

## **Paper Name: Human Geography**

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### **Topic: Urbanization in India**

#### **Introduction**

Urbanization is a form of social transformation from traditional rural societies to modern urban communities. It is long term continuous process. Before attempting an analysis of pattern and trends in urbanization in India, it becomes imperative to trace the process of urbanization in India through history because what distinguished India most, from many other countries of the world is its long tradition of urbanization dating back as far back as about five thousand years, when Indus Valley Civilization saw the birth of the earliest urban settlement in human history. In India, the urban tradition continued throughout these centuries and during the ancient period of our history there were many well planned, big and beautiful cities in different parts of the country.

Urbanization can be defined as “as a process which reveals itself through temporal, spatial and sectoral changes in the demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental aspects of life in a given society. Urbanization is a progressive concentration of population in urban unit (Kingsley Davis-1965). These changes manifest themselves in the increasing concentration of population in human settlements, larger than villages, in the increasing involvement of the people in the secondary and tertiary production functions, and in the progressive adoption of certain social traits which are typical of traditional rural societies”.

#### **Urban Definition**

Urbanization in India has been relatively slow during the last century the period as compared with many other developing countries. In India the definition of “Urban” remained more or less same for the period 1901- 1951. However in the 1961 Census, several modifications were made, and the definition of “town” adopted for the 1961 Census was much more rigorous and further, this new definition was followed all over the country uniformly. From 1981 onwards while calculating the proportion of workers in non- agricultural activities, the workers in occupation of

fishing, livestock, hunting, planting and orchards have been included in agricultural workers whereas such workers were included in the category of non- agricultural worker at the time of 1961 and 1971Censuses. The Census of India recognizes all those settlements as urban which

- Either have a statutory status like municipal committee/corporation/notified area committee/cantonment board, estate office, etc.
- or fulfil all the following three conditions simultaneously;
  - (i) A population of more than 5000;
  - (ii) More than 75 percent of the male working population is engaged in non-agricultural activities; and
  - (iii) Density of population is more than 400 persons per square kilometre.

### **Volume and Trend of Urbanisation in India**

India shares most characteristic features of urbanisation in the developing countries. Number of urban agglomeration /town has grown from 1827 in 1901 to 7935 in 2011. Number of the total population has increased from 23.84 crores in 1901 to 121.7 crores in 2011 whereas number of the population residing in urban areas has increased from 2.58 crores in 1901 to 37.71 crores in 2011. (Table 1) This process of urbanization in India shows in Fig 1. It reflects a gradual increasing trend of urbanization. India is at acceleration stage of the process of urbanization.

**Table: 1 Population of India by Residence 1901-2011**

<b>Census Years</b>	<b>Number of Urban agglomeration/town</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Urban Population</b>	<b>Rural Population</b>	<b>Urban Population in %</b>
<b>1901</b>	1827	238396327	25851873	212544454	10.84
<b>1911</b>	1825	252093390	25941633	226151757	10.29
<b>1921</b>	1949	251321213	28086167	223235046	11.18
<b>1931</b>	2072	278977238	33455989	245521249	11.99
<b>1941</b>	2250	318660580	44153297	274507283	13.86
<b>1951</b>	2843	361088090	62443709	298644381	17.29

<b>1961</b>	2363	439234771	78936603	360298168	17.97
<b>1971</b>	2590	598159652	109113977	489045675	19.91
<b>1981</b>	3378	683329097	159462547	523866550	23.33
<b>1991</b>	3768	844324222	217177625	627146597	25.72
<b>2001</b>	5161	1027015247	285354954	741660293	27.78
<b>2011</b>	7935	1210193422	377105760	833087662	31.16

Sources: Various Census reports

### **Degree of Urbanization:**

The degree or level of urbanization defines as the relative number of people who live in urban areas. Percent urban  $[(U/P)*100]$  and percent rural  $[(R/P)*100]$  and urban-rural ratio  $[(U/R)*100]$  are used to measure degree of urbanization. These are most commonly used for measuring degree of urbanization. The ratio  $U/P$  has lower limit 0 and upper limit 1 i.e.  $0 < U/P < 1$ . The index is 0 for the total population equal to the rural population. When whole population is urban, this index is one. When 50 percent of the population is rural, it means that there is one urbanite for each rural person. The urban-rural ratio has a lower limit of zero and upper limit  $\infty$  i.e.,  $0 < U/R < \infty$ . Theoretically upper limit will be infinite when there is no rural population ( $R=0$ ) but this is impossible. From table 2, it is clear that percent urban has increased from 11% in 1901 to 31% in 2011, whereas percent rural has shown the gradual decrease from 89% to around 69% over a century. Urban-rural ratio that is a simple index measuring number of urbanites for each rural person in an area unit experiences an increasing trend during hundred years in the process of urbanization in India. The urban-rural ratio for India in 2011 turns out to be around 45, meaning that against every 100 ruralites there are 45 urbanites in India in 2011. All these indices pinpoint that India is in the process of urbanization (Sovani, 1966), and it is at the acceleration stage of urbanization.

**Table: 2 Table 4 Degree/Index of Urbanization 1901-2001**

<b>Census years</b>	<b>Rural Population in %</b>	<b>Urban Population in %</b>	<b>Urban- Rural Ratio(percent)</b>
<b>1901</b>	89.16	10.84	12.16
<b>1911</b>	89.71	10.29	11.47
<b>1921</b>	88.82	11.18	12.58

<b>1931</b>	88.01	11.99	13.63
<b>1941</b>	86.14	13.86	16.08
<b>1951</b>	82.71	17.29	20.91
<b>1961</b>	82.03	17.97	21.91
<b>1971</b>	81.76	19.91	22.31
<b>1981</b>	76.66	23.33	30.44
<b>1991</b>	74.28	25.72	34.63
<b>2001</b>	72.22	27.78	38.48
<b>2011</b>	68.84	31.16	45.27

### **Pace of Urbanization:**

Urbanization in India has been relatively slow compared to many developing countries. The percentage of annual exponential growth rate of urban population (table 3) reveals that in India, it grew at faster pace from the decade 1921-31 to until 1951. Thereafter it registered a sharp drop during the decade 1951-61. The decades 1961-71 and 1971-81 showed a significant improvement in the growth which has thereafter steadily dropped to the present level (3.16%). The sharp drop in urban rate during 1951-61 was mainly due to the declassification of a very large number of towns during that period. Rural growth has been fluctuating since 1901. The decline in rural population growth was within a small range during 1981-91 and 2001-2011. During the process of urbanization it is natural that  $rgtp > rgup > rgrp$ , (table 3) where  $rgtp$  = rate of growth of total population,  $rgup$  = rate of growth urban of population,  $rgrp$  = rate of growth of rural population. This fact is supported in case of Indian urbanisation also since 1911.

**Table: 3 Annual Growth rate of Population by Residence**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Annual growth rate(%) of total population(rgtp)</b>	<b>Annual growth rate(%) of Urban population(rgup)</b>	<b>Annual growth rate(%) of total Rural population(rgrp)</b>
<b>1901-1911</b>	0.54	0.03	0.60
<b>1911-1921</b>	-0.03	0.76	-0.13
<b>1921-1931</b>	0.99	1.61	0.91

<b>1931-1941</b>	1.25	2.42	1.06
<b>1941-1951</b>	1.17	2.93	0.81
<b>1951-1961</b>	1.78	2.09	1.71
<b>1961-1971</b>	2.66	2.77	2.63
<b>1971-1981</b>	1.25	3.16	0.66
<b>1981-1991</b>	1.91	2.66	1.65
<b>1991-2001</b>	1.78	2.39	1.54
<b>2001-2011</b>	1.51	2.43	1.10

### Patterns of urbanisation in India

**Table: 5-Level and Trend of Urbanisation across States, 1971-2011**

<b>States</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Change from 1971-2011</b>
Karnataka	24.31	28.91	30.91	33.98	38.57	14.26
Andhra Pradesh	19.31	23.25	26.84	27.08	33.49	14.18
Arunachal Pradesh	3.7	6.32	12.21	20.41	22.67	18.97
Assam	NA	9.88	11.08	12.72	14.08	4.2
Bihar	10	12.46	13.17	10.47	11.3	1.3
Chhattisgarh	NA	NA	NA	20.08	23.24	3.16
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	21.05	23.83	24.88	27.21	6.16
Goa	26.44	32.46	41.02	49.77	62.17	35.73
Gujarat	28.08	31.08	34.4	37.35	42.58	14.5
Haryana	17.66	21.96	24.79	29	24.25	6.59
Himachal Pradesh	6.99	7.72	8.7	9.79	10.04	3.05
Jharkhand	NA	NA	NA	22.25	24.05	1.8
Kerala	16.24	18.78	26.44	25.97	47.72	31.48

Madhya Pradesh	16.29	20.31	23.21	26.67	27.63	11.34
Maharashtra	31.17	35.03	38.73	42.4	45.23	14.06
Manipur	13.19	26.44	27.69	23.88	20.21	7.02
Meghalaya	14.55	18.03	18.69	19.63	20.08	5.53
Mizoram	11.36	25.17	46.2	49.5	51.51	40.15
Nagaland	9.95	15.54	17.28	17.74	28.97	19.02
Orissa	8.41	11.82	13.43	14.97	16.68	8.27
Punjab	23.73	27.72	29.72	33.95	37.49	13.76
Rajasthan	17.63	20.93	22.88	23.38	24.89	7.26
Sikkim	9.37	16.23	9.12	11.1	24.97	15.6
Tamil Nadu	30.26	32.98	34.2	43.86	48.45	18.19
Tripura	10.43	10.98	15.26	17.02	26.18	15.75
Uttar Pradesh	14.02	18.01	19.89	20.78	22.28	8.26
Uttaranchal	NA	NA	NA	25.59	30.55	4.96
West Bengal	24.75	26.49	27.39	28.03	31.89	7.14
<b>Union Territories</b>						
Delhi	89.7	92.84	89.93	93.01	97.5	7.8
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	22.77	26.36	26.8	32.67	35.67	12.9
Chandigarh	90.55	93.6	89.69	89.78	97.25	6.7
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	NA	6.67	8.47	22.89	46.62	39.95
Daman & Diu	NA	NA	46.86	36.26	75.16	28.3
Lakshadweep	NA	46.31	56.29	44.47	78.08	31.77
Pondicherry	42.04	52.32	64.05	66.57	68.31	26.27
<b>All India</b>	20.22	23.73	25.72	27.78	31.16	10.94

Source: Census of India

In order to understand the dynamics of urban development in a large country like India, it is

important to examine the changes in the levels and pace of urbanisation across states. At the state level, the pattern of urbanisation is full of diversities, but economically advanced states more or less show higher levels of urbanisation. All the southern states, including Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal, have higher levels of urbanisation than that of national average, but small states like Goa continue to top the list among states (62% urban), followed by Mizoram (51.5%). Among the large states, Tamil Nadu continues to be ahead of the others, with levels of urbanisation at 48.4% in 2011. States that lag behind are Himachal Pradesh with an urban population of 10%, followed by Bihar (11.3%), Assam (14%) and Orissa (16.6%). Other states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand also continue to have lower levels of urbanisation than the national average. However, a reversal noticed in the declining trend in urban population Growth rate at the national level is a major feature revealed by the 2011 census, there are only 15 states and union territories which show an increased urban population growth rate during 2001-2011 as compared to 1991- 2001. Among them, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand are the major states. A very high urban population growth has occurred in the states of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh while urban population growth rates have increased to 6.5% per annum in Kerala and 3% per annum in Andhra Pradesh during 2001-11 compared to just about 1% per annum during 1991-2001. In both Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, as well as in West Bengal and Gujarat, a large number of new towns have emerged as a result of rural-to-urban classification in 2011.

### **Urban Morphology**

The growth of urban population in metropolitan cities is marked with a declining trend. In metropolitan cities is marked with a declining trend. During 1971-81, it was 4.2 % and 3.5 % in 2001- 2011. Hence 0.7% is a change in growth of urban population in metropolitan cities. Likewise, a change in growth of urban population of class II towns is noticeable. For example, this change is 2.5% during 1971-2011. In class III towns, the change of 0.8 % is observed. While in class IV+ towns, the change is only 0.3%. The variations in Indian urban structure is also noticeable.

**Table: 6 Growth of Urban Population by City Size (Percent Per annum)**

Type of cities size	Gross Increase
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<b>and class</b>	<b>1971-1981</b>	<b>1981-1991</b>	<b>1991-2001</b>	<b>2001-2011</b>
<b>Cities</b>	4.4	3.7	3.5	2.7
<b>Metropolitan Cities</b>	4.2	4.9	4.2	3.5
<b>Class I</b>	2.7	2.4	1.5	1.6
<b>Class II</b>	4.1	2.8	1.6	1.6
<b>Class III</b>	2.4	3.0	1.9	1.6
<b>Class IV+</b>	1.9	1.3	1.0	1.6

*Class I: Greater than 1, 00,000 population Class II: 50,000--1, 00,000 population Class III: 20,000---50,000 population*

*Class IV+: (10,000--- 20,000 population Class V: 5,000---10,000 population Class VI: less than 5000 population)*

*Metropolitan City: - Census Commission defines a metropolitan city one having a population of over 4 million.*

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