



A Political Approach towards the Concepts of Population, Urbanization and Migration

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Abstract

Today's world is one of global connectivity with the integration of diverse cultures, economies and perceptions happening all around us. One of the main issues of fundamental importance in such global phenomena is the involvement of people coming from different parts of the world, which further leads to issues of social and political focus. This article sheds light on the root cause of the problems associated with the population, urbanization and migration scenario and how it can be solved politically.

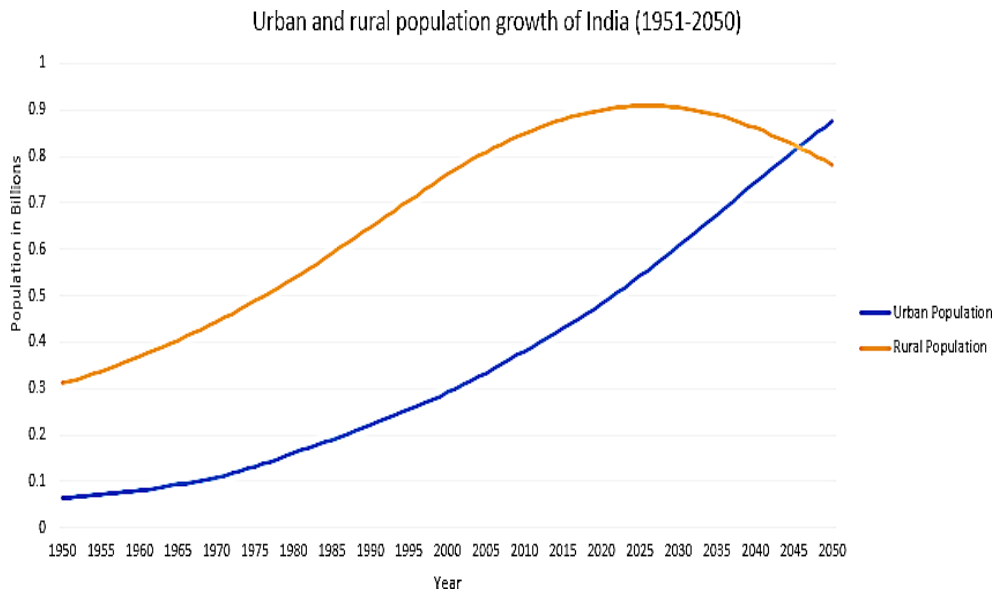
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I. INTRODUCTION

Human culture deals with concepts related to thoughts, behaviours that are prepared by learning, adding to our past between individuals and generations. According to anthropologist James Spradley, "culture is the acquired knowledge that people use to interpret experience and generate behavior. In order to understand the connection between the concepts of urbanization and migration, we must first understand the concept of what constitutes both, i.e. population. Simply put, a population refers to a group of individuals of the same species living in the same general area. The population of any given area can change by only three processes: birth, death, and migration. The population growth rate is the rate of natural increase combined with the effects of migration. As a result of population growth, people are concentrated in cities, leading to urbanization. The shift of population from rural to urban areas, the corresponding decline in the proportion of people living in rural areas, and the ways in which societies adapt to this change. towns and cities. Migration deals with the movement of a person or group of people to live in another place, often across a political or administrative border.

The Sustainable Development Goals set in 2015 aim to achieve a more sustainable future for all by addressing issues such as global poverty, hunger, inequality, environmental degradation, climate change and peace. Issues related to population growth and urbanization trends are major concerns for achieving the SDGs, as recent demographic trends pose a challenge to achieving the SDG'S. Demographic data needs to be evaluated to study population trends at global, national and regional levels, which can further lead to migration and urbanization issues.



The above graph shows the increasing trend towards urban mobility and decreasing trends in rural settlement with special reference to Indian population during 1951-2050. The share of the rural population shows a sharp decline, while the share of the urban population, on the other hand, is gradually increasing. The challenge facing the governance system is that, as the urban population gradually increases, the emerging challenges of migration need to be addressed through effective policy implementation without limiting economic reforms.

Factors contributing to urbanization:

Natural population increase: It occurs when the number of births exceeds the number of deaths.

Rural-urban migration: It is driven by pull factors that attract people to urban areas and motivational factors that move people away from rural areas.

Pull Factors include better employment and business opportunities, educational institutions and an urban lifestyle that attracts people from rural backgrounds to reside in cities.

Push Factors include - Poor living conditions, lack of educational and economic opportunities in rural areas with lack of even basic social services like medical facilities, sanitation facilities and so on.

Modernization and lifestyle changes-

Modernization plays a very important role in the urbanization process. As urban areas become more technologically savvy with highly sophisticated communication, infrastructure, medical facilities, clothing, education, liberalization and other social amenities available, people believe that they can lead a happy life in cities.

Global Urbanization:

The most urbanized regions include North America (with 82% of its population living in urban areas (as of 2018)), Latin America and the Caribbean (81%), Europe with 74% and Oceania comprising 68%. The level of urbanization in Asia is now around 50%. Africa remains largely rural, with 43% of its population living in urban areas. A. Migration of the male population is greater than that of females. Migration leads to higher urban population growth, but migration rates are very low in India. In order to increase the growth rate of urbanization, it is necessary to support migration from the countryside to the city. Migration depends on many factors such as job opportunities in urban areas, urban poverty and higher urban wages. Thus, migration has a positive effect on economic growth, albeit indirectly.

Rural-urban migration leads to economic growth through increased urbanization. Migration can take varied dimensions be it voluntary or forced. Voluntary migration occurs due to the promise of job opportunities, education, better medical care, securing family ties, industrial employment, higher incomes in the host cities. On the other hand, forced migration occurs due to drought, political war, poor medical care, loss of wealth and forced labour.

Urbanization prospects:

As per “The World Urbanization Prospects, 2018” report by the “United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)” states that future growth in the world's urban population is expected to be highly concentrated in only a few nations. India, China and Nigeria will together account for 35% of the projected growth in the world's urban population between 2018 and 2050. By 2050, India is projected to add 416 million urban residents.

Problems associated with urbanization

Individualism: Multiplicity of opportunities, social diversity, lack of family and social control over decision-making leads to greater self-interest and facilitates individual decision-making and career choice and action.

Excessive population pressure: Migration from rural areas to cities on the one hand accelerates the pace of urbanization, on the other hand it creates excessive population pressure on existing public services.

As a result, cities suffer from problems of slums, crime, unemployment, urban poverty, pollution, congestion, ill health and several deviant social services.

Overflowing Slums: There are about 13.7 million households residing in slums in the country, sheltering a population of 65.49 million people across the country.

Up to 65% of Indian cities have adjoining slums where people live in small houses next to each other.

Inadequate housing: Among the numerous social problems of urbanization, the problem of housing is the most worrisome.

The vast majority of the urban population lives in conditions of poor shelter and in highly crowded spaces. In India, more than half of urban households occupy one room with an average occupancy of 4.4 people per room.

Unplanned Development: The model of building a developed city involves unplanned development which only reinforces the dichotomy prevailing in urban cities between the rich and the poor.

Problems caused by the pandemic: The Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the misery of the urban poor or slum dwellers. The sudden implementation of the total Covid lockdown has severely affected the ability of slum dwellers to earn a living.

A way forward for understanding urbanization

Non-inclusive social security systems: The benefits of social security systems for the urban poor often reach only a small fraction of the intended beneficiaries.

Most of the relief funds and benefits do not reach the slum dwellers, mainly because these settlements are not socially recognized by the government, so the programs are negligible for the social target groups.

Sustainable urbanization for successful development: As the world continues to urbanize, sustainable development increasingly depends on the successful management of urban growth, especially in low- and middle-income countries, where the pace of urbanization is expected to be faster in the coming decades.

Integrated policies are needed to improve the lives of both urban and rural residents while strengthening the links between urban and rural areas that build on their existing economic, social and environmental linkages.

Improving access to health facilities and social welfare programmes: Accelerating the effectiveness of social welfare and assistance systems along with ensuring access to free vaccines, food security and adequate shelter in slums to manage any health problems well.

Improvement of sanitation and transport facilities in slums and establishment of clinics and health facilities. We help non-profit organizations and local support bodies to better reach these marginalized communities.

New Approaches to Urbanization: New approaches to urban planning and effective governance are a must today. Both at the level of policy making and at the level of policy implementation.

Necessary measures should be taken to build a sustainable, robust and inclusive infrastructure to cope with the ever-increasing pressure on limited resources.

Other major interests include the provision of health care services to the growing urban population, as health is, along with education, a critical indicator of human development.

Environmental issues are also a major problem, as the risk is higher in urban areas due to density and overcrowding.

Institutional challenges in urban development

- Urban Administration – Urban Local Bodies consist of Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Nagar Panchayats to be supported by respective State Governments in managing the process of urban

development. This requires a clear delegation of functions along with a degree of financial autonomy. There is a need to improve urban governance, as the 74th Amendment to the Act has not yet fully empowered urban local bodies. Improving the functioning of local authorities can be achieved by strengthening the technological and administrative capacity of urban local authorities.

- Planning Framework – As pointed out by the World Bank, many urban governments in India lack a modern planning framework. The rigidity of master plans limits the ability of cities to grow in line with changing needs. There is also a need to involve more and more qualified planning professionals as a human resource for planning implementation.

II. CONCLUSION

Today, the world's population is more than three times what it was in the mid-twentieth century. In the next three decades, regions of the world will experience different rates of population growth. As a result, the regional population distribution in 2050 will be significantly different from today. Central and South Asia is expected to become the world's most populous region by 2037, as the population of East and Southeast Asia could begin to decline. mid 1930s

Population distribution was influenced by major factors such as the revolution in transportation and communication technology, which shortened the distance of thousands of miles to a few seconds.

Expand the horizons of the market economy by reconstructing and restructuring national economies through various structural methods adopted at the level of policy implementation.

"New migration" includes circulation. Migrants oscillate between place of origin and destination. Circular migration patterns have been identified from different parts of the world.

These circulation movements are often timed with the agricultural season. For example, in West Africa, Thailand, and Mexico, individuals remain in the area of origin from planting to harvest and then leave for cities in the off-season.

. A rise in the proportion of the working-age population can provide an opportunity for accelerated economic growth and social development known as the "demographic dividend". This phase further contributes to economic growth by earmarking a greater share of investment in education, health, social protection, etc. While the demographics underlying the dividend contribute to rapid per capita economic growth, reaping its potential benefits requires significant investment in education and health, progress towards gender equality and access to gainful employment.

It would be a mistake to assume that migration is the only factor leading to a surge in urbanization and related aspects. Migration remains only part of the overall picture, with a variety of factors contributing to this transition process. Total rated fertility needs to be controlled to regulate population growth and thus migration. Policymakers need to recognize informal and undocumented migration while taking adequate measures to address emerging challenges such as education and other social security benefits that accompany migration.

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