Stadt*, 1921; and R. Maunier, *Le Village et la ville*, 1929. However, the real impetus came from Robert E. Park. His article “*The City*,” which heralded the coming of a new era, was first published in the *American Journal of Sociology* in 1915; yet at that time it received little attention. Sociology was still a general science without much specialization. Indeed, it was still trying for recognition, which it gained quite slowly. The year 1925 marks the turning point. Park republished his article, together with other contributions, in a small book, *The City*. In the following year, he and his co-editor Burgess published a similar volume of short articles called *The Urban Community*. The response was remarkable. The first textbook on urban sociology appeared in 1929. Since then, the new field has flourished and expanded.

It is however important to mention that the status of urban sociology is closely related to the level of development and urbanization of a particular nation. Since there was a concentration of scholar in the field

of sociology in Chicago City, such as, Robert E. Park, Robert D. Mckenzie; E.W Burgess, Louis Wirth working on urban Sociology and contributing vast number of studies in this field; Chicago School of Thought' emerged.

Further, the birth of urban sociology has a close association with the expansion of Chicago city. Rapid commercialization and industrialization of the city occurred in later 19th century. There was a massive influx of migrants from places like, Europe, France, Sweden, Germany, Czechoslovakia etc. and the city became more and more complex as it became multi-cultural, multilingual and with unequal distribution of wealth (Fredrick Cressey 1971). The population of Chicago doubled from 1898 to 1930. This rapid growth was accompanied by marked changes in the distribution of the city's population. Not simply did the population expand over a large area but certain sections of the city grew more rapidly than others. This rapid growth and expansion of the city witnessed in Chicago and in other parts of the world became the focus of study of the Chicago Sociologists. The metropolis, the great urban complex which plays a dominant role in the social life of its inhabitants and the cultural, political and economic life of the nations of the world over became the integrating theme of the Chicago School.

By 1920s the Chicago School found that the natural areas could be significantly studied in two aspects:

- a) The spatial pattern: This includes the topography of the local community and the physical arrangement which not only include land space but also the structures that the people constructed, that sheltered the inhabitants and provided the places of work and play.
- b) The cultural life: The modes of living and customs and standards. The spatial aspect gave rise to ecological studies, all that could be mapped, the distribution, physical structures, institutions, groups and individuals over an area.

**Activity:**

Observe the society in which you live. Whether it is a village, town, city, metropolis- observe the physical characteristics. Note about its culture, society, values, physical infrastructure, the amenities available. Write two pages based on your observations on your village/city/town/metropolis.

Compare it with other students.

### **1.5 Importance of Urban Sociology**

As a branch of sociology, the study of urban sociology is crucial now a days. Urban sociology tries to study the urban life of both developed and developing countries. The urban life of an advanced country is taken as an example to be followed by the underdeveloped and developing countries. They are considered as the torchbearers of the revolutionary change in the political, social, economic and cultural movements. Advancement of industrialization and technological development attracted the people of villages towards cities and towns, and this has chased urbanization to a great extent. Due to this, the personal tendencies and trends, and norms and standards of all social institutions have also undergone a tremendous change. The urban society is also witnessing an increase in crimes and corruption leading to social disorganization. Apart from these, many grave economic and political problems have also cropped up forcing governmental organizations to pay attention to find solutions to these problems. In the present urban societies, the service of the urban sociologist is equally important as those of the doctor, engineer or any other professional. Without the help of urban sociologists, urban social problems cannot be effectively solved. The importance of urban sociology can be realized from the following reasons cited below:

- a. Reconstruction of urban society
- b. Study of urbanization
- c. To solve the problems that crop up due to the extension of urbanization
- d. Urban planning
- e. Proper implementation of community projects
- f. Study of the ever-changing urban social structure

Thus, urban sociology is not merely a theoretical study but has an applied aspect as well.

### **1.6 Nature and Scope of Urban Sociology**

Urban sociology is one of the broadest and multidisciplinary of all sociological fields. It depends on the related sciences and borrows from history, economics, social psychology, public administration, and social work. It tends to overlap geography with its emphasis on spatial distribution of social institutions and social groups within the city; political science, with its emphasis on political behavior, power and with decision making; economics, with its perspective on public policy, taxation, and

public expenditures; and anthropology with respect to culture of groups.

The subject-matter of sociology is cities and their growth, and it deals with such problems like planning and development of cities, traffic regulations, public waterworks, social hygiene, sewerage works, housing, beggary, juvenile delinquency, crime and so on. Thus, the scope of urban sociology becomes wider as it not only tries to study the urban setup and facts but also tries to give suggestions to solve problems arising out of dynamic nature of the society. In many ways the interests of urbanology (A specialist in urban sociology) and ecologist also overlaps with those of town and city planners, social workers, various other specialists in education, race relations, housing, and urban development and rehabilitation (Gist, 1957). Therefore, there is a need to clarify/redefine many basic concepts in the field: community, ecology, city, urban, urbanism, urban society, urbanization, industrialization, modernization and so on.

**Community:** The term has many meanings. Sometimes it is used to denote a common habitat or the totality of all persons living in the same area. Frequently the term indicates more than merely a locality or its residents. Davis, for instance, stresses what he calls “social completeness”. Accordingly, he defines a community, as “the smallest territorial group that can embrace all aspects of social life ...It is the smallest social local group that can be, and often is, a complete society”. McIver and Page approach the problem from a somewhat different angle, emphasizing relationships rather than social organization: “The basic criterion of community ... is that all of one’s social relationships may be found within it.” We can indeed speak of a community if common habitat creates positive emotional ties between all - residents or at least all groups of residents. It is characterized by feeling of belongingness and friendly feeling towards each other, cooperation is promoted and community can fulfil all its functions.

**Ecology:** It was Robert E. Park who appropriated the principles of natural science (ecology) for the analysis of urban spaces or urban ecology (Flanagan, W. 1993). In simple words, ecology is the science, which studies the relationship between living things and the environment. The city like any other environment, is a conditioning rather than a determining factor.

Urban ecology refers to an idea that emerged out of the Chicago School that likens urban organization to biological organisms. Urban ecology has remained an influential theory in both urban sociology and urban anthropology over time. The theory is essentially an extended



metaphor that helps to explain how conflicting subgroups exist in shared urban spaces and systems. Like biological systems, urban subgroups are dependent on one another for healthy functioning and are also dynamic—that is, they flourish and decline based on political, economic, and social tides. Relating this to functionalist theory, one can look at immigration and emigration trends. As people enter and leave a country, they are dependent upon one another, as well as the new culture, to assimilate and enter into a new society. Immigrants become emigrants and vice-versa; in this way, the chain of life continues in terms of societal relations.

Any thorough discussion of the development of urban sociology must explain difference between the two organizing topics in the field: urbanization and urbanism. Urbanization refers to the origins of cities and the process of city building. What people migrate from rural areas to the cities; due to pull or push factors; temporarily or permanently; the process of urbanization takes place. In practice, urbanization refers both to the increase in the percentage of population residing in urban areas and to the associated growth in the number of urban dwellers, in the size of cities and in the total area occupied by urban settlements. It studies the way social activities locate themselves in space and according to interdependent processes of societal development and change.

Urbanism, in contrast, studies the ways of life that may be found within the urban community. It deals with culture, symbols, patterns of daily life, and processes of adjustment to the environment of the city, but also with social conflict and political organization at the street, neighborhood, and city levels. As believed by Louis Wirth; it is a way of life distinct from the life in the rural areas.

The philosophical foundations of modern urban sociology originate from the work of sociologists such as Karl Marx, Ferdinand Tönnies, Émile Durkheim, Max Weber and Georg Simmel who studied and theorized the economic, social and cultural processes of urbanization and its effects on social alienation, class formation, and the production or destruction of collective and individual identities.

These theoretical foundations were expanded and analyzed by a group of sociologists and researchers who worked at the University of Chicago in the early twentieth century. In what became known as the Chicago School of sociology the work of Robert Park, Louis Wirth and Ernest Burgess on the inner city of Chicago revolutionized not only the



purpose of urban research in sociology, but also the development of human geography through its use of quantitative and ethnographic research methods. The importance of the theories developed by the Chicago School within urban sociology have been critically sustained and critiqued but still remain one of the most significant historical advancements in understanding urbanization and the city within the social sciences. The discipline may draw from several fields, including cultural sociology, economic sociology, and political sociology.

The growth of cities and the urbanization of social life have long stood at the center of social science inquiry. Urban housing, politics, intergroup relations, class and stratification patterns, economic structure, demographic trends, and the nature of communities are among the most frequent areas of scholarly investigation. Social scientists have focused on social interactions in urban areas because cities have the unique capacity to bring together many cultural strands. Economic problems and power dynamics are intensified as resources are scarce due to dense populations. Cities also operate as zones of confluence for economic relationships and other types of diversity as new ideas, people, and goods are constantly flowing through urban areas.

The advent of globalization and the information and communication technology revolution, have a profound impact on cities around the world and have revived academic interest in urban sociology.

Urban sociology has its own characteristics, and these are stated below.

- It is the sociological analysis of city and its lifestyle.
- It concerns the dynamism of society stimulated by urbanization.
- It tends to identify the urban problems and implement possible remedies to solve them.
- It is factual study of urban social living.
- It plays attention to the social relation among the city dwellers.
- It concerned with the geo-spatial cultural issues and comparative analysis of urban ecology.
- It studies the social relation which may harmonious or conflicting.
- It is the subtract area of general sociology.
- It is based on universal, authentic, and valid scientific data.

Write a note on “My City/Town/Village” based on its people, culture, values etc. Discuss your report with your teacher and friends.

Urban Sociology deals with the impact of city life on social action, social relationships, Social Institutions, and the types of civilizations derived from and based on urban modes of living. Louis Wirth has written extensively on urbanism and described the complexity of our subject-matter:

“The city is not merely the point at which great numbers are concentrated into limited space, but it is also a complex heterogeneity in almost every characteristic in which human beings can differ from one another. In this respect the city represents perhaps the most striking contrast to the social entities that we call primitive, folk, and peasant societies. Consequently, the methods adapted to the understanding of the population of the metropolis are strikingly different from those suited to simpler and more homogeneous societies. This accounts for the fact that in attempting to understand the city we have had to resort to extensive statistical inquiries to determine the human elements of which it is composed. They differ, as do all societies, in sex and age, but they show peculiar distribution of age and sex groups and great variations in these respects as we pass from area to area. They differ widely from one another in occupation, in view of the more extensive division of Labor, which the growth of the market has made possible. They differ in wealth and in income, ranging from the extreme of affluence to the depths of the direst poverty and insecurity. The city, moreover, by virtue of its focal position in the complex of capitalistic civilization, has attracted within its confines the racial and ethnic stocks of all the world and has more or less amalgamated them and blended their traits into a new aggregate of hybrids, here mingling with one another and there segregating themselves from one another, here collaborating and there at war, but in any case, building a complex of cultures unprecedented in human history. This heterogeneity of the human materials in the city is at once a source of ferment and stimulation and of the frictions and conflicts that characterize modern society” (Louis Wirth 1940).

According to Marshall 1998 urban sociology is concerned with

1. Urbanization
2. Rapidly growing industrial cities

3. Complex social relationships, and
4. Social structures

According to Simmel (1903), urban sociology is the impressionistic discussion of

1. Urban lifestyle and personality.
2. Urban social organization and culture.
3. Physical characteristics of cities.
4. Social characteristics of inhabitants.

According to Jary and Jary (2000) it is concerned with-

1. Urban dimensions of society.
2. Forms of association and social life in urban environments.
3. Social order and organization in urban settings.
4. Role of urban development in social change.
5. Community studies and neighborhood.
6. Study of housing.
7. Race and ethnic relationships.

Azam and Ali (2005) have classified the scope of urban sociology into five dimensions.

1. The social change perspectives, includes-
  - Morphology of cities
  - Population dynamics
  - Transformation of urban communities
  - Change in behavioral pattern of city dwellers.
  - Structural change
2. The social organization perspective, includes-
  - Individual, groups
  - Bureaucracy, and social institution
3. The ecological perspective,
  - Population, environment, and technology
4. The social problem perspective
  - Poverty, unemployment, illness etc.
5. The social policy perspective includes recognition and identification of the problems and ability to solve the identified problems.

Do you think you are an urban person or rural? List the attributes on the basis of which you have decided your personality.

### Urban Isolation

Social isolation has existed long before forced isolation during an epidemic/pandemic or any similar event. Its effects have come into prominence now with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Isolation includes a person staying in a confined space with little interaction beyond the determined limits. A deficit of social support from being isolated may lead to stress, depression, and poor compliance (Boden-Albala et al., 2005; Brooks et al., 2020). Social isolation is also an augur of consequence events post-stroke (Boden-Albala et al., 2005). The urban form has directly impacted polarizing societies, leading to the isolation of communities primarily on socioeconomic factors (Antoniucci & Marella, 2018). As cities attract a large number of people from rural settlements, it leads to higher densities. With higher living costs in urban areas, people either started migrating towards the outskirts or ended up living in slums or ghettos (Antoniucci & Marella, 2018; Garewa, 2006; S. Wang, Kwan, & Hu, 2020). This has created polarized societies with its effects visible in housing patterns, infrastructure, and even restricted access to transportation networks leading to constrained access to resources and opportunities (Antoniucci & Marella, 2018; Benediktsson, 2018; S. Wang, Kwan, & Hu, 2020). The rise of gated communities is another symbol of economic inequality present in several cities across the globe (Grundstrom, 2018 € ; Roitman & Recio, 2020).

These have led to the restricted use of public spaces creating spatial inequality and reduced interaction between different communities (Benediktsson, 2018). Jaspers and Pieters (2016) conducted a study spanning nine years with over 4200 individuals on 'Materialism across life span' shows patterns as to why individuals flock to cities for economic gains. Individuals' tendencies have shifted from happiness to a sense of achievement as a significant reason for materialism. Indexing happiness factors across age groups and materialism resulted in materialism hardly impacting an individual's satisfaction. "The idea of materialism may be conceived of as a cluster of beliefs and values" (Dittmar et al., 2014). Every city has its unique characteristics. Urban experiences may vary depending on the cities' housing patterns, infrastructure availability, civic participation opportunities, economic statuses, and other factors (van Hoof et al., 2018). Thus, the results from this study cannot be generalized. Policymakers will have to study a city in specific to address its issues.

Source-“Redressing urban isolation: A multi-city case study in India” by Sameer Ali , Abraham George Journal of Urban Management journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jum](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jum) .

## 1.7 Urban Sociology in India

Urban studies were first initiated by a popular social scientist Patrick Geddes in the University of Mumbai in 1915. Later, the study of urban problems was also taken up by geographers and sociologists in 1920. During the decade 1914 to 1924 he made diagnostic and treatment surveys of some 50 Indian urban centers and brought out two volumes of Town Planning Towards City Development for Indore in 1918 (Boardman, 1976), Yet unlike Park and Burgess, his works could not lay the foundation of the subject in India. One of the main reasons was that the subject of sociology was itself in its budding condition in India. However, substantial progress in research on urban problems was done in the post-independence period. The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) sponsored research on urban problems in areas of geography, sociology, economics, public administration etc. Due to very low level of urbanization, the distinction between rural and urban sociology was not meaningful in India.

It was only after the 1951 Census, which indicated a high rate of growth of urban population in India that social scientists began to take real interest in urban studies. The interest continued unabated during the seventies. Consequently, urban sociology gained importance, and problems of rural— urban migration, urban development, and other related areas such as demography, neighborhoods, slums, social stratification, education, ethnic conflict and movements, kinship, religion, politics, economy, social problems, and impact of urbanization on rural areas attracted the attention of the sociologists and social anthropologists (Rao 1982).

The National Commission on Urbanization (NCU) report, published in five volumes, highlighted the problems of urbanization at the grassroots, sub-state, and state levels. NCU noted that urbanization is a phenomenon of unique scope and dimension that can change the nature of our lives fundamentally. This decade also saw some valuable studies on slums and squatter settlements such as: Kaldate 1989; Dhadave 1989; Sandhu 1989; Rao R.N. 1990; Das 1993; Desai 1995; De wit 1996; Purewal 2000; Lobo and Das 2001. In addition to this, many other publications

appeared as conferences and seminars volumes on different aspects of urbanization such as human settlements, urban poor and sustainability of human settlements. Some of the important works are Mohanty 1993; Didde and Rangaswamy 1993; Roy and Das Gupta 1995; Kundu 2000; Sandhu et al, 2001; Sharma and Sita 2001.

In a paper entitled “Indian Urbanism: A Socio-historical Perspective”, which appeared in a special issue of ‘Contributions to Indian Sociology’ Satish Saberwal (1977) rightly observes that Patrick Geddes before his appointment as the first Professor of Sociology in the University of Bombay, around sixty years ago prepared a Report regarding the re-planning of six towns in Bombay Presidency. G.S Ghurey as a true successor of Prof. Patrick Geddes wrote on “Cities of India” in the March 1953 issue of the Sociological Bulletin. Though some Sociologists have come up with various publications on urban related phenomena, but nothing had such deep impact or any intellectually engaging ideas crept in.

### 1.8 Urban Sociological Studies in India

During the 1920s when the studies on city life and urban social phenomenon was gaining prominence in the western countries due to the influence of Chicago school, Prof. Patrick Geddes established the department of Sociology in the University of Bombay for the first time. For Patrick Geddes, cities are nothing but symbolizes civilization. Prof. Geddes initiated number of urban studies in India. His notable contribution includes revival of indigenous customs and use it for urban studies in India. Geddes could perceive the interrelationship between urban spatial forms and urban social structure, and this led Geddes to conclude that if urban spatial forms can be changed subsequently the urban social structure can also be changed. Between 1914



Source- Asha Bhavan Centre: a NGO dedicated to the growth, welfare and development of the underprivileged children and people from the marginalized community. [www.abcindia.org](http://www.abcindia.org)



and 1924, Geddes prepared around forty town planning reports on behalf of many governmental agencies and various institutions. All these works have been incorporated in "Town Planning towards City Development." All the efforts taken up by Geddes were pioneering ideas concerning the revival as well as the preservation of Indian urban centers and additionally these were the earliest possible archival documents which shows the status of Indian cities in the early phases of the twentieth century (Meller, Helen 1990). Though

Despite the pioneering efforts of Patrick Geddes, the urban studies in India took so many decades to claim its profoundness and M.S.A Rao very aptly points out that the lackadaisical nature of the Indian Sociologists towards Urban Sociology was because of the fact that the distinction between rural and urban Sociology was not thought to be meaningful and the level of urbanization in India considered to be at a lower level. Another anomaly in this regard was that both the traditional city and the village were the elements of the same civilization.

Since 1950s the process of urbanization and urbanism has attracted the attention of the social scientists in India. According to D'Souza the social scientists showed real interest in urban studies after the publication of 1951 Census Report which clearly revealed the growth of urban population in India. Arnold Toynbee, Max Weber, Robert Redfield, Milton Singer, G.S.Ghurey, D.N.Majumdar, Radhakamal Mukherjee and Gideon Sjoberg have showed interested in urban centric phenomena of India. Prof. G.S. Ghurey of University of Bombay, as a true successor of Prof. Geddes had shown immense interest in studying the urban phenomena in India. Ghurey focused on studying the historical and comparative aspects of urbanization. He also studied the rural-urban relations. Ghurey in his article "Cities of India" published in 1953 gave emphasis on studying the political, Cultural, and ecological aspects of the ancient and medieval cities. Weber (1962) has attempted to study Indian cities from comparative and historical perspective with special focus on the institution of caste. According to him, caste continues to be the main characteristics of traditional cities and it has great potential to obstruct the realization of socio-legal equality, emergence of citizenry and thus modern Indian cities are in true sense not autonomous.

Again, as per the 1971 census there was seen high rate of growth of urban population which tempted the attention of the social scientists to look into the matters of cities and associated problems which led to growth of rapid interest and eventually resulted in the spread and growth of Urban Sociology in India (D'Souza, 1974). Various issues concerning urban development,

rural-urban migration, slums, education, sanitation, religion, economics, politics, ethnic conflicts, stratification, neighborhood, demography, impact of urbanization on rural areas have caught the attention of Sociologists and Anthropologists (Rao, 1982). 1980s was the decade when good number of studies were done on Indian urbanism by some noted scholars like Dimock and Inden (1970), Hambly (1968), (Ghosh (1973), King (1978) and Saberwal (1978). Great number of studies were conducted on urbanization and associated problems in cities and towns. Some sociologically relevant problems like slums, beggary, juvenile delinquency, and prostitution have been investigated by urban sociologists and social workers.

During the 1980s and 1990s some Government initiatives were there which prompted urban studies. The National Commission on Urbanization came up with a five- volume Report which sheds light on the problems of urbanization at the grass root level, sub-state level and state level. After the 1996 Istanbul Conference on Habitat by United Nations' Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS), the Indian Government also strived hard to conduct city studies for the purpose of preparing a national report on the status of Indian cities. As per the guidelines and recommendations of the UNCHS, the Government of India has established the National Urban Observatory. Government of India also plans to prepare urban database at city level just like local urban governance as per the UNCHS guidelines.

All these studies help us to know more about the scale and magnitude of urbanization in Indian context. Though all the studies conducted during 1950s, 1960s and 1970s were empirical generalizations about the urban issues, but there was lack of scientific method. (D'Souza, 1985). To sum up, these efforts provided more conducive grounds for undertaking urban studies in India (Sandhu, 2002).

### **1.9 Let us sum up.**

This unit acquaints us with understanding the origin and development of Urban Sociology. Many Sociologists have conducted number of studies on urban social realities. This unit tries to cover in detail the origin and growth of Urban Sociology as a distinctive branch of Sociology both in western context as well as in India. In a very crude understanding, urban is thought as directly opposite to rural. Urban Sociology primarily deals with the impact of city life on social relations, social action, urban modes of living, social institutions and so on. The contribution of Chicago school is very important because it played



a pivotal role in institutionalizing Urban Sociology as a distinctive branch of Sociology by producing works on urban social interactions and urban social space. Patrick Geddes established the first department of Sociology in the University of Bombay and he had contributed immensely by producing important Reports on town planning from 1914 to 1924. The year 1925 was a landmark for Urban Sociology as in this year American Sociological Society called for an annual meeting on Urban Sociology. After this there was no looking back since Urban Sociology got recognized and institutionalized as a sub-field of Sociology. Due to all its intricacies and complexities, Urban Sociology deserves attention from several perspectives viz. social organization, city and civilization, ecological and social problems approach. Despite early attempts to study cities began in the 1920s, it is only in the 1950s that many empirical and scientific studies on cities were conducted. The census of 1951 was important in this respect because this report highlighted the heightened growth of urbanization in India which eventually led to study on various urban phenomena. Urban Sociology has been established as a distinct branch of Sociology after a lot of empirical work has been done in the field.

### 1.10 Keywords

**Urbanus:** means “belonging to a city”

**Community:** Often defined as a local grouping within which people carry on a full round of life activities, but usually used for any locality or category of people. Examples are rural and urban communities.

**Globalization:** It involves the creation of new and the multiplication of existing social networks and activities that increasingly overcomes traditional political, economic, cultural, and geographical boundaries.

**Industrialization:** It basically meant the change in the method of production of manufactured goods from animate (such as horses, cows, bullocks, etc, or through human energy) to inanimate power (such as steam and electricity).

**Urbanism:** It refers to patterns of social life – typical of urban population. These include a highly specialized division of labor, growth of individualism in social relations, growth of voluntary associations, etc.

**Urbanization:** The process of increase in the size and density of population in cities and the concentration of population in cities because of immigration.

**Ecology:** It studies the relationship between living things and the environment.

### 1.11 Self-Assessment Questions

- 1) How would you define urban sociology?
- 2) Give an account of the origin and development of urban sociology.
- 3) Write a note on the emergence of urban sociology in India.
- 4) Write a note on Chicago School.
- 5) Examine the importance of the study of urban sociology in modern world.
- 6) Fill in the blanks: -
  - a) Urban Sociology as a subfield of Sociology discipline emerged in .....
  - b) ..... was the first Professor of Sociology in the Bombay University
  - c) Urbanization is a process by which people migrate from ..... areas to the cities and towns.

### 1.12 References

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**UNIT - II**

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**Lesson 2.1 - Basic Concepts**

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**Structure**

- 2.1 Learning Objectives
- 2.2 Assessment of Prior Knowledge
- 2.3 Concept of City
- 2.4 Urbanization and Urbanism
- 2.5 Urbanity
- 2.6 Suburb
- 2.7 Metropolitan
- 2.8 Corporation
- 2.9 Neighbourhood
- 2.10 Key Words
- 2.11 Self-Assessment Questions
- 2.12 References

**2.1. Learning objectives**

*After studying this unit, the students will be able to*

- Understand the basic concept of city.
- Know the process of urbanization.
- Have a fair understanding of the process of urbanism.
- Know the concept of urbanity.
- Develop certain understanding on suburb.
- Comprehend the concept of Metropolitan.
- Know the concept of Corporation.
- Have an understanding on the concept of neighborhood.

**2.2 Assessment of the Prior Knowledge**

When we think or talk about city usually, we come across with certain physical features like shopping complexes, skyscrapers, modern infrastructures, closed settlements, well connected areas etc. Cities do have some distinctive features in the form of availability of health care facilities,

drinking water, sanitation and recreational facilities which attract people more. It can be definitively said that cities are also physical entities since cities do have physical boundaries. Cities have two dimensions i.e., physical dimension as well as functional dimension. Functional dimension of cities simply refers to the fact that many functions like political, economic, and administrative functions are carried out within the context of cities. Cities are well known for their employment and educational opportunities. Cities are famous for situating government offices, business outlets, institutions of financial services and most importantly major trade and commerce functions are executed within the cities. The social dimension of cities refers to the fact that people belonging to distinct culture, language, ethnicity, language, and regions live in close proximity with each other in the cities. This entails the cities heterogeneous characteristics. The diffusion of information and communication technology is better served by cities. When it comes to innovation and inventions in science and technology, the cities not only witness them first, but become the epicenters from where the dissemination of knowledge and diffusion of technology takes place to other parts.

### **2.3 The City**

City can be described as opposite to rural since both can be said to be situated in totally extreme ends of the continuum. The amenities experienced by the city dwellers are a distant dream to the villagers. Cities generally grow due to the influx of immigrant populations who come on to settle down in the cities in lieu of its better infrastructural advantages and employment opportunities. Therefore, we can say that cities are not fixed or having unalterable characteristics, rather cities have their own growth, density, composition, space, and complexities over time.

One central question comes to mind which needs to be answered regarding the importance of the cities. In other words, it can be put as why cities are considered as important? In fact, the importance of cities lies in the fact that it is related to experiencing modern amenities and growing human urge to conquer in every sphere of life and through cities individuals attempt to bring in about better management to their everyday life courses.

One of the most corollary of city life is modernization. Since cities are thought to be associated with development, growth, progress, and

modernization, but for all the city dwellers the experience is not the same. While some enjoy the city life and its amenities to the fullest, at the other extreme are situated some people belonging to the disadvantaged section who face a lot of hardships and difficulty to sustain themselves in the cities.

There is no unanimity among the Sociologists when it comes to provide definition to cities. Perhaps Mumford (1968) provides the most comprehensive definition of city in his famous article on "City: Forms and Functions" in the International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences. Although the city as a form of human settlement dates back to the beginnings of civilization, it long escaped scholarly scrutiny; and its very definition is still under debate.

From Sociological point of view though city is an abstraction, but the constituting elements like the structures, means of transport, city dwellers, amenities etc. are concrete things which are not uniform across all the cities. For Bergel (1955), the functional integration of the constituting elements makes a city. There are multiple functions of a city which vary from city to city and time to time. Similarly, when it comes to define cities, there is no single definition of city, but multiple ways to define city like occupational, statistical, sociological, economical, and legal perspectives to define cities.

### **Classification of Cities on the Basis of Age:**

**A. Taylor's Classification:** Griffith Taylor (1949) attempted to identify stages in the development of the cities. On the basis of these stages, he classified cities into six categories.

1. Sub-infantile- The initial cluster in a single ill-defined street town.
2. Infantile - Town in a second stage have no clear differentiation between industrial, commercial and residential area, though there is a tendency for the bigger houses to be located near the margins. There are no factories.
3. Juvenile - There is a fairly clear segregation of an extensive commercial quarter towards the center of the town, though separation of function is in no way complete. The residential area also shows no clear differentiation.
4. Adolescence – This stage shows clear differentiation of residential zone.

5. Early maturity – In this stage also there is a differentiation of Classification of Cities residential zone, the different between the two lies only in degree.
6. Mature -A mature town is one in which there are separate commercial area as well as four zone of residential houses, ranging from mansions to shacks. The classification is interesting from an academic point of view, but is unpractical as no specific determinants have been stated. Moreover, it is applicable only to western cities under a particular economic system.

**B. Mumford's Classification:** Lewis Mumford (1938) an American historian, sociologist, philosopher of technology, and literary critic suggested six stages of development of cities. Mumford was influenced by the work of Scottish Theorist Sir Patrick Geddes. His six stages of development of cities are:

1. **Eopolis:** The beginning of urbanization of course is rooted in the rural scene. Men used to be involved in hunting. As they slowly learned, they became producers and settled in village. They also indulged in fishing and mining. At this juncture of time depending upon their religion, they set up a temple, cathedral or mosque. Subsequently, a market also developed.
2. **Polis:** As more and more villages developed many found that they have certain things common with their neighbours. The settlements slowly developed into a brotherhood of traders and became richer because of accumulation of wealth from nearby villages. The religious establishments extend further and so does the market squares. There was a social stratification according to which people belonging to the higher hierarchy occupy central place while the others spread outwardly such that the people of lower level took peripheral places.
3. **Metropolis:** Small towns and villages in a region come together as a single entity. The entity is the city which has a compact site, good water and food supply, ample land etc. This becomes metropolis, the mother of city. As the city streamlines its production, a surplus occurs. The surplus at this stage is characterized by the specialization of trades.
4. **Megalopolis:** The stage is marked by more diversity of cultures. There is migration from all around. Indifference between the people

increases. There is also a class struggle. Further developments are hence down wards. The city begins to decline.

5. **Tyrannopolis:** The economic and social scene slowly metamorphoses into more or less parasitic state. This stage of the development of city is marked by the indifference. People are involved in pomp and pleasure. This is what happened towards the end of Roman era. The environment of the city deteriorates and people flee towards the countryside. The commercial activities are marked by booms and slumps.
6. **Necropolis:** The city decays further. The civilization follows a downward trend. War, famine and diseases erupt and lead the city towards destruction. The cultural institutions also erode greatly.

### **Pre-Industrial & Post-Industrial Cities:**

Economists with their emphasis on economic rationality, typically stress the role of economies of scale in the creation of cities: “most urban areas arise because of the economic advantages of large-scale activities.” While true after the advent of the industrial revolution (see below), such a characterization was probably less correct prior to that; historians’ emphasis on military and administrative control may have been closer to the actuality. Certainly, prior to the Industrial Revolution, big cities were few and far between. The London of 1800 is thought to be the first modern Western city to attain a population of one million.

Prior to that, Rome was considered to have been the biggest, achieving a population fluctuating between a half million and one million between A.D. 0 and 300. In a very real sense big cities were a creation of industrialization. Nevertheless, even before the industrial revolution, some cities developed markets, products and processes that subsequently were transplanted to the countryside as “cottage industries,” using so-called “putting out” systems. To the extent that cities developed trading activities, which many or almost all did, they also created potential gains from trade by exploiting comparative advantage. In particular, entrepot or depot cities, located at transport hubs or transshipment points, quite naturally developed related trading and marketing activities.

Patterns of urban development changed with the Industrial Revolution, in degree and absolutely as well. Certainly, economies



of scale came to the fore and the economic calculus for choosing an urban location became much more complex. Economies of scale alone, of course, would create or augment some urban sites. Such economies, however, were insufficient to explain the clustering of related and similar activities at particular points in space, thus creating truly large cities after industrialization.

The early stages of industrialization emphasized, not too surprisingly, new and better ways of satisfying the most basic physical human needs: food, clothing, housing (construction), and transportation. Mechanical drills, Classification of Cities fertilizers, and consolidation of many small farm units into large scale operations revolutionized the production of food, in the process releasing the manpower needed for other industrial activities. Factories replaced home production of textiles, using water and later steam and electric power to propel such inventions as the flying shuttle, the spinning jenny and the cotton gin. New iron and steel making processes made it economical to use iron or steel rather than wood in tools or implements for construction.

As a consequence of the Industrial Revolution, urban site location no longer depended so much on the productivity of the surrounding countryside but rather on how a particular site facilitated the production and distribution of a specific product using a specific technology. Urban development at a logistically advantaged site for industry generally augmented the value of surrounding countryside (by bidding up real estate values and by providing more trading opportunities and a generally larger market for nearby farmers and other suppliers).

The pre-industrial urban sites that grew rapidly after industrialization, however, usually served the particular logistical needs of at least one new industry. Reducing the costs of shipping final product (by being near large populations) wasn't necessarily enough, especially if processing greatly reduced the weight and mass of the product at various intermediate stages of production. Quite possibly, the most efficient location might be at the site of a major raw material input, if that input were very heavy, extensively used, difficult to transport, and processing wasn't marked by substantial scale economies.

A city exhibiting the characteristics of a post-industrial society include the following - service industries dominate with a strongly developed quaternary sector and footloose industries abound, often



on pleasant open space at the edge of the city. Post-industrial cities are also characterized by large areas of office blocks and buildings for local government administration. These cities often exhibit marked inequality of income distribution because of the contrasts between those who are appropriately skilled—professionals, managers, administrators, and those in high technology service industries—and the poorly paid service workers who look after their needs, together with the unemployed. The former can afford high house prices, and, in fact, contribute to them; the latter cannot.

### **Cities – Global, Capital, Primate, Dual & Metropolis:**

**Global city**, an urban center that enjoys significant competitive advantages and that serves as a hub within a globalized economic system. The term has its origins in research on cities carried out during the 1980s, which examined the common characteristics of the world's most important cities. However, with increased attention being paid to processes of globalization during subsequent years, these world cities came to be known as global cities. Linked with globalization was the idea of spatial reorganization and the hypothesis that cities were becoming key loci within global networks of production, finance, and telecommunications. In some formulations of the global city thesis, then, such cities are seen as the building blocks of globalization. Simultaneously, these cities were becoming newly privileged sites of local politics within the context of a broader project to reconfigure state institutions.

Early research on global cities concentrated on key urban centers such as London, New York City, and Tokyo. With time, however, research has been completed on emerging global cities outside of this triad, such as Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Houston, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Paris, São Paulo, Sydney, and Zürich. Such cities are said to knit together to form a global city network serving the requirements of transnational capital across broad swathes of territory.

The rise of global cities has been linked with two globalization-related trends: first, the expansion of the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in global production patterns and, second, the decline of mass production along Fordist lines and the concomitant rise of flexible production centered within urban areas. These two trends explain the emergence of networks of certain cities serving the financial and service requirements of TNCs while other cities suffer the consequences of

deindustrialization and fail to become “global.” Global cities are those that therefore become effective command-and-coordination posts for TNCs within a globalizing world economy. Such cities have also assumed a governance role at the local scale and within wider configurations of what some commentators have termed the “glocalization” of state institutions. This refers to processes in which certain national state functions of organization and administration have been devolved to the local scale.

Location is often key. Many countries choose a geographically central capital in order to emphasize the equity of their government; this way, the capital isn’t as likely to be, or seem to be, biased toward one region or another. Madrid, for instance, is located almost exactly in the middle of Spain (and, to take it one step further, the middle of the Iberian Peninsula). When Nigeria decided to build a brand-new capital city, it placed Abuja, which was formally named the capital in 1991, in the center—a place signifying unity in a country often considered divided by its geography.

A capital can also be a sign of political compromise, as in the United States. Initially, members of Congress proposed that the national capital be in Pennsylvania—specifically, at either Lancaster or Germantown, then a Classification of Cities borough outside Philadelphia. They believed that a Philadelphia-adjacent capital would honor the young country’s revolutionary roots. Sometimes a country’s choice of capital has been politically motivated without compromise. The name of Myanmar’s capital, Nay Pyi Taw, means “Abode of Kings” in Burmese, and the city’s origin mirrors its name. Its construction began in 2004 amid Myanmar’s chaotic transition from military rule to democracy, but, evidently, Nay Pyi Taw’s planners had never been especially worried about accessibility: it had initially been designed to house only government and military personnel.

Finally, not all countries subscribe to the idea that there must be only one national capital. Bolivia, for instance, has La Paz as its administrative capital and Sucre as its constitutional capital. South Africa has three capitals: its administrative seat in Pretoria, its legislative seat in Cape Town, and its judicial seat in Bloemfontein. However, a country decides on its capital, that city becomes an important symbol of nationhood. While being a home to its inhabitants and a place for tourists to visit, it is also the city chosen to represent the entire country to the world.

A **primate city** is the dominant city among a country’s urban areas. Countries have urban hierarchies comprising large and small cities

in terms of their population sizes, spatial extent, or territorial size and the importance of their economies. Primate cities are the largest cities in their respective countries, as they dominate the economy as well as being the top ranking in terms of territorial extent and population size. Geographer Mark Jefferson coined the term in the 1930s and defined a primate city as one that is twice as large as the next largest city in the urban hierarchy of a country and twice as significant economically. A primate city also dominates in terms of the centralization of the country's transport and communications, industrial and commercial.

The term primate city may sound like something in a zoo but it actually has nothing to do with monkeys. It refers to a city that is greater than two times the next largest city in a nation (or contains over one-third of a nation's population). The primate city is usually very expressive of the national culture and often the capital city. The "law of the primate city" was first created by geographer Mark Jefferson in 1939.

The use of the term **Dual City** as a synonym for a late capitalist metropolis is very frequent among city theorists who ideologically come within the neo-Marxist orbit. These thinkers produce social criticism that aims to unmask the capitalist superstructure and denounce urban injustices. This position is becoming more and more important after several decades of globalization, which has generated degrees of social polarization unknown since the end of the Second World War. Saskia Sassen thinks that it is a case of a phenomenon that is intrinsic to the new late capitalist order, where badly paid jobs are the key to economic growth. This makes social decline a complement to development, and not as previously an indication of decadence.

The Dual City has led to the crisis of the traditional social division inherited from the stage of the welfare state and characterized by the ruling of an immense middle class with slight variations upwards and downwards. At the moment the upper class has increased spectacularly with the appearance of the "nouveaux riches," people from all walks of life who have reached the top as a result of very diverse economic activities. Between the upper and the middle-class yuppies have created a niche; in cities such as New York or Los Angeles they may represent as much as 30% of the population. They are followed by the middle class, which has been drastically reduced, and the lower class which is experiencing the opposite process. The last step of the flattened social pyramid of the Dual

City is made up of the “new poor,” former workmen expelled from the work market by the process of deindustrialization and shut away in urban ghettos where they are trapped owing to their difficulties in achieving access to education and new technologies.

**The metropolis or megapolis** and the small town represent two polar ends of the urban settlement spectrum in India and elsewhere in the developing world. For a very long time, urban thought in developing countries focused around the metros due to their predominance and the unprecedented scales of growth that were not experienced by the world so far. A concomitant of this preoccupation with metros was an overlooking of the small towns that represent a significant chunk of the urbanization. Small towns, therefore, remain overall neglected in studies of urbanization in developing countries and in India. They also remain neglected in public discourse, imagination and policy.

There has been a recent upsurge of interest in small towns and in understanding their distinct features in terms of social structure, politics, economic drivers, built environment and development trajectories. This quest is linked to moving away from the understanding of urbanization as a singular mode and understanding its heterodoxies.

The **metropolis** is a term that signifies an agglomeration of several towns and adjunct areas that are roughly conjoined in a functional environment. In the geography of settlements, a metropolis is a class by itself bringing in a high volume of consumption and large flows of people, goods, services and information (Ramchandran 1995). A megacity, ie, city with more than 10 million population is a special form of such geographical conjointness.

**Megacities** are a form of contemporary urbanization. In 1980, there were just three megacities in the world. Currently, there are 24 and estimated to grow to about 205 by 2025 (UN 2006). According to the estimations of the United Nations (UN), a bulk of the megacity growth is expected to be in South Asia and Africa. Of the 24 existing megacities in the world, more than half are in Asia and Africa. Further, if one were to look at the fastest growing cities in the last 30 years, the top 20 would be in Asia and Africa. More than 10 are located in China and three in India (UN2006).



Source-The World Economic Forum “The Cities and Urbanization” April,26 2022

### **Current Theories of City Growth**

The current theories of city growth deal with the perception of American Sociologists amongst whom three theorists are important viz. Concentric Zone theory of Burgess, Sector theory of Hyot and Multiple Nuclei theory of Harris and Ullman. These theories of urban growth explain the internal demographic, spatial and economic growth of cities. These theories are also known as models of city structure or theories explaining urban morphology.

It is true to a large extent that each city possesses a unique combination of various use of land, but to some degree a common pattern is visible. The commonly referred patterns are concentric, sectoral and the multiple nuclei. They are known as models of city structure or theories explaining urban morphology.

#### **1. The Concentric Theory:**

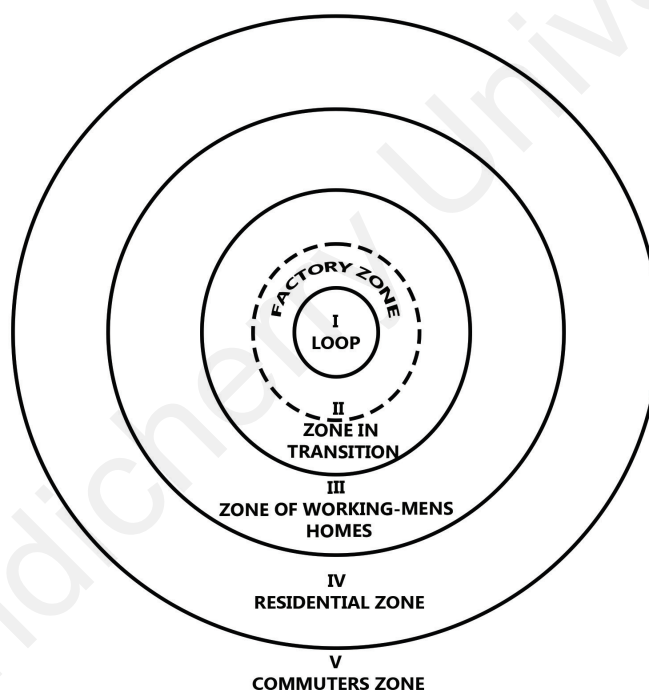
The concentric model was devised in 1923 by E.W. Burgess. He was a sociologist. The idea behind the concentric model is that the development of a city takes place outwards from its central area in a series of concentric circles to form zones. The model therefore is also known as concentric zonal model.

According to Burgess, the American city should take the form of five zones. These zones begin with Zone I as Central Business District (CBD), the focus of the city's social, commercial and civic life. CBD is also the focus of transportation.

**Burgess identifies its two parts:**

- (i) The downtown retail district, and
- (ii) The wholesale business district encircling the downtown.

**Concentric Zone Theory of Urban Structure**



Zone II is the 'zone in transition' surrounding the CBD. It is a zone of residential deterioration of older private houses consisting of largely subdivided dwelling units. The transition area is occupied by immigrants and infested by 'vices'. In this zone rotten business and light manufacturing from Zone I have encroached upon residential areas. Some of the parts of this zone are likely to be found in the city's slums or areas of poverty and crime.

Zone III is the third ring made up of the houses of 'working-men's homes'. This is the zone of old residential buildings occupied by stable social groups of working-class families. These are families of people who have moved out of Zone II to live near their place of work.

Zone IV concentric space still farther from the centre is occupied by spacious dwellings. Here, middle-class groups of native-born Americans live. These people are likely to be proprietors of small businesses, professional people, clerks and salesmen.

Final and beyond the city limits is Zone V of small cities, towns, dormitory areas to make up the commuters' zone. From the city centre it is almost at the distance of one hour's travelling time. This zone may still be an open country. Most of the people of this zone seem to commute daily for their livelihood in the CBD.

### **Criticism of the Concentric Theory:**

Burgess' theory is popular and widely used by current authors with a few modifications. But the concentric zonal theory is severely criticized on the grounds of local topographical features which affect the location of residential areas. This type of criticism seems invalid because Burgess himself pointed out those zonal distortions may result from variations in relief features.

### **Davie was the most active critic of the theory who exhibited against the theory in several ways:**

- (i) CBD's size irregular and often rectangular than circular,
- (ii) Areas of commerce and business extending radially along streets from the CBD,
- (iii) Industrial units lying along lines of transportation and near water or rail,
- (iv) Low-grade housing near industrial and transportational areas in every zone, and
- (v) Finally, concentric zoning lacking universal pattern.

The theory of Burgess was not appropriate in case of treatment of wholesaling. Besides the edge of CBD, the wholesaling may be most often found adjacent to the side with maximum railroad availability. Similarly, heavy industry in the modern city does not take the form of concentric belt just outside the CBD, instead, it tends to form wedge like areas along transportation lines which follow river valleys, lake or ocean fronts.



In the historical context too, the theory of Burgess seems untenable. The cultural areas along with buildings, streets and railroads developed during historical phases cannot be easily moved from their old location. The theory was particular in time and place, and by the late 20th century it was outdated and limited only to large Western industrial cities.

Sjoberg negated the concentric scheme for the 'pre-industrial city' in which privileged classes – the elite, gather at the center because of governmental and religious buildings' nearness. In feudal cities, religion and politics had far more status than the economic – the main market of the centre being subsidiary to religious and political structures.

### **Merits of the Concentric Theory:**

Quinn, the chief supporter of the Burgess theory, says: common-sense observations tend to confirm the theory. Urban-gradients' researchers indicate the probability of the concentric structure around the dominant retail area in various cities.

Local irregularities may violate the symmetry of concentric ones, yet Quinn opined that most cities conformed at least roughly to the Burgess pattern. Haggett and Chorley too had appreciation about the contribution of Burgess's model which according to them was a normative model, 'a simplified structuring of reality presenting supposedly significant features of relationships in a generalized form.'

To conclude, Burgess' model was plainly introduced to illustrate the expansion of the city in its comprehensible manner by a series of concentric circles designating both the successive zones of urban extension and the types of areas differentiated in the process of expansion.

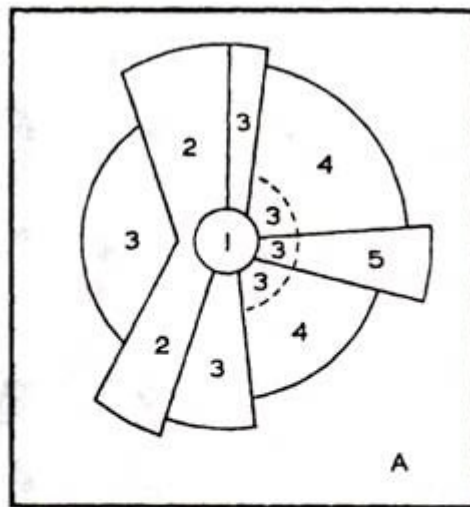
### **2. The Sector Theory:**

The Concentric theory of Burgess was based on the conditions of American cities in 1920. Since then, as Homer Hoyt observed, picture of cities had changed and therefore, he advanced in 1939, the sector theory. His idea was that because of rise of automobile, access to the downtown had been improved and lot of shifting of uses in the CBD had arisen. On major routes of transportation sectors of specific land use were likely to grow with the expansion of city. Residential land uses tend to be arranged in wedges radiating from the center.



## The Sector Theory

Figure A



- 1: CBD
- 2: Wholesale and light manufacturing
- 3: Low-class residential
- 4: Middle-class residential
- 5: High-class residential

Hoyt's theory, of course, deals only with residential land use. Rent areas in cities tend to conform to a pattern of sectors rather than of concentric circles. (Figure A) The highest rent areas tend to be located in one or more sectors of the city. But various rent areas are not static. High quality residential areas tend to migrate outward in the sector, older houses remaining behind to become medium-quality areas (Figure B).

The movement of the high rent area is important because it has tended to pull the growth of the entire city in the same direction. The net result of urban growth is that a zone of High-class housing tends to be located on one side of a city rather than in the continuous ring. At the same time, the age of buildings is more likely to show a concentric arrangement.

#### Peter Mann's Views:

Peter Mann (1965) expressed that the sector and concentric theories show the possibility of the coexistence, and Hoyt's sectors are just a refinement rather than a radical alteration of the concentric mode. Mann suggests that urban structure of the typical medium-sized British city shows internal differentiation but not complexities as seen in a conurbation (Figure C).

His model assumes a prevailing wind from the west attracts location of best residential area on the western fringe of the city, on the opposite side from the industrial and lowest working-class sector. In other words, the diagram showing shifts in the location of high-rent residential areas, illustrates elements of both a concentric and a sector structure (see Figure D).

Hoyt's theory is based on a vast amount of empirical work. The data for the theory were collected for 64 cities in America by the Works Progress Administration. The data of these small- and medium-sized cities were supplemented with surveys of New York, Chicago, Detroit, Washington and Philadelphia. Thus, it amounts in large part, to empirical generalizations. Nevertheless, the theory has not gone unchallenged.

Walter Firey's Criticism of Hoyt's Theory:

Walter Firey carried out a land use study of central Boston. In his study he explored the role of social factors in shaping urban land use. On this basis, he contradicted various aspects of sector theory. According to Firey, there is little validity of comparing the result of work in a number of cities when relief, location on a waterfront and other factors affected the sector pattern of some cities.

He also criticized cartographic approach on the ground that maps can only give clues to theories. This needs to be worked out in terms of abstract concepts. Hoyt has not sufficiently considered the roles of cultural and social systems in conditioning land use. Wealthy residents can choose to live anywhere and may not follow the 'normal', either sector or concentric pattern.

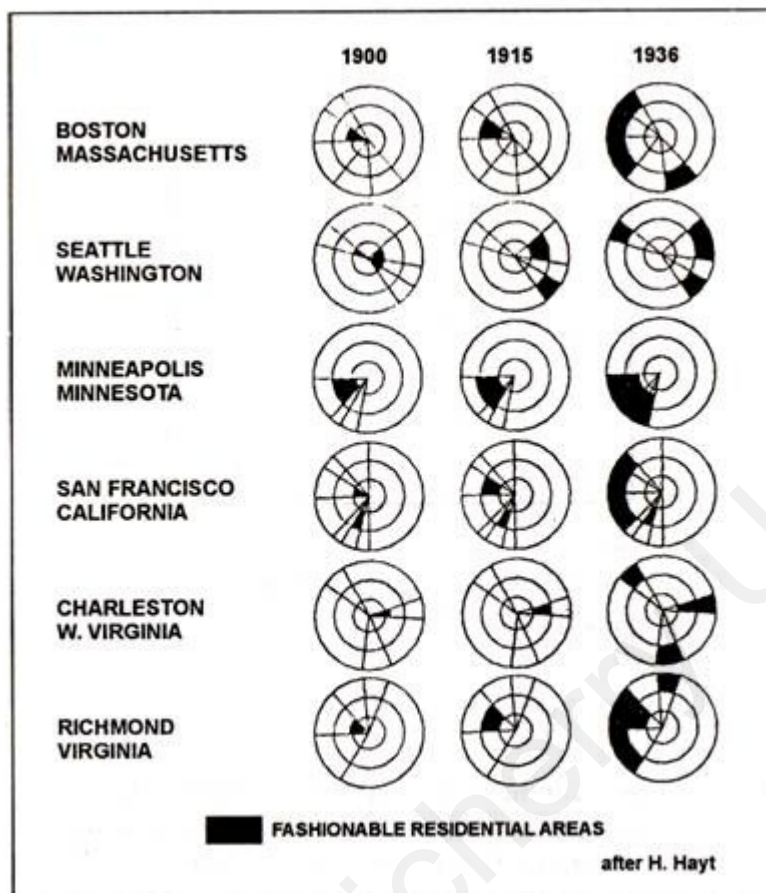
### **3. The Multiple Nuclei Theory:**

Urban development and growth of a city in different parts of the developed and developing areas is not a simple phenomenon which can be explained by geometric designs – either concentric circles or sectors radiating from the center. Its land use too, is not simple and singular. It represents intermingling of various functions like commercial, industrial, cultural, administrative and social.

As a result, morphology of a city cannot be uncentred. Its evolution cannot be the product of a zone or sector. Various types of land uses and their patterns develop often around several separate nuclei. Chauncy D. Harris and Edward L. Ullman suggest multiple nuclei for accommodating growth of residential, business, industrial or other elements taking place in cities

## Shifts in Location of Fashionable Residential Area

Figure B



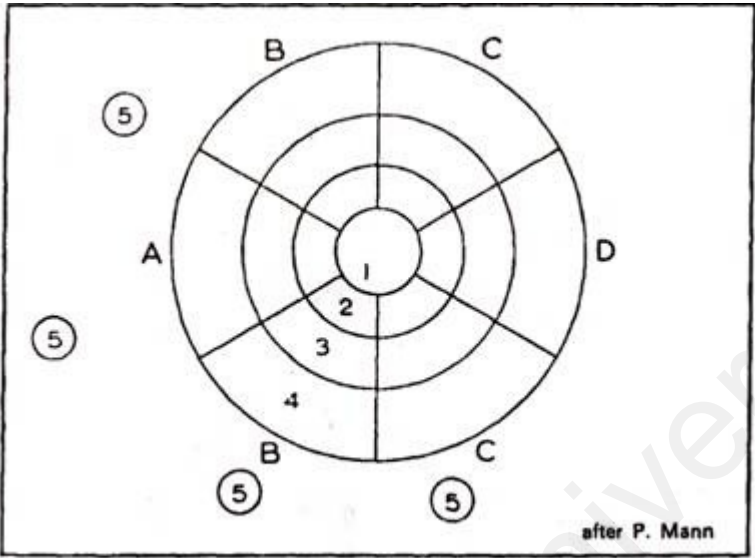
during the course of time from their inception to the present day (Figure E).

The rise of separate nuclei has been due to factors which influence the distribution of human activities within a city.

**The various factors may be of four categories:**

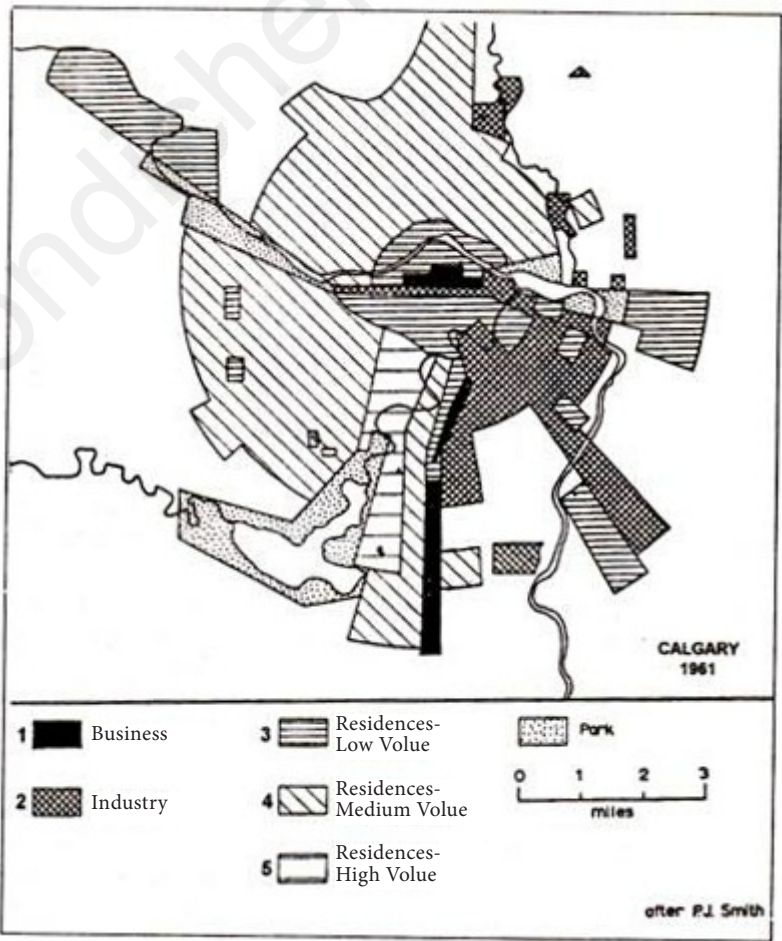
- (a) Certain activities require specialized facilities, for example, CBD can function at the point where maximum accessibility is available.
- (b) There are also group of activities which prefer cohesion. Clothing industry is clustered in the densely packed inner districts of large cities. They profit from cohesion.
- (c) Certain activities are detrimental to one another, and generally seek separate sites. For example, heavy industry and high-class residential areas do not prefer to be near-neighbours.

Figure C



Sector analysis

Figure D



- (d) Certain activities are unable to pay the rents of most desirable sites: residential areas of low-income residents or bulk storage facilities have to seek nuclei in remote corners.

The above factors, and also factors of social, cultural and economic significance give a peculiar urban landscape with separate nodes. Nuclei may be of two categories – those which take their shape at the time of city's origin, and some nuclei develop with the growth of a city. Nuclei existing at the time of origin of the city have a long history behind them.

The areas around them have been covered by land uses during the course of growth of a city. London at the time of origin had 'The City', and Westminster as separate nuclei, the former being a commercial-financial node, while the other a political center. Harris and Ullman cite an example of Chicago as the second category.

It developed simultaneously with the growth of heavy industry in the heart of the city, and further migrated to the Calumet district where it formed a new nucleus. In India many cities like Delhi, Mathura, Varanasi, Patna and Mumbai have numerous nuclei of antiquity, and their intermittent gaps were filled in by land uses during their historical development. Thus, the history is an important factor shaping the form of urban development. But this fact should not be overlooked that economic and social factors are also operating.

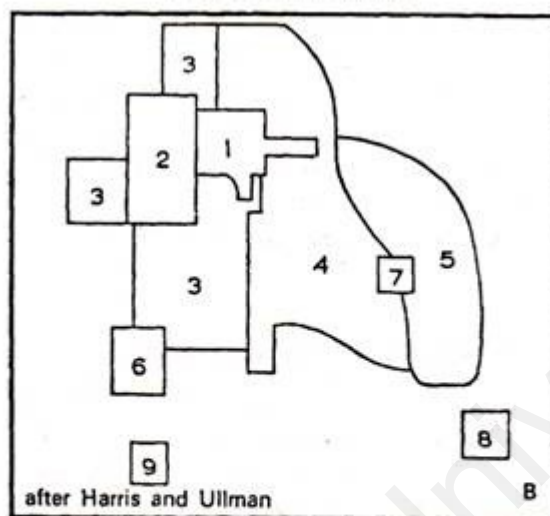
The multiple nuclei theory reveals two significant observations based on historical and site elements of morphology. One is that the theory produces a model involving complexities of urban structure which may not be easily and immediately discernible because of historical stratification of land uses during the process of urban growth. Although most cities have only one CBD they have a series of sub-centers around nuclei. These are less specialized but enough to provide needs of smaller sections of the city.

Second observation which is more significant is about the probability of elements of the concentric and sector models present in its depth. Nothing new is involved conceptually in the multiple nuclei, and, it should not be given the status of a theory.

Actually, land uses around nuclei and in between areas filled in, they display land uses intermixing of concentric and wedge areas. The multiple nuclei approach should be looked upon "as a guide to thought about the structure of the city, rather than as a rigid generalization about

## Multiple Nuclei Theory

Figure E



Central Business Districts	1	Heavy Manufacturing	6
Wholesale Light Manufacturing	2	Outlying Business District	7
Low-class Residential	3	Residential Suburb	8
Medium-class Residential	4	Industrial Suburb	9
High-class Residential	5		

urban form”.

### Concept of Town, City: Indian Context

#### Statutory Towns and Census Towns

The Directorate of Census Operation classifies towns in India into two types. Statutory Towns are notified under the law. Census Towns can be villages which have urban characteristics. The statutory towns are represented or recognized by the Municipal Corporations (Mahanagar Palika or Nagar Nigam), Municipal Committee (Nagar Parishad) and Municipality or Nagar Panchayat. They also include other urban areas such as cantonment boards, notified areas and tourist and pilgrim centers recognized by the respective state governments. On the other hand, Census Towns are defined by the following criteria

- i) A minimum population of 5,000
- ii) At least 75 per cent of the male main working population engaged in nonagricultural pursuits; and
- iii) A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km.



There is also a third category, known as Urban Outgrowths, defined by the Census of India as, “a viable unit such as a village or part of a village contiguous to a statutory town and possess the urban features in terms of infrastructure and amenities such as pucca roads, electricity, tap water, drainage system, education institutions, post offices, medical facilities, banks, etc.” A few implications of this distinction can be noted.

First, census towns display an urban character and also add to the overall levels of urbanization, but are governed by the rural administration. This results in a lack of civic amenities and related infrastructure in these towns. On the other hand, statutory towns are recognized by the concerned state government without application of a consistent criterion. This leaves wide regional variations in the levels of urbanization which do not conform to actual urbanization patterns. Why do state governments not declare areas which meet the criteria for census towns as statutory towns? To understand this, it is useful to pay attention to financial implications for the state government of declaring a statutory town. First, if the state government declares a settlement urban on the basis of the census criteria, it may lose the rural development grants provided to the settlement by both central and the concerned state governments. There are other costs as well. Urban settlements have to be financially supported by state-level urban development departments as their revenue base is very low due to their relatively smaller size and weak devolution of power for revenue generation. What are the benefits of declaring a settlement as urban? On the one hand, if the state concerned declares large numbers of settlements as urban on the basis of both the census and state municipal criteria, its relative levels of urbanization will increase. This may help attract more investments - domestic as well as foreign direct investments (Kennedy and Zerach 2008). For example, the state of Tamil Nadu declared large number of settlements as urban in the decade 1991-2001 and registered a sevenfold increase in the level of urbanization even though the total number of the towns in the state had hardly doubled (Bhagat, 2005). According to the 2011 Census of India, there were 7,935 towns (4,041 Statutory Towns and 3,894 Census Towns) in comparison to 5,161 towns in Census 2001 (3,799 Statutory Towns and 1,362 Census Towns). Table 2 shows the number of towns and urban outgrowth during 2001 and 2011 Censuses. One of the remarkable changes during last census decade is the phenomenal increase in census towns in India.

## Numbers of UAs/Towns and Outgrowths in India 2001-2011

Sl. No.	Types of Towns	2001	2011	Change (%)
1	Statutory Towns	3799	4041	6.37
2	Census Towns	1362	3894	185.9
3	Urban Agglomerations	384	475	23.7
4	Urban Outgrowths	962	981	1.95

Source: Tripathy, 2013.

## Size classification of towns in India

The Census of India distinguishes between different classes of urban settlements on the basis of population. Class I comprise cities with a population above 100,000 people and therefore include very large metropolitan cities; the lowest category (class VI) comprises settlements below 5,000 people. This distribution of urban settlements in different class sizes is mainly used to make comparisons of the evolution of India's demographic structure overtime. However, it does not have administrative or governance implications.

## Number of Towns and their share of population 2001-2011

Size Class	Population	No. of Towns		Share of Population	
		2001	2011	2001	2011
I	1 lakh and above	393	505	68.67	60.4
II	50,000 to 99,999	401	605	9.67	11
III	20,000 to 49,999	1151	1905	12.23	15.4
IV	10,000 to 19,999	1344	2233	6.48	8.5
V	5,000 to 9,999	888	2187	2.36	4.2
VI	Less than 5,000	191	498	0.23	0.5
Total		4368	7933	99.64	100

Source- Census ,2001, Provisional Population Table



## Definitional Criteria for the Urban in India

Sl. No.	Census Year	Definition Criteria for Urban
1	Before 1951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every municipality of whatever size</li> <li>➤ All civil lines (not included within municipal limits); and</li> <li>➤ Permanent habitation with continuous collection of houses of not less than 5,000 persons</li> <li>➤ Any other settlement declared by the respective State Census Superintendent</li> </ul>
2	1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All those places having urban local bodies e.g. Municipal Corporation, Municipality, Notified Area Committee and so on</li> <li>➤ All those places having               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not less than 5,000 population</li> <li>2. A population density of 400 persons per square kilometer and</li> <li>3. 75 per cent of workforce employed in the non-agricultural sector</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>In addition to these, the Director of Census Operations, in consultation of the state government and the Census Commissioner of India, has the power to declare a settlement urban.</p>
3	1971	As above
4	1981	<p>All the above criteria of 1961 with two additional changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Instead of 75% overall workforce, 75% male workforce engaged in non-agricultural activities</li> <li>➤ Excluded the workers engaged in livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation, orchards and allied activities.</li> </ul>
5	1991	As above
6	2001	As above
7	2011	As above

Source: Roy, Anil Kumar. Defining Urban in India: e-PG Pathshaala.

## Meaning of City

Bergel described a city as a place where the bulk of the residents are engaged in occupations other than agriculture. He has stated that the market as a mechanism of trade is a fundamental aspect of non-agricultural activities, without which city residents would go hungry.

According to Sorokin and Zimmerman, and others, a suitable description of the city contains a number of attributes or characteristics that are united. We will refer to a community as urban if its activities revolve around a market; a market is necessary for non-agricultural activities since the urban resident cannot subsist without the exchange of products.

Two features of city are crucial, according to Prof R. N. Morris. Specifically, size and density. Let try to understand it further –

- **Size:** The size of the city is an important factor to consider. The size of a city influences its growth and development. When a city is tiny, its works, structure, and social relationships differ from those of a bigger city. Relationships in larger cities, such as Mumbai, are impersonal and shallow. People do not know one other since they perform different roles their behavior is also calculative. The city inhabitants regard social ties as tools to be used to further his/her goals. This is described as “a reasonable intelligent approach” by Louis Wirth. The city dweller grows as more calculated, less outgoing, spontaneous, less participatory and more frustrated. The division of work in most modern cities is very much visible. Urbanization is defined by occupations. With numerous vocations where individuals are alienated and working for their own purposes, urbanization becomes increasingly selfish and artificial. People develop a goal-oriented mindset. As a result, Wirth claims that the company “has no soul.” In comparison to rural and tribal communities, urbanization exhibits a distinct sort of social control. The police, the court, the government, and a variety of other institutions regulate people’s behaviour and demeanor. Festivals and the amount of donation from people help to regulate people’s religion and worship.

The specialization of marketing and its goods is demonstrated by urbanization. Cities offer and meet a wide range of needs, including consumer items, clothing, medications, and educational institutions, as well as national and international

requirements. Due to great specialization and reliance, the city is unbalanced and lacks stability and equilibrium. Because houses, markets, slums, roads, and transportation increase unnaturally, modern cities do not govern systematic urbanization. Governments have failed to regulate urban lifestyles.

- **Population density:** A city is a specialty zone. There are large concentration of people in one location. There are several factors for the city's expansion. It might be anything from industrial growth to marketing to governmental administration. The quality of life and behaviour of people is diverse and continually changing, which is tied to population density.

A city is called as City not just because it has more diversified residents, but also because it has various types of jobs opportunities available. A city is formed not just by the density of its inhabitants, but also by the organization of its population, into a meaningful structure.

Sombart described city as “a location that has grown so enormous that people no longer know each other”.

## Nature of City

Let us look into some of the nature, qualities of the residents of the city. This nature is often found in the metropolitan cities like Mumbai.

- **Work in City-**

In a city there are several kinds of work carried out. People are engaged into a variety of occupation. People are engaged into industrial work where heavy machines are used. Large number of people are also work in informal sector like construction sites, hawkers, auto drivers etc. There is a large set of marginal population who live on wages which they earn on day-to-day basis.

- **Transience Mobility-**

People are constantly moving towards and away from the metropolis, and even from one city to another. People are migrating in pursuit of greater possibilities in cities, which are hubs of money, power, and innovation. People's mobility or movement rises as cities become more industrial, and industry typically grows as a result of mobility. Another type of mobility is evident in cities when individuals

shift employment. This is referred to as occupational mobility. Occupational mobility may also occur when a person moves from a lower to a higher-level position.

➤ **Transactional Social Interaction-**

In a metropolis, most people's social interactions are impersonal. City living has an aspect of anonymity to it. There is, however, major group contact among family members, friends, and neighbors. The 'community' as a pattern of association is not eliminated, but new forms of association known as 'networks' replace previous neighborhood types. Large family networks may die out, but friendship networks carry on.

**FEATURES OF URBAN COMMUNITY** Pitirim Sorokin and Zimmerman have suggested the following features which give us more meaning of urban community.

1. **Heterogeneity:** Urban community is a heterogeneous group, where people belong to different race, religion, language, caste and creed. For example, in a city like Mumbai, people from different states, of different cultural groups live and they are totally dissimilar. In London, Indians, Pakistanis and Bangla Deshis have their own colonies.
2. **Secondary relations:** The urban community is characterized by secondary relations. People are indifferent towards one another. Face-to-face, friendly or intimate relations may not be observed among people.
3. **Voluntary Associations:** All people in city are doing nonagricultural jobs. They are necessarily members of many voluntary associations. According to standard of living, they form their own residential groups and needful institutions and associations.
4. **Social Mobility:** In urban society, social status is not traditional but based on the economic status, educational standard and talent. In other words, individual intelligence and talent brings progress and hereditary is not important.
5. **Individual Freedom:** In urban community, men and women have more independence. People are more individualistic in their attitudes. The city dweller is more selective in his choice and more individualistic in his preferences. He is guided by his own whims and fancies.

6. **Occupations:** All people are engaged in non-agricultural jobs, such as business, marketing, office, police, court, industry and factory, transport communication, hospitals and educational institutions, theatre, share market etc. So they are always far away from nature and simple life. Urban, Urbanism, Urbanization, Rural-Urban Continuum
7. **Secondary Control:** In urban community individual behavior is not controlled by family, religion and neighborhood. It is controlled by secondary organizations, such as, government, police, court etc.
8. **Lack of Community Feeling:** There is a lack of community feeling, feeling of oneness, unity and integrity of the family, neighborhood in the city. In urban community, people are busy in their individual achievements, so naturally they neglect feeling of oneness and unity with the city.
9. **Social Disorganization:** Urban community has number of institutions and associations. They are working independently. So there is always struggle, conflict and competition. Thus social disorganization is seen and felt.
10. **Unstable Family:** Family is no longer the economic, educational, protective, recreational and effective unit. Family has lost much of its control over its individual members. Many of the traditional functions of the family are transferred to the external agencies. It is said that the urban family is not firmly organized.

### Global Cities Scenario

According to studies, there will be greater and larger cities in the future. In 1900, cities were home to 10% of the world's population. Today, the figure is above 50%, and by 2050, it will be at least 75%. (The Urban Age Project, London School of Economics). Scholars point out that over 200 million individuals resided outside their natal country in 2010, and cities are growing increasingly diverse as groups of all nationalities, faiths, and ethnicities flock to them. Young people are driving the urbanization trend, since they see less opportunity to achieve their goals in rural regions.

Cities are becoming a larger part of national economies and are also concentrating wealth. Instead of 200 countries, 600 cities are now considered the world's economic backbone (McKinsey & Co). Cities, like countries, will fight for investment, funding, talent (skilled labourers

and influence in the future. Cities must provide residents with a safe and secure environment in which people want to live and companies want to invest. As cities' prominence in national life grows, the repercussions of failing to adopt successful solutions will become more significant. In the past, states were primarily responsible for ensuring security, and this will continue to be the case in the future. Cities and municipal governments, on the other hand, are increasingly considering what role they may play as security suppliers rather than just recipients. Cities will play an important role in a variety of ways:

- **Urban resilience**—mitigating the effects of an inevitable shock and responding efficiently so that disturbance to the city and its residents is minimal and brief.
- **Inclusion in the city**—ensure that religious, sectarian, tribal, ideological, gender, and ethnic identities coexist without being fractured. Gain public confidence that resources and services are distributed fairly and equally.
- **Urban violence**—reduce residents' and tourists' fear of being victims of any sort of violence.

### **Difference Between City and Town**

The population and topography of a place are the primary factors that distinguish cities and towns. Cities, in simple words, are bigger residential areas than towns. Cities are larger than towns, and as they grow, they may integrate or merge with the surrounding communities. Towns, on the other hand, do not often expand in the same manner that cities do.

Cities have a higher population density than villages. As previously said, towns are smaller than cities but larger than villages. Unlike towns, most cities house the majority of a region's administrative duties, i.e., the majority of the region's main administrative offices.

Cities are governed by corporate authorities, whereas towns are governed by municipal bodies. In most cases, a mayor leads a city corporation, whereas a chairman leads a municipality. Cities, rather than towns, are where authority is concentrated.

Cities, unlike towns, are often well-planned, with enough sanitation, drinking water, roads, and other contemporary conveniences. The earliest settlements were ones where people were no longer farming and instead engaged in various trades and activities. The emergence of cities resulted from the expansion of towns.

Though the population of a region determines whether it is classified as a town or city, different nations use different techniques to do so. In the United States, a 'city' is simply a legal word that refers to a self-governing metropolitan region. In other countries, the term may not have the same legal meaning as in the United States, and it is more commonly used to refer to a huge settlement. Between 2001 and 2011, the number of census towns increased from 1362 to 3894, resulting in an unforeseen growth in urbanisation. In the recent decade, the new census towns accounted for over 34% of urban expansion and roughly 69 percent of total Census Towns. Census Towns have gained attention as a result of an unexpected increase in the number of them in the 2011 census.

## 2.4 Urbanism and Urbanization

This is the peculiar mental approach or mode of living in urban areas.

Urbanization is at times synonymously used with urbanism. Louis Wirth used this term to denote distinct ways of living, typically associated with city residence. Urbanism is the consequence of living in urban areas. It is a peculiar mode of living, a condition or set of circumstances. Following Louis Wirth, urbanism is now regarded as "a way of life." Wirth outlines a limited number of identifying characteristics of city. He pointed high heterogeneity, size and density as causative factors which bring change in the behaviour and kind of relationships among the city dwellers. For him, as the population increases, people become strangers to each other and develop secondary relationships. They also compete with one another for space and money. Number becomes most important for leadership and recognition in the city. 'urbanism' primarily as mode of living is characterized by the specific attitude of people, crowd and social considerations of urban society. People develop rationality and high sophistication in their day-to-day relationships with others.

Louis Wirth also pointed 'urbanism' as peculiar approach of urban people. While adjusting to the urban crowd and environment, people become quick in response.

Dr Radhakamal Mukherjee an eminent Indian sociologist describes various facets of urbanism. They are as follows.

1. Ecologically speaking, urbanism has a demographic, occupational and mechanical – technological base. People concentrate thickly on



a particular place of specialization with various occupations, which are nurtured by non-agricultural organizations like industries, factories, banks, markets, where people have chances to earn money, daily or monthly.

2. Biologically speaking, men-women ratio is disturbed and imbalanced. Since men migrate from villages leaving behind their wife and children and ancestral house and land, women are less in cities. So there are social and biological problems like prostitution, rape, sexual harassment etc.
3. Sociologically speaking, relations are impersonal, superficial and artificial. Most of the relations are contractual, formal and deliberate. People are more mobile and change their status very fast.
4. Psychologically speaking, money and external status symbols dominate attitudes and behavior of urban people. They are concerned with external status symbols and do not worry about internal aspects or qualities of persons. For example, a doctor, a lawyer, a judge, a professor, a manager, an officer etc. poster their status and economic well-being through educational qualification and earning. They are internally disturbed, facing problems like frustration, desertion, loneliness.

In conclusion, modern cities like London, Tokyo, Kolkata, Mumbai, exhibit different way of life and they are the best places to study urbanism. Apart from these mega cities, small cities and towns are growing and influenced by fast changes in transport and communication, educational facilities, banking system and marketing federation. However, they are growing and urbanism is constantly changing.

### **Urbanization :-**

Urbanization refers to the level of population concentration in an urban area. Urbanization is the process of movement of population from non-urban to urban areas.

Urbanization is a dynamic process which transform rural into urban areas.

W.S. Thompson calls urbanization as “movement of people from communities concerned chiefly with agriculture to other communities, generally larger whose activities are primarily centered in government, trade, manufacture or allied interests.”



Geruson and Mc Grath have defined the term “urbanizations as the concentration of population through movement and redistribution.”

Urbanization also refers to a way of life peculiar to agglomerations of heterogeneous population. It also means a well-developed agglomeration with other occupations besides industry and it exhibits a well-planned pattern of habitat.

Urbanization is a culture bound phenomenon. It leads to change in all aspects of life. Politically, it means change over to democratic or bureaucratic set up from rural panchayat system. Sometimes a city is a capital, a centre of planning and development, an industrial centre or a place where most of the facilities are available. Urbanization affects the status of people. It leads to change in occupation from land bound work to technical industrial jobs. Urbanization also leads to movement from rural traditional ways of living to modern ways of behaviour. Economically, urbanization provides new economic opportunities for doing all modern jobs. This also leads to development of infrastructure facilities and people enjoy electricity, transport, higher education, communication, better health and food facilities.

Urbanization can also be described as a process of change from prominence of primary relations in close compact dwellings to those of secondary relations in dispersed distant neighbourhood. Social norms and values also change simultaneously. People are exposed to modern ideas and ideals, they become more rational and feel free. Living in cities make them traffic conscious and time bound.

Urbanization as a process shows the changing pattern of life of people. It is a movement of people and resources for the satisfaction of different needs of city dwellers. Nothing is grown in the city, so all food grain, vegetables and fruits come from different rural communities. Urban place is a manufacturing place. So large number of people come from outside. A town grows into a city, a city into a metro and mega city, The following diagram help to know about urbanization 20000 and above Up to one lakh and above Psychologically, urbanization denotes a change in behaviour. People while adjusting to the urban environment change their habits and customs. They also lose faith in rituals and ceremonies

Urbanization also indicates economic growth. As more people move to cities, more people are involved in industrial processes. Thus, if a country is more urbanized, it signifies better opportunities for people in cities in all respects.

Urbanization is directly related to economic development. Industries, technological advance, mechanization take place in cities. Production or manufacturing develop in urban areas which give employment to many people. As cities grow, industrial development also takes place. Thus, urbanization and industrialization occur together often hand in hand. But if a country is to progress in the economic sense – to raise the standard of living of its people and to have a surplus available for capital investment it must increase its agricultural and industrial production faster than it increases its population.

Urbanization, in demographic sense, is an increase in the population of urban areas (U) compared to the total population (T) over a period of time as Ashish Bose has mentioned. As long as  $U/T$  increases, there is urbanization.

Since its inception the urban sociologists have been trying to find out the effects of urbanization on community. Emile Durkheim and Ferdinand Tönnies were particularly interested in understanding the fact that in the late nineteenth century the rapid urbanization was a corollary to the process of industrialization in the capitalist societies. The obvious outcome of this process was manifested in terms of decline in small group solidarity, restricted primary group face to face interaction and increasing aloofness among the fellow members of society. As a Positivistic science Sociology always tried to investigate and compare the gradual progress of societies from rural to urban and simultaneously in the process of biological evolution of societies from infancy to maturation as witnessed among biological organisms.

The Classical urban sociologists have tried to link the phenomenon of specialization in the division of labor to the phenomenon of social differentiation in urban society. Understanding the character of urbanism as a way of life is another seminal subject of urban sociology.

Ferdinand Tönnies described the rural–urban shift through the conceptual categories of *Gemeinschaft* (community) and *Gesellschaft* (urban society). These concepts are good illustrations of *ideal types* in sociological analysis. The ideal type functions as an analytical paradigm or model that can be analyzed and tested for its validity through comparison. Tönnies did not consider these societal types as mutually exclusive polar opposites, but as two categories in a continuum of societies undergoing social change. The shift from *Gemeinschaft* to *Gesellschaft* may be

compared with Emile Durkheim's conception of society undergoing a transition from mechanical to organic solidarity. What Tönnies described as *kurville*, or collective will, is similar to what Durkheim described as collective consciousness, a collective soul or conscience that guides group behavior. The state was seen to act fairly and judiciously as the will of the people.

Both Tönnies and Durkheim recognized the fading of primary bonds of kinship, sentiment, and community life, with the ascendance of secondary bonds of occupational, legal, and political association. Tönnies somewhat romanticized the loss of *Gemeinschaft* but in fact he saw *Gesellschaft* as a rational and necessary vehicle for guiding a more specialized and diverse society. The governmental state guaranteed that urbanism as way of life would guarantee rights, civility, and security to urban residents. Tönnies' outlook on a rational and specialized urban society led by a legitimate state is a contrast from the Marxian view on class struggle and inequality in the division of labor. Tönnies was concerned that *Gesellschaft* be kept honest and not be sabotaged by corruption or kidnapped by totalitarian political interests. Durkheim,

in contrast, was more concerned with the moral consequences of the rise of *anomie* caused by *Gesellschaft* society.

Georg Simmel had a less sentimental view of the decline of *Gemeinschaft*. He recognized factors of intensification that assaulted the psychological life of urbanites, fostering anonymity and impersonality in urban life. The importance of money in a capitalist society, he furthermore believed, contributed to a calculating and discriminating nature to the urban personality. Simmel viewed metropolitan man as blasé, jaded, and materialistic. Yet urbanism also promoted cosmopolitanism, which fostered greater social tolerance for unconventional behaviors and freedom from provinciality and prejudice. The oversaturation of our social life with materialism, superficiality, and objective values, however, has suppressed our subjectivity, spirituality, and social life. The urban personality is both bombarded and liberated by the sensory commercial marketplaces of modern capitalism. For Simmel, the experience of modern urban life is suffused with the experience of a money economy where quality has been reduced to quantity and consumers are materially rewarded but spiritually deprived. There is a loneliness that is brought about by an affluent society that has freed people to explore their individualism but left their souls in a state of restlessness and flux.

Louis Wirth updated the Durkheimian view on the decline of group solidarity to analysis of the

modern American city. Wirth perceived that factor of size, density, and heterogeneity fostered role segmentation through the emancipation of the individual from traditional rules and mores. He clearly articulated the resulting normlessness, or *anomie*, the social void, which contributed to a spectrum of urban social problems, such as crime, delinquency, mental breakdown, and other forms of psychological and social disorganization. He updated Robert Park's famous quote regarding the city (see "The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the City Environment," *American Journal of Sociology* 20, 5 [March 1915]: 577–612) as "a mosaic of social worlds which touch but do not interpenetrate" to the concept of the city as a "mosaic of social worlds in which the transition from one to the other is abrupt." Geographic mobility, the growing decline of traditional norms and mores, and social heterogeneity were breeding social and personality disorders in the city. Wirth felt that sociologists had a mission to analyze and ameliorate urban social problems.

Claude Fischer reformulated Wirthian urbanism, applying the urban factors of size, density, and heterogeneity to the idea of creating rather than destroying communities. He argued that size and density of population in cities created "critical mass" sufficient to formulate new subcultural communities. The increasingly heterogeneous "mosaic of social worlds" further intensified subcultures through his concept that they touch, but then "recoil, with sparks flying." His concept of subculture includes an eclectic assortment of special hobbyists, interest groups, artists, innovative thinkers, ethnic groups, religious subcultures, homosexuals, and others commonly classified as "deviant." That they congregate socially and spatially as communities reverses the traditional thinking that urbanism leads to the decline of community and the growth of social disorganization. Fischer sees cities as diverse mosaics of heterogeneous neighbourhoods that are crucibles for the exploration of subcultural diversity and social difference.

Fischer contributes to a growing view voiced by other writers such as Jacobs, and Wellman and

Leighton, that there has been a popular renaissance and transformation of what we understand as "community" in the contemporary city. There is a kaleidoscopic array of new community forms

in the city of the new millennium. Some revive the traditional enclaves of the old *Gemeinschaft*, like the “urban villages” that are nodes for the incorporation of international immigrants to the global city. Subcultural communities are more emergent phenomena that are formed out of new social networks of friendship and association, sometimes with an outsider status against the cultural mainstream. New technology, including the Internet, further widens the opportunities for social networking. The growth of new communities is also strongly connected with the rise of neighbourhood-based mobilizations and other “urban social movements” that since the 1960s have risen to contest urban power brokers and the political establishment.

The community resurgence has achieved growing public support, and promoted neighborhood planning as an antidote to the callousness of large, centralized planning bureaucracies.

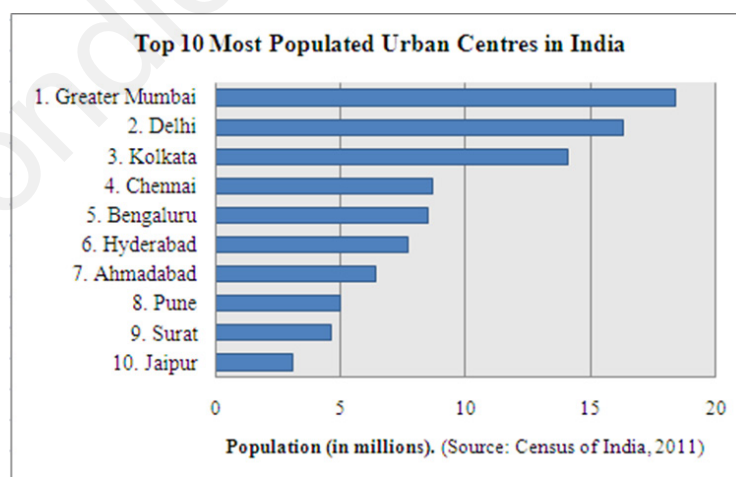
The growth and development of cities generally need to be understood from the perspective of urbanism and urbanization. For Chandavarkar, the interest behind the study of cities have garnered interest due to two concerns. Firstly, urbanization has been considered as an indicator for economic development and social change. Here, the author is categorical that the meaning of economic development and change does not mean free from feudalism as the European countries developed from feudalism to capitalism, rather urbanization can be considered to be an indicator of modernization and to be precise, modernization of the third world countries. The second reason behind the growing interest behind the study of urbanism and urbanization is that of culture. Not only the culture of the inhabitants, but the mentality of the urban inhabitants is also important. (Chandavarkar 2009: 210-211).

Urbanism can simply be understood as the relationship, patterns of behaviour, modes of thinking that is characteristics of the urban dwellers. On the other hand, urbanization refers to a process of movement of people from rural to urban areas and due to which there is population growth as well as growth of spatial boundary of a city.

One of the primary reasons behind this growth can be cited because of the increased economic activities of the urban areas which attracts or pulls people from rural towards urban areas. It was very normal to consider that urban-urban migration was one of the important causes behind urbanization. But in twenty first century urbanization is not limited to

rural- urban migration. Now, urban-urban migration has got triggering effects behind urban population growth. In the past the urban population growth in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata have occurred due to rural urban migration. The main reason could be the labourers from rural areas have migrated to these cities for the purpose of working in manufacturing sectors. But, in contemporary times the growth of urban population in cities like Hyderabad and Bangalore can be traced to movement from people from city to city. In these cases, the skilled workers move from one city to other in search of better employment conditions and better services. The growth of service sector can be said to be the reason behind this urban-urban migration which also contributes for growth of urban population.

The urban population growth has various associated problems like traffic and road congestion, increase of official and residential rents, shortage of residential space, slum growth, unplanned growth of cities (outward and upward growth of cities), environmental problems and many more. The urban population growth also puts pressure on the available resources and amenities and consequently water supply, power supply and sewage facility are impacted. Thus, it can be said that the overall quality of life gets impacted due to urban population growth. It can be summed up that urbanization has multiple consequences like social, economic, political, cultural, demographic, environmental and the list goes on.



It needs to be noted here that Jaipur, is a municipal town/ city while the rest of the urban centres are categorized as Urban Agglomerations (UA) by the Census of India (2011). Further, it needs to be noted that out of the total 468 Class I Cities/ Towns, there are 53 Towns/ Cities which have a total population of 1 million or above . Any urban renewal mission or scheme should therefore first focus on these 53 urban centres, most of which are presently facing the challenges of urban growth and development.



List of Cities/ UA in India with population greater than 1 million.  
(Source: Census of India, 2011)

1. Greater Mumbai	16. Coimbatore	31. Madurai	46. Ranchi
2. Delhi	17. Kochi	32. Varanasi	47. Raipur
3. Kolkata	18. Patna	33. Meerut	48. Kollam
4. Chennai	19. Kozhikode	34. Faridabad	49. Gwalior
5. Bengaluru	20. Bhopal	35. Rajkot	50. Durg-Bhilainagar
6. Hyderabad	21. Thrissur	36. Jamshedpur	51. Chandigarh
7. Ahmadabad	22. Vadodara	37. Srinagar	52. Tiruchirappalli
8. Pune	23. Agra	38. Jabalpur	53. Kota
9. Surat	24. Greater Vishakapatnam	39. Asansol	
10. Jaipur	25. Malappuram	40. Vasai Virar City	
11. Kanpur	26. Thiruvananthapuram	41. Allahabad	
12. Lucknow	27. Kannur	42. Dhanbad	
13. Nagpur	28. Ludhiana	43. Aurangabad	
14. Ghaziabad	29. Nashik	44. Amritsar	
15. Indore	30. Vijayawada	45. Jodhpur	

The top three most populated urban agglomerations (UA) in India, viz. Greater Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata, far exceed in population than the rest of the UAs in India. These three urban centres have therefore been given the title of **Mega Cities**. The three mega cities of Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are facing considerable urban sustainability challenges which are unique to the respective mega city. It can be said with some certainty that ensuring urban renewal in the above mentioned 53 UAa will help check the ongoing large-scale migration of people to the three mega cities.



## **68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050, says UN**

16 May 2018

Today, 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. Projections show that urbanization, the gradual shift in residence of the human population from rural to urban areas, combined with the overall growth of the world's population could add another 2.5 billion people to urban areas by 2050, with close to 90% of this increase taking place in Asia and Africa, according to a new United Nations data set launched today.

The *2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects* produced by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) notes that future increases in the size of the world's urban population are expected to be highly concentrated in just a few countries. Together, India, China and Nigeria will account for 35% of the projected growth of the world's urban population between 2018 and 2050. By 2050, it is projected that India will have added 416 million urban dwellers, China 255 million and Nigeria 189 million.

The urban population of the world has grown rapidly from 751 million in 1950 to 4.2 billion in 2018. Asia, despite its relatively lower level of urbanization, is home to 54% of the world's urban population, followed by Europe and Africa with 13% each.

Today, the most urbanized regions include Northern America (with 82% of its population living in urban areas in 2018), Latin America and the Caribbean (81%), Europe (74%) and Oceania (68%). The level of urbanization in Asia is now approximating 50%. In contrast, Africa remains mostly rural, with 43% of its population living in urban areas.

Population declines in some cities and in rural areas

Some cities have experienced population decline in recent years. Most of these are located in the low-fertility countries of Asia and Europe where overall population sizes are stagnant or declining. Economic contraction and natural disasters have also contributed to population losses in some cities.

A few cities in Japan and the Republic of Korea (for example, Nagasaki and Busan) have experienced population decline between 2000 and 2018. Several cities in countries of Eastern Europe, such as Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, have lost population since 2000 as well. In addition to low fertility, emigration has contributed to the lower population size in some of these cities. Globally, fewer cities are projected to see their populations decline from today until 2030, compared to what has occurred during the last two decades.

The rural population of the world has grown slowly since 1950 and is expected to reach its peak in a few years. The global rural population is now close to 3.4 billion and is expected to rise slightly and then decline to 3.1 billion by 2050. Africa and Asia are home to nearly 90% of the world's rural population in 2018. India has the largest rural population (893 million), followed by China (578 million).

#### Cities ranking and mega cities

Tokyo is the world's largest city with an agglomeration of 37 million inhabitants, followed by New Delhi with 29 million, Shanghai with 26 million, and Mexico City and São Paulo, each with around 22 million inhabitants. Today, Cairo, Mumbai, Beijing and Dhaka all have close to 20 million inhabitants. By 2020, Tokyo's population is projected to begin to decline, while Delhi is projected to continue growing and to become the most populous city in the world around 2028.

By 2030, the world is projected to have 43 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants, most of them in developing regions. However, some of the fastest-growing urban agglomerations are cities with fewer than 1 million inhabitants, many of them located in Asia and Africa. While one in eight people live in 33 megacities worldwide, close to half of the world's urban dwellers reside in much smaller settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants.

Sustainable urbanization is key to successful development.

Understanding the key trends in urbanization likely to unfold over the coming years is crucial to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including efforts to forge a new framework of urban development.

As the world continues to urbanize, sustainable development depends increasingly on the successful management of urban growth, especially in low-income and lower-middle-income countries where the pace of urbanization is projected to be the fastest. Many countries will face challenges in meeting the needs of their growing urban populations, including for housing, transportation, energy systems and other infrastructure, as well as for employment and basic services such as education and health care. Integrated policies to improve the lives of both urban and rural dwellers are needed, while strengthening the linkages between urban and rural areas, building on their existing economic, social and environmental ties.

To ensure that the benefits of urbanization are fully shared and inclusive, policies to manage urban growth need to ensure access to infrastructure and social services for all, focusing on the needs of the urban poor and other vulnerable groups for housing, education, health care, decent work and a safe environment.

#### About the data set

The 2018 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects is published by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). It

has been issued regularly since 1988 with revised estimates and projections of the urban and rural populations for all countries of the world, and of their major urban agglomerations.

Photo: Gerardo Pesantez/World Bank

**Around 2.5 billion more people will be living in cities by 2050, projects new UN Report**

By 2050, two out of every three people are likely to be living in cities or other urban centres, according to a new United Nations report, highlighting the need for more sustainable urban planning and public services.

Owing to both demographic shifts and overall population growth, that means that around 2.5 billion people could be added to urban areas by the middle of the century, predicts the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

Most of the increase is expected to be highly concentrated in just a handful of countries.

“Together, India, China and Nigeria will account for 35 per cent of the projected growth of the world’s urban population between 2018 and 2050...It is projected that India will have added 416 million urban dwellers, China 255 million and Nigeria 189 million,” said DESA, announcing the findings on Wednesday.

**Megacities**

The report also estimates that by 2030, the world could have 43 so-called megacities (up from 31 today, according to reports) – those with more than 10 million inhabitants – most of them in developing countries.

By 2028, the Indian capital, New Delhi, is projected to become the most populous city on the planet.

Currently, Tokyo is the world’s largest, with an agglomeration of 37 million inhabitants, followed by New Delhi (29 million), and Shanghai (26 million). Mexico City and São Paulo, come next; each with around 22 million inhabitants.

These swelling populations will place extra demands on both resources and services in urban areas, notes the report.

“Many countries will face challenges in meeting the needs of their growing urban populations, including for housing, transportation, energy systems and other infrastructure; as well as for employment and basic services such as education and health care,” said DESA, urging governments adopt better integrated policies to improve the lives of both urban and rural dwellers.

At the same time, linkages between urban and rural areas will need to be strengthened, building on their existing economic, social and environmental ties, the report concludes.

Source: UN News

Related information

2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects

### **What is Urbanization?**

Urbanization is a complex socio-economic process that transforms the built environment, converting formerly rural into urban settlements, while also shifting the spatial distribution of a population from rural to urban areas. It includes changes in dominant occupations, lifestyle, culture and behaviour, and thus alters the demographic and social structure of both urban and rural areas. A major consequence of urbanization is a rise in the number, land area and population size of urban settlements and in the number and share of urban residents compared to rural dwellers. Urbanization is shaped by spatial and urban planning as well as by public and private investments in buildings and infrastructure. An increasing share of economic activity and innovation becomes concentrated in cities, and cities develop as hubs for the flow of transport, trade and information. Cities also become places where public and private services of the highest quality are available and where basic services are often more accessible than in rural areas. The degree or level of urbanization is typically expressed as the percentage of population residing in urban areas, defined according to criteria used by national governments for distinguishing between urban and rural areas (see box 3 for the definitions used in this report). In practice, urbanization refers both to the increase in the percentage of population residing in urban areas and to the associated growth in the number of urban dwellers, in the size of cities and in the total area occupied by urban settlements.

(United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018a). World Urbanization Prospects 2018.)

**Emergence of modern cities in Europe:**

As per the claim of the archaeologists with the abandonment of sedentary or nomadic life and the onset of settled life with the beginning of pastoral, agricultural or horticultural practices, cities have been come into existence. They have traced this through evidence from street lay out, density of population as found in some central places. The excavation cites of many great civilizations like Mesopotamia, Indus valley civilization have been cited for these claims. The main interest behind locating the modern cities and their antecedents point towards various processes which were there behind the emergence of such cities. Processes like industrial revolution, colonialism, imperialism, capitalism, advancement in science and technology paved the way for the emergence of modern cities. It is important to know how various social scientists have oriented their attention towards the rise and growth of modern cities.

For Kingsley Davis (1955) with the growth of modernity distinctive types of cities grew up. The modern cities have some characteristics like new economic structures, new types of trade and commerce, new kinds of factories and industries, new types of employment, new social structure, social group and new culture.

The close relation between urbanization and the growth of modern cities can further be understood from the growth and evolution of industrialization, modernization and capitalism which was witnessed in Europe since around mid-eighteenth century.

There are number of pre-conditions which must be met for urbanization to set in like the production in agriculture should be surplus oriented which is assisted by growth of new markets and new economic system. Science and technology have a greater role in this respect because this boosted up the coming up of new types of machines and new techniques mass production and technology intensive production system came to be regarded as important to cater to the needs of ever-growing urban population. This was a major departure from the past because earlier labour-intensive industries were there and with the allurements of working in the industry in the hope of getting greater dividends along with the luxury and amenities of city life and diverse employment sectors and opportunities worked as pull and push factors behind the migration of people to the cities. With the large influx of population towards the cities, consequently, demand rose for housing facilities, drinking water,

sanitation and various other amenities.

There were lot of problems encountered in the then European cities because the growing rate of population growth could not be managed well. Several problems crept in like increased crime rates, lack of sanitation facilities, widespread diseases and high mortality rate, very poor and inhumane living conditions.

Davis (1955) cites the growth of urban population in Europe in different phases viz. in 1801 in Europe 17 per cent of urban population was there, which rose to 35 per cent in 1851 and by 1891 it was 54 per cent. This can be referred to as the rate of urbanization.

Industrialization is not the sole determinant which will explain in true sense the nature and intensity of urbanization. Whole lot of other determinants also need to be explained for the rise and growth of urbanization. Factors like growth of capitalism and alongside the growth of trade and commerce, inclination towards profit motives, emergence of financial institutions in the form of banking institutions and money lending institutions, cities and their increased role of handling international trade and commerce had immense contribution behind the rise and growth of urbanization.

Further, the physical and functional growth of the urban areas were because of the development of transport system. Since the workers could not get accommodation facilities in the surrounding areas of the factories or industries, they used to settle down at far away places. Public transport assisted the workers to commute from their place of residence usually the far away places situated in the outskirts of cities which eventually helped in the expansion of the city boundaries. This may be understood as the earliest understanding of growth of early modern cities.

Very often the social scientists have attributed the change in modes of production behind the changes in the basic characteristics of cities. Sjoberg distinguishes between pre- industrial and industrial cities. The characteristics feature of preindustrial cities lies in practise of agriculture and low degree of social mobility. On the contrary, there are diverse economic opportunities, high degree of specialized division of labour and high degree of social differentiation in industrial cities. Similarly, **Robert Redfield** classifies cities as **Orthogenetic** (a city of moral order and unitary folk culture) and **Heterogenetic** (a city of technical order that gives priority to economic growth). **Hoselitz** differentiates cities as



**Parasite** (has a dampening effect on economic growth) and, **Generative** (the city acts as a centre of change and stimulates economic growth).

The processes of industrialization and capitalism led to the development of urbanization in European countries. Number of Sociologists like Emile Durkheim, Marx and Engels, Max Weber, George Simmel, Ferdinand Tonnies, W. E. B. DuBois have tried to focus attention on urban social relations, urban social world, and urban personalities as they were eager to study the modern cities. Modern cities and the associated anomalies like alienating tendency, anomie and loss of communitarian feeling intrigued the early thinkers to study the urban life with depth and rigour.

The process of industrialization and capitalism and its offshoots like working condition of the labour, the nature of urban labour, the relationship of the working class with the bourgeoisie were extensively analysed by Marx and Engels. According to both the scholars the march from preindustrial to industrial society has resulted in transforming civilization from barbarism to the era of productive specialization. The problem of capitalism is that this generates inequality which further leads to alienation and conflict. The solution lies in ushering in of Socialist or Communist regime, the full growth of human labour can be realized where human beings will be independent human beings.

For Ferdinand Tonnies, a famous German Sociologist, the common feature of rural life consists of community feeling which usually builds around families, neighbourhood, kin groups which are characterised by *gemeinschaft*. Tonnies contrasts *gemeinschaft* with *gesellschaft*. *Gesellschaft* essentially is nothing but characteristics of city life where individualism, selfishness and absence of community feeling is there. Everything is mechanical in *Gesellschaft*.

To bring about a comprehensive understanding of urban and rural areas, French Sociologist Emile Durkheim takes the example of social solidarity. For Durkheim, societies characterised by mechanical solidarity are based on likeness and have everything in common. Mostly, primitive societies are based on mechanical solidarity. On the other hand, societies characterised with organic solidarity have complex division of labour and the social order is based on differences. Mostly, the modern societies reflect organic solidarity. The inhabitants of cities have impersonality, and they have greater freedom. The city dwellers also experience alienation and anomie.

In his famous essay “The Metropolis and the Mental Life”, German Sociologist George Simmel, talks about the ambivalent nature of the city. For Simmel, the unique trait of modern city is nervous stimuli and while saying so Simmel tries to analyse this from social psychology perspective. For Simmel, the city dwellers have to cope up with the constant bombardment of sound, sight and smell. Simmel focusses more on urbanism than urbanization. The city residents tend to develop a blasé attitude and they are more calculating and rational. The urban residents mostly show detached attitude and take decision from mind and not from heart. The urban residents enjoy freedom more and are free from the clutches of traditional social bond. In his book “The City” German Sociologist Max Weber tries to understand city as an economic system. Weber presents an ecological-demographic model of city. For him, city needs political autonomy, legal system, trade and commerce, self-sufficiency. Some of the characteristics of city according to Weber, are large locality, non-agricultural life, closed settlement and lack of personal relationship. A city also needs social associations to protect itself and the members must be engaged in social relationship. Weber’s understanding of city is of an ideal type. Lewis Mumford was not interested in the physical dimensions of city, rather he was interested in exploring the organic relationship between human beings and their environment. In his book “The City in History” Mumford categorically sees cities as social entities.

All these views and approaches though had seriously attempted to understand various dimensions of urban life, urban settlement patterns, urban social structure, the processes of urbanism and urbanization, but with the coming up of Chicago school or Human Ecology, a comprehensive understanding of city life in its multifarious dimension could be possible.

### **The Chicago School**

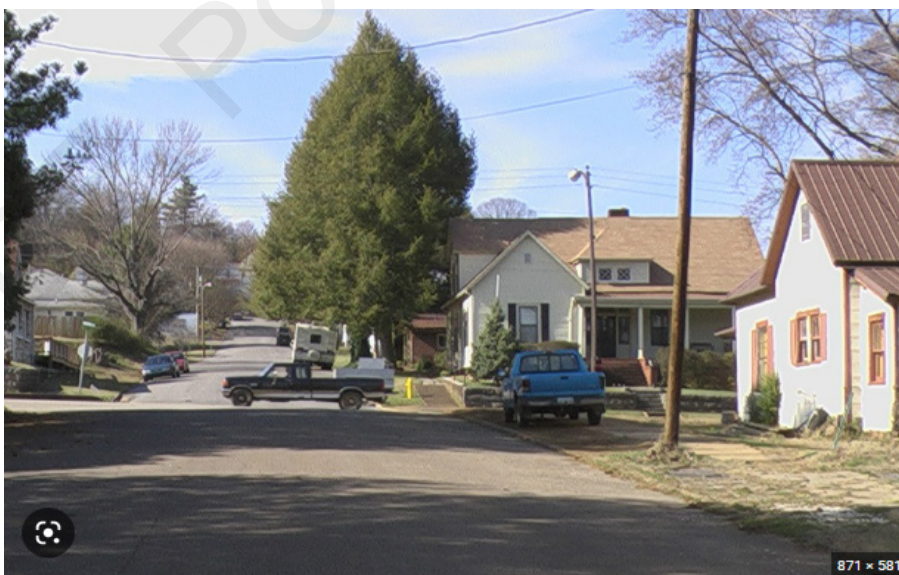
The Chicago school simply refers to a group of sociologists at the University of Chicago. The sociologists of Chicago school tried to interpret the city as a social laboratory where true human nature could be explored. The Chicago school developed various concepts for a clearer understanding of city. Some of the influential scholars of the Chicago school are Robert Ezra Park, Ernest Burgess, Louis Wirth who have tried to understand different dimensions of city. When the book “The City: Suggestions for Investigation of Human Behaviour in the Urban

Environment” was published, the Chicago school announced its arrival. (Dear 2005: 54). The Chicago school primarily tried to investigate the processes of modern urban growth and at that time the city of Chicago was witnessing unprecedented growth. The Chicago school of sociologists tried to analyse the urban processes and conditions through the subjective experiences of urbanites. According to Michael Dear (2002) the works of urbanists of Chicago School “is typically grounded in the individual subjectivities of urbanites, their personal choices ultimately explaining the overall urban condition, including spatial structure, crime, poverty, and racism” (2002:56).

The Chicago school came up with many important ideas which led to the foundation of various key concepts for understanding the evolution of differentiated urban social areas and urban way of life.

## 2.6 Suburbs

More and more people started to move away from cities as they became more congested, frequently more expensive, and often more destitute. But because of their employment, these people needed quick access to the metropolis rather than going back to the rural villages where they had previously lived before relocating to the city. Suburbs emerged in the 1850s as a result of a significant increase in urban population and better transportation choices. Suburbs are the areas of a city that are close enough to travel to on a daily basis yet far enough away to offer more space than city living permits.



Source:<https://www.google.com/url>

Nearly 25 years have elapsed since the Annual Review of Sociology published a literature review on the suburbs. Back then, Baldassare (1992) observed that although the majority of Americans live and work in the suburbs, suburban communities have received little scholarly attention. There is no better time than the present to begin to develop a robust research agenda rooted in the sociology of suburbs. In the last three decades, the populations of poor people, immigrants, and blacks living in the suburbs have all increased dramatically, raising new questions about the experiences of recent suburbanites. The Great Recession and the foreclosure crisis pushed many poor residents out of the central city, whereas others, already settled in the suburbs, have become poor in place.

Dramatic shifts in the racial composition of the US population and ill-conceived immigration policies are important drivers in the diversification of suburbs. For many post-1965 immigrants, the suburb, not the central city, is the first destination (Hardwick 2008). Indeed, the majority of the country's immigrant population now lives in suburbs. Moreover, the reverse migration of blacks from the North back to the South has contributed to the rise in black suburbanization in the new South. This is all to say that we cannot properly understand core social problems such as poverty, the assimilation of immigrant groups, class-based inequality, or residential segregation without seriously investigating these social dynamics in the suburbs.

**TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY SUBURBIA** The term “suburb” has been defined in a myriad of ways. There is not widespread agreement as to a single definition. With regard to geographical boundaries, “suburb” refers to the physical space beyond a city's boundaries, yet still within the metropolitan area (Kneebone & Berube 2013, Massey & Denton 1988). In terms of popular culture, “suburb” conjures up images of a middle-class lifestyle with all the requisite accoutrements—cul-de-sacs peppered with imposing homes nestled on manicured lawns, an expansive driveway, a car or two, and a portable basketball hoop. Most often, residents of these idyllic communities are imagined as white and middle class, prompting criticism from scholars who note that blacks have been present in the suburban rings of American cities (albeit in small numbers before 1970) for over a century (Haynes 2008, Wiese 1993) and that suburbs vary more by social class than we tend to assume (Gans 1967).

Source: Lacy, Karyn. 2016. The New Sociology of Suburbs: A Research Agenda for Analysis of Emerging Trends. Annual Review of Sociology .PP. 369-384.

## 2.7 Concept of Metropolis

Polis and metre, two Greek words that together make up the term “metropolis,” (city). Therefore, the English word “metropolis” means “mother city.” Lewis Mumford divided European cities according to their technical advancement, using terms like Eopolis, Polis, Metropolis, Megalopolis, Tyrannopolis, and Necropolis.

Eopolis-The Eopolis depicts the early stages of the town as a village community with an agricultural economy.

Polis -The Polis denotes a connection between the people and certain specialisation and mechanisation.

The term “metropolis” was once only used to describe a certain kind of city: the capital of an empire, state, or kingdom, as well as other locations from which “the rest of the world” (or at least a sizable portion of the globe) was dominated. Therefore, a metropolis would be rated much higher than a small town. Even if a large city does not serve as the capital of a country, it nonetheless prefers to be referred to as a metropolis in modern times. Because a typical US State Capital is not a large metropolis, this is particularly true of American cities. In addition, most US States have at least one large city that is not the state capital.

Megalopolis-The megalopolis, or the reign of town or city, denotes the initial stage of decline in town or city owing to enormous difficulties and concerns, or the indicators of decline and degradation are present in town or city.

Tyrannopolis-Tyrannopolis is a town or city that exhibits a sharp decline in circumstances, such as a downturn in the economy or a rise in war lords’ forces.

Necropolis-The worst part of a town or city is the necropolis. For instance, because of conflict, disease, or economic collapse, people are moving to villages or rural regions. If such is the case, the town could eventually recover from it.

### Metropolitan and cosmopolitan

A metropolitan area is a geographical area that has both a heavily populated urban core and the less inhabited areas that surround it. Typically, a metro region consists of many jurisdictions and municipalities.



Metropolitan areas have evolved into important economic and political zones as social, economic, and political institutions have altered. Like the Paris metropolitan region and the New York metropolitan area, most metropolitan areas are centered in a single large city. (New York City). A metropolitan city in India is one with a population of more than 10 lakhs or one million, according to the Census Commission, while a megacity is one with a population of more than 10 million and above. The term “cosmopolitan” describes a person who has visited and lived in a variety of nations, especially one who does not harbour any national biases. Additionally, it might be “urbane” or “sophisticated.” The Ancient Greek term Kosmopolites is where the word “cosmopolitan” comes from. Kosmos, which is Greek for “world” or “universe,” also refers to a city resident. The term “citizen of the world” has recently come to mean something specific. People from diverse areas of the world, each with their own languages, cultures, and customs, coexist in cosmopolitan cities. A cosmopolitan city is one that welcomes residents of many racial backgrounds, religious convictions, and cultural backgrounds. This indicates that it is embraced by every global metropolis that was founded on the idea that new cultures will arrive and transform the city into something magnificent. A city may be both metropolitan and cosmopolitan, as is the case with New York or Mumbai in the United States, but a metropolis may not be cosmopolitan, as is the case with Surat in Gujarat, India. Cities with global reach or application are referred to be cosmopolitan cities. A city with a large urban population is called Metropolitan City.

Metropolitan region (commonly simply a metro) is a big, vast metropolis and its neighbouring municipalities, districts, or townships. A metropolitan area's major city is often the most populous and developed area, whereas the surrounding areas are typically less inhabited and broken up into smaller sub-regions. A metropolis is known by the name of its main city, like in the case of the New York metropolitan region, which includes New York City and the neighbouring towns. huge, urbanised cities serve as the centre of metropolitan areas because they offer vital sources of commerce, economic growth, and cultural representations that draw a huge population.



Source: <https://www.google.com/url>

A metro area has the following characteristics:

- The central city that serves as the region's principal transportation centre.
  - The region's economic development will be fuelled by the presence of sophisticated commercial industries. infrastructural development for the benefit of the population (such as education, transportation, and housing utilities).
  - A combination of different districts, municipalities, or authorities that divides the territory into smaller, simpler parts to administer.
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## 2.9 Neighbourhood and Corporation

In a similar way, cohesiveness and urban planning are akin to neighbourhood.

The local vicinity of one's home is not the only part of the



neighbourhood. In the discourse of urban sociology, it is extremely relevant. By studying the claims made by urban academia, we will attempt to acquire insight into the social and physical characteristics of “neighbourhood” in this unit. We will also talk about how our neighbourhoods influence our social relationships and how they support group behaviours.

Although the neighbourhood is a social unit with a defined geographic boundary, it is also a web of social networks, but the neighbourhood fulfils certain social needs. Our location of living serves as a trigger for details about ourselves, just like our line of work, physical characteristics, and personality. According to this perception, individuals give their area a lot of thought. A nice neighbourhood is subjective and dependent on a number of variables. Some people search for a tranquil area, while others search for a location near the city center. Some people choose to live nearby their place of employment, while others desire to move out to the suburbs. It is fruitless to try and define these parameters. However, the scholar Brower offered three dimensions that impact people’s level of pleasure in their choice of neighbourhoods, ambiance, involvement, and choice fulness (Brower 1996).

Our neighbourhood ought to be a place where we may live comfortably. Additionally, it provides prestige and self-esteem. According to Brower, residents should consider their community to be both visually pleasing and useful. Engagement is the possibility of having meaningful connections. A hostile or hazardous neighbourhood is regarded as unattractive. It explains the stigmatisation of communities with high crime rates. In urban locations, some communities and ghettos bear the stigma for their poor living standards.

The members consider the uniqueness of their localities to be constricting. According to Brower, residing in such areas might lead to negative perceptions of one’s community. Thirdly, there must be options for residents in their community. Instead of just happening to live in a certain neighbourhood, people must take responsibility for their decision to do so and acknowledge they still have the option to stay or go (Kearns and Parkinson, 2001). Knowing that their neighbours have made the decision to reside in their neighbourhood makes them happy. For urban planners, this last factor is crucial. It explains why individuals are hesitant to change when forced to relocate due to bureaucratic or market allocation systems (Hastings and Dean 2003).

Social cohesiveness is a result of neighbourhoods. It offers identification, security, and comfort. Additionally, they provide the members a feeling of inclusion.

We establish our initial relationships with people outside of our families in the communities. Didn't most of us meet our first friends in our neighbourhoods? Neighbourhoods offer chances for face-to-face contacts, fostering a sense of community. (Casey 2013). These encounters can be helpful in increasing one's social capital, according to studies. For instance, economic studies indicate that the calibre of one's neighbourhood connections might influence the viability of home-based companies and microbusinesses. By demonstrating that one's business may succeed due to local resources, the survey improves the usefulness of communities. (Reuschke and Houston 2016).

But the research on social cohesiveness in neighbourhoods reflects a variety of viewpoints. Participation in and sense of community varies across social groups and demography. For instance, according to Bannister and Fyfe (2001), young people were less engaged with their areas than older people were. Additionally, it's possible that as time goes on and you remain in a neighbourhood, you acquire more friends. (Sampson and Groves 1989). The more you reside in an area, the more individuals you meet. On the other hand, neighbourhood links along class lines show that those with white-collar employment have fewer close ties to the community than do blue-collar employees and seniors. The explanation might be that people in blue-collar occupations spend more time outside and in their communities. The same applies for retired members. The white-collar members, on the other hand, spend the majority of their time in social settings outside of the neighbourhoods (Henning and Lieberg 1996). As a result, the level and kind of engagement within the neighbourhood might differ greatly amongst groups. One of the major qualities of neighbourhoods is their potential to facilitate collective activity. Neighbourhoods have evolved into venues for discussions, discourses, agreements, and political acts as a result of the close proximity of the members. This trait can vary across classes, as was mentioned above. The underprivileged classes have been found to have a strong sense of neighbourhood camaraderie. In defending their rights, those neighbourhoods exhibited outstanding solidarity. Urban studies, however, demonstrate that this cohesion results from their struggle for survival. (Burns and Taylor 1998; Friedrichs 1998). It is a spirit that was created out of need, not will.

## Corporation

Corporations have been central institutions in industrialized economies since the turn of the twentieth century. While corporations have existed for centuries as a legal device, and stock exchanges for trading corporate shares emerged during the early seventeenth century, the public corporation as we know it today co-evolved with mass production and distribution around the time of the second industrial revolution. By the start of World War I, public corporations had become a standard way of organizing economic activity in the most advanced industrial economies. Corporations are largely associated with Urban Sociology because with the gradual expansion and diversification of urban economy, there has been more and more penetration of Multinational Corporations.

Yet the common term 'corporation' masks enormous diversity in corporations around the world. The number of public corporations was not tightly linked to the size or vibrancy of the economy. Germany, with a vast export-oriented economy, had 665 listed companies; Serbia, with a GDP 1/100th that of Germany, had 1086; while the Netherlands – birthplace of the public corporation – had only 105. Corporations also varied in size and structure. Corporations differ in basic aspects of structure required by law, from the protection of minority shareholder rights in different legal systems to whether women or labour must be represented on the board of directors. In short, the term 'corporation' is applied to entities that often have little in common.

The sociology of corporations emphasizes that corporations are products of national systems of institutions that vary across cultures and over time. Corporations are often central elements of the economic landscape, with enormous influence on societal outcomes from economic mobility and inequality to public policy. Yet their diversity around the world is under-appreciated in most research traditions, and much work remains to be done.

Certain key features of Corporation are:

- Despite being unlike natural persons, corporations are recognized by the law to have rights and responsibilities like natural persons. For example, corporations can exercise or be responsible for human rights. They can even be convicted of criminal offenses, such as fraud and manslaughter.

- Multinational corporations are important factors in the processes of globalization. A Transnational Corporation (TNC) differs from a traditional MNC in that it does not identify itself with one national home.
- The rapid rise of multinational corporations has been a topic of concern among intellectuals, activists, and the public who perceive them as threatening basic civil rights like privacy.
- Methods for attracting foreign investment have been criticized as a race to the bottom. They have also been described as a push, by corporations, for greater autonomy.
- Because of their size, multinationals can have a significant impact on government policy, primarily through the threat of market withdrawal.

The word corporation is widely used to describe incorporated entities, especially those that have a large number of shareholders. Despite not being natural persons, the law recognizes corporations as having rights and responsibilities like natural persons. Corporations can exercise human rights against real individuals and the state, they can be responsible for human rights violations, and they can even be convicted of criminal offenses, such as fraud and manslaughter. Once incorporated, a corporation has artificial personhood everywhere it operates, until the corporation is dissolved. Often, a corporation is legally a citizen of the state (or other jurisdiction) in which it is incorporated.

### **Multinational and Transnational Corporations**

A multinational corporation (MNC) is a corporation that either manages production or delivers services in more than one country. Some multinational corporations are very large, with revenues that exceed some nation's national revenues. Multinational corporations can have a powerful influence on both local economies and the world economy.

They play an important role in international relations and globalization. A transnational corporation (TNC) differs from a traditional MNC in that it does not identify itself with a single national home. While traditional MNCs are national companies with foreign subsidiaries, TNCs spread out their operations in many countries. This allows them to sustain high levels of local responsiveness.

The rapid rise of multinational corporations has been a topic of concern among intellectuals, activists and laymen, who perceive it as a threat to basic civil rights like privacy. Scholars have pointed out that multinationals have had a long history of interference in the policies of sovereign nation states. Anti-corporate advocates express the commonly held view that corporations answer only to shareholders, and give little consideration to human rights, environmental concerns, or other cultural issues.

### **Corporations and Governments**

Multinational corporations are important factors in the processes of globalization. National and local governments often compete against one another to attract MNC facilities, with the expectation of increased tax revenue, employment, and economic activity. To compete, political entities may offer MNCs incentives such as tax breaks, governmental assistance, subsidies, or lax environmental and labor regulations. Because of their size, multinationals can have a significant impact on government policy, primarily through the threat of market withdrawal. Confrontations between corporations and governments have occurred when governments have tried to force MNCs to make their intellectual property public. This is a state effort to transfer technology to local entrepreneurs.

### **2.10 Key Words**

**CITY-** A city is distinguished from towns and villages by its greater size, by the range of institutions its houses, and by the wealth of activities possible within its boundaries. The first cities naturally appeared in fertile areas where the surrounding countryside was sufficiently productive to liberate part of the population from agricultural work and to support a range of specialist trades. In England, the importance of the national Christian church was such that a city was marked by the presence of a cathedral. The defining characteristic of a cathedral was not its size (though they were very large) but its role as the administrative headquarters of a bishop and hence as a centre for public administration.

**Concentric Zone Theory-** E. Burgess, a member of the Chicago School, argued that cities in industrialized societies take the form of five concentric rings. The innermost ring is the central business district, containing most of the better shops, offices, banks, amusement and service facilities. The

second, the zone of transition, is essentially an area in development as the central business district expands outwards. As a result, it is a run-down area of relatively cheap housing. The third zone contains the homes of manual workers, while the fourth comprises middle-class suburbs. On the fringes of the city is the commuters' zone. Burgess proposed his theory as an ideal type. Real cities would not conform exactly to the five zones,

which would be deformed by the existence of communication routes, for example. The theory followed the principles of urban ecology. The zones comprise natural areas created by impersonal forces independent of the intentions of the population. Competition for land determines the arrangement, with those activities able to afford high rents taking the best central sites. Successive waves of migration follow one another with a racial or ethnic group starting in the zone of transition and moving outwards as it prospers.

**Urbanization**- Urbanization refers properly to a growth in the proportion of a country's population living in urban centers of a particular size. Although cities have always been socially, politically and economically important, the urbanization of industrialized Western societies in the nineteenth century was very rapid: for example, in the United Kingdom in 1800 some 24 per cent of the population was urban, while by 1900 it was 77 per cent.

For almost all these societies urbanization has followed an S-shaped curve, building up very slowly, expanding very quickly, and then slowing down, or even reversing slightly, with greater suburban development. The proportional increase in urban populations in the nineteenth century was largely by migration from the countryside. However, in contemporary underdeveloped societies,

which are urbanizing even more rapidly, the increase comes rather more from simple growth in the urban population, as public health and medical facilities have improved and tends to be concentrated in a single city. In general, periods of urbanization appear to be associated with industrialization.

There is, however, some controversy about the nature of the association and about the role that capitalism plays in the process. Urbanization has contradictory consequences for economic growth, since it cheapens the cost of providing services such as health and education while increasing the cost of labour that can no longer supplement its wages

by small-scale agricultural production. See: Demographic Transition; Industrial Society; Modernization; Rural-Urban Continuum.

**Urban Way of Life-** In an article said to be the most widely cited in sociology, L. Wirth (1938) attempted to describe and explain a way of life peculiar to cities. For Wirth, cities have a whole range of features including the loss of primary relationships, weaker social control, a great division of labour, greater importance of the mass media and the tendency for urbanites to treat each other instrumentally.

These features are caused by three basic factors the numbers, density and heterogeneity of the population. In this theory Wirth was faithful to the principles of urban ecology in holding that fundamental features of the urban environment produce the entire range of urban social behaviour. He has been criticized, firstly because empirical research showed that there was not one urban way of life but several, and, secondly, because it does not seem possible to derive all aspects of urban life from the three basic factors. Other sociologists, G. Simmel, for example, regard anonymity as the principal characteristic of urban life. See: Chicago School;

**Urbanism-** In 'Urbanism as a way of life' (1938), the Chicago School sociologist Louis B. Wirth argued that the social effects of living in cities had made a greater contribution to the character of modernity than industrialization or capitalism. The city differs from the country village in size, in density of population and in the diversity of its population. From this follows the social differences.

The division of labour is considerably more extensive. Most social interaction is with strangers and acquaintances rather than with kin and friends. Relationships tend to be transitory, superficial and instrumental. Above all, as Georg Simmel noted, in the city it is possible to be anonymous. Like the community–society contrast which it closely mirrors, the urban–rural divide can be criticised for exaggerating differences.



## 2.11 Self-Assessment Questions

1. What is the contribution of the Chicago school for understanding the process of urbanism and Urbanization?
2. What do you mean by City? Examine various sociologists viewpoints on cities.
3. What do you mean by Metropolis? Discuss various characteristics of Metropolis.
4. Write briefly about your understanding of neighbourhood.
5. Describe Taylor's classification of cities.
6. Explain the characteristics features in Industrial cities.
7. Write briefly on Multiple Nuclei Theory of City Growth.
8. What do you mean by Urbanization?
9. Write different classification of cities and towns in India.
- 10 What do you mean by Suburb?

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**UNIT - III****Lesson 3.1 - Process of Urbanization in India****Structure**

- 3.1 Learning Objectives
- 3.2 Assessment of Prior Knowledge
- 3.3 Process of Urbanization in India
- 3.4 Growth of Urban population in India
- 3.5 Emergence of cities
- 3.6 Causes and consequences of urbanization
- 3.7 Summary
- 3.8 Keywords
- 3.9 Self-Assessment Questions
- 3.10 References

**3.1 Learning Objectives**

*After studying this unit, the students will be able to*

- Know the process of urbanization in India.
- Understand the growth of urban population in India.
- Get some knowledge about the emergence of cities.
- Understand the causes and consequences of urbanization.

**3.2 Assessment of the prior knowledge**

Amongst all the developing countries the urbanization process in India has been remarkable. Urbanization in India has been a faster process in comparison to other developing countries. The 2011 census supports this fact. The urbanization trend in India has witnessed a paradigmatic shift as observed in the 2011 census because it has altered the trend of declining urbanization as witnessed in the 1980s and 1990s. Since independence, there has been an absolute increase in the urban population in comparison to the rural population. The number of urban agglomeration /towns has grown from 1827 in 1901 to 7935 in 2011; while the total population in urban areas has increased from 2.58 crores in 1901 to 37.71 crores in 2011. These data speak volumes on the rising trend of urbanization in India.

Before proceeding to understand this, it is essential to understand the evolution and process of urbanization in India.

### **3.3 Evolution and Process of Urbanisation In India**

Urbanization, as the name implies, is the process of becoming urban, of relocating to cities, of transitioning from agricultural to other city-specific activities including trade, manufacture, industry, and management, as well as related behavioural changes.

Urbanization is the progressive rise in the percentage of people living in urban regions, or the population's transition from rural to urban habitation. Indian towns are expanding more on the back of the tertiary sector than the secondary sector. The development of Indian cities as a result of the expansion of the tertiary sector is extremely paradoxical. The major drivers of Indian city growth were the expansion of the transportation, services, and construction industries. Yet in industrialized countries, the rise of cities was driven by the manufacturing sector.

Compared to northern and eastern India, the southern region is more urbanized. This is due to the abundance of historical, sociocultural, and educational resources. Due to heavy FDI and the construction of diverse enterprises in these states, South India had highly rapid growth with the advent of globalization in India. Industrialization and urbanization are often associated; however, industrialization is not necessarily the cause of urbanization as a structural process of change.

Urbanization is an outcome of a combination of factors, including the development of large- and small-scale commercial, financial, and administrative infrastructure in urban areas, technological developments in transportation and communication, as well as cultural and recreational pursuits. Urbanization is a crucial component of economic growth. As the economy grows, so does the per capita income and the demand for non-agricultural commodities.

The process of urbanization is viewed as a socio-cultural, economic, and geographic development in the setting of India. India's history of urbanization dates back to the ancient Indian era. India's initial stage of urbanization is said to have started with the Harappan urbanism of the Indus valley civilization. Harappan towns experienced extensive urbanization during a period of around 600 years (between 2350 BC and

1750 BC). The two most significant towns in the Indus Valley civilization are Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.

**The following are some of the major contributions made by the British to Indian urban development:**

The British East India Company's establishment significantly changed the dynamics of the urbanization process. The first municipal corporation in India was established in Madras between 1687 and 1688. Municipal Corporations were established in Bombay and Calcutta in 1726. A resolution that established municipalities, district boards, taluka boards, and the creation of panchayats at the village level was passed in 1882. In India, local self-government was first implemented by Lord Ripon, who was viceroy of India at the time.

Local self-government principles needed to be implemented in the towns, according to Lord Ripon's 1882 resolution. In India, the decision is referred to as the Magna Carta of local self-government. In India, Lord Ripon is regarded as the founder of local self-government.

The British administration was behind the creation of the three metropolitan port cities of Chennai, Kolkata, and Mumbai (Madras). Additionally, it is during the British rule, the development of a network of hill resorts in South India and the Himalayas, including Darjeeling, Shimla, Mussoorie, and Lansdowne took place. The British government facilitated the addition of civil lines and cantonments, which altered the urban environment of the existing cities. Due to the active interest of the colonial administration, the establishment of several colleges and universities in significant metropolitan areas has started the beginning of modern education. Because the nation adopted a mixed economy after gaining its independence, which fueled the expansion of the private sector, urbanization surged after that.

### **Origin of Cities In India**

Ever since they first appeared, cities have challenged the limits of human imagination. Cities have historically been the largest concentrations of people and their social connections, from the smallest to the largest, from the oldest to the most recent. a study of the historical development of urban centers using summaries of ancient, mediaeval, and contemporary Indian towns. In 2500 BC, urban centers started forming in ancient India.

A silent witness to this astonishing evolution is the spectacular remains of towns like Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. However, since we are difficult to understand the language they used, our comprehension of the organization of urbanism is limited, and we are unaware of whether the rulers of Harappa were traders, priests, or warriors. Because of this, the study of a city is based on the second urbanization period, or the sixth century BC.

### **I. Ancient City**

Every ancient city has its own distinct characteristics. The factors that led to the city's growth had a significant impact on its character. These are the characteristics of ancient cities, according to Anderson. First off, most of the cities served as capitals. These cities were so focused on the military. If any trade was practiced, it was to support the state's or the ruler's sizable standing armies. The demands of the state and the army were the key priorities for the authorities. The social authority's primary duties included erecting the walls and other structures and setting up the army. The main factor in the development of these cities was the favourable climate. Because of this, many of the cities in India are found along the coast or on the banks of important rivers. In the past, cities developed, grew, and were established mostly because of favourable agricultural conditions. Ancient towns were primarily used as political centers, and the kings and those they governed mostly resided there. They served as the primary educational institutions and learning locations. In India, there are more than 45 towns and cities with a long history and a status of being ancient cities. The religious and cultural heritage of these historic communities are one thing that sets them apart.

### **ii. Medieval City**

Cities in the Middle Ages were primarily commercial hubs that catered to the needs of wealthy merchants and other members of the trading class. Its well-defined population was made up of traders and their dependents and ancillaries. Several of these settlements sprung up along the coast. For their many requirements and purposes, the mediaeval towns and cities relied heavily on the rural areas. These cities and towns had authoritarian governmental systems in place. In these cities, social life was mostly traditional. The local king at the time, who was also a significant landowner, favoured inviting traders, artisans, managers, and professionals

to dwell in his fortified capital cities. These skilled workers lacked land and were reliant on the king for security.

They had a great deal of freedom since they were not tied to a specific piece of land, which they could use against the monarch in the event of oppression or exorbitant taxation. Towns and cities at this time acted as hinges joining the upper and lower tiers of the vertical settlement hierarchy. The bulk of the nearby towns were on the same hierarchical level as them, therefore their main purpose was to act as the military's command hub in the ongoing conflict.

### **iii. Modern City**

During the colonial era, modern cities arose in India. They have a sizable population and a diverse social makeup. Cities in the contemporary era are hubs of commerce. They have elected governments with intricate organizational structures and specialized roles. Modern cities have a cosmopolitan feel to them. These cities have a sizable population that works in the service industry and other similar fields that were not present in the older cities. They are the centers of fashion. Many non-profit organizations that cater to the needs of a big population are present in modern cities. One of the most crucial aspects of contemporary cities is social mobility. These cities are home to a wide variety of groups, each of which symbolizes a distinct culture. The modern city symbolizes a contemporary way of life and attitude. People here have quite different lives from their counterparts in rural areas. The greatest transportation and communication systems are found in modern cities. In addition, these cities are home to cutting-edge medical facilities.

### **Growth of City**

Cities expanded and ushered in radical transformations. In those days, a number of towns and cities arose, serving as the principal residences of the rulers and merchants. There are numerous distinct types of towns and cities, such as garrison towns, seaports, administrative or political capitals, tourist destinations, industrial cities, and commercial hubs etc. The corporate towns were a special form of the neighbourhood that is now all but extinct. Most of the big cities have diverse populations and run many activities at once. Most modern Indian cities have gone through a distinct socio-historical development process. Although there is a lot of



room for assumption regarding the origins of cities, by connecting it to the colonial era or modernity, it moves beyond the realm of conjecture. It must be understood within a specific framework as the outcome of both specific social trends and a dynamic social process. The 18th century saw the emergence of scientific technology and the accumulation of money, which set off these distinct societal movements. Urban areas served as providers of a variety of raw materials and consumers of imported goods throughout the colonial era. The old urban centers underwent changes; some were only military strongholds, while others became hubs for commerce and industry. Even though Indian urban areas grew alongside the development of large-scale industry and contemporary capitalism, they miss many of the features of western cities.

According to **Adna Weber**, concentration of people into cities was a product of the economic forces which were becoming significant with the industrial revolution, which introduced changes such as steam power, mechanization, and trade and commerce etc. The political causes of the emergence of cities were as follows:

- a. Legislation on promoting freedom of trade.
- b. Legislation promoting freedom of migration.
- c. Centralized administration with its location of persons in civic centers.
- d. Free forms of land tenure politically defended in the city.

The social causes were as follows:

- a. Education.
- b. Amusements.
- c. Higher standards of living.
- d. Attraction of intellectual association.
- e. Habituation of an urban environment.
- f. Diffusion of knowledge of the values of city life.

The distinction between a village and a town was not very significant in ancient India. In India, towns and cities were created as a result of certain situations and demands. The availability of water is the most important aspect among them. Second, the location must provide strong defense options. The availability of food was the third prerequisite. Ultimately, the city's fortune was also influenced by its communications networks. The earliest likely urban civilization appeared in India's Indus valley during the third millennium BC, with Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa being the most sophisticated urban forms. Gordon claims that

Mohanjodaro's city walls were first built circa 2600 BC. Then, around the year 600 B.C., the Aryan version of urbanization emerged.

### 3.4 Growth of Urban population in India

With an average growth rate of 7% from 2017–18 to 2018–19 and a steadily rising percentage in global GDP, India has been the fastest growing major economy in the world. Its nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ranks it as the seventh-largest economy in the world, while its purchasing power parity (PPP) ranking places it third in the world [Data source: Status of the Economy in 2018-19: A Macro Perspective, Economic Survey 2018-19]. India wants to have a \$5 trillion GDP by 2024 and a \$10 trillion economy by 2030, according to the Ministry of Finance.

India has about 4,400 statutory towns and cities, with over 40 crore people living there as of now. By 2030, India's urban population is projected to expand to a startling 60 crore people at the present rate of growth (WUP, 2018). Census 2011 indicates that 53 Indian cities have a population of one million or more. By 2050, it is anticipated that more than 50% of the population would live in cities (WUP, 2018). According to some estimates, India needs to construct a Chicago every year, and over the next ten years, its cities are predicted to experience an influx of people the size of the whole USA.

According to the 1901 census, 11.4% of Indians lived in urban areas. This number rose to 28.53% by the 2001 census, and according to The World Bank, 34% of Indians today live in urban areas. In 2030, A UN assessment predicts that 40.76% of the country's population will reside in urban areas. According to the World Bank, India will take the lead in the growth of the urban population worldwide by 2050, followed by China, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the United States. Throughout the 20th century, there was a significant rural-urban migration to Mumbai. Mumbai is India's second-largest metropolitan by population, with 22.1 million residents as of 2018. According to the 2011 census, Delhi, which has 28 million residents, has the highest rate of urbanization in the whole world.

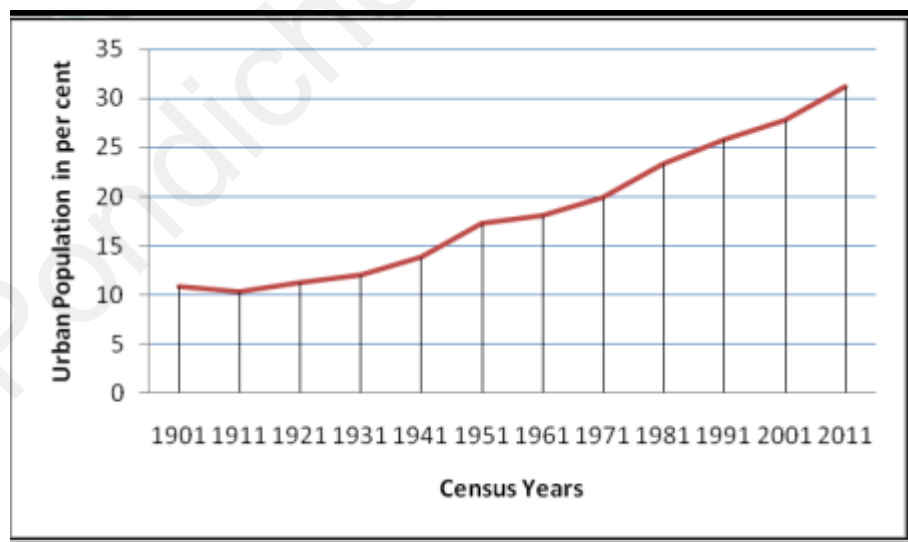
Let us have an over view through some figures how the process of urbanization has been making inroads in Indian context in different census years.

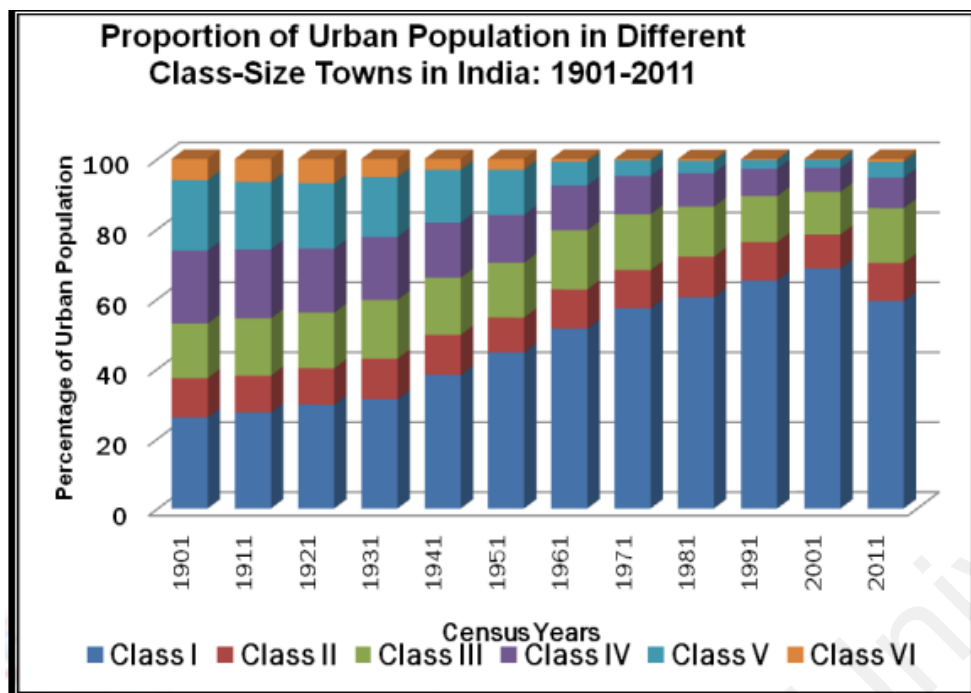
## Process of Urbanization in India

Census Year	No. of Urban Agglomerations/ Towns	Urban Population in Per cent	Annual exponential Growth rate of Urban Population
1901	1827	10.84	
1911	1825	10.29	0.03
1921	1949	11.18	0.79
1931	2072	11.99	1.75
1941	2250	13.86	2.77
1951	2843	17.29	3.47
1961	2363	17.97	2.34
1971	2590	19.91	3.21
1981	3378	23.33	3.83
1991	3768	25.72	3.09
2001	5161	27.78	2.74
2011	7935	31.16	2.76

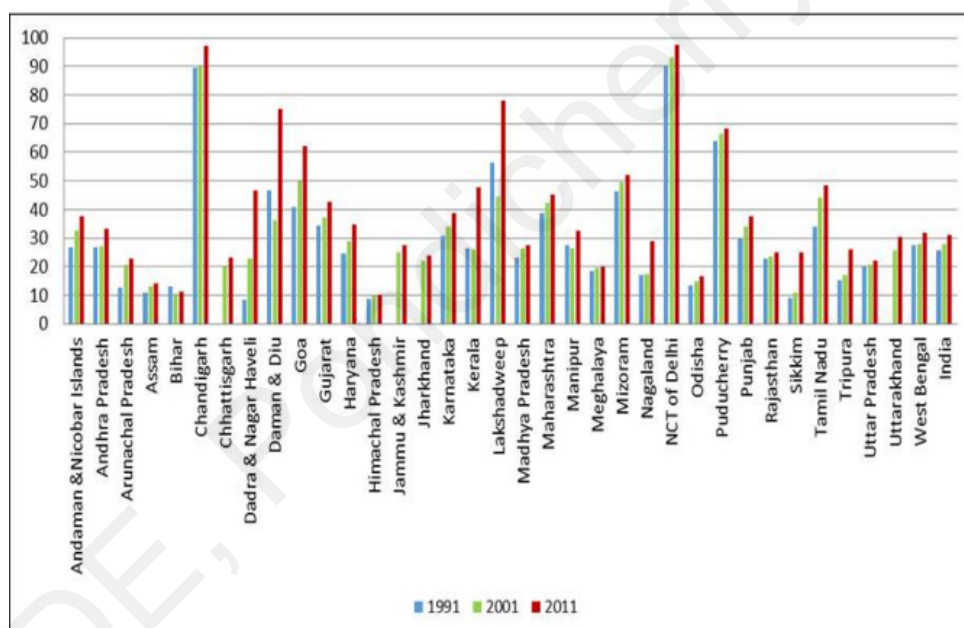
Source: Various Census Reports

## Process of Urbanization in India

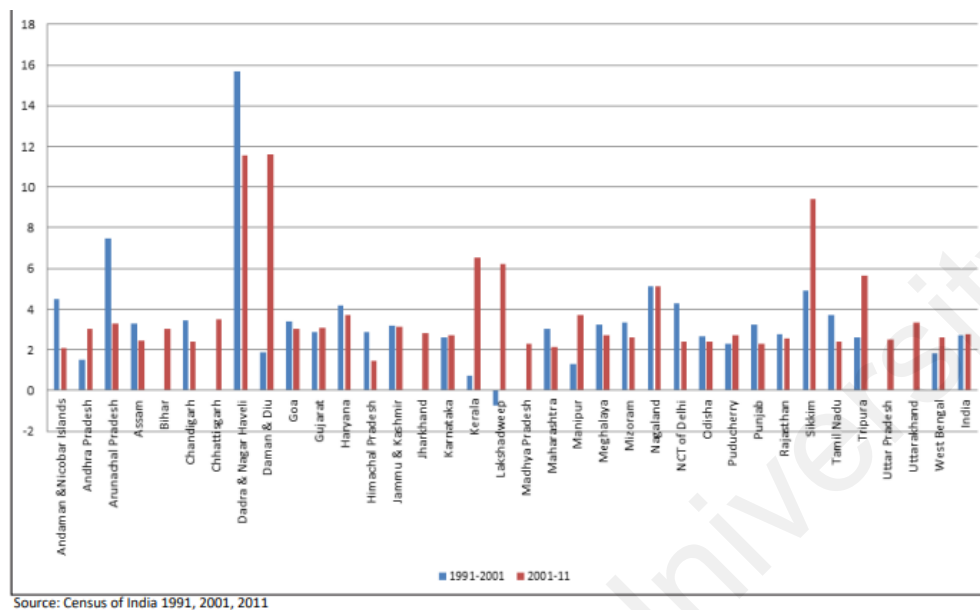




Level of Urbanization (%)



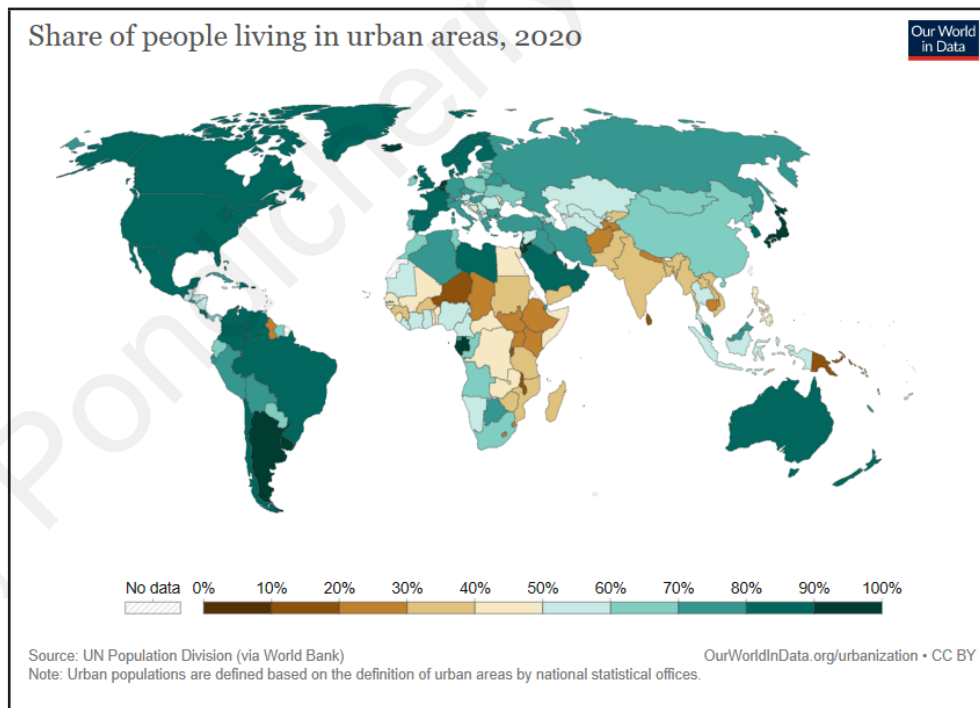
Level of Urbanization AEGR (1991-2011)



Source: Census of India 1991, 2001, 2011

Now Let us have an over view of the process of urbanization across the world through some secondary data .

Share of people living in urban areas, 2020



In the map shown here, we see the share of the population that is urbanized across the world.

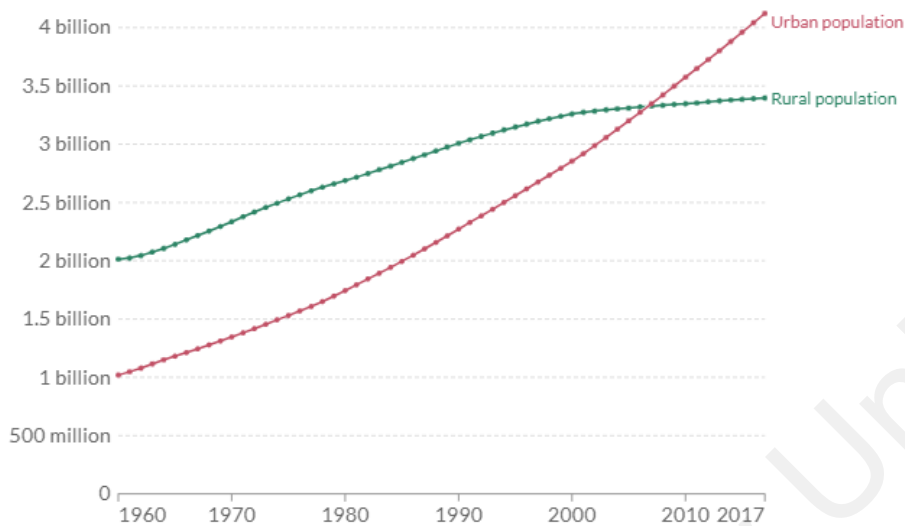
Across most high-income countries – across Western Europe, the Americas, Australia, Japan and the Middle East – more than 80% of the population live in urban areas. Across most upper-middle-income countries – in Eastern Europe, East Asia, North and Southern Africa, and

South America – between 50% to 80% of people do. In many low to lower-middle-income countries, the majority still live in rural areas.

### Number of people living in urban and rural areas, World

Our World  
in Data

[↔ Change country](#)



Source: World Bank based on data from the UN Population Division

OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY

Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.

In the visualization, we see estimates from the *UN World Urbanization Prospects* on the number of people globally who live in urban and rural areas. More than 4.3 billion people now live in urban areas.

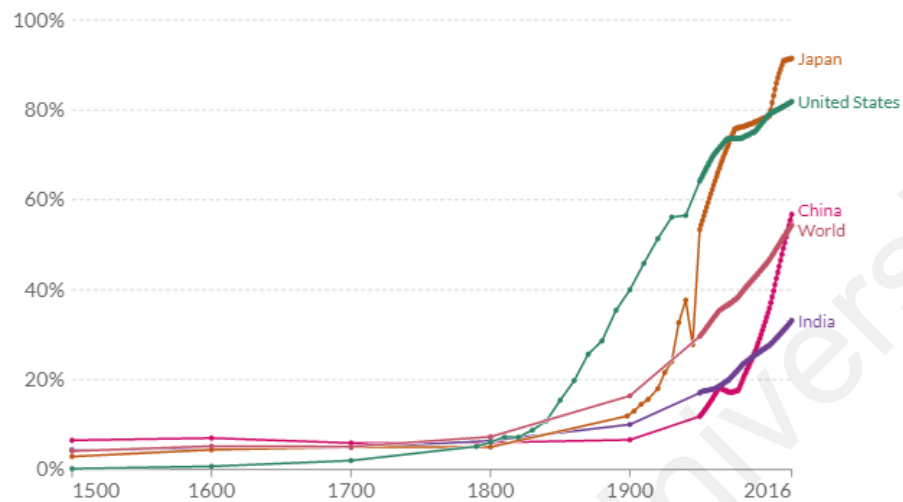
This means over half of the world (55% in 2017) live in urban settings. The UN estimates this milestone event – when the number of people in urban areas overtook the number in rural settings – occurred in 2007.

## Urbanization over the past 500 years, 1500 to 2016

Share of the total population living in urban areas

Our World  
in Data

+ Add country



Source: OWID based on UN World Urbanization Prospects 2018 and historical sources (see Sources)

Note: Urban areas are based on national definitions and may vary by country.

OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY

► 1500 ◯ 2016

In the map here we see how the share of populations living in urban areas has changed in recent centuries. Data on urbanization dating back to 1500 is available only for select countries, with an estimated share at the global level. Using the timeline on the map (or by clicking on a country) you can see how this share has changed over time.

Here we see clearly again that urbanization has largely been confined to the past 200 years. By 1800, still, over 90% of the global (and country-level) population lived in rural areas. Urbanization in the United States began to increase rapidly through the 19th century, reaching 40% by 1900.<sup>9</sup>

By 1950 this reached 64% and nearly 80% by 2000.

This rate of urbanization was, however, outpaced by Japan. Urban shares in Japan were low until the 20th century.<sup>10</sup> By 1900, it had just surpassed 1-in-10. This increased rapidly, reaching over half of the population by 1950; nearly 80% by 2000, and surpassing the USA to over 90% today.

China and India had similar rates of urbanization until the late 1980s.<sup>11</sup> By then, both had around 1-in-4 living in urban areas. However, China's rate of urbanization increased rapidly over the 1990s and 2000s. Over this 30-year period, its urban share more than doubled to 58%. India's



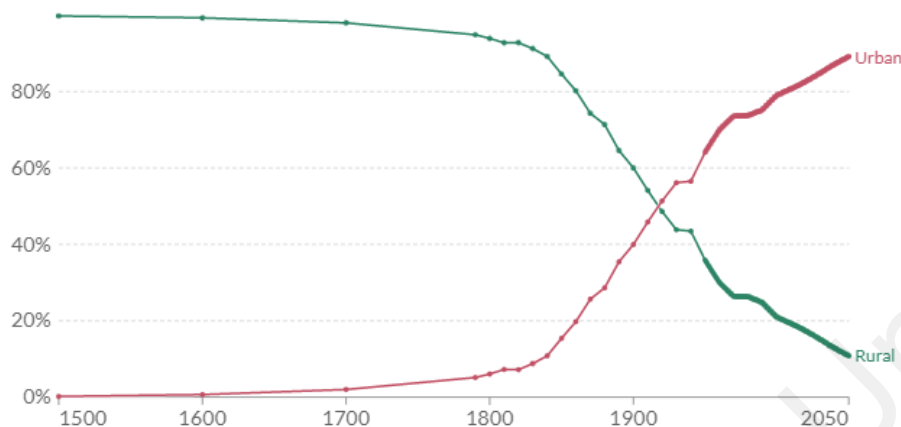
rise has continued to steadily rise to 1-in-3 (33%) today.

### Do more people live in urban or rural areas?, United States, 1500 to 2050

Share of the population which live in urban versus rural areas. Here, 'majority urban' indicates more than 50 percent of the population live in urban centres; 'majority rural' indicates less than 50 percent. Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices. This is based on estimates to 2016, combined with UN projections to 2050.

Our World  
in Data

↔ Change country



Source: OWID based on UN World Urbanization Prospects (2018) & Historical Sources (see Sources tab)  
OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY

The UN World Urbanization Prospects provide estimates of urban shares across the world through to 2050. These projections are shown in the chart — using the timeline you can watch this change over time.

Across all countries, urban shares are projected to increase in the coming decades, although at varied rates. By 2050, it's projected that 68% of the world's population will live in urban areas (an increase from 54% in 2016). In fact, by 2050 there are very few countries where rural shares are expected to be higher than urban. These include several across Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Pacific Island States, and Guyana in Latin America.

Why, when most countries are expected to be mostly urban, is the global total just over two-thirds? This seems low but results from the fact that many of the world's most populated countries have comparably low urban shares (either just over half or less). For example, India (expected to be the world's most populous country), is projected to have an urban share of only 53% in 2050.

The other map shown here provides a snapshot overview of how the world is expected to continue to become more urbanized. It shows, for any given country, whether more people (the majority) live in urban or rural areas.

Using the timeline feature and “play” button in the bottom-left

of the chart, you can explore how this has changed over time. In 1950, it was predominantly high-income countries across Europe, the Americas, Australasia and Japan who were largely urban. A century later — in 2050 — it's projected that most countries will have more people living in urban areas than not.

#### Trends in Urbanization

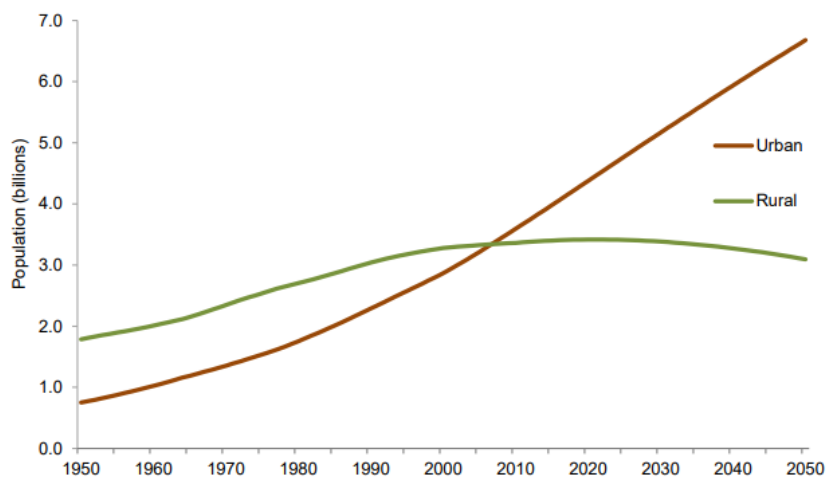
Globally, more people live in urban areas than in rural areas today. In 2018, 55 per cent of the world's population resided in urban areas. Overall, 4.2 billion people resided in urban settlements compared to 3.4 billion in rural areas.

The world's population has gone through a process of rapid urbanization since 1950. In 1950, more than two thirds (70 per cent) of people worldwide lived in rural settlements. In 2007, for the first time in history, the global urban population exceeded the global rural population, and since then the number of the world's city dwellers has continued to grow faster than the rural population ( See the figure). Towards the end of the Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2030, the share of the world's population living in urban areas is expected to reach 60 per cent. It is projected that by 2050, the world will be more than two thirds urban (68 per cent), roughly the reverse of the global rural-urban population distribution of the mid-twentieth century. (See the table given).

Over the coming decades, the level of urbanization is expected to increase in all regions, but with considerable variation. Latin America and the Caribbean, and Northern America have been highly urbanized, with over 80 per cent of their population estimated to be urban in 2018 and a projected percentage of nearly 90 per cent in 2050. Europe, with nearly three quarters of its population living in urban areas in 2018, is expected to reach 80 per cent urban in 2040 and nearly 85 per cent by 2050 . Meanwhile, Oceania is expected to have an almost stable percentage urban, rising from nearly 70 per cent today to slightly over 70 per cent in 2050.

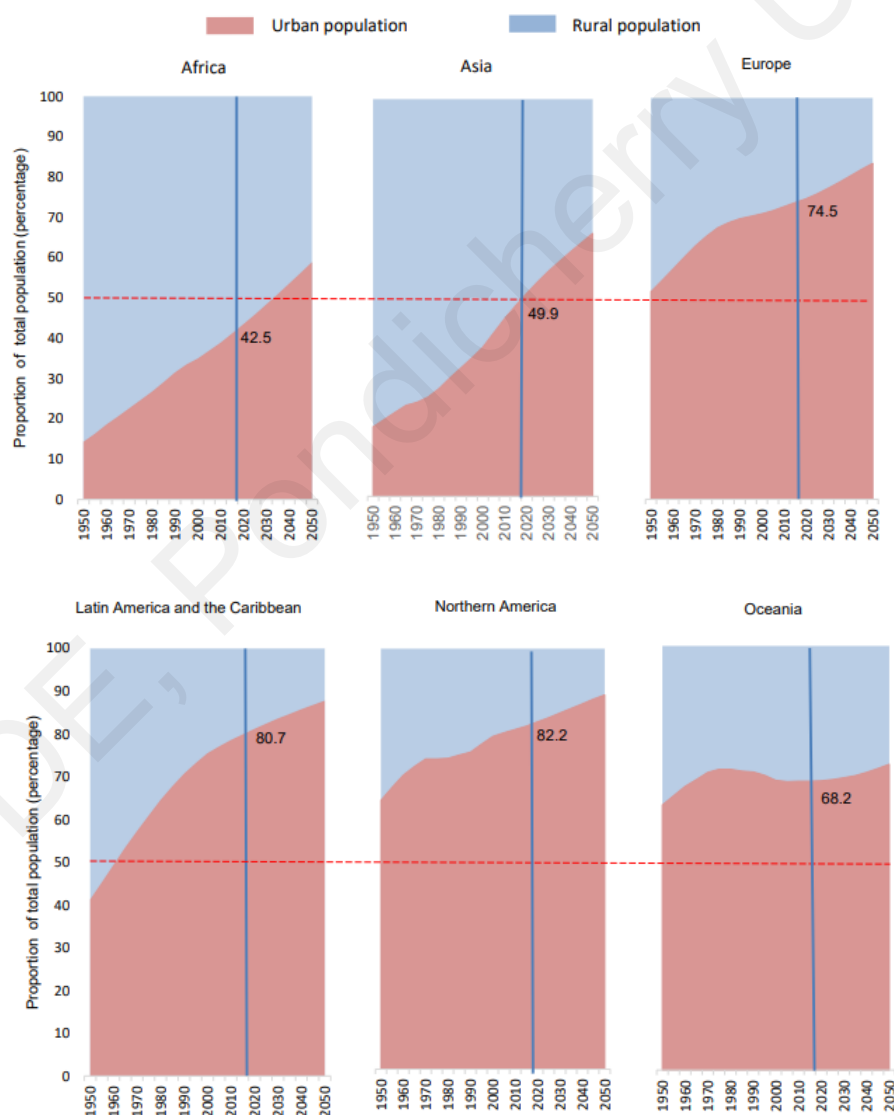
(Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division  
World Urbanization Prospects 2018)

Urban and rural populations of the world, 1950-2050



Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018a). *World Urbanization Prospects 2018*.

Urban and rural population as proportion of total population, by geographic region, 1950-2050



Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018a). *World Urbanization Prospects 2018*.

## Causes of Urbanization

Rapid movement of people to cities and towns because of their perception of rural areas as having hardship, backwardness, or a primitive way of life is the main driver of urbanization. Therefore, the phenomenon of urbanization is the outcome of a huge number of people moving to urban areas that are more developed, such as towns and cities.

The reasons of urbanization can be categorized as follows:

### 3.6 Causes and consequences of urbanization

**Industrialization:** A movement towards non-agricultural occupations and away from traditional agriculture practices is resulting in a modernized society. Due to the industrial revolution, more and more individuals have increasingly been drawn to relocate from rural to urban regions in search of greater economic prospects. Individuals could work in a variety of industrial sectors to promote economic growth.

**Commercialization:** The development of cities is greatly aided by all forms of trade. Towns and cities have grown quickly due to the development of several contemporary marketing organizations and exchange techniques in the modern era's distribution of products, services, and commercial transactions. There is a widespread belief among individuals that commerce and trade in urban regions provide better chances and returns than in rural areas.

**Social Benefits:** Living in a city or town has a lot of social advantages. People have better access to housing, health care, recreation, and educational options in urban locations, which enables them to lead more fulfilling social lives overall. Due to the lack of many social advantages and services in rural areas, these reasons are driving an increasing number of people to move to cities and towns.

**Opportunities for employment:** There are many jobs available in urban areas, which attracts individuals from rural areas looking for a better way of life. People commonly move to urban areas for this reason in quest of well-paying work in emerging industries including public health, education, transportation, sports, recreation, and business operations. Such services and businesses produce more value-added jobs, increasing the number of employment options in metropolitan regions.

**Modernization and drastically altered lifestyles:** The trend of urbanisation is greatly aided by modernization and the dramatic changes in people's lifestyles nowadays. Urban regions now have extremely advanced communication systems, infrastructure, healthcare services, dress codes, enlightenment, liberalism, and social amenities available. Most individuals believe that living in cities will enable them to live happier and more fulfilling lives. People are moving into the cities and therefore, the cities are expanding quickly as a result of daily population growth.

**Rural-urban transformation:** As a result of the discovery of minerals, the exploitation of natural resources, or specific agricultural operations, many locations have grown more prolific and richer, and cities have begun to appear. It is common knowledge that rising productivity promotes economic expansion and more employment possibilities with high added value. This tendency often aids in the development of land for use in commercial buildings, institutions supporting the socioeconomic system, transportation, and residential structures.

### Consequences of Urbanisation

Let us discuss about how urbanization can have both positive and negative impacts.

#### Positive Results

**Higher living standards:** Urbanization results in more employment possibilities, better infrastructure and technology, better communication and transportation, higher-quality healthcare and educational facilities, and higher living standards.

**Greater market potential:** People who live in cities have access to a considerably wider range of purchasing options than people who live in rural locations. The majority of cities have shopping malls and a variety of businesses that are open late and offer entertainment, dining, recreational, and cultural offerings to draw customers. The ownership of many establishments by large national and international chains, however, makes it challenging for small, independent enterprises to be successful.

**Improved services:** In comparison to small rural communities, large urban centres can provide a greater choice of services. One or more of these can include a public transportation system, sewage and water services, a

variety of educational and recreational activities, as well as bigger and better healthcare facilities.

### **Negative Consequences**

**Housing issues:** A growing interest in urbanization has contributed to the population's rapid growth during the past few years. Due to the strain of people residing in metropolitan centers, there is an ongoing shortage of housing. This is mostly a result of a shortage of room for housing and public services to expand, poverty, development of slums, unemployment, and the high cost of construction materials that are only affordable to a select few wealthy individuals.

**Overcrowding:** In large cities, many people dwell in a limited area, which results in ongoing congestion in urban areas. As a vast number of people and immigrants come into cities and towns in quest of a better life, the problem of overpopulation is getting worse by the day. Individuals from rural or underdeveloped areas always feel the impulse to migrate to cities, which typically results in crowding of people in a narrow space.

**Unemployment:** Urban areas see a higher rate of unemployment, particularly among educated individuals. One estimate states that more than half of the young unemployed people in the world live in urban areas. Urban unemployment is primarily a result of people moving more frequently from rural or developing areas into cities. Urban locations have surprisingly low incomes despite having greater salaries because of the increased cost of living.

**Slum growth:** There is no doubt that urban areas have very high living costs. Large suburban slum regions and shanty towns are a result of big cities' inability to handle the unforeseen development and flood of new people. These locations mostly consist of a dispersion of unauthorized residential settlements with a range of related issues.

**Problems with sanitation:** Most urban areas have had a significant expansion in population, making it typical to discover insufficient sewage infrastructure. Municipalities and local governments are dealing with a serious resource issue in the administration of sewage infrastructure. As a result, the area's cleanliness deteriorates, and sewage flows poorly when it is discharged into nearby streams, rivers, lakes, or oceans. As a result, contagious illnesses like typhoid, dysentery, plague, and diarrhoea spread quickly, causing misery and occasionally fatalities. Water shortage is also a

result of overcrowding since supply frequently falls short of demand.

**Poor health:** The health of urban low-income individuals is noticeably worse than that of urban middle- and high-income individuals, and it might even be worse than that of the rural populace. Congested metropolitan areas influence how well people use public health care services because of their social, economic, and living situations. The people of slum areas are more prone to infectious diseases due to poor hygienic conditions and a lack of water. Numerous health issues, such as allergies, asthma, infertility, food poisoning, cancer, and even early deaths, are greatly influenced by poor environmental conditions, such as air pollution in urban areas.

**Traffic Congestion:** As more people relocate to towns and cities, the transportation system confronts significant difficulties. Increased reliance on vehicles for travelling to work because of suburban expansion causes traffic congestion and air pollution, which is mostly brought on by the combustion of fossil fuels. More automobiles are used by more people, which causes traffic jams and vehicle pollution. People often go to work by car in metropolitan areas, which is quite problematic, especially during rush hour. People migrate to the market to access their requirements as cities expand in size, which ultimately leads to traffic congestion.

**Garbage disposal:** As Indian cities expand rapidly in both population and size; the issue of waste removal is reaching alarming heights. Massive amounts of rubbish created by large cities are seriously affecting the health of the average person. Several cities lack adequate waste disposal systems, and the current landfills are already overflowing. Leachate, a toxic liquid that oozes out from underneath waste and contaminates ground water, attracts rats and insects that spread disease. Trash that is left to putrefy in the open also attracts rats. Individuals who live close to such trash heaps and untreated sewage are more susceptible to several illnesses, including typhoid, jaundice, diarrhoea, dysentery, malaria, and plague.

**Increasing crime:** Due to resource constraints, population density, poverty, unemployment, and a lack of social services and educational facilities, many major city neighbourhoods suffer specific issues. Vandalism, crime, violence, and drug usage are just a few of the societal issues that are frequently brought on by this. Metropolitan areas have a higher prevalence of social crimes such murder, rape, abduction, rioting, assault, theft, robbery, and hijacking. Fast-growing metropolitan regions also have the greatest rates of crimes associated to poverty. The calm and tranquilly of



cities and towns are often disturbed by all such urban crime-related crimes. The issue of urban crime is getting more difficult nowadays since corrupt officials, politicians, and elite groups in urban culture frequently defend criminals. Some offenders even ascend to prominent political positions by using money power.

### 3.7 Summary

Urbanization is a widespread process that is happening extremely quickly. Significant changes in human behaviour brought about by rapid urbanization have disrupted the adoption of urban lifestyles by those moving from rural to urban settings. Humans benefit much from urbanization, but this development is frequently unsustainable and leads to a variety of issues, including slums, pollution, rubbish, crime, etc. Urbanization is a vital component of human progress and the future rests in urbanization. Thus, planning for sustainable urbanization is essential.

### 3.8 Keywords

**Industrialization-** This is the general process in which agriculture and handicrafts are displaced in economic importance by large-scale manufacturing and extraction. The Industrial Revolution occurred first in the UK and was soon repeated across western Europe and North America. Industrialization is central to sociology because it necessarily brought with it (that is, the connections are not accidental) a wide variety of changes that created modern societies, the distinctiveness of which was the central focus of the founders of sociology as an academic discipline.

### 3.9 Self-Assessment Questions

1. Discuss briefly the process of urbanization in India.
2. What are the causes of urbanization in India?
3. What are the consequences of urbanization in India?
4. What is the trend of urban growth in India? Explain in detail by taking clues from various census reports.

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**UNIT - IV****Lesson 4.1 - Urban Social Structure****Structure**

- 4.1: Learning Objectives
- 4.2: Assessment of Prior Knowledge
- 4.3: Understanding Urban Social Structure
- 4.4: Characteristics of Urban Life
  - 4.4.1: Size and Density
  - 4.4.2: Heterogeneity
  - 4.4.3: Impersonal Social Interaction
  - 4.4.4: Anonymity
  - 4.4.5: Rationality
  - 4.4.6: Individualism
  - 4.4.7: Secularization of Outlook
  - 4.4.8: Division of Labor
- 4.5: Urban Family
  - 4.5.1: Indian Family Structure
  - 4.5.2: Change in the Urban Family System
  - 4.5.3: Agencies performing the functions of Urban Family
  - 4.5.4: Disorganization of Urban Family
- 4.6: Urban Social Stratification
  - 4.6.1: Caste in Contemporary Urban Indian Society
  - 4.6.2: Urban Disparities and Caste
  - 4.6.3: Class Differences and Spatial Location
  - 4.6.4: Social Classes in Urban India
- 4.7: Occupational Structures in India
- 4.8: Classification of Urban Occupations
- 4.9: Summary
- 4.10: Keywords
- 4.11: Self-Assessment Questions
- 4.12: References

#### 4.1. Learning Objectives

After studying this unit, the students will be able to

- Understand the meaning and characteristics of urban social structure
- Examine urban family and its emerging trends
- Discuss how caste and class creates disparity in urban lives

#### 4.2. Assessment of Prior Knowledge

In the previous unit we have learnt about Process of Urbanization in India growth of Urban population in India, emergence of cities, Causes and consequences of urbanization. In addition to urbanization process of India, we also learnt about urbanization process worldwide. The trend of urbanization that is witnessed worldwide has also been analyzed. Now, let us focus on learning urban social structure.

#### 4.3. Understanding Urban Social Structure

Very often, the terms 'city' and 'urban' are used interchangeably because both the words are thought to be of the same thing. The city is a fulcrum of civilization. The city is not merely a collection of architectural forms, but it also essentially denotes the amalgamation of corporate enterprises, various associations and institutions which have come to establish themselves in a range of time. There is definite correlation between the size and complexity of city and the culture it develops and transmits.

Since cities have developed in many ways, it is difficult to find the history of a city. However, terminology like "civitas" and "urbs" were employed in ancient Greek and Mesopotamian civilizations to refer to the religious and political associations of families and tribes, respectively. Urban life is now recognized as a style of living that is commonly seen in cities, dating back to the 17th century. A village differs from a city in terms of size, complexity, heterogeneity, and impersonality.

The social theorists Gordon Childe and Max Weber contend that the existence of marketplaces and the type of traders who frequent them are essential elements of a city. Cities are made up of markets in addition to other religious, political, economic, technological, and administrative hubs. In a city people from different socio-economic backgrounds co-

exist as migration is one of the key aspects of urbanization. All the people live together in a city and fulfill their diverse needs and interests as they organize themselves in relatively complex organizational arrangements. These organizations are based on rationality and indirect relationships as in the hospital organization, a supermarket, the court, the bank, the shopping mall, etc. These institutional arrangements are not found in rural areas, and this clearly differentiates it from the urban social structure. Other major features are size, complexity, heterogeneity, anonymity, impersonal relations, etc. which will be clearly discussed in section 4.3.

The primary criteria in defining an urban area are in terms of demographic criteria such as size and density of population. The cities have been classified according to Census of India on the basis of the size of the population. Class I cities are of 1 lakh and more population, Class II towns range between 50,000 and 100,000, Class III have population between 20,000 to 50,000, Class IV between 10,000 and 20,000, Class V between 5,000 to 10,000 and the towns having less than 5,000 population will be at the bottom of the various groups.

Another criterion for defining urban social structure is the ecological approach which has its origins in biology. It is important to study human ecology to help understand how man survives in a changing environment through competition over space and struggling to survive. This can be related with the natural world where there is a competition over space and struggling to survive. As a result, the strongest city dwellers would occupy the best spots, while other residents would change to meet their needs. Urban activities like residential patterns, marketplaces, political institutions, business centers, etc. are distributed spatially based on an ecological theory of urban growth.

The socio-cultural approach, which emphasizes the cultural, psychological, and other social aspects of urban life, is the ultimate and most crucial criterion for defining urban social structure. Based on the specific social interactions, attitudes, and values of people living in urban environments, this strategy.

Louis Wirth in his paper "Urbanism as a Way of Life", defined urbanization as the process of change and closely associated with it is was migration. He believed that people come to the city from outside making city a cultural mosaic. This according to him creates a particular culture of the city called urbanism. Urban area is characterized by heterogeneity of

population which means presence of large number of people belonging to different socio-cultural backgrounds with diverse language, food habits, dress patterns etc. For example, in the metropolitan cities of Delhi and Mumbai we can find people from all over India speaking in different languages, eating different variety of food, wearing different dress patterns, etc. But this type of diversity cannot be found in a rural area. The larger population size and density and heterogeneity are distinctly urban characteristics.

#### **4.4. Characteristics of Urban Life**

Urban and rural residents can be distinguished by the traits of urban living. Urban sociologists have studied urbanization in western nations, but the urban ideals and manner of life they have defined are not entirely present in the Indian environment. But now as postmodernism has set in these features are appearing in Indian cities. In the following description of the features of urban life is a general one taking the whole world into picture and not India in particular. The purpose is to familiarize the students with the general features of urban life and find out to what extent these features are seen in the Indian context.

##### **4.4.1. Size and Density**

The size of population of the urban areas is much higher than the rural areas. The process of industrialization increases the urban population. People generally move to cities in search of higher standard of living. The rising population contributes for high population density in urban regions.

##### **4.4.2. Heterogeneity**

Heterogeneity is an important characteristic of urban life. In a city people from different socio-economic background reside. The people in cities have a great variety in matters of food habits, dress habits, religious beliefs, customs, living conditions, norms and values etc. This is in quite contrast to the village which is characterized by homogeneity.

##### **4.4.3. Impersonal Social Interaction**

There is lack of intimate face to face interaction among the urban dwellers since the population of urban areas is so large. In the traditional



grocery store (kirana store) in a rural community besides economic relations we also have social and personal relations with the shopkeeper, but this can be rarely found in urban centres. The pattern of interaction among the urban population is for limited and specialized reasons and the interaction is not limited within the four walls of residence, but interaction can happen in shopping malls, hospitals, universities, banks etc. Therefore, the relations between the members of a urban community is impersonal in nature which is superficial and transitory. This is quite contrast to the intimate, personal, face to face relationships of the people in rural areas.

#### **4.4.4. Anonymity**

The large number of populations in urban areas makes room for anonymity. In a city everyone is a stranger and we do not have a sense of belongingness towards others. The heterogenous population of a city with people from varied races, castes, classes, occupations and ethnic groups accelerates the feeling of anonymity. In metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai, people also do not know their next-door neighbours and do not care for their miseries or pleasures.

#### **4.4.5. Rationality**

In urban areas relationships are based on rationality. In cities people are very calculative and before entering relationships and spending time, they will calculate their potential profit or gain from that association. Here relationships are contractual, we enter relationships with others for short duration and once our work is done, our relationship is also over. For example, hiring a nurse to take care of a sick person, or entering contract with advertising agencies for marketing your product, etc. Thus, in general urban relationships are contractual in nature and based on rationality.

#### **4.4.6. Individualism**

In urban areas people are free from the traditional restrains of caste, class, community, religion etc and are free. So, individualism creeps in the mindset of the urbanites as they consider themselves free from shackles of the constraints of the community. Individuals are now free to do whatever they want and lead their lives the way they like to live.

#### **4.4.7. Secularization of Outlook**

In urban areas the traditional religious rituals and beliefs slowly loses their significance. With heterogenous population in urban areas, people get accustomed to the diversity of values and lifestyles. This makes the people in cities tolerant towards each other's religion and culture. This results in secularization of outlook of the urban people, although even today we find instances of communal riots taking place in Indian cities. But in a general sense we can say that the urban areas are more secular than the rural areas.

#### **4.4.8. Division of Labour**

The two types of density mentioned by Emile Durkheim are the material density and the dynamic or moral density. Population growth results in a larger ratio of people to land, or "material density." The level of interaction or communication within a population is known as dynamic density. The population grows together with the transition from traditional to industrialised or contemporary society, which increases the material and dynamic density. Greater communication between hitherto isolated social units emerges from this. Greater specialisation and the division of labour are found in urban regions, which were not as common in rural areas. Trade and trade were significant forces behind the division of labour.

The above were the general features of urban social structure which are in quite contrast to the features of rural social structure. Many studies conducted by the western scholars on urbanization were of little help to understand the Indian scenario. Moreover, many studies on urban studies of the 50's and 60's also questioned the general assumptions that urbanization is leading to decline in family size, breakdown of the joint family unit, and weakening of caste and religious values as majority of the people of India are deeply rooted in Indian culture. In the next section we are going to discuss about the family, caste and class in the urban context and their emerging trends and urban disparities.

### **4.5 Urban Family**

Indian society is changing and urbanization can be one of the important factors of social change. Urbanization has brought change in all the aspects of society, be it economic growth, political change, social change in terms of new values and attitudes, cultural change etc. Even

our social institutions like the family, marriage, caste, class are undergoing changes. In the Indian context there has always been a continuity, we have not completely forgotten our traditions as the basic values continue to dominate our social institutions but at the same time new ideas are coming to dominate in the urban society.

#### **4.5.1. Indian Family Structure**

It is generally believed that urbanisation is causing joint families to fragment into nuclear families and that family size is declining. We typically refer to the family unit as a rural Indian institution connected to the agrarian economy. However, we cannot dismiss the reality of blended families in Indian cities. Joint families and rural India are not comparable, nor are nuclear families and urban India. Sociologists have studied the family structure in rural and urban India, and they have discovered that joint families are very common in both, and that families in both of these settings cycle between nuclear and joint over time before returning to nuclear. According to family studies by KM Kapadia (1956), IP Desai (1964), AM Shah (1973), and R Mukherjee (1965), there is no connection between urbanisation and nuclear families in metropolitan India. It is unjustified to assume that everyone lives in nuclear families in cities and that joint families are breaking apart as a result of urbanisation. According to certain studies, there is structural coherence between joint families and the demands of urban living, in addition to kinship. In case studies of 19 business class families in Chennai, Milton Singer made the point that the traditional joint family of India is adjusting to the urban and industrial environment.

#### **4.5.2. Change in the Urban Family System**

Although the size of the families in the urban areas is small but the wider joint family relations also play important role in urban families. IP Desai has talked about the role of this wider family relationships. For example, when there is serious illness in the family then the close kins residing in the villages are called for help. Thus, people residing in urban areas are also dependent on close kins who are part of their wider joint family and might reside in the rural areas. Similarly, person residing in rural areas also seek the help of their kins in urban areas for educational or economic help. Although there is a close dependence between the joint families but still that does not suggest that there have been no changes in

the family structure. Some of the visible and gradual modifications in the urban family structure are as follows.

1. The urban family is generally small in size limited to only two children due to use of contraceptives and family planning measures.
2. Many of the functions of the urban families have now been taken over by other agencies. The work of looking after and bringing up children are being performed in creches, kindergarten schools and babysitters. Hospitals undertake the work of delivering children and restaurants provide food to many families.
3. In urban areas most of the women are employed and being economically independent raises their status in society.
4. There is a laxity in marital and sexual relationships in urban families. The rigidity associated with marital and sexual relationships no longer characterizes the modern urban family.
5. Inter caste, inter regional, inter religious, inter communal marriages, and even homosexual relationships or same sex marriages are increasing in urban areas that points to the fact of changing attitudes of urban people.
6. There is also a change in the selection of partners. Nowadays the urban youths are in search of urban educated and working girls.
7. In urban families the conjugal relationships that is the husband-and-wife relationships are given more preference rather than the blood relations. Thus, conjugal relationships are associated with urban living.
8. In urban areas the girls and boys are more focussed on their careers and as a result the age at marriage in urban areas are increasing.
9. In urban areas there is lesser emphasis placed on the ritual aspects of marriage and rise in the incidence of court marriages has pointed to the fact of the separation of marriage with the sacred religious aspect.
10. Although incidence of love marriages is increasing in urban areas but still there is a strong preference of arranged marriages in urban areas.
11. There are growing instances of divorce. The strong hold of family over individuals is loosening. The modern family clearly presents the picture of family disorganization.

12. Dowry is very much part of the marriage ceremonies in both rural and urban areas. Even today we can see incidences of dowry deaths and bride burning among modern educated urban families.

#### 4.5.3. Agencies Performing the Functions of Urban Family

The functions of the family are changing in metropolitan areas nowadays as other agencies take up these roles. The primary organisations of this kind are maternity hospitals, women's hospitals, baby clinics, creches, kid parks, kindergartens, babysitters or nannies, public aids, hotels and restaurants, clubs, theatres, and other forms of entertainment.

1. **Hospitals:** Previously children were born at home and midwife was called in at the time of delivery. Now in the urban families this is done in the maternity hospitals. During pregnancy the women constantly consults the doctor and delivery is done in the hospital. This system is beneficial as the mother and the child are constantly in the care of expert physicians and can get any kind of assistance whenever required.
2. **Women Hospitals:** In the modern age of specialization there are specialists for every kind of disease. Now a days one can secure specialists in the particularly feminine diseases in all big towns and cities. Thus, it is they who treat the women for their diseases. Previously this was done in the family being performed most incompetently and dangerously.
3. **Baby clinics:** Now a days in addition to the treatment of women, there are doctors who specialize in the treatment of children. Previously the more common infantile diseases were treated at home but now this is done in baby clinics.
4. **Creches and children parks:** Creches and children parks are developed in the urban areas of the modern developed countries. Working women can leave their bottle-feeding children at the creches where they are looked after by other women who feed them at proper time, and keep them occupied with toys, etc. Even in India we can see the emergence of creche in the urban areas of the metropolitan cities of our country. Similarly, Montessori schools, nurseries and children parks have been developed for children between three and six years of age. In these, every care is taken of the children.
5. **Babysitters or Nannies:** In the western countries much of the

chores of caring for and upbringing of children has been taken up by babysitter, in addition to the creches and nurseries. These babysitters are generally female. Their duty is to keep the children busy and for this they receive payment by the hour. In India also in the urban areas this concept of babysitters and domestic help are increasing as there is no one else to look after the children if a woman is working. So, the working women generally employs baby sitters or domestic help to look after their children and take care of the house in their absence.

6. **Public Assistance:** In the past, one of the primary responsibilities of the family was to look after and provide for the elderly, the disabled, and the unemployed. Today, the government commits to helping the elderly, defenceless, jobless, and orphaned children in many affluent nations, including India. The government provides assistance to the elderly and orphaned everywhere through pension and insurance programmes. Numerous institutions support the family in carrying out its responsibilities in this way. In addition to offering food and accommodations, hotels, restaurants, and nightclubs often offer entertainment. These organisations thus split up most of the family's work. However, they can never fully substitute for a family; they can only support its efforts.

#### **4.5.4. Disorganization of Urban Family**

The urban family is gradually becoming increasingly disorganized. According to Elliot and Merill, "In the broadest sense family disorganization may be thought to include any sort of non-harmonious functioning within any of several types of family." Family disorganization is the disruption of the harmony among family members. Some signs of this phenomenon can be seen in the following changes in the family.

1. **A lack of cohesiveness within the family:** Urban nuclear families are highly individualistic. Every family member has their own aims, ambitions and goals and they want no interference. There has been hardly any concern for each other's though they live under one roof. In contemporary times due to the ever-growing presence of Information and Communication Technology, though members of a family dine together or live together, but they are detached from each other in terms of emotion and fellow feeling. Thus, the purpose

of home has been withering away leading to hotel like condition where people come to eat and take rest for few hours.

2. **Loss of family control:** In contemporary society, families have less and less power over their members. The younger generation does not want to follow their elders' recommendations. They do not want to be in charge and want to leave the family as soon as they get married or start making money. So, in this sense, it is clear that the family is disorganised.
3. **Conflict:** There is less family control and a lack of a sense of togetherness among family members, which leads to more conflict in families today.
4. **Laxity in marital bonds:** The marital ties are weakening as there are increasing evidence of divorce in urban families. Marriage has lost its original religious sacrosanct status and has merely become a social contract which can be easily cancelled at any time. One main reason can be cited behind the weakening of marital bond is perhaps due to the situation created by the prevailing education system and employment of women which is not effectively adopted and adapted by men.
5. **Conflict between parents and children:** Nowadays an important element indicative of family disorganization is the conflict between parents and children. The control of the old people over young men and women is constantly decreasing. They do not want to be ordered by their parents in their behaviour, marriage, society, etc.
6. **1. Lack of security:** The disagreement between a husband and wife, as well as between parents and children, steadily reduces psychological security. As a result, there is a decline in mutual trust, and the family structure is being destroyed.
7. The causes listed above make it clear that families in the current day are becoming increasingly disorganised. Families are shrinking, and divorce rates are rising. Mutual affection and faith are dwindling, and selfishness has taken its place.

#### 4.6. Urban Social Stratification

The countries of the world exhibit a variety of forms of social stratification. In India we have rigid forms of social stratification and caste is a very good example of this. In India caste hierarchy is expressed in occupation, food, dress, marriage and others. Castes are hierarchically



arranged hereditary groups which are endogamous in nature. The ideas of purity and pollution are inherent in caste system and they define the structural distance between different caste groups. Although the rigidity of the caste system is lessened nowadays and especially in the urban areas with modernization and industrialization. But still aspects of caste are very much prevalent even today but in different forms. Similarly, class is defined in terms of wealth, income and status in society. On the basis of class also there is social stratification in India. In the urban areas different neighbourhoods or mohallas are formed on the basis of the class. For example in Delhi, the South Delhi is considered to be a posh area where people of high class and status reside. Similarly, the daily wage labourers or the unskilled workers who belong to the lower class reside in the suburbs or in the slums. In the following paragraphs we will discuss caste and class as forms of social stratification in India.

#### **4.6.1 Caste in Contemporary Urban Indian Society**

Caste is a rigid system of stratification mainly associated with the agrarian rural economy. Scholars have argued that with modernity, urbanization and capitalism the effectiveness of caste system has deteriorated and will continue to deteriorate. Therefore, we can say that the institution of caste has adapted or modified its nature in the urban areas. Many sociologists like Ghurye (1962), Gore (1970), D'Souza (1974), Rao (1974), have conducted studies in urban areas. As per these studies, the importance of caste system has not faded away in urban areas. There are divided opinions regarding the rigidity and flexibility in the caste system. Let us now try to understand how caste system influences various sectors of urban life.

The sociological studies of urban India will help us to understand the importance of caste.

Caste plays significant role in everyday reality of our lives. The study of Harold Gould (1974) on the ricksha Wallas of Lucknow shows that they are secular when it comes to their professional status but as far their personal life comes such as marriage, the caste identities become important. Thus, they maintain a dichotomy between personal and professional life. The study of MSA Rao (1974) also reveals that caste system exists in cities. But the caste system undergoes many organizational changes when it exists in cities. He says that with the growth of modern industries, emergence of new professions and occupational categories, a

new class structure along with new status groups has emerged. After India adopted democracy and electoral system the distribution of power and elite formation has changed from the traditional system. During the pre-British times in India, the upper caste people also belonged to the upper class. But nowadays and especially in urban areas because of education and new types of occupations this correlation of caste and class does not exist. A. Beteille (1971) in his studies on caste and class has found that higher caste may not always be higher class and this can be found especially in Indian cities where ample job opportunities have developed. Therefore, a barber's son can also work in a MNC company in city and improve his class status although he belongs to a lower caste.

But despite changes caste has not completely disappeared and it appears to reassert social identities in all parts of India. Therefore, many sociologists argue that the process of urbanization will not necessarily convert caste to class system of stratification in urban areas. The importance of caste system can be asserted by the establishment of caste associations which help their caste members to gain educational and occupational opportunities, political power, etc. Caste plays a very important role in the contemporary power and political scenario of our country. Caste plays important role in mobilizing vote bank politics which helps the leaders to gain power. Trade union like associations are also formed on the basis of caste lines. These trade unions protect the rights and interests of its caste members such as Jatava Mahasabha of Agra, Kshatriya Mahasabha of Gujrat, Gujrat Bania Samaj etc. These organizations work like a trade union for the welfare of their caste members. On the one hand it is beneficial for the caste members but once it functions like a trade union then it becomes competitive and becomes a class group.

Not all the rules related to caste are followed in urban areas. The rules of commensality which provides strict rules by which the person belonging to a higher caste does not eat food prepared by the members of lower caste and not eat together with them has not been followed in urban areas with much rigour. The reason behind the disappearance of this in the urban areas has been primarily because people eat in hotels and restaurants, employ cooks or domestic help in their houses ignoring the caste identity. Caste endogamy that is marriage within one's own caste is still prevalent today. Even the modern educated families are concerned about caste identity at the time of their children's marriage. But nowadays besides caste, education and occupation of the prospective bride or groom

also matters. In urban areas as young people choose their own partners and love marriages are on the rise so inter caste, inter region marriages have increased. Thus though the importance of caste is present in urban areas, but its functions have altered to greater extent and it can be concluded that caste system has lost its rigidity and has become more flexible nowadays.

There are very few sociological studies relating to the neighbourhood relations in urban settlements. Caste, class, language, ethnicity are the basis for the formation of urban settlements. Immigration is the key process underlying the growth of urbanization. The immigrants maintain their distinct identity in the midst of the social and cultural heterogeneity of city life. MS Gore's (1970) study of South Indian migrants in Mumbai examined the degree of their adjustment and integration in the urban setting. His findings indicate that the host Marathi group showed a minimum degree of adjustment with the migrants whereas the Tamil migrants showed the maximum. How various ethnic groups are formed on the basis of linguistic and regional identities in Bangalore has been well documented by the works of Vijaya Punekar (1969). He has also analysed intergroup interaction and boundary maintenance among the various ethnic groups. She found manifest neighbourliness only among the members of one's own linguistic or regional group. Mythilli's (1974) work on Tamil immigrants in Mumbai analyses the ethnic formation of Little Madras in the metropolis of Mumbai in the process of their adaptation to the new environment.

According to Sylvia Vatuk's *Kinship and Urbanization: White Collar Migrants in North India* (1972), the conventional family and kinship system has not changed significantly in urban settings. Indian urban residents maintain certain ties to their village ancestry and customs. She discovered that the kinship structure in place in Meerut's historic wards (mohallas) and the kinship system among the city's poorer neighbourhoods still today adhere to the same principles as in rural areas. There is therefore no cultural divide between the people of pre-industrial towns and the peasants of the village, as evidenced by the existence of a similar pattern of kinship organisations to those seen in rural areas.

#### **4.6.2. Urban Disparities and Caste**

Jodhka (2015) in his work, "Caste in Contemporary India" examines how caste is an institutionalized system of domination and exclusion that structures opportunities and outcomes in urban India. Caste also interacts

with gender, class, regional identities and religion to shape individual life opportunities in the cities. Many ethnographic studies on migration has shown that the lower caste people migrate to the cities to escape from the rigidities of caste restrictions in villages. But when they come to the cities they experience new kinds of caste discrimination which are unique to the urban areas. Some rigidities of the caste system may be relaxed but still caste takes new forms in the urban areas. Thorat and Newman's book "Blocked by Caste: Economic Discrimination in Modern India" (2010), conducted an audit study in the market driven and technologically advanced sectors of corporate India and finds that caste and religion play very important role in decisions of hiring Muslims and Scheduled Castes. The Dalits or the lower castes people also find very difficulty in finding places of rent in Indian cities even the metropolitan cities of Delhi and Mumbai. Some studies also shows that the SCs change their surnames to get access for better accommodation, employment and educational opportunities.

The cities are designed and segregated on caste and class lines and this is a reflection of the prejudice and exclusion of those who create them. While the elite upper castes and class people stay protected behind their gates, while the lower caste people find places behind the bridges, alongside the waste waters, between passageways and slums. The identity of the urban dweller especially based on caste and class decides where he will reside in the city. Thus, the planning of the city becomes the blueprint of how power and privilege is used to perpetuate segregation which creates bias and stereotypes against people based on their identities. This process of segregation is not a recent phenomenon. It is historical process in which the cities are now becoming homogenized places and the rights and prerogatives that come with rights are only assessed by a certain section of people based on their class and caste.

If we take the example of Delhi's 1947 resettlement patterns then we can find that the Dalit people who migrated post partition were never included in the resettlement plans. The new colonies of Rajinder Nagar, Kingsway Camp, Nizamuddin, CR Park, South Extension, Lajpat Nagar were more spacious and better planned and were created officially for the upper elite class people. In the northern part of the city a colony called Regar Pura was established for the resettlement of the Harijan community. The houses build in the colony were tiny mud huts with minimal facilities for the Harijans. These neighbourhoods remained invisible as they were not even listed in Delhi guidebooks. Thus, neighbourhoods come up with

people sharing religion and caste identity that have poor services. This is the reason why property remains in the hands of few people and results in slum formation. The lower class or caste people living in informal settlements and slums do not have access to safe drinking water and healthcare, sanitation etc. All these factors where caste or class determines the affordability in cities are missing from city planning. Thus, urban spatial residential segregation is very much part of urban areas and city planning should address these issues so that equitable housing is assessed by all irrespective of caste or class.

#### **4.6.3. Class Differences and Spatial Location**

Class is another important factor of social stratification in India. Both Karl Marx and Max Weber has talked about class in their studies. Marx defined class in terms of economic criterion while Weber emphasised the importance of class as it helps to determine the life chances of an individual. Besides class in the economic sense, status and political power are also important in undermining one's overall position in society. While for Marx it is clearly the material wealth that determines the position of a person in society. Indian society is a stratified society and so the individuals and households are located within social hierarchy that determines their access to resources. The upper-class people are at the top and they control most of the resources and enjoy prestige and political influence in society. The lower-class people are the bottom of the hierarchy and they have least power. The class differences in our society are also expressed by different consumption patterns. The high-class people indulge in high consumption with the support of credit cards, housing loans, car loans, educational loans, etc and spend more than they earn. In the different local spaces of the metropolitan city, we will encounter diversity of lifestyles of people. These differences are the result of one's social class and status expressed through consumption patterns. In India the class differences and the system of social stratification are visible in the different lifestyles of individuals and the differences in neighbourhood living or local space in a city.

#### **4.6.4. Social Classes in Urban India**

In urban India social classes comprise principally i) Capitalists (commercial and industrial), ii) Professional classes, iii) Petty traders, shopkeepers and unorganized workers, iv) The working class.

1. **Commercial and Industrial Class:** The Britishers came to India with trade and commerce in their mind. So, during the British rule the production of goods and services increased. Now production was done for the market. So, during this period there was a growth of a class of merchants who were engaged in export and import business. This led to the creation of commercial middle class in the country. Then slowly and gradually these rich commercial middle class started to invest their savings in the modern industries. Thus, there emerged new class of Indians who were mill owners, mine owners, etc. After our nation gained its independence, private persons controlled the main areas of agriculture, industry, and trade, while the government took control of the heavy industries and other sectors. The rise of capitalist-owned and -controlled industries caused by this sort of economy eventually gave rise to the commercial classes in India. Most of the assets and resources in India are currently in the hands of the Tata, Birla, Ambani, and Adani families.
2. **Professional Classes:** The Britishers introduced modern education in India and the educated Indians comprised the professional class. They were linked with commerce, agriculture, modern industry and finance and the professional class people were lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers, scientists, etc. The employment opportunities increased in industries, trade and commerce in post independent India due to rapid industrialization and urbanization. India established complex bureaucratic structure and bureaucrats, lawyers, doctors, journalists, teachers etc. has grown ever since independence. But this professional class is not a homogenous category as there is a deep hierarchy between the top high paid professionals and low paid workers at the bottom.
3. Petty traders, shopkeepers, and unorganised workers all have a presence in towns and cities due to population expansion. They serve as a conduit between the suppliers of goods and services and the general public of buyers. This class has grown in size in India since gaining its independence to meet the wants and provide the services of the expanding urban population. The employment opportunities in the unorganized or informal sector are also increasing. The rural migrants who are uneducated and unskilled are accommodated in the unorganized sectors of the economy as the organized sector is closed for them. They work in the informal sectors like construction,



domestic servants, small scale production units, manual service etc and get low wages are deprived of the benefits like regular wage or other social security benefits. The unorganized sector is also not a homogenous category as it comprises of self-employed shop keepers, street vendors, traders, vendors, unskilled or semi-skilled workers in the informal sector.

4. The Working Class: Working class emerged during the British period and was the result of modern industries. The working class were working in the modern industries like the railways, plantations, textile, etc. These working classes were the poor rural peasants and artisans who migrated to the cities in search of employment. The working are a heterogenous category of workers working in different sectors of the industry and they grew in post independent India.

#### **4.7. Occupational Structures in India**

The distribution of workers among various jobs is known as the occupational structure. Cultivators, agricultural laborers, livestock, forestry, fishing and related activities, mining and quarrying, manufacturing and processing in household industry, construction, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communication, and other services in both government-owned and privately owned formal and informal sectors are among the at least ten occupational categories listed in the 2011 Census of India. The above ten categories of occupations can be broadly divided into primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. In primary occupational structures the labourers work directly with the natural resources extracted from earth to make a living. Such natural resources are land, water, minerals etc and the economic sectors that use these resources are agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, etc. The secondary occupational structures involve manufacturing of goods by using raw materials and construction. The goods are produced at manufacturing units of factories and industries. There are two types of industries depending on the size of the factories which are large scale and small-scale industries. Textile industries, shoe factory, printing press, furniture units, etc are small scale industrial units and on the other hand, steel factories, aluminium or copper factories, automobile industries are large scale industrial units. Skilled workers are required to work in these large- and small-scale industries. The third occupational structure is the tertiary occupational structure which



has potential of generating high employment opportunities. The tertiary sector is also called the service sector in which a number of services are provided by the workers to the people. These services include the services provided by workers in the hotels and restaurants, banking and insurance services, transport and communication services, public administration etc. Most of the working people from the developed countries are working in the tertiary sectors.

#### 4.8. Classification of Urban Occupations

In urban areas occupations are available in abundance and people engage in various occupations to make their living. We can broadly divide the occupations in urban areas into four categories, which are street vendors, self-employed businessmen, factory workers, and those who work in the organized sectors.

**Street Workers:** Street workers or vendors are vital organ of the economy of our country. The street vendors sell their products or provide their services in the streets and fall under the informal economy of our country. They workday and night and are self-employed, for example, ice cream sellers, rikshaw pullers, vegetable vendors, tea stall sellers, cobblers, etc. As they fall under informal sector so they are not entitled to any government support like loans from banks or credit loans. So, they work outside the labour laws in poor working conditions with the fear of being evicted from their place anytime by the municipalities or police. Thus, the street vendors do not have a permanent place in terms of a shop to sell their products and some street vendors keep moving from one place to another in bicycles. These street vendors are the rural migrants. According to Bhowmik (2005), the proportion of street vendors is around 2% of the entire population of a city. The increase in migration of rural low skilled workers leads to the urban areas has contributed to the increase in the proportion of street vendors as they are not eligible to get employment in the formal sector.

**Self Employed Businessmen:** Self-employment is starting your own work to earn a livelihood. It can be anything small or big like opening a grocery store of your own, starting your own beauty parlour, or any kind of start-up business is self-employment. Business can be both in the organized and unorganized sectors. In organized business the accounts and paperwork of the business should be approved by the government

so that the businessmen get the benefits of loan or other facilities from the government. On the other hand, there are businessmen who run a small enterprise like a shop and they are self-employed and therefore fall under the unorganized category. Business are subject to profit and loss and therefore lots of risk are involved in it. In urban areas other types of self-employments are freelancing, writing, performing arts etc.

**Factory Workers:** Another category of urban occupation is workers working in factories of towns and cities of India. These factories may include textile industry, garment industry, lace making industry, bidi making factory, bidi making factory and most of the workers employed in these factories are informal workers. The factory production in India dates back to the British times in 1850 when factories were established in then Calcutta and Bombay. The reason for the establishment of factories in India by the Britishers was the availability of cheap labour and raw materials in India. The country's economy was destroyed by the Britishers and there was no regulatory mechanism for wages and work. However, after independence a lot of regulations has been done in the industrial sector and acts has been passed for the welfare of the workers. But the workers in the informal sector cannot avail any of the benefits and they are exploited even today. The mere minimum wages that they make is very difficult for them to sustain themselves and their families.

**Organized sector Workers:** The organised sector workers work under the companies or organizations that are registered with the government. In formal sectors the workers terms of employment are permanent or regular and they are liable to pay taxes to the government. Majority of the urban occupations are in the organized sector and the workers perform their duties according to the rules of the company. Doctors, engineers, managers, teachers, professors are all employees working in the organized sector. These employees have high monthly salaries unlike the daily wage workers. These workers also enjoy lot of social security benefits like medical benefits, retirement plan, provident fund, paid leaves, and other benefits. Thus, there are different types of occupational divisions are found in the urban areas ranging from street vendors to employees in large corporations.

#### 4.9. Summary

The concept of urban social structure has been examined in this section. urban social structure's characteristics like heterogeneity, impersonality, rationality, secularization, individualism etc were also discussed. Then we looked at the urban social stratification which are manifested in caste and class. Caste and class determine the urban spatial segregation and differences in lifestyles of the urban people and shows how urban disparities take place. Then at last we learned about the different urban occupations and how they are structured in India.

#### 4.10 Key Words

**Caste** – Caste is a social institution that is deeply rooted in Indian society. It is a hierarchical system of social stratification that divides people into distinct social groups based on birth, occupation, and perceived social status. Caste is inherited and typically remains fixed throughout an individual's life.

**Division of Labour** - A concept referring to different people performing different functions according to the criteria of age, sex, knowledge, skill, etc.

**Family** – Family is a social institution and a fundamental unit of society that consists of a group of individuals who are connected through blood, marriage, or legal ties and who share emotional bonds, responsibilities, and resources.

**Labour** - refers to the physical and mental effort exerted by individuals in the production of goods and services. It encompasses the human work and productive activities that contribute to economic output and the creation of value. Labour is a fundamental factor of production alongside land and capital.

**Organised Sector** –The organized sector refers to that part of an economy in which economic activities are formally regulated, structured, and governed by specific laws, rules, and regulations.

**Rationality** - It is the practice of treating reason as the Urban Social Structure basis of belief and knowledge.

**Secularisation** - The process by which religions or sacred values are re-

placed by scientific and rational values.

**Social Class** – Social class refers to a system of categorizing individuals or groups within a society based on their social and economic characteristics, such as occupation, income, wealth, education, and social status. It is a way of classifying people into different strata or groups, with each class having distinct characteristics and experiences.

**Urban Social Structure** – Urban social structure refers to the organization, patterns, and relationships that exist within urban areas. It encompasses the social dynamics, hierarchies, and interactions among individuals and groups in urban settings.

#### 4.11 Self Assessment

1. What are the four different classes in Urban India? Answer in four lines.
2. Discuss briefly the urban occupation classification. Answer in four lines.
3. What are the different agencies of Urban India which have been replacing the traditional role of family ? Answer in three lines.
4. How class relation affect the consumption pattern? Give suitable examples from Urban classes in India.
5. Describe the declining functions of family in urban India. Answer in four lines.

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**UNIT - V****Lesson 5.1 - Slums****Structure**

- 5.1. Learning Objective
- 5.2. Assessment of Prior Knowledge
- 5.3. Urban Poverty and Slums
- 5.4. Nature of Slums
- 5.5. Historical Perspectives on Slums
- 5.6. Problems and Challenges of Slums
- 5.7. Socio-economic Profile of Indian Slums
- 5.8. How to Solve Slum Problems
- 5.9. Dharavi Slum: A Case Study
- 5.10. Urban Planning and Development in India
- 5.11. Urban Development Programmes Initiated Since Independence
- 5.12. Key Urban Development Programmes in India
- 5.13. Summary
- 5.14. References

**5.1. Learning Objectives**

*After studying this unit, the students will be able to*

- Understand the nature and brief history of slums.
- Examine the problems and challenges of slum dwellers.
- Describe the Indian context of slums and their socio-economic profile.
- Importance of Urban planning and development in India.
- Examined the key urban development programmes in India.

**5.2. Assessment Of Prior Knowledge**

In the previous Unit 4 on urban social structure, we discussed the meaning, definition and characteristics of urban social structure. Caste and class as forms of urban social stratification were also discussed. Caste and class segregation can be seen in patterns of spatial segregation in urban



areas and also in differences in lifestyles of different people based on their caste and class. In this unit we are going to study about the connection between urban poverty and slums in India. The characteristics, problems and challenges of slum dwellers are also discussed. Then the different key urban developmental programmes launched in India especially for the urban poor to eradicate poverty and provide gainful employment and shelter to the urban poor are discussed.

### **5.3 Urban Poverty And Slums**

The urban areas of the Third World countries find it extremely difficult to accommodate the increasing flow of migrants. The rural people are shifting their occupation from agricultural sector to industrial sector. But as these people are unskilled, they are absorbed in the informal sectors of the urban economy which provide minimum wages. As a result of which rural poverty is shifting to urban poverty through the process of migration. Data on the rates of unemployment and underemployment allow a rough estimate of the extent of poverty. Unemployment, underemployment, low earnings of the currently employed and a high dependency ratio are the major causes of poverty in India. Most of the urban poor in India are employed in the informal sector and they earn low income with poor working conditions. A noticeable feature of urban areas is the extreme polarization of urban incomes. There are also inequalities in distribution of resources, opportunities and services. The urban poor ultimately end up in urban slums in search of accommodation. Since the urban slums or squatter settlements are increasing at a far greater rate than any other aspect of urban physical environment they are emerging as the dominant form of urban settlements. Most of the Sociologists are of the view that urban poverty is nothing but an extension of rural poverty. It is interesting to note that the proportion of urban poor is greater than the rural poor. This indicates the gravity of attention urban social problems requires by different scholars and social scientists. Sociologists have been from the very beginning have been intrigued by the urban social problems like slums, housing problems and urban poverty.

The world bank says that there is a close relationship between poverty and slums. Most of the time we assume that it is the poor who lives in the slums, that they occupy the lowest social positions and that they perform the most unskilled tasks. Actually, the slums can be plural in

character, and they can be very middle class. A lot of scholars argue that poor people live in slums not because they want to but because they don't have a choice. The reason for this that many of those who live in slums are migrants who occupy a marginal social and economic position. This a feature typical of over urbanization.

The most important problem of urban life which continuously baffle the Sociologists, Geographers, Town Planner, Administrators is the slums. The slums manifest multifarious pathological phenomena like illness, disease, poverty, crime, prostitution, sewage problems, juvenile delinquency and the count goes on. There are different types and forms of slums in India and abroad. The slums in Mumbai are in the form of packed multistorey chawls, in Delhi they are squatter settlements in the suburbs or any part of the city, in Kolkata they are bamboo hubs and straw hovels in the small lanes, etc. The slums or squatter settlements are also found in Hong Kong, Rio de Janeiro, Lima. Apart from these cities, slums are also a common problem in some of the South American, Asian, and African and cities. It is a myth that the developed nations do not have slums. It is a truth that the rich and developed countries of the world do have slums. In the context of the US, it is surprising that one fifth of its urban population are slum dwellers.

Even in socialist countries where the land is owned and controlled by the state have slums. In the metropolitan cities of Delhi and Mumbai where we can see skyscrapers, malls, and all modern facilities, at the other end of the city we will see slums which distort the beauty of the cities. Therefore, slums are the inevitable and expanding feature of cities. The daily wage labourers, construction workers, rickshaw pullers, street vendors who earn a mere income cannot afford to rent a house in the city and therefore they grab a piece of empty public land and make their makeshift shelters which eventually leads to slums. Lakhs of people in cities can be seen to sleep in the footpaths, makeshift shelters behind the bridge, pavements etc.

#### **5.4. Nature of Slums**

According to a report of the United Nations Urban Land Policies, "a slum is a building, group of buildings or area characterised by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions, or absence of facilities or amenities which because of these conditions or any of them, endanger the health, safety or moral of its inhabitants or the community".

It is generally perceived that slums are areas of substandard housing located in a city. The characteristics of slums give the impression that this is not a desirable place of living. The houses in a slum are usually in a dilapidated condition which are not safe for living. Usually, slums are found around factories or in zone in transition or in congested cities. The slum dwellers are basically poor people.

Multifamily dwellings are a typical feature of slums and sometimes two or more families live in a single room. The inhabitants of slums struggle very hard for their survival. Slum people are highly deprived of some of the basic facilities like safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, lighting, proper ventilation. Slums are also areas of unhealthy and unhygienic surroundings for which it is a ground for disease and ill health. Crime, delinquency, and gambling are commonly cited problems of slums. Family disorganization, frequent conflicts and alcoholism are some of the never-ending problems of slums. The slums are deprived of the recreational and educational facilities.

The socio-economic environment of the slums is the root cause behind the problem of Juvenile delinquency. Thus, a slum is a highly destructed area of worn out buildings which provides housing facilities to the city's poor and needy. Congestion and lack of privacy are the concomitants of a slum culture.

### **Kinds of slums**

There are three main types of slums in our cities. These are:

- a. Original slum: This is an area which from the very beginning consisted of unsuitable buildings. These are usually areas around an old factory or mining site which is now given up or in the zone in transition. These sections are beyond recovery as they consist of age-old structures, and they need to be razed in order to be eradicated e.g. The Mexican Slum in USA.
- b. Transitional zone slum: The second type consists of slums created by the departure of middle- and upper-class families to other sections. Or it may be due to starting of a new industry or due to congestion and subsequent deterioration of the living area. These types of slums are to be found in the transition zone of developing cities such as Southeast Slum in Boston (USA). These are the areas where all sorts of crime and vice happens and where all shades

of people live. In rehabilitation on this type of slum there is no need for wholesome demolition. Only dilapidated structure must be replaced by housing projects. The remaining rehabilitation is mainly a matter of administration and community organizations. But vested interests act as hindrances in the clearance of these slums.

- c. **Blighted Slum:** The third and the most unpleasant type of slum is mainly a phenomenon of transition once the area around a main business district has become blighted. Physical and social deterioration speeds rapidly. This type of slum looms with flop houses, one-night accommodations for the destitute, houses of prostitution etc. It is populated by transients, tramps, vagrants, chronic alcoholics, beggars, homeless men and habitual criminals. Its economic activities are carried out by proprietors of salons and pool rooms, fences, pawnbrokers, dope pedlars etc. This type of slum clearly defines habitation. The proper remedy is better administration and stricter zoning laws.

### 5.5. Historical Perspectives on Slums

Slums has existed since ancient times which can be indicated from the study of ancient Roman ruins. During the medieval period the poor and destitute people were kept out of the city. The Jewish ghetto can be an example of medieval urban slum. Due to complex set of social, economic, religious, and political factors the Jews were isolated and made to live in slum like conditions. The increasing urbanization of Europe and U.S added to the deterioration of the existing slum like situations. According to Lewis Mumford (1990) the British slums originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century due to the industrialization and factory system. Manchester was the first manufacturing city of the world and Engels (1990) in his study of slums in Manchester in 1844 stated that the origin of the recent slums can be traced to the industrial epoch.

The industrial revolution brought rural migrants to the cities to work in urban factories and this led to the growth of modern slums. The workers were paid bare minimum wages and with that wages they were not able to live in decent quarters. As the industries increased so also the rural migrants from the city also increased. The workers had to be accommodated in the urban areas and so the employers built substandard housing with poor material, the rooms were made small, bathrooms were

not built. Most striking problem is the lack of toilet. The water facilities like taps, tube wells etc. have to be shared by a large number of people. Since the spread of industrialization and urbanization was quicker in US than in Europe and due to this large number of rural workers migrated to the cities for employment purpose.

Thus, slums became a necessity in large cities. The two World wars also added to the woes of the already existing urban slums as the building activities were curtailed during the war times.

### **5.6. Problems and Challenges of Slums**

Slums are a major factor in urban pathology. It affects the physical and mental health of the urban community. It is a constant eye sore and area of social disorganization. Economic differentiation is the chief factor of its development. It is a congested area of poor housing. It prevents both public and private decency. It results in personal and family disorganization. It is an area which houses the criminal and the lack of a stable value system. Health hazard remains a typical slum problem. Further, the slum affects the physical and mental health of neighbourhood. It is the reservoir and hiding ground for all urban vices such as gambling, dope peddling, prostitution and so on. It promotes lawlessness and social disorganization of the city. It is a disorganized residential area. Some of the problems and challenges of slums are:

1. **Housing Conditions:** The housing conditions of slum areas are very poor. The houses in the slums are constructed by using low quality material and they are generally built in empty public lands generally far away from the cities. The slums lack all the public facilities like electricity, water, sanitation, drainage facilities etc. The houses in the slums have poor structures, inadequate lighting and circulation, lack of toilet and bathroom facilities, overcrowding and inadequate maintenance.
2. **Overcrowding and congestion:** A slum is overcrowded where there are many people accommodated in a small area with some houses. This leads to congestion as there is high density of population per square metre. William F Whyte's study "Street Corner Society" in 1943 examined the slums of Boston and he stressed the importance of overcrowding as a criterion for studying slum conditions. Some slums of Delhi and Mumbai have 40,00,000 people per square mile.

3. Lack of public facilities: A slum lacks all the public facilities and community services. Government schools, public toilets and sanitation facilities, electricity, water etc are all out of reach for the slum people. Even if they might get some facilities but they are often in dilapidated conditions and of poor quality.
4. Poor sanitation and Health: Slums are dirty, unclean and unhygienic places as there is lack of proper sanitation facilities and also no drainage system. Slums are the breeding places of germs due to overflowing drains and lack of sanitation facilities. These leads to high rates of death and diseases among the people of the slums and especially the children of the slums are highly affected by diseases. The rates of infant mortality, malnutrition, chronic illness like dysentery, typhoid and cholera are very high in slums.
5. Deviant Behaviour: Slums are the breeding places of crimes, deviant behaviour, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, drunkenness, drug abuse, family disorganization etc. Poverty, family upbringing and the environment compels the slum dwellers to commit crimes. This is a vicious cycle, and the slum dwellers are trapped in this.
6. Apathy and social isolation: The residential places in the city are socially isolated from the others due to their location. The slums are generally located in the outskirts of the city and is inhabited by people belonging to the lower strata and this leads to their isolation and segregation. The slum is linked with the rest of the community through their identification with the labour market as most of the people living in the slums are daily wage labourers, rikshaw pullers, domestic servants, informal workers etc. The larger community has a peculiar image of the slum dwellers, and they are often associated with physical appearance and difficult living conditions and considers them inferior to the rest of the community. This image leads to social isolation of the slum dwellers which excludes them from power and participation in urban society. The voices and agony of the slum dwellers are not heard by the outside world as they lack communication because of their powerlessness.
7. The Culture of the Slum – a way of life: Slums are inhabited by migrants from different places and have their own cultures. But in the slum, they share a common culture which is a way of life for them. This way of life is passed from one generation to next which is the culture of poverty which helps the younger generations to



cope with difficulties and deprivation. It was Oscar Lewis who gave the concept of “culture of poverty”. According to Lewis poverty is the way of life that enabled survival in the urban context. The culture of poverty had its own modalities and distinctive social and psychological consequences for its members. The culture of poverty was not about backwardness or primitiveness. In the urban slums this culture of poverty is most clearly visible.

### **Learning Activity 1**

Visit to a slum in your area. Try to figure out the problems and challenges of the slum dwellers. Ask them if they are getting any government assistance and find out if any NGO is working in that area. Prepare a report based on your findings.

### **5.7. Socio-Economic Profile of Indian Slums**

India is predominantly a rural and agricultural nation where about one fifth of India's population resides in villages. But a significant population of the rural areas migrate to the big metropolitan cities of India in search of employment. The cities of India are equipped with modern technology and industrialism. Cities in India have played important role in the transition or breaking down of traditions and it is the cities where modernization concentrates. The political and social reforms, social movements etc originate in the cities and then spread out in the entire country.

With urbanization in India there is also a growth of the slums as internal migrants generally resides in the slums. The living condition is worst in the slums, be it the social, economic, or physical conditions, in all sphere slums have difficult conditions. It is an irony that despite India being a heterogenous country still we can make some generalizations of the slums of India. The narrow lanes, open drains are typical characteristics of the slums of India. Due to unhygienic sanitary conditions and lack of drainage facilities slums are the breeding grounds of diseases, chronic illness, malnutrition, high incidence of infant and maternal mortality. The slum dwellers are mostly illiterate, and they lack regular employment, and this leads to high crime rates, drug abuse, gambling and alcoholism among them. They are not united and does have community consciousness and therefore they are antagonistic towards the local authorities and municipalities.

While investigating into the development postulates of India



A. R. Desai and S. Devadas Pillai (1990), in their seminal work “Slums and Urbanization” have come out with the major finding that slum has essentially affected the pattern of urbanization and type of urban living in our country. Though the constitution has recognised the right to property is a fundamental right, but it is yet to be realised that right to education, right to adequate housing, right to work and right to employment are yet to be realised in its full spirit. The rights of citizens like right to life and security and right to move throughout the country are upheld by the constitution but the constitutional provisions regarding right to secure livelihood, source of earning, the right to have resource for securing livelihood and adequate facilities for stay to the citizens for ensuring a better life. These contradictory prescriptions of the Constitution have generated economic development in the country. There is class polarization in our country with the top small high class of property owners at one end and the low-level large property less citizens on the other. This class stratification and polarization and pauperization of the vast section of the urban population has forced them to begging, rag picking, and various types of legally unpermitted petty trades. This class polarization resulting from government policies has led to urban residential segregation where on the one hand we find posh urban localities with multiplexes, shopping malls, recreation centres, etc for only the small minority wealthy residents. On the other hand, there are majority of urban poor living in slums working in informal sector lacking even the basic facilities and amenities for a decent living.

Now let us see some census data related to slums.

**Table 1.7: Growth Indicators for Slum Households**

Indicator	Absolute		Absolute change 2001-11	Decimal Growth 2001-11
	2001	2011		
Slum				
Households	10,150,719	13,920,191	3,769,472	37.1
Household size	5.2	4.7	-0.5	
Urban (slum reported towns)				
Households	43,556,155	62,792,741	19,236,586	44.2
Household size	0.6	0.5	-0.1	
Urban (all towns)				
Households	55,832,570	80,888,766	25,056,196	44.9

Household size	5.1	4.7	-0.4	
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Source: Census of India-2001 & 2011

**Table 1.8: Slum and Urban population (Slum reported towns)**

Indicator	Absolute		Absolute change 2001-11	Decimal Growth 2001-11	Slum Percentage	
	2001	2011			2001	2011
Slum						
Persons	52,371,589	65,494,604	13,123,015	25.1	23.5	22.4
Males	27,759,224	33,968,203	6,208,979	22.4	23.6	22.4
Females	24,612,365	31,526,401	6,914,036	28.1	23.3	22.5
Sex ratio	887	928	41			
Urban (slum reported towns)						
Persons	223,111,858	291,838,124	68,726,266	30.8	100	100
Males	117,610,448	151,666,671	34,056,223	29	100	100
Females	105,501,410	140,171,453	34,670,043	32.9	100	100
Sex ratio	897	924	27			

Source: Census of India-2001 & 2011

**Table 1.9: Slum and Urban Population (all towns)**

Slum and Urban population (all towns)						
Indicator	Absolute		Absolute change 2001-11	Decimal Growth 2001-11	Slum Percentage	
	2001	2011			2001	2011
Slum						
Persons	52,371,589	65,494,604	13,123,015	25.1	18.3	17.4
Males	27,759,224	33,968,203	6,208,979	22.4	18.4	17.4
Females	24,612,365	31,526,401	6,914,036	28.1	18.2	17.4
Sex ratio	887	928	41			
Urban (all towns)						
Persons	286,119,689	377,106,125	90,986,436	31.8	100	100
Males	150,554,098	195,489,200	44,935,102	29.8	100	100
Females	135,565,591	181,616,925	46,051,334	34	100	100
Sex ratio	900	929	29			

Source: Census of India-2001 & 2011

**Table 1.10: State Share of Slum Population to Total Slum Population**

## of India

State/UTs	2001	2011
Andhra Pradesh	12	15.6
Bihar	1.6	1.9
Chhattisgarh	2.1	2.9
Gujarat	3.8	2.6
Haryana	3.2	2.5
Karnataka	4.5	5.0
Madhya Pradesh	7.2	8.7
Maharashtra	22.9	18.1
NCT of Delhi	3.9	2.7
Odisha	2.1	2.4
Other State/UTs	3.1	3.8
Punjab	2.8	2.2
Rajasthan	3	3.2
Tamil Nadu	8.1	8.9
Uttar Pradesh	11	9.5
West Bengal	8.9	9.8

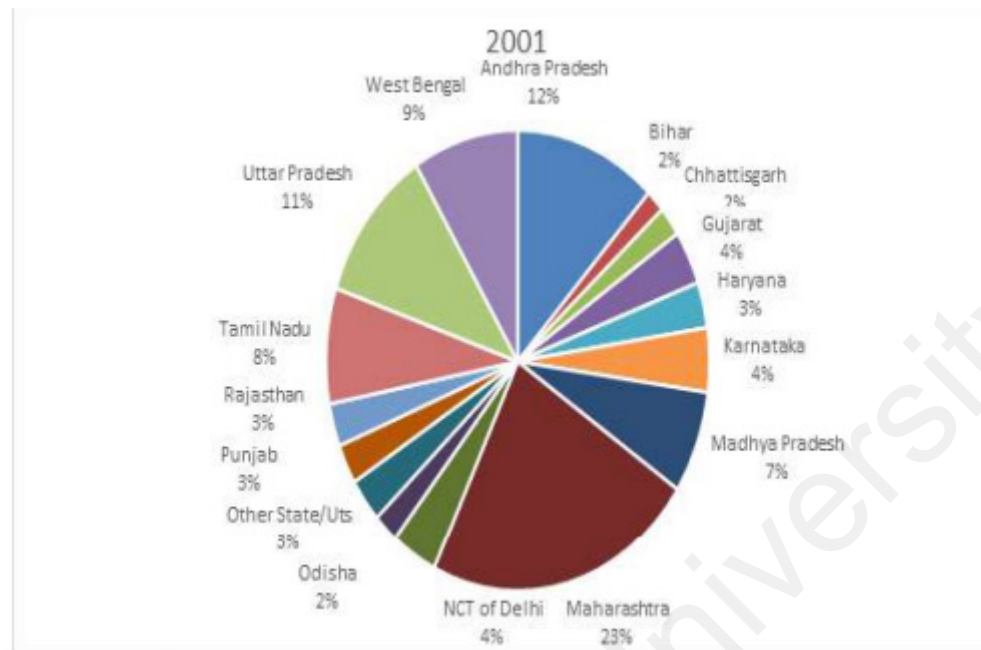
Note: In 2001- Other States/UTs includes:

1. Reported slum less than 1%-Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chandigarh, Meghalaya, Assam, Puducherry, Tripura and Kerala
2. State/UTs not reported slum-Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nagar Islands

1. Reported slum less than 1%-Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Assam, Kerala, Tripura, Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2. State/UTs not reported slum-Manipur, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep

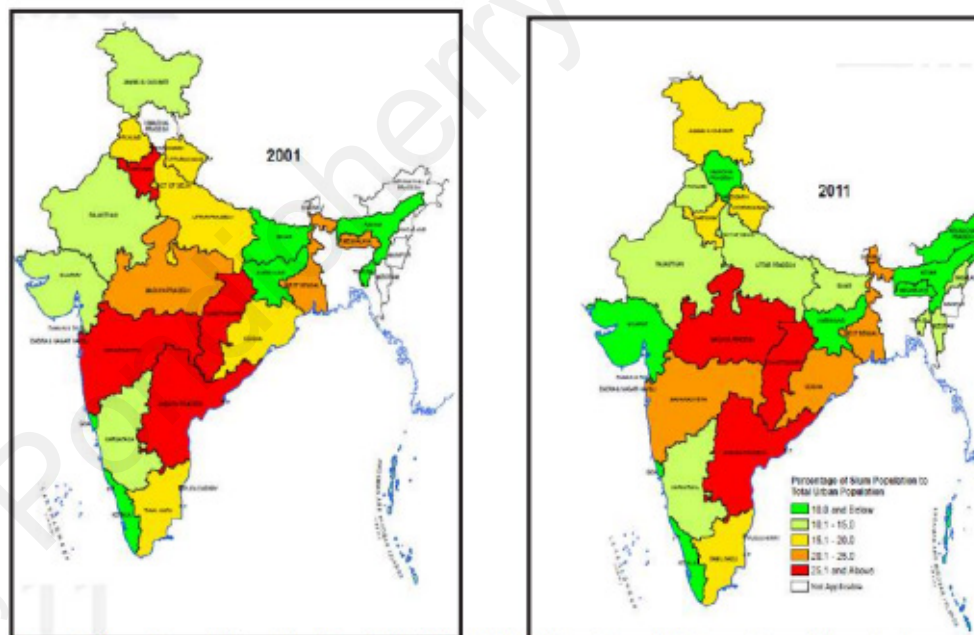
Source: Census of India-2001 & 2011

Sate share of Slum population to total Slum population of India (2001)



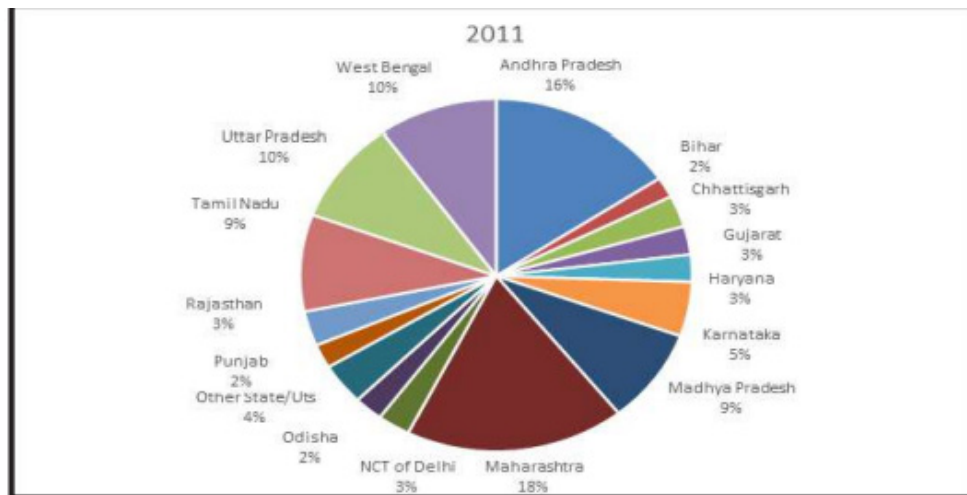
Source: Census of India-2001

### Percentage of Slum Population (2001-2011)



Source: Primary Census Abstract for Slum, 2011 Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

### State share of Slum population to total Slum population of India ( 2011)



Source: Primary Census Abstract for Slum, 2011 Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

### 5.8. How to Solve Slum Problems

Slums are a constant menace to healthy urban social life. Slums are usually dirty areas of congested housing with over population and lack of basic amenities like light and water. Slums develop due to poverty. Life under slum conditions results in several physical and mental disease like contagious diseases, depression, etc. and social evils like broken families, lack of a healthy social life, development of all sorts of vices like juvenile delinquency, prostitution, etc. Further slums affect the morals and peace of the surrounding urban community. Therefore, there is a need for slum improvement or slum clearance. Slum improvement programmes form one of the vital factors of urban housing and reconstruction. The basic aim of slum improvement programme is to provide to the slum dwellers decent housing with provisions of minimal necessities of life. Slum improvement programmes while removing many physical and social evils of city life add to city beautification. The other view of solving slum problems is slum clearance of destroying slums and redevelopment with subsidized housing. But this traditional welfarist approach of slum redevelopment with subsidized housing has been criticized to be applied in developing countries. If the developing countries will provide subsidized housing, then the rate of migration will increase, and more poor people will flock to the urban slums. This will be a problem and the growing rural migrants will be difficult to handle. Instead of developing urban slums, it is better to raise the standard of living in the rural areas so that migration can be checked. Moreover, along with slum clearance and providing standardized housing to the slum dwellers, it is important to make the residents of the slums educated and motivated to maintain personal

hygiene, home management and environment sanitation. The economic activities of the slum dwellers should also be improved by providing them adequate wages, regular employment, vocational training to the youths and children, access to credit facilities and provide social security measures.

Community development programmes are necessary for solving problems of urban areas and slums. Formation of self-help and citizens participation groups not only help in building community feeling, but also it helps in urban community integration and change.

If the slum dwellers come together and develop community consciousness, then a lot of their problems can be solved. When the slum dwellers are united then their combined efforts for slum development will bring fruitful results. Ford Foundation granted the Delhi Municipal Corporation a grant of \$170,539 for launching a pilot project in urban community in 1958. (M.B. Clinard, 1966). This project with its implementation brought change in the urban areas of Delhi. The project organized committees, established self-help groups, trained the local leaders, and worked on techniques of change.

The problem of slums can be solved if we use the Marxist and Socialist approach of nationalization of land and removing land from the orbit of market operation. This step will break away the bourgeois norms of ownership of private property in few hands and this will help half the problem of urban areas. Land will no longer be considered as a marketable commodity. Hence the agencies concerned with constructional activities and their continuity is a questionable thing. Only public ownership and providing work to every worker can give the purchasing power necessary for survival to most non-propertied classes. Probably, this can be possible only when the market operated capitalist economy will not interfere in the sphere of employment in production, distribution and service sector. When the means of production will be owned by public, it won't result in commodification of human beings.

### **5.9. Dharavi Slum: a Case Study**

Dharavi is the Asia's largest slum in the world. Kalpana Sharma (2000) in her study of "Rediscovering Dharavi – A Mumbai Slum" challenges the conventional notion of a slum. The slum dwellers in Dharavi are extraordinary people who have defied fate and prospered here although in difficult circumstances.



For the redevelopment of slums, the people's participation is necessary. The best example can be given in this regard that without government help many people in Dharavi have successfully replaced their thatch and bamboo houses with brick and mortar. The concern of the slum dwellers is security of tenure. Once government launches programmes funds will flow and they show willingness to redevelop their areas and bring out improvements in their structures. The people's participation is necessary for the redevelopment of slums. Many NGO organizations are working with the slum dwellers have helped them to plan and design their slums. Thus, a consultation process is required in which the participation of the slum dwellers is necessary as they know what is needed and what can be maintained. In Dharavi when the Rajiv Gandhi cooperative in Kalyan Wadi was implemented in consultation with the community on all aspects of slum development. It is mostly found that the mainstream financial institutions have hardly shown any concern for addressing the need of the poor. In this particular scenario, the efforts of Maharashtra government is commendable because it has come up with a plan to provide free housing to the slum dwellers as per the demands and requirements of the people.

Dharavi slum is flourishing as the people find jobs there and have a regular source of livelihood. Since the urban planners, engineers and builders only concentrate on building concrete structures, they end up in building big loyal townships which do not empathizes with living condition, lifestyle and spatial requirements of people. It can thus be understood that shelter and livelihood are not mutually exclusive, but mutually inclusive entities. Though slums are undesirable, but they provide shelter to low-income families. Certain changes should come up as time progresses, like when economy prospects are good i.e., when there is less volatility in the market, economy growth is there, then employment opportunity can be extended to the slum dwellers. This is not sufficient. The discriminatory attitude towards the slum dwellers must be discouraged. The housing conditions required to be improved among the slum dwellers.

Despite all the negative things associated with slums like, poor living condition, miserable housing facilities, dirt and diseases it is a way of life. It gives shelter to many people.

It has a distinct culture or the culture of poverty which is passed on from one generation to the next. The slum development programmes in our cities are falling short of achieving their results due to shortage of funds,



over population, non-cooperation of slum dwellers, absence of ambitious administrators, political influence of the bosses of vice and apathy and attitude of aversion towards slum dwellers of our general society.

Many sociologists have also studied extensively on slums in India. We can take the example of MSA Rao's study of a slum called Bhaskar Rao Petta in the city of Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh. Rao studied the slum in the 1960's. It is constituted of migrants who have come in search of work to the city. The slum was very well organized like a village with its own socio-economic and political set up and at the same time closely interlinked with the wider social organization and culture of the city. The area is roughly divided into different caste settlements and each caste group works as a social unit by itself. Individuals and households are thus connected through their primordial relations and no one exhibits the feeling of leading a life of isolation.

Owen Lynch also carried out a study of slums in Mumbai called Shantinagar. He argues that the rise of slums in Mumbai are because of industrialization. The migrants from all over India have steadily streamed into Mumbai but have remained segmented along caste, linguistic, regional and religious lines. Shantinagar slum is unclean and unsanitary as it was built on a swamp. Shantinagar has been a garbage dump for the city of Mumbai. The slum is segregated into chawls and separated streets. Three distinct communities live in the slums – potters from Gujarat, untouchables who did leather work from Tamil Nadu and Muslims from South India. Lynch found that the three communities living in Shantinagar are deeply conscious of their identity and culture as this influence their interaction with each other. Those who live in Shantinagar do not see themselves as segregated from the larger community in fact there are both individuals and organizations that mediate on their behalf with the larger community.

### **Self-Assessment Questions 1**

- i) List out three problems of slum dwellers. Use two lines for your answer.
- ii) Describe how urban poverty can be seen in slums of India. Use two lines for your answer.

### 5.10. Urban Planning and Development in India

Before discussing urban planning let us understand the meaning of planning. Planning is an important aspect of development. A plan in general is a design, scheme, or framework for carrying out action. According to Sapru, "Planning is a process in which all organs/ departments should be engaged, a process where competing demands are ironed out, adjusted and reconciled in as rational a way as feasible". The view of the United Nations (1975) was that "A plan is a programme of action for achieving definite objectives or goals. In this sense, a plan is a policy statement and planning means policy making".

For Rai and Kumar, to handle the complex problems of resource allocation and decision making, planning is the most widely accepted method. The essential requirements of planning process includes-

1. Perception – The first and foremost important element of the planning process. Without perceiving the goal planning cannot be achieved.
2. Revelation – This involves exploring the opportunities offered by nature, which can be achieved through extensive planning.
3. Preparation – It is a process whereby the ideas of human mind are given a physical shape
4. Execution – This involves the execution of the plans.

Urban planning is important for the development of the urban areas. Urban planning is the study of the built environment of the city or town and is concerned with land use planning and conservation. Urban planning is the process through which transportations, networks are orderly guided for the development of communities. Urban planning ensures that public benefits reach all sections of the society to ensure social justice and public security. Urban planning is necessary for the economic and social development of a city and by resolving the competing and conflicting demands of the residents by developing alternative policies. Urbanization is a continuous process and therefore planning is necessary for adding new urban areas by meeting the needs of the residents. The correct and optimum utilization of land is done by urban planning where places for residence, recreation, industry, trade, service are properly planned. Urban planning also ensures proper water supply, education, recreation, health, sewage disposal, transportation facilities etc. The purpose of urban planning is towards optimum utilization of land and creation of a smart and compact city.

It ensures that the various institutions are situated at proper places in urban areas and this avoids overcrowding and lessens congestion. Through urban planning the scarce financial resources can be used for urban development such as generation of employment, eradication of poverty, pollution control, water conservation etc. Participatory planning is another important aspect of urban planning by which urban planner can establish linkages with the beneficiaries and stakeholders in a systematic manner. This facilitates the sustainable improvement of the living conditions of the residents of urban areas.

### **5.11. Urban Development Programmes Initiated Since Independence**

The alleviation of poverty has been one of the central focal points of urban development programmes since the beginning of five-year plan in India. However, this was executed only during the Fifth Five Year Plan period. The research carried out to study the dimensions of poverty reveals rural urban disparity where the public sector investments are improving the level of services only in urban areas. The economic advantage of the urban areas lies in the fact that the large cities attract private investments to a greater extent. There is also availability of subsidized funds. This resulted in higher employment generation in the urban areas than in the rural areas which widened the gap between their income levels. During this period a number of boards and Corporations were established at the state level for the development of cities. Funds were released for the improvement of services for the urban population. The Fifth Five Plan focussed on the removal of poverty. Since the earlier plans do not focus on the issue of poverty, it is only in the Fifth Plan which revealed that the bottom 30 per cent of country's population remained below the minimum of Rs. 40.6 per capita per month at 1972-73 prices. In spite of this no attempt was made to distinguish between rural and urban poverty.

Various national level programmes were launched for promoting economic growth and removal of poverty. During 1979-80, 51 percent of the rural population and 41 percent of the urban population were living below poverty line. Specific programmes like Minimum Needs Programme, Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, National Rural Development Programme etc. were implemented in rural and urban areas.

Some of the programmes that were launched after independence are briefly discussed below:

1. Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT): This programme was launched in 1979-1980 for the development of small and medium towns by providing basic services to the poor and improving the economic conditions. Initially this programme was implemented in towns with population below one hundred thousand as per the 1971 census. But in the Eight Plan it was decided to include cities having population of five hundred thousand as per the 1991 census.
2. Low-Cost Sanitation Programme (LCS): The UN Decadal Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation fixed in the early 1980's of providing sanitation facilities to eighty percent of urban population. Accordingly, this LCS scheme was launched in 1980-81 for eliminating manual scavenging through conversion of dry latrines. It covered all the households including those in slums and squatter settlements where there are no latrines.
3. Shelter and Sanitation for Pavement Dwellers (SSPD): This programme was launched in large metropolitan cities of India where a sizeable number of shelter less people live. The Tenth Five Year Plan provided subsidy to the NGO's for the construction of shelter homes for homeless men, women and children.
4. Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP): This centrally sponsored scheme was launched during the Eight Five Year Plan for providing water to the towns having less than 20,000 population according to the 1991 census.
5. National Slum Development Programme (NSDP): This programme was launched in 1996 for slum improvement. It has been working closely with the state governments to provide water supply and sanitation facilities to the slums.
6. Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojoga (VAMBAY): This scheme was launched in 2001-02 to provide shelter and housing to people living below poverty line in slums. This scheme will work with state government and arrange for land where required for housing the poor and the needy.
7. Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY): Launched in October 1989 , Nehru Rozgar Yojana is a centrally sponsored programme which aims

at providing employment to the urban unemployed poor people. The state government has been entrusted to identify, earmarking and coordinating the sectoral inputs to the state governments. The NRY consisted of three schemes namely, 1. The Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME), 2. The Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE), and 3. The Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU).

8. Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP): This programme was a centrally sponsored scheme implemented during the Eight Five Year Plan with the objective of achieving social sector goals, community organization, mobilization, and empowerment.
9. Prime Minister Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM IUPEP): The PM IUPEP was launched in November, 1995 for eradicating the complexity of urban poverty problems. This scheme was applicable to all Class II urban agglomerations with population ranging from 50,000 to 1 lakh people with the condition that elections to local bodies have been held.
10. The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY): The main aim of SJSRY is to provide gainful employment to urban poor by helping them set up self-employment ventures or provisions of wage employment. It is a centrally sponsored scheme applicable to all urban areas with the expenditure in the ratio of 75:25 to be shared between centre and state governments. The three schemes discussed above UBSP, NRY AMD PMIUPEP have been merged into a single employment generation scheme called the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY). This programme has two sub schemes namely: Urban Self Employment Programme and Urban Wage Employment Programme.

### **Self-Assessment Questions 2**

**Write your answer in about 50 words**

- i) Discuss briefly the programme launched for urban sanitation.
- ii) Write a short note on Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana.

### 5.12: Key Urban Development Missions in India

**Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM):** This Programme of urban development was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005 with 50,000 crores investment for seven years starting from 2005. The Mission aims for fast-track development schemes with efficient urban infrastructure and service delivery mechanism. JNNURM aims to build economically productive efficient cities. The following are the main objectives of the Mission:

1. Attention has been given to the integrated development of infrastructural services in the cities covered under the Mission.
2. Effective and secured linkages are created between asset creation and asset management with an aim that the infrastructural services created in the cities are not just maintained efficiently, but also it has also been ensured that these become self-sustaining over a period of time.
3. The priority has been to ensure that there is adequate investment of funds to fulfil deficiencies in the urban infrastructural services.
4. Even in the urban corridors, urban out growths and in all the out skirts of all the identified cities, there has been provision of planned development. This is done with a specific intention so that urbanization takes place in a dispersed manner.
5. Importance has been given to gear up delivery of civic amenities and utility provisions with a thrust on universal access to urban poor.
6. To take up urban renewal programme, i.e., re-development of inner (old) cities area to reduce congestion.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was the longest running urban development mission of India and after it was closed in 2014, the government of India launched six new missions.

The six new missions launched by the government of India are:

1. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT): This scheme was launched in June 2015 and ended in 2020 with the main objective of ensuring adequate sewage networks and water supply for urban transformations. The main purpose of

the Mission was to ensure basic services to households like tap water supply and sewerage services. The Mission also proposed to develop greeneries and well-maintained open spaces in cities and parks and increase use of public transport for reducing pollution. The number of cities covered under this scheme is 500 and the target is to supply 139 lakhs water tap connections. The mission was sanctioned Rs 77,640 crore out of which Rs 39,011 crore has been allotted for water supply and Rs 32,456 crore has been allotted for sewerage and septage management.

2. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – Housing for all (Urban): This programme was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MOHUPA), which envisions provision of Housing for All by 2022. 'Housing for All' mission for urban area is being implemented during 2015-2022 and it will provide central assistance to states and union territories for providing housing to all eligible beneficiaries by 2022. The target group of this scheme are women, economically weaker section people, SC, ST etc. The mission will be implemented by four methods, by rehabilitation of slum dwellers, credit linked subsidy, affordable housing through public and private partnership and subsidy for beneficiary led individual house construction or enhancement.
3. Smart Cities Mission (SCM): The Smart Cities Mission is an urban renewal program launched by the government of India in 2015 to develop smart cities across the country which are citizen friendly and sustainable. The Union Ministry of Urban Development is responsible for implementing the mission along the respective state governments of smart cities. On September, 2019, Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC), in Aurangabad, Maharashtra was inaugurated as the first greenfield industrial smart city of India. The mission initially had a target of making 100 smart cities between 2019 and 2023. The main objective of the mission is to provide smart solutions to improve city infrastructure and services. The focus areas of the mission are mobility and energy efficiency, electricity, information and communication technology, water supply, sanitation and solid waste management.
4. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM): This mission was launched on October 2, 2014 with the objective of creating a clean India by 2019.



The mission will cover both rural and urban areas. The Ministry of Urban Development is implementing the urban component of the project and the rural component is being implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The main purpose of the mission is to eliminate open defecation, creating flush toilets, eradication of manual scavenging, municipal solid waste management and bring behavioural changes in people regarding healthy sanitation practices. The mission aims to build community toilets in residential areas where it is difficult to construct individual household toilets. Public toilets are also built in tourist places, markets, bus stations, railway stations etc.

5. **Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY):** This programme was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2015 for urban planning and heritage conservation of the Heritage cities of India. The programme identified 13 cities for urban planning and conservation to be completed within 4 years with 500 crore fund that was sanctioned by the government. It will preserve the heritage assets such as monuments, ghats, temples and will also provide necessary public facilities in and around the heritage sites for the tourists. This will include development of sanitation facilities like building public toilets, proper roads and public transportation, parking facilities, citizens services, information desks, proper drinking water supply, hotels, security, etc. The 13 cities in which the scheme is to be implemented are Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni, Vellore and Warangal.
6. **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM):** This mission was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The urban poor mostly living in the slums are engaged in informal employment as most of them are illiterate and lack skills. So this mission tries to enhance the livelihood opportunities of the urban poor by giving them training in skill development. It also tries to help the urban poor to set up self-employment ventures by providing them easy access to credit facilities. This Mission will be implemented in all towns and cities with a population of 1,00,000 or more as per 2011 census. The beneficiaries of this scheme will be the urban poor including street vendors, slum dwellers, homeless,

rag pickers, unemployed and differently abled. The main objective of the mission is to provide sustainable livelihoods to the urban poor by building their capacities through skill training and easy access to credit.

### **Learning Activity 2**

If possible visit a nearby smart city in your area and see how far the Smart City Mission has been successful in that city.

Or if you visit any heritage city then see whether the public facilities are properly implemented or not under the Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana.

### **5.13. Summary**

Urban development programmes are very important as they work towards easing the negative physical and social effects on people that arose due to industrial revolution particularly in urban areas. In India the urban development programmes main focus is on reduction and alleviation of poverty since the starting of the planned era in India, especially after the Fifth Five Year period. The urban local bodies and urban governments with their constructive efforts make the urban dwelling places a good, healthy place to live and move around. Many schemes of urban development focus on slum redevelopment, providing skill training to the urban poor for gainful employment opportunities in cities, providing housing and shelter to the poor and the needy, providing credit facilities for the poor etc. JNNURM was the longest running urban development scheme in India and it has fastened the process of urban development. After the completion of JNNURM a lot of new schemes and missions were implemented for the urban development of cities. Urbanization is a continuous process and so to control the growing urban population and especially the urban poor, urban development programmes are necessary in India.

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**UNIT - VI****Lesson 6.1 - Urban Governance****Structure**

- 6.1. Learning Objectives
- 6.2. Assessment of Prior Knowledge
- 6.3. Urban Governance: Concept and Need
- 6.4. Principles of Urban Governance
- 6.5. Urban Local Bodies and Municipal Governance in India
- 6.6. Urban Governance Index (UGI)
- 6.7. Urban Governance in India
- 6.8. Urban Violence
- 6.9. Challenges to Improved Urban Governance
- 6.10. Steps to Strengthen Urban Governance
- 6.11. Summary
- 6.12. References

**6.1. Learning Objectives**

*After reading this unit, the students will be able to*

- Understand urban governance
- Explain the Urban Local Bodies and Municipal Governance in India
- Importance of Urban Development Index
- Understand urban governance in India
- Explain the factors of Urban Violence

**6.2. Assessment of Prior Knowledge**

In the previous Unit 5 on Slums we discussed the nature and characteristics of slums, their origin and history. The problems and challenges faced by the slum dwellers were also discussed. The socio-economic profile of the Indian slums in general was discussed. Then some specific case studies of slums were given. Then the importance of urban planning and development in India was discussed. Some of the key urban development programmes in India were discussed.

### 6.3. Urban Governance: Concept and Need

In modern times for achieving the societal developmental objectives governance is very important. Although in developed and developing countries the notion of governance are perceived differently but still governance is very important for transforming respective societies. Governance can have different meanings in different contexts. Urban governance is used to refer to governance in urban areas to bring about decency and order into the urban social life and increase the welfare of the citizens. Urban governance ensures the executive administration of the city. It lays down and enforces the norms of city culture and traffic regulation. The concept of city governance and city planning are novel to India. The city governance in contemporary India are modelled on the federal governmental structure and consist of a mayor and elected councillors representing different areas of a city. A bureaucratic structure with technical experts looks after the day to day administration. The city government has the task of city planning as well as provision of essential services. City planning in relation to many of our cities refers to the amelioration of existing anomalies of urban growth. Today city governments are playing a prominent role in slum clearance and urban renewal. Thus a multitude of actors are involved in city governance process.

Rapid urbanization has become more acute in relatively less planned and unorganized country like India. It becomes a problem when the city becomes incapable of providing for the minimal products and services essential for a healthy and happy life of the urban dweller. Thus the problem of rapid urban growth is in reality a problem of improper planning and unbalanced development of the city. The problems created by rapid urban growth are immediate and are in the nature of affecting the day to day life of the urban community. Hence they require immediate attention and handy solutions. Some of them which are increasingly experienced by many of our cities especially the metropolis like Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, etc., include congestion, shortfall in the provision of essential services like water supply, housing, educational and medical facilities, public transportation, etc, noise pollution and to some extent air and water pollution, growth of slums and consequent vices, etc. Thus to solve the above problems and to ensure welfare of the citizens urban governance is essential for the cities.

Urban governance can function only when public, private and social organizations will interact in the planning and development of the city. If this perspective is followed then the city planners, businesses and real estate players will involve in networked decision-making process that will shape and change the future of their city. If these partnerships are maintained and developed then the city governance will improve. However, the city governance also needs the dynamic interaction between the major stakeholders and the external agencies operating outside the city. However, in the developing countries good urban governance is essential because of paucity of technical experts and experienced city planners who will assess and plan the future development of a city. There are multiple government agencies but there is poor interconnection, widespread evasion of regulation and considerable scope for corruption in developing countries.

#### **6.4. Principles of Urban Governance**

The main principles of urban governance are responding to the public's needs and demands and the accountability of the decision makers. Participation, transference and consensus are essential to ensure responsiveness of citizens and accountability is related to the rule of law, efficiency and equity.

##### **Participation and Representation**

The central governments in the Asia-Pacific region have dominated the local agendas historically. With increasing urbanization and globalization, the grassroot local bodies, special interest groups as well NGO's have demanded greater participation in the local affairs. In the 1970's and 80's some countries like Indonesia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Pakistan restricted the participation of the citizens. But these regimes did not survive although strong leaders like Suharto in Indonesia and Marcos in the Philippines were rulers. The direct form of participation of citizens is through elections, referendums, petitions and participation in public meetings. In India the non-governmental organizations are working for remedial or developmental rights of the citizens. In Republic of China the direct participation of citizens has taken place through consultation and dialogue with local government officials. In Korea also the urban citizens are demanding for frequent audits and investigations of the government programmes. The government of Thailand has set up a "court of governance" in which the citizens can resolve their conflicts



with public administration. In India according to the 1992 Constitutional Amendment Act, the state governments are directed to reserve one third of all seats for women to make it more representative. Recently in Pakistan, the government has set up a three tier metropolitan governance structure in Karachi and encouraging a more participatory governance.

### **Participatory Budgeting**

In participatory budgeting the residents of a city decide the local resource allocation among them. It has been quite late in coming to the Asia Pacific region but it is gaining popularity. This process of participatory budgeting originated in 1989 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The main purpose of this was to involve people from low-income groups and civil society organizations in the governance process. The process allowed people from all neighbourhoods, district and city groups and associations to appoint budget delegates who in turn identified spending priorities. In India a number of civil society groups and non-governmental organizations in various cities has tried to analyse the state budgets, prepared budget summaries and has also influenced local bodies to allocate more funds and resources in the programmes so that the poor and the underserved communities are benefitted. In Pune the municipal authorities has given the citizens and city officials to submit their feedbacks regarding the projects. In 2006 and 2007 members of self-help groups in low-income groups received special training for taking up economic activities. In 2008 and 2009, the participatory budgeting process was extended to the residents at the ward level.

### **Self-Assessment Questions 1**

**Note:** Write your answer in 50 words

1. Discuss the principles of urban governance?
2. Examine the importance of urban governance.

### **6.5. Urban Local Bodies and Municipal Governance in India**

In 1882 Lord Ripon's Resolution of Local Self Governance created the structure of municipal governance in India. It introduced decentralization of function by introducing two-tier system of governance to increase the efficiency of governance. The Government of India Act of 1919 based on the 1918 Montague -Chelmsford Report introduced the

system of 'Dyarchy' where power sharing arrangements between the state and the local bodies were different. The District Municipalities Act of 1920 made the Municipal Councils into elected bodies and gave them powers to have their own budgets. The Government of India Act, 1935 granted the local government with powers and brought them within the purview of the state government.

The following are the main urban local bodies found in India:

1. **Municipal Corporation:** The state government of big cities and the Act of Parliament for the big cities of Union Territories establish the Municipal Corporation. A corporation is composed by three authorities. Firstly, the corporation is headed by a Mayor and he is assisted by the Deputy Mayor. The citizens directly elect the councillors and Mayor and the Council is the legislative organ of the corporation. The second organ of the corporation is the standing committee that deals with various activities like education, health, public works and they have the power to take their own decisions. The third and the final authority of the Municipal Commissioner is the government officer and is responsible for implementation of all the decisions taken by the council and standing committees.
2. **Municipalities:** For the administration of small cities and towns the Municipalities are set up by the Acts of state legislature. It is also composed of three authorities. Firstly, the Chairman heads the municipal council which is the legislative branch of the municipality and he is assisted by a Deputy Chairman. The second is the standing committees and they execute the work of the municipality in various fields like health, education etc. The third authority is the Chief Municipal Officer appointed by the state government.
3. **Notified Area Committee:** This is created in areas which is a town and fast growing and developing but still does not fulfil the criteria for creation of a municipality. It is named as Notified Area Committee as it is established through a notification issued by the state government. The functions of it are similar to that of municipality.
4. **Town Area Committee:** It is created for the administration of small towns by an Act of the state government. It works for the repair and maintenance of public assets like street lighting, drainage, etc. The Town Area Committee may be partly or wholly nominated or elected.

5. **Cantonment Boards:** These are established in cantonment or military areas to perform the municipal functions for the civilian population residing there. The Cantonment Boards are created under the Central Act of 1924 and the Ministry of Defence controls it. There are three types of Cantonment Boards depending on the number of the civilian population residing in the Cantonment Area and it consists of partly elected and nominated members. The members of the Cantonment Boards are elected for a period of three years.
6. **Townships:** Townships are established to provide civil amenities to its employees living in a township. The public sector undertaking establish the township and it has no elected members. The affairs of the Township are managed by a Town Administrator appointed by the public sector undertaking.
7. **Port Trusts:** Port Trusts protect and manage the ports and provide civic amenities to the port area. Port Trusts are headed by an officer appointed by the central government and consists of both elected and nominated members.
8. **Special Purpose Agencies:** Special purpose agencies are established by the state governments to perform some special functions of the municipalities. They are created by an Act of Parliament or by an order of the executive. Some examples of special purpose agencies are Housing Board, Water Supply Undertaking, Electricity Supply Undertaking, Urban Development Authorities, etc.

### **The 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 and Urban Local Bodies**

Before the Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, the Indian local government did not had a constitutional status but only a statutory status under the law of the state. Therefore the urban governance was directly under the state government control. But the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act changed this and the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were granted constitutional position as the third tier of the government. These urban local bodies were given the power for conducting regular elections, exercise their powers independently and also manage and control finances. The Amendment gave the responsibility of providing basic services to the local bodies. On the basis of the population, the Urban Local Bodies are classified as:

- Nagar Panchayats: for 'rurban' areas
- Municipal Councils: for smaller urban areas
- Municipal Corporations: for metropolitan areas

The members of the Municipalities are elected through the process of elections to enhance elected representatives for a period of five years. The Amendment also instituted the Directive Principles of State Policy for decentralization of powers in the urban areas. The Urban Local Bodies were given the power and responsibility to prepare plans, implement and develop schemes and also administer taxes. A state level Finance Commission was also set up to review the finances of the Urban Local Bodies.

The other two important organizational structures of the local bodies created under the Constitution are the District Planning Committee and the Metropolitan Planning Committee. The 12<sup>th</sup> Schedule was also added to the Constitution after the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act. The functional responsibilities of the municipalities are enumerated in Article 243W of the Constitution.

**Table 6.1: Main Characteristics of Urban Local Governments**

Type of Municipality	Rationale for Constitution and Brief Characteristics	
	Before 1992	After 1992
Municipal Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Established in metropolitan areas or big cities</li> <li>➤ Wider functions and larger powers than councils, enjoy more autonomy and have larger revenue resources</li> <li>➤ Separation of deliberative from executive functions and vesting of all executive powers in an appointed authority who is independent of the elected body.</li> </ul>	Constituted in "large urban areas"
Municipal Committee/Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Most popular form of local government in urban areas</li> <li>➤ Set up in cities and large towns</li> <li>➤ Extent of State control is relatively larger than corporations</li> </ul>	Constituted in "small urban areas"

Type of Municipality	Rationale for Constitution and Brief Characteristics	
	Before 1992	After 1992
Nagar Panchayat	➤ Constituted after 1992	Constituted in “areas in transition from rural to urban”
Notified Area Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up by State government in medium and small towns</li> <li>➤ Created for areas which do not fulfil conditions for constitution of councils but are otherwise important.</li> <li>➤ Also created for newly developing towns or areas where industries are being established.</li> <li>➤ All members including chairman are nominated by State government and not elected.</li> </ul>	Abolished
Town Area Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Semi-municipal authority constituted for small towns.</li> <li>➤ Members are either wholly nominated or wholly elected, or partly nominated and partly elected.</li> </ul>	Abolished

**Source:** Report of the Committee of Ministers Constituted by the Central Council of Local Self Government (1963); Government of India (1966); Sachdeva, Pardeep (1993); Constitutional Provisions Relating to Village Panchayats and Municipalities in India (1999).

The number of municipalities in an area differs from state to state. The states with large number of urban areas have more number of municipalities. And there are also some states where there are no municipal corporations and Nagar panchayats as these areas do not fulfil the specific criteria of forming a particular type of local self-government. In accordance to the municipal act the municipalities are constituted by the state governments.

**Table 6.2: Criteria for Constitution of Municipalities in some states**

Name of State	Type of Municipality and Criteria		
	Municipal Corporation	Municipal Council	Nagar Panchayat
Haryana	Population of 300,000 or more	Population of more than 50,000 and not exceeding 500,000	Population of not more than 50,000
Rajasthan	Population of 500,000 or more	Population of more than 100,000 and not exceeding 500,000	<p><b>Class II:</b> Located at District Headquarter; population of 50,000 or more and not exceeding 100,000; per capita income of Rs. 200 or more</p> <p><b>Class III:</b> Population of 25,000 or more and not exceeding 50,000; population of less than 25,000 and per capita income of Rs. 150</p> <p><b>Class IV:</b> Population of less than 25,000</p>

**Source:** Municipal Law in Rajasthan, Vol. II (2005: 549-50); The Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 (2005: 47); United Provinces Municipalities Act, 1916 (2004).

### **Municipal Legislation**

The state municipal acts governs the urban local governments. The central government has given power to the state legislatures to decide the structure, function and powers of the local governments. The functions of the various state municipal acts are more or less uniform but there might be differences in the distribution of powers, functions and finances. The municipalities also has the power to draft local byelaws for municipal administration which are then sent to the state legislature for approval. The municipal act is therefore a document to guide the local officials

and elected representatives for administrative procedures. Two different types of Acts are there generally in every state, one for the Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils or Nagar Panchayats.

### Composition of Municipalities

Since the constitution of municipalities there has been significant changes in it. In earlier times the administration of the municipality was in the hands of the ruling class or government and their subordinates. But the urban citizens were not satisfied with the centralized approach of administration of the municipalities as it was characterised by excessive bureaucracy. So participation of the citizens in the administrative processes was felt necessary. Some urban citizens are chosen by selecting them through elections to municipalities. The municipal area is divided into several wards based on the population of the area. At the ward level there is a contest for the post of councillors in municipalities. From every ward one person is elected as a councillor. Elections are also held for mayor in municipal corporations and chairperson in municipal councils and nagar panchayats. The municipal elections are organized by the state governments. The staff and persons elected and nominated by the state governments become part of the local government. The government establishes a democratic form of local government and tries to maintain a balance between the officials and non-officials. To ensure wider participation and social inclusiveness some seats in the local governments are reserved for some sections of the society like women, lower caste people etc. An example of an urban local self-government is shown below:

**Table 6.3: Composition of Urban Local Governments**

Category	Type of Municipality	
	Municipal Corporation	Municipal Council/ Nagar Panchayat
Elected Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mayor;</li> <li>Deputy Mayor</li> <li>➤ Councillors/Elected Ward Representatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chairperson/President; Vice-President</li> <li>➤ Councillors/Elected Ward Representatives</li> </ul>
Ward Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ MPs</li> <li>➤ MLAs</li> <li>➤ MLCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ MPs</li> <li>➤ MLAs • MLCs</li> </ul>



Category	Type of Municipality	
	Municipal Corporation	Municipal Council/ Nagar Panchayat
Ex-officio Members		
Appointed Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Municipal Commissioner</li> <li>➤ Subordinate Staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Executive Officer</li> <li>➤ Subordinate Staff</li> </ul>
Nominated Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Selected Citizens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Selected Citizens</li> </ul>

**Source:** State Municipal Acts

### Duties of Municipalities

The main objective of the urban local government was the maintenance of law and order in the early years. In recent times the focus of urban local bodies has been on the promotion of welfare of the citizens. The functions of the municipality is basically classified into obligatory and optional or discretionary functions. The obligatory functions are to be performed by the local governments for which sufficient funds has been allocated. The discretionary functions are not that important and they are performed depending on the availability of funds. The main municipal functions which are listed in the State municipal acts fall under the following broad categories: a. public health and sanitation, b. medical relief, c. public works, d. education, e. development, and f. administration.

**Table 6.4: Functions of Urban Local Governments**

S.No.	Category	Description
1	Public Health and Sanitation	Water supply, public vaccination, control of diseases, prevention of pollution, collection & disposal of rubbish, maintenance of sewers, etc.
2	Medical Relief	Establishment & maintenance of health institutions, etc.
3	Public Works	Construction & maintenance of streets, bridges, etc., control & regulation of building activity, street lighting, tree plantations, etc.
4	Education	Establishment & maintenance of educational institutions, etc.

S.No.	Category	Description
5	Development	Construction & maintenance of markets, shopping centres, drinking water standposts, wells, parks, gardens, etc.; preparation of comprehensive plans for development & growth of town, etc.
6	Administrative	Preparation of annual reports, maintenance & development of municipal property, regulation of traffic, registration of births & deaths, etc.

**Source:** Government of India (1966: 20-23); Municipal Acts of various States.

Moreover the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, 1992 has endowed the state legislatures with 18 functions. Many of the functions were already listed in the Municipal Acts of most states but certain new features such as protection of the environment, safeguarding the interests of the weaker sections of society, planning for economic and social development etc were included after the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment. In almost every state in their municipal acts they have included the 18 functions. The 12<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Article 243-W includes the 18 functions which are as follows:

1. Urban Planning, including town planning;
2. Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings;
3. Planning for economic and social development;
4. Roads and bridges;
5. Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes;
6. Public health, sanitation, conservancy and solid waste management;
7. Fire services;
8. Urban forestry, protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspects;
9. Safeguarding the interests of the weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded;
10. Slum improvement and upgradation;
11. Urban poverty alleviation;
12. Provision of urban amenities and facilities, such as parks, gardens, playgrounds;
13. Promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects;

14. Burials and burial grounds; cremation and cremation grounds and electric crematoriums;
15. Cattle pounds; prevention of cruelty to animals;
16. Vital statistics, including registration of births and deaths;
17. Public amenities, including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops and public conveniences; and
18. Regulation of slaughterhouses and tanneries.

### **Division of Powers -Elected, Nominated and Administrative**

The elected and nominated councillors of the municipalities are provided in the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act and their number varies from state to state according to the population of an area. The elected councillors nominate some names and select the nominated councillors. However the Amendment does not provide any specific organizational structure for the administration of municipalities in India. This is decided by the state legislatures and the structure of administration differs from state to state. A Model Municipal Law, 2003 was drafted by the Ministry of Urban Development and circulated to the state governments. Central administration is not preferred in municipal administration as the local bodies should be flexible according to the local requirements. Two broad models are generally followed in the administration of the municipalities:

#### **1. Commissioner system**

##### **The Mayor**

In the Municipal Corporation, the Mayor is chosen indirectly through elections by the councillors among themselves for one year which is renewable but the Mayor does not have any authority. Councillors, Committee Councillors and Standing Committees perform different functions in the administration of the municipality. Of these the powerful committee is the standing committee performs all the executive, financial and personnel powers. The standing committee is composed of around 7 to 16 elected members through proportional representation of councillors.

##### **The Executive**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Corporation is the Municipal Commissioner and he heads the executive arm. The state

provides the power to the Commissioner and assigned to the Standing Committee.

## 2. Mayor in council model

The council model of city governance follows the framework of state or national governments in administration. In this model the Mayor is headed by a cabinet of elected councillors who have individual portfolios. The Municipal Commissioner acts as the Chief Executive Officer and he works under the supervision of the Mayor.

Thus the above model of urban governance might be seen to be simple but in reality it is a combination of multiple agencies. Some are new while others are continuity of older legacies which are accountable to the local, state or national governments.

### Self-Assessment Questions 2

Note: Write the answers in two lines

1. Discuss the changes brought about by the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992?
2. Discuss the functions of the main urban local bodies found in India?

### Urban Governance Index (UGI)

The UN-HABITAT has developed an index to measure and test the quality of urban governance. This is the Urban Governance Index developed within the framework of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance. The UGI has a twofold purpose, which are:

- Global Level: The UDI will measure the quality of good urban governance in achieving the broader developmental goals in terms of Millennium Development Goals and those in the Habitat Agenda at the global level. There are evidences at the national level that only good governance will bring about positive developmental outcomes. The UGI will also help us to make comparisons between regional and global cities and learn from them. This will help us to take specific steps to improve the quality of local governance.
- At the local level: The UDI will accelerate the local actions and improve urban governance at the local level. In the cities local indicators will be developed which will respond to the unique local

contexts and needs. The UGI will develop their own monitoring systems by developing tools and training guides at the local level.

The Urban Development Index was developed in cooperation with both Global Urban Observatory and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance which was supported by selected cities of the Campaign's Global Steering Group. In 2002 the initial framework and indicators were established by an internal UN-HABITAT Flex Team. The initial indicators were developed based on research and Urban Indicators Programme. In November 2002 an Expert Group Meeting made some recommendations regarding the structure of the index. Pilot field testing was done in two stages, with a group comprising first 12 and later 24 large and medium cities from different regions and also on the basis of population. Based on the Global Urban Observatory's monitoring programme it was intended to expand this to more cities. Large number of indicators were selected for initial field tests and based on the results the indicators that had strong correlation with the quality of governance were selected to be included in the index. The indicators are essential for the implementation policies of urban development.

### **6.7. Urban Governance in India**

India has gone through several changes in the political and economic spheres which has implications for urban governance. India followed a mixed economic model in which the public sector lead the economy and the public sector determining the welfare of its citizens. The economic reform policy of 1991 brought significant changes so that India can be at par with the developed nations. Further the growing pressure of urbanization in the 1980's made markets emerge as strong institutions for allocation of resources for the growing consumer class in the cities.

#### **Legal Provision relating to Municipal Governance**

The 74th Amendment Act of 1992 identified the municipalities as the third tier of urban governance after centre and states. The Amendment identified more functions assigned to municipal bodies and they urged the state governments to give them more financial powers relating to taxation and also other additional responsibilities were assigned to them. The functions of the municipalities are as follows:

1. **Municipal Elections and functioning of ward committees:** The National Institute of Urban Affairs conducted a study on municipalities and found that municipal elections are held in almost all states. Ward committees were constituted in nine states to ensure the proper representation from each ward in the decision making process. Kerala is the only state where ward committees are successfully functioning in every ward and populations having population above 1 lakh.
2. **Transferring of functional responsibilities:** The states have made provisions in the Municipal Acts for the transfer of powers to the municipalities. But this differs from state to state. Some states for example Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have been given more additional functions besides the functions mentioned in the 12<sup>th</sup> Schedule.
3. **State finance commission and financial reforms:** The finance commissions of the various states are assigned to review the financial position of the municipal bodies. Many states has established two State Finance Commissions so far.
4. **Constitution and functioning of DPCs and MPCs:** The DCPs (District Planning Committees) are formed for achieving integrated regional planning. The DCPs would prepare spatial plans for the district, developmental plans and try to integrate the common interest of the rural and urban areas. The DCPs would also act as advisory to the local bodies for preparation and effective implementation of plans. The DCPs would also monitor and implement district development plans and allocate resources to local bodies for planning and implementing the local level projects.

The MPCs (Metropolitan Planning Committees) are established in every metropolitan area. The MPCs accord recognition to metro regional planning and by giving spatial planning inputs. The MPCs prepare the draft development plan for metropolitan areas, coordinate the spatial plans prepared by the municipalities and panchayats in the metro area and also suggests recommendations. The MPCs also monitors the developmental plans of the local bodies for their effective implementation.

The Municipal governance Act of the various states include many functions but does not allocate the required finances to implement the Act. Thus the urban governance need to addressed seriously so that increasing urbanization in the cities can be managed properly.

## 6.8. Urban Violence

Violence in urban areas is a common phenomenon in the cities of Asia, Africa, Latin America which has become a threat to the urban dwellers. Urban violence is a result of the growing inequalities in urban areas and increasing unstable political conditions in the developing countries. Increasing terrorism, insecurities, international migration, failing nation states, social exclusion, regionalism, communalism, etc are the dimensions of urban violence in recent years.

Violence generally means the use of force to cause harm to others and the use of power for specific gains. Violence whether in rural or urban areas can be categorised into four categories – political, institutional, economic and social violence. Most of the social violence that takes place is gender based and linked to unequal power relations between male and female. It may include intimate partner violence, child abuse, sexual harassment, etc. Social violence can also be against ethnicity, religion, caste, creed and identity based violence which can take place in public area in the streets. Economic violence is related to material gain and associated with robbery, loot, arson, kidnapping, etc.

Institutional violence can be associated with the violence carried out by the state institutions especially the police and the judiciary and also ministers in the health and education department. Political violence is carried out for the hold of political power which might include guerrilla conflict, political assassination, paramilitary conflict etc.

Violence is not always physical but can also be structural which is manifested in the social structures like in the form of exploitation, exclusion, inequality etc. Violence in urban areas is problematic in urban areas as violence in the slums has become routinized in the daily lives of the slum dwellers. Violence invokes fear and insecurity among people's lives as street crime, growing gang culture in the cities are increasing the level of violence in urban areas. In the cities also there is a variation in the violence levels based on neighbourhood income levels, gender and age.

### Factors causing urban violence

Fast growing urbanization due to rapid migration is one of the main factors of urban violence. In the developing countries there is a fast growing slum population. Today around a billion people in the world are living in sub-standard living conditions in slums or squatter settlements,



without access to even the basic services like drinking water, sanitation, education and health facilities. These areas are the breeding grounds of criminal activities due to a combination of factors such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, marginalization, poor governance, weak rule of law etc.

The youths of these areas are recruited into gangs and rebel groups and they cause political and social unrest. It is also a coincidence that different violent groups like insurgents, terrorists, narco traffickers, human traffickers, criminal gangs are targeting the big cities. Cities are the epicentre of government power and have significant political, economic, psychological and cultural life. Today cities of the world are interconnected and networked more than before through transportation, trade, commerce, migration, and modern information technologies. Despite all these the cities offer the violent groups with soft targets like the airports, railway stations, religious places, shopping malls, etc. The emerging technologies are also contributing to urban violence as there are advances in surveillance techniques and aerial detection capabilities.

There are many high quality technologies and radar systems that can see through darkness, rain or even dust storms and satellite technologies that can identify locations even in remote mountain areas. However surveillance in cities becomes difficult because of high multi storey buildings, underground tunnels, and other structures and obstructions. Thus it is the role and responsibility of the Urban local governments to curb and control urban violence. Urban violence has indirect impact on the citizens and the welfare of the citizens will be at stake. Urban violence can disturb the law and order situation of cities which will have impact on every citizen.

### **Self-Assessment Questions 3**

Write the answers in about 50 words

1. Examine the relation between urban poverty and urban violence?
2. Give the example of two instances of urban violence in Indian cities?

### **6.9. Challenges to Improved Urban Governance**

The state governments are responsible for the urban government and management of their cities. The state legislative enactment has delegated

the municipal bodies with authority and power for urban governance. But these local governments has become weak over the years due to various reasons like encroachment on municipal functions by making them state owned. The urban development authorities has become weak in executing their functions, financial crisis, and lack of sufficient staff in municipal boards.

1. **Issues in decentralization:** The 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act has incorporated the states provision for inclusion of additional functions to the municipal body, but the functions differed from state to state. Even in the same state the performance of municipal bodies varies from city to city. The major reason for the difference in performance of municipal bodies is recourse constraints. The larger municipal corporations have access to funds but the smaller municipal councils have financial constraints. Moreover the transfer of functions to the municipalities is affected in some cities as it leads to overlap and often conflicts of the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies involved in municipal governance. In this situation it becomes difficult for the citizens to blame the municipal corporation for inadequate service delivery.
2. **Financial impediments:** The urban Local Bodies are financially weak and although there are provisions of collecting user charges from the residents but most of the people do not pay and so these provisions are not fully utilized. Many of the municipalities are in heavy debts and they are dependent on government grants and aides. The state budgets which allocate certain amount for the municipalities are ending in most states and the funding system based on planning and budget allocations will only reduce with time.
3. **Capacity Issues:** Many of the Urban Local Bodies lack capacity due to improper and inadequate staffing and lack of standardization. The urban bodies lack the educational, legal, institutional and operational capability to develop and implement urban developmental projects. The staff in the municipalities are not technologically trained and this acts as a barrier for introducing new technologies and management styles. All staffs should be given certain level of training on IT systems, accounting norms etc.
4. **Insufficient public participation:** People's involvement in the decision making process of the urban governance is very less. The

municipal bodies are not putting efforts to include people in the process and the citizens are also not aware about their role in the governance process.

5. **Transparency and accountability:** We have already discussed the lack of transparency and accountability of the urban local bodies in the Municipal Disclosure Law. The main constraints for achieving transference and accountability is the lack of the means to achieve it. In most of the urban local bodies there is inadequate or substandard manpower and insufficient funds. In such context, it becomes difficult to enhance accountability and transference.

### 6.10. Steps to Strengthen Urban Governance

A Working Group on Urban Governance was constituted by the Planning Commission for the formulation of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The Working Group committee gave some recommendations for the strengthening of urban governance which are as follows:

1. **Classification of Urban Local Bodies:** Standardized norms and procedures should be adopted for the classification of Urban Local Bodies. All the existing municipalities should be reclassified based on the population into three categories: Municipal Corporation for large urban areas of 5 lakh or more population; Municipal Council for urban areas of population ranging from 1 lakh to 5 lakh population and Nagar Panchayat for towns below 1 lakh population.
2. **Strengthening Ward Committees:** Ward committees are established in almost all the states but their functions varies from state to state. The functioning of the ward committees should be encouraged and area sabhas should be established. The ward committees should work in coordination with the area sabhas as this will ensure the participatory process.
3. **Strengthening Metropolitan Planning Committees:** The 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act directs the state governments for the establishment of Metropolitan Planning Committee for the development of the metropolitan areas. However only a few states has created MPC and the state governments need the support of the central government in this regard.
4. **Empowerment of political office bearers:** The Mayors and

Chairpersons of the Urban Local Bodies should be responsible for the welfare of their citizens and for this they should have powers and fixed tenure. The local regional conditions of the cities should determine whether a “Mayor in Council” or “Executive Mayor” system should be adopted.

5. **Convergence of functions of State Bodies with Local Bodies:** A number of state bodies were created for providing services listed in the 12<sup>th</sup> Schedule for urban governance as the local bodies lack skilled and technical manpower. Therefore a number of state bodies like Water Supply and Sewerage Boards, Slum Housing and Development Boards, PWD, Development Authorities, etc have been performing various functions which should had been performed by the Local Bodies as per mandate issued by the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The multiple agencies performing various functions in the urban areas has led to overlapping of functions, and wastage of recourses. Moreover these state bodies are not elected bodies and therefor they are answerable to the people.
6. **Framework for Governance of Mega Cities:** The problems in the mega cities are more complex due to scarcity of resources to the growing population. People from rural areas migrate to mega cities in search of employment and end up in slums and squatter settlements without proper drinking water and sanitation. Therefore to administer and govern the mega cities is a big challenge on the part of municipal bodies. Thus there is a need for creating framework for governing mega cities.
7. **Strengthening the Organizational Capacities:** Proper training should be given to the staff and members of the municipal bodies in technical and managerial skills to meet the growing urban challenges. Funds allocated to the municipalities should be increased and proper audits should be conducted.
8. **Regulatory mechanism for Delivery of Basic Urban Services:** A proper urban service regulator is needed for deciding the services and taxes of the urban local bodies as the earlier system is quite outdated. The regulator would monitor the service and the tariff and this will lead to efficiency and transference.
9. **Public Private Partnership:** PPPs can contribute to better management of services in the urban areas if they are structured around a robust revenue model. The state governments should

carry out legislative amendments for the implementation of the PPP projects for the proper urban governance.

10. **Accountability and Citizen Participation:** The municipal bodies and local governments should be more interactive so that more citizens are participating in the affairs of urban governance.
11. **Use of E-Governance and Technology for Improvement of Delivery of Services and Need for Database:** In the postmodern age, information and communication technology play important role in the our day to day lives and it can also play important role in urban governance. As the administration of the municipalities are becoming more complex so the adoption of IT tools will ease the administration of municipalities. E-Governance and IT skills should be upgraded and adopted in all Urban Local Bodies for the proper administration of urban areas.

#### Self-Assessment Questions 4

Answer the following in 2 lines

1. Examine the challenges to urban governance?
2. Suggest some recommendations for improved urban governance?

Effective urban governance is necessary in this postmodern world where the processes of urbanization, globalization and liberalization are increasing the pressure on the service delivery in the cities of the developing countries. Most of the cities are not able to handle the pressure of growing urbanization in which population is increasing but not the resources. The urban local bodies are ill equipped to plan and allocate the resources because of lack of manpower and lack of technical knowledge. Therefore adequate funds, technical training and effective monitoring of the projects will steer urban governance in the right direction. Moreover policy reforms must also be done for proper urban governance.

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