

The Demographic Consequences of Urbanization: A Study of Changes in Family Structure and Household Composition

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Abstract

The process by which villages become towns and towns become cities is known as urbanization. From a demographic perspective, it is the gradual rise in the share of the urban population (U) to the overall population (T). From 350 million in 1947 to 1027 million in 2001, India's population tripled. The urban population increased from 62.4 million to 286 million during the same time span, about 4.6 times as quickly (Census 2001). As a result, independent India has rapidly become more urbanized. The nation's economic development process and pattern have been intimately associated with the urbanization process. India's urbanization process is favourably correlated with economic progress, even though it cannot be entirely explained by the latter. Rapid urbanization and economic growth have caused serious environmental damage that threatens the foundation of environmental resources needed for sustainable development. There is growing worry that environmental stress increases with the size of cities. This is due to the fact that action is found in cities. Urbanization has been exacerbated by the unheard-of population rise along with economic and technical advancements. Opportunities are concentrated in cities. As a result, people are constantly moving to cities. In addition to creating congestion, this puts further strain on the housing and infrastructure facilities that are already in place. Thus, the increasing disparities resulting from logging in response to rapid and widespread urbanization have made the situation in our cities unmanageable and increasingly worrying. In urban living, a large number of "urban" residents and individual homes lack social, economic, and political integration. In addition to the already existing backlog of services and amenities, their low incomes, lack of education, subpar living conditions in slums and squatter settlements, and growing population concentrations have created new problems by overloading the community's environmental life support system and raising the cost of maintaining urban development.

Keywords: Demographic; Urbanization; Family Structure; Population; Technologies; Economic.

I. INTRODUCTION

Numerous experts have shown interest in the study of urbanization and the environment. Ecologists, urban planners, civil engineers, sociologists, administrators, policy makers, and the general public are all drawn to the topic because of its multidisciplinary scope. This is a result of the numerous processes and activities that occur in urban ecosystems on a daily basis (Esteve & Liu, 2017). Urbanization is a continuous process. It is the migration of people from rural to urban

areas and the attempts to improve employment, educational, housing, and transit possibilities while cutting down on time and costs associated with commuting and transportation. Families and individuals can benefit from the proximity, diversity, and competitiveness of the marketplace when they live in a city. Urban ecosystems result from people's innate tendency to coexist as social creatures. As a result, early humans resided along the banks of the rivers where civilizations first appeared. In addition to an unintentional population growth, human ingenuity led to the invention of the wheel and fire, the establishment of communities, and the beginning of forest life (Bauer, 1985).

India has understood the value of family structure since the Vedic era. India introduced the world to the idea that "the earth is one family." Indians learn the fundamentals of their culture in the comfort of their own homes. But the social landscape in India has altered significantly during the past 20 years. There is a noticeable abrupt change from joint to nuclear to single-parent or childless households (Trask, 2020). The earning member of the family finds it increasingly difficult to manage their financial, social, and moral responsibilities in such a scenario. The earning members are caught between competing obligations, whether it be time, place, or desired attention. Additionally, the other side will always need attention, even if they select one of them. When deciding where to make concessions, family seems like the simpler answer (Pradhan, 2011). However, the party who is compromised by this choice is the one who is upset or disengaged. When family members must relocate to far-off places, the issue gets worse. Serious security and health challenges have replaced manageable difficulties like time, money, and attention. Globalization has accelerated the transformation of family and societal institutions worldwide in recent years, and India is not an exception. Couples are starting to have children later in life, and India's fertility rate has decreased (Hugo, 2019). Additionally, as life expectancy has grown, there are more older individuals in need of care. All of these changes are occurring in the backdrop of growing urbanization, which is causing family-based support networks to disintegrate and distancing children from elders. The impact of several contributing elements on Indian family structure is critically examined in this research.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In his 1964 book "Urbanism as a Way of Life," Louis Wirth noted that urbanism is a way of life in which residents of metropolitan areas are more likely to be highly mobile, have weaker ties to one another, live at a faster pace, and have a greater number of people living close to one another without knowing one another personally (Aghajanian & Thompson, 2013). Instead of being fulfilling relationships in and of themselves, the majority of interactions between city people are brief and incomplete. Ramachandran (1992) wrote a book titled "Urbanization and Urban System in India" with a variety of goals. First and foremost, he wants to write from an Indian perspective in order to address the inequities brought about by a literature that is dominated by the West. Indian statistics and the application of urban geography principles to India's urban development history abound in Ramachandran's writing. Second, the author has a sort of purpose that calls for research on contemporary urban issues in India, such as the growth of slums, the inadequate city transportation system, inflated land prices, infrastructural flaws, and the uneven geographical distribution of urban services (Roux & Geyer, 2017).

In his 1993 book "Environmental Challenges," C.K. Varshney praised the fact that the environment's carrying capacity is being exceeded by the demand for environmental resources due to rising consumerism and population growth. Global warming, ozone layer depletion, biodiversity loss, and economic inequality are all examples of the severe backlash caused by the long-term contempt for nature, the cumulative effects of industrialization, and the overuse of natural resources (Bell, 2004). These days, environmental issues are transgenerational and international in nature, necessitating a transdisciplinary approach. In his dissertation "Solid waste disposal with special reference to Thiruvananthapuram city," Dileep Kumar (1995)⁹ made an effort to identify the sources and composition of municipal solid waste in Thiruvananthapuram city. He came to the conclusion that the city's enormous 40 and small legal and illegal markets, slaughterhouses, 20 public and 34 private hospitals, 1,000 hotels, and 164,565 homes with 1,71,432 households were the main producers of municipal solid trash. According to his estimation, the corporate area generates 264.5 tons of MSW per day, or 0.32 kg per person per day. He also recommended composting as the most suitable disposal option for solid waste since 70 per cent of the wastes generated in the city consisted of vegetable and putrescible matter.

In his 1999 book "The Vulnerable Planet: A Short Economic History of the Environment," John Bellamy Foster outlined how changes in four major areas—population, energy, industrialization, and urbanization—have affected the globe. According to him, population growth, increased accumulation, or the advent of less environmentally friendly technologies are not the causes of environmental degradation. It is the sum of these elements. As a result, enhancing any one of these factors may benefit the environment, and vice versa. Since the entire study is based on secondary sources of data gathered from several published sources, reliable sources have been selected impartially. Nonetheless, it is important to acknowledge the inherent limits of the secondary data. We can analyze and comprehend urbanization, migration trends, and their characteristics thanks to the abundance of information provided by the NSS and census data. However, neither of these primary sources offers trustworthy measurements on crucial elements like assessing the effects of urbanization, return migration, and secondary or subsequent migration, which limits our ability to draw the right conclusions through comparison and modification of pertinent data. The idea of what expenses are necessary to maintain a minimum standard of life in an urban environment needs to shift. It should be deemed necessary to spend at least money on housing, healthcare, and education. Only "food expenditure" is subject to the "essentiality" requirement in the "official" poverty line. This suggests that the "poverty line," which has been used to quantify poverty, is understated. For our analysis, we have used the same estimate, though. Correlation coefficients between two variables were found to be statistically significant in certain circumstances, leading to the conclusion that one caused the other. Significant correlation coefficients have their own limitations because they are not always evidence of cause-and-effect relationships. In some situations, however, a theoretical foundation or economic justification was provided. Furthermore, our policy framers often lack a solid database on environmental challenges, which we must build. Even in the future, time series data in this context is largely a pipe dream. The study mostly draws from reports from several censuses up until 2001. However, at the time this work was being compiled, certain estimates from the provisional 2011 census were released. As a result, we were unable to incorporate this into our analysis. Furthermore, it was improper to blend the provisional and actual statistics. Nonetheless,

the pertinent locations have integrated the findings derived from these preliminary 2011 census data. The study's goals

Given this context, the main goal of this study is to investigate India's urbanization and environmental concerns, which are unparalleled in scope and importance. The fact that roughly 286 million of India's 1027 million people reside in metropolitan areas alone gives an idea of the scope of the problem. As a result, about 28 out of 100 people in the nation live in cities and towns. The urban population is predicted to nearly double to reach 550 million people in the next 20 years (2001–21), according to Census 2001. The following particular goals were established for this study within the parameters of this overarching goal:

- To examine urbanization patterns before and after reform.
- To assess urban areas' essential amenities, such as the proportion of urban families with access to power, sanitary facilities, safe drinking water, and medical services.
- To investigate how increasing urbanization affects people's quality of life in general.
- To investigate how urbanization affects environmental elements.
- To draw attention to GOI and environmental policy concerns with rural-to-urban migration.

Hypotheses of the Study

- The availability of economic opportunities in India leads to urbanization.
- The population of slums increases as a result of urbanization.
- Poverty is a result of rapid urbanization.
- The quality-of-life declines as a result of urbanization.
- Rapid urbanization has resulted in environmental damage.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Temperature

Cities are typically warmer than the surrounding countryside, sometimes by as much as 10° Celsius, due to a number of causes, such as the paving over of formerly vegetated area and the high concentration of heat sources. Big cities can change local weather patterns by becoming "regional heat islands."

2. Air Pollution

The quality of the air is one of the most noticeable distinctions between urban and rural areas. Many cities are covered in pollution, which is mostly caused by high motor vehicle traffic and energy output. In addition to being unsightly, this contaminated air is harmful to public health.

3. Water Issues

The water cycle in an area undergoes significant changes when it becomes urbanized. First of all, pollution and convection currents act as raindrop-forming magnets, causing cities to experience higher precipitation than their surrounding surroundings. Once the water falls, it is

directed into run-off systems, where it collects pollutants from the ground instead of being absorbed by the soil. This pollution is on top of that caused by the improper discharge of sewage and industrial waste, particularly in developing-nation cities.

4. *Destruction of Habitat*

Everything that was there before is destroyed when a natural region is turned into an urban area. For instance, paving over wetlands destroys an ecosystem and causes the extinction of any local species that depend on it. Erosion is a less extreme example; fertile topsoil often found in valleys being washed away when the valley becomes urbanized.

Benefits of Urbanization

The expansion of cities seems very bleak from above. Why should a damaging process like this be permitted to go on? But one should not be fooled. Numerous advantages include:

1. *Efficiency*

Cities may be incredibly effective. Consider, for instance, 100 households residing in 100 distinct homes dispersed across numerous acres of land. Imagine the same 100 families living in a single apartment building. It goes without saying that providing these families with energy, water, heating, and trash disposal in the apartments requires a lot less work. Furthermore, recycling programs are only feasible in urban areas due to the efficiency of collecting.

2. *Convenience*

In a city, everything is nearby. Access to education, health, social services and cultural events is much more readily available in a city than in a rural setting. Because things are located so closely, cities can make motor vehicle use unnecessary for many citizens. This is especially true when a city has efficient mass transportation systems in place, systems which are not feasible for rural populations.

3. *Concentration of Resources*

Many institutions that would not be possible in places where these things are more dispersed are made possible by the density of people, wealth, and other resources in cities. In essence, when a sufficient number of people are together in a compact area, they begin to generate ideas for social, commercial, political, and cultural activities that simply do not take place outside of cities. Universities, for instance, would not have existed in the absence of cities.

Statistical Analysis

In addition to attracting immigrants and stimulating structural change through multiplier effects and behavioural changes, urbanization also leads to economic development, particularly the construction of infrastructure and large-scale production. Urban centres are becoming the hubs of all activity; their land use is rapidly changing, their size is growing rapidly, and large-scale land dynamics are occurring as a result of the significant increase in urban land value. The goal of the current study is to understand Belgaum City's morphological makeup and land use pattern. The current study attempts to comprehend Belgaum's morphological development, internal spatial organization, urban morphology theories, and other morphological characteristics. Included in the study are the Central Business District, housing and industrial

structure, current and prospective land use patterns, their dynamics, the shifting nature of land values, and other factors. This study's analysis of the city's morphological structure and land use pattern is based on field observations and surveys rather than only on census data.

Table 1: Performance

Performance	t Statistics	p Value
Household members experienced any challenges or difficulties as a result of urbanization	4.160*	0.000
The perceived impact of urbanization on household members' quality of life	0.082	0.935
Long have household members lived in this city	1.004	0.318
Was the main reason for migrating to this city	0.743	0.459
Was the main reason for migrating to this city	1.238	0.218
Any household members migrated to this city from another city or rural area	0.066	0.947
The sex and age of the head of the household	3.202*	0.002
The head of this household	1.770	0.079
Many generations of family members live in this household.	0.592	0.555
Many generations of family members live in this household	1.849	0.067
Elderly individuals (65+) live in this household	2.205*	0.029
Many children under the age of 18 live in this household	2.202*	0.030
The type of family structure in this household (e.g., nuclear, extended, single-parent)	1.862	0.065
The marital status of each household member	0.361	0.718
The relationship of each household member to the head of the household	1.640	0.104

Within a city, households with comparable socioeconomic level and activity tend to congregate in different places, which are influenced by administrative, social, and historical variables. All of these contribute to the structure's stratification, which varies over time due to the city's highly dynamic features.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The traditional joint household, both in theory and in reality, continues to be the main social force among Indians despite the ongoing and increasing effects of urbanization and westernization. The joint family, an ancient Indian institution, is the most sought-after residential unit. However, it has changed somewhat in the latter half of the 20th century for a number of reasons, such as the necessity for certain members to relocate from a village to a city or from one city to another in search of work. This shift in cultural norms and lifestyle is becoming a threat to Indian family structures, as a number of socio-psychological issues are on the rise. This is because Indian families and their mentalities are not well suited to the rapidly expanding and constantly changing modern competitive and difficult world. Furthermore, it is predicted that by the end of the fourth decade of the twenty-first century, half of India's population will reside in urban areas.

Therefore, it is inevitable that Indian society will undergo a fundamental shift into a nuclear family. Consequently, the government and decision-makers must focus on the effects of this shift in family patterns in society and the likely repercussions.

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