

## **S.6 GEOGRAPHY PAPER 3 NOTES.**

### **TOPIC: URBANISATION IN UGANDA.**

Urbanisation is a process where by an increasing number of formerly rural residents become residents in towns or urban centres.

It can also be defined as a process where by the rural areas develop into towns or cities.

In Uganda there are basically four types of urban centres and these include the following;

- Cities with Kampala city as the only city in Uganda.
- Municipalities e.g. Jinja, mbale, kabale, Tororo, Masaka, Arua, Gulu, Fort portal, Mukono, Masindi, Iganga, Soroti, Mbarara etc.
- Town councils e.g. Katakwi, Napak, Lukaya, Buwenge. Kyenjojo, Buwama, Kajjansi, Wobulenzi, Kaliro etc.
- Town boards/ Trading centres e.g. Buloba, Kasenyi, Namulesa etc.

#### **Characteristics of urban centre.**

- They are trade and commerce centres with banks and insurance companies
- They are industrial centres e.g. Kampala and Jinja
- They have the necessary infrastructure e.g. improved roads, hospitals etc.
- They are administrative centres e.g. districts head quarters.
- They normally have high population concentrations.
- They have relatively improved social amenities e.g. electricity, running water etc.
- They have residential facilities e.g. planned settlements.

#### **FACTORS THAT HAVE FAVOURED URBANISATION IN UGANDA.**

Climate, the central region is more urbanised than any other part of the country partly due to its favourable climatic conditions. The relatively hot and wet climate attracts activities like settlement and other human activities like agriculture that provides food to the big urban population e.g. Kampala city, Mukono municipality, Masaka and many others.

The generally flat and gentle slope landscape have also favoured development of urban centres. This is because this kind of landscape makes it easy and relatively cheaper for the establishment of the necessary infrastructures like residential buildings, roads that consequently encourage urbanisation e.g. Jinja and Masaka municipalities.

Drainage, the well drained areas encourage the development of urban centres. Such areas are suitable for settlement thus attracting relatively high population concentrations in those particular areas that consequently develop into town councils e.g. Kyenjojo and municipalities like Fort portal.

Areas that are covered by relatively light or scanty vegetation cover especially grasslands are easy to clear for establishment of the necessary infrastructure like roads, residential settlements such areas have attracted relatively high population making such areas to develop into urban centres examples of such areas include Gulu municipality, Lira municipality, Katakwi town and many others.

The nature of soils, the areas with relatively fertile soils have also favoured urbanisation in such away that such areas support crop growing that provides adequate food stuffs on which the big urban population feed e.g. Kampala city, Mukono municipality partly developed because people depended on the food from the alluvial fertile soils around the lake Victoria shores e.g. Kayunga, Mpigi, Wakiso etc. Mbale municipality depends on food from the fertile volcanic soils around Mt. Elgon in Sironko, Manafwa etc.

Migrations, this has encouraged urbanisation in such away that people move from one area to another for various reasons more likely for economic and social. The resultant effect of this is that many of those go to urban centres thus increasing the rate of urbanisation even more. e.g. people move from Ibanda to Mbarara municipality, from Sironko to Mbale municipality.

The government policy of gazettement new districts, municipalities and town councils. This attracts a big population in such areas due to the associated job opportunities and improved social services like supply of electricity and water, improved security. This in turn has boosted the process of urbanisation in areas like Kisoro municipality, Gulu municipality etc.

Industrialisation has also favoured urbanisation. Areas that have industrial establishments and services attract many people who seek for employment opportunities and other related activities. This partly explains why areas like Jinja, Tororo, Kasese municipalities developed into major urban centres.

The availability of trade opportunities and markets. People are always attracted to areas that avail to them trade opportunities especially those engaged in trade and commerce as a business therefore areas with such opportunities have attracted big concentrations of population and consequently such areas have turned into major urban centres e.g. Busia municipality, Arua municipality and Kampala city.

The presence of improved infrastructure like roads, electricity and power stations, housing, banks etc. Many people tend to settle near such facilities because of the convenience that comes along with such. Such areas begin like small trading centres then later into town councils and finally into municipalities e.g. Jinja municipality, Kabale municipality etc.

Availability of adequate supply of clean water for both domestic and industrial use. Water is a basic need for life therefore its presence in a particular area attracts human settlement and this partly explains why urban centres like Jinja municipality, Entebbe municipality, Kampala city that are near lake Victoria that provides water have become major urban centres.

The presence of mining activities have also favoured the development of different areas into major urban centres. This is due to the fact that mining activities attract human settlement due to available job opportunities and other related businesses and consequently those areas have turned into major urban centres e.g. Tororo and Kasese municipalities due to limestone mining, Kajjansi town council due to clay mining, Hoima municipality due to oil exploration and mining etc.

The influence of the agricultural activities. Areas with large plantation farms have turned into major urban centres because people tend to settle around due to the available job opportunities in the plantation farms and also the improved social facilities and services provided by the plantation farms e.g. Iganga municipality, Kinyara trading centre due to sugar cane plantations.

Some areas have developed into major urban centres partly because of the tourism activities. These activities have led to establishment of facilities like hotels, hostels and other related tourism related businesses that attract high concentration settlements. Such areas include Kasese municipality near Queen Elizabeth national park and Mt. Rwenzori, Jinja municipality near the source of the Nile etc.

Availability of vast vacant land for establishment of the necessary infrastructure like residential houses, roads, recreational facilities and also for further expansion. Areas with vast land therefore have encouraged urbanisation for instance Mbale municipality, Masaka municipality, Gulu municipality etc.

Some areas have developed into urban centres as a result of the influence of the already existing urban centres. As the population increase in the existing town, it spreads over the surrounding areas and as a result there will be also development of other urban centres that starts with a few shops and some residential houses then later into a major urban centre e.g. Mukono municipality, Nansana municipality, Nsangi trading centre due to the existence of Kampala city.

Proximity to borders. Some areas that are located at the borders of the country are used as handling points for imports and exports this is also associated with other related businesses that attract many people who intend to benefit from such businesses and as a result these areas have developed into urban centres e.g. Busia, Tororo, Malaba along Uganda – Kenya border.

The presence of fishing activities in a particular area can also facilitate urbanisation. Areas that are associated with fishing activities like ports and landing sites tend to attract a big population due to the job and business opportunities around such areas and with time some of those areas have developed into urban centres e.g. Kasenyi trading centre, Bukakata trading centre around Lake Victoria and many others.

Improved security also encourages urbanisation. People are always attracted to areas where they feel secure for settlement and business therefore with time such areas that are secure facilitate high urbanisation rates and this partly explains why Kampala city, Jinja municipality, Iganga municipality have developed into major urban centres.

The presence of research and education centres has also facilitated urbanisation in some areas. Areas that have high institutions of learning like colleges, universities and secondary schools attract a big population that seek for those services and as a result other related services crop up like accommodation facilities, supply of electricity, water etc. This is evident in Kampala city, Mbarara municipality and many others.

The influence of improved technology. Areas where there is relatively improved technology are associated with better mechanisms of production thus facilitating things like industrialisation together with innovativeness and these attract many people who come with different skills thus encouraging urbanisation e.g. Kampala city, Jinja municipality etc.

Availability of skilled labour. The skilled labour helps in building the necessary infrastructure like roads, supply of water and electricity plus managing the urban administrative authorities all these facilitate urbanisation therefore many areas with skilled labour have developed into major urban centres e.g. Mbarara municipality, Mbale municipality etc.

Natural increase in population in some areas. In some areas there are relatively high population growth rates and consequently high population and such areas have also attracted supply of essential services provided by the government e.g. hospitals, electricity, water thus developing into major urban centres e.g. Iganga municipality, Mbale municipality, Jinja municipality etc.

Availability of adequate capital that is used in the construction and establishment of the necessary infrastructure like roads, electricity, water, for the urban population. Capital is also important in the day to day running of the urban centre like paying salaries and wages to the workers and many other things therefore areas with adequate capital have developed into urban centres e.g. Kabale municipality, Masaka municipality etc.

**Assignment.** Draw a sketch map of Uganda showing categories of Urban centres.

## FUNCTIONS OF URBAN CENTRES IN UGANDA

- Urban centres have administrative functions where by many of them have administrative centres like district head quarters, county and sub county head quarters while others like Kampala city have ministry head quarters and the parliament.
- They have commercial functions with collection, selling and distribution centres of goods.e.g. Nakasero and Owino market in Kampala city, Jinja Central market in Jinja municipality etc.
- Many urban centres have industrial functions. Many towns have industrial establishments e.g. Kampala city with Mukwano industries, Jinja municipality with textile industries, Mbale Municipality.
- Residential functions. Towns provide accommodation and residential facilities where by many people settle and reside in the urban centres e.g. Kampala city with residential areas like Bugolobi, Muyenga, Naguru etc. Mbale with senior quarters etc.
- Resort and recreation functions. Urban areas in Uganda have such facilities like cinema halls, theatres, stadiums, golf course and many others. These are evident in Kampala city, mbale municipality etc.
- Social functions where by many urban centres have Educational institutions e.g. Kampala city with Makerere university, health services like mulago hospital in Kampala, churches and many other social facilities.
- Transport and communication functions. Many urban centres in Uganda also serve as transport and communication terminals e.g. Entebbe municipality with the international airport, Kampala city with taxi and bus terminals.
- Tourism functions where by many towns in Uganda are tourism destinations with various tourist attractions and hotels e.g. Kasese near queen Elizabeth, Jinja near the source of the Nile etc.
- Some towns provide mining functions especially those near mining centres e.g. Hoima municipality because oil mining, Tororo and Kasese municipalities sue limestone mining.
- Security functions where by many towns house various security organs and agencies e.g. police head quarters in Naguru, UPDF head quarters at Mbuya all those in Kampala city.

## PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH URBANISATION

- ✓ High rates of unemployment which is basically caused by the high increase in population in the urban areas which does not much with the rate of job creation thus rendering many urban dwellers unemployed. This is evident in Kampala city, Arua municipality and many others.
- ✓ High rates of crimes for instance pick pocketing, theft, drug sale and abuse etc. These are mainly caused by the problem of unemployment where by people don't have sources of income yet they have to meet the costs of living therefore they try to look for alternative means of survival in the urban centres. This is evident in Gulu municipality, Lira municipality etc.
- ✓ There is also a problem of inadequate provision of social services like health care, supply of electricity and water, collection of garbage. This is because of the high pressure mounted by the high population concentrations in these urban centres yet the government can not meet the demands due to limited resources.e.g. Masaka municipality, kamuli municipality etc.
- ✓ Shortage of accommodation facilities which is as a result of high population and people remaining poor due to unemployment. Therefore they can not afford to build or buy houses for better accommodation thus resorting to crowded slum areas that are associated with many social and health problems e.g. Katanga and kasenyi areas in Kampala city. Kasokoso in Iganga municipality.
- ✓ There is also a problem of traffic congestion especially during the rush hours when people are either going to their work places in the morning or when they are returning home in the evenings. This causes delays in transportation and delivery of goods and services e.g. in Kampala city, Mukono municipality etc.
- ✓ Pollution of air, water and land. This basically caused by the poor disposal and emission of industrial wastes since urban centres tend to have high concentrations of industries but also the pollution is caused by poor disposal garbage by the high population. This has posed health risks but also environmental degradation e.g. Jinja and Mbarara municipalities.
- ✓ High costs of living in urban centres and this is caused by the expensive costs of goods and services like food stuffs, clothes, health and education due to high demand by the big urban population but the poor people in these areas can afford such costs. This is evident in Kampala city, Mbarara municipality etc.
- ✓ Shortage of land for expansion. As towns grow geographically, there has been limited land for further expansion and as a result the near by marginal lands like wetlands and forests have been encroached upon for settlement, infrastructural development and industrial establishment however this has resulted into environmental degradation.e.g. Bwaise, Bugolobi areas in Kampala city where wetlands have been reclaimed.
- ✓ High government expenditure due to the fact that the government has to provide the essential social services and facilities to the urban population in form of health care, supply of water and electricity, roads etc.e.g in Mityana municipality, fort portal municipality etc.

- ✓ There is also problem of poor urban management associated with corruption yet many people come to towns from different places with different backgrounds and behaviours therefore controlling them becomes difficult. This has been worsened by the political differences, tribal and cultural differences plus income inequalities emanating into urban violence in urban centres like Kampala city, Jinja and Gulu municipalities.
  
- ✓ There is also a problem of shortage of food stuffs in urban centres and thus is because of the high population in these areas yet most them are not involved in food production yet they have to feed. This is worsened also worsened by the high cost of living rendering many poor urban dwellers go hungry.
  
- ✓ The growth and development of urban centres has resulted into displacement of people. People are always displaced to give way for the establishment urban developments inform of building roads, industrial parks, recreations grounds and many people. This in turn has caused loss of property and inconveniences e.g. in Mbale municipality, Kampala city etc.
  
- ✓ Poor sanitation in the urban areas and this is basically due to poor management of industrial and human wastes. Many urban centres have failed to manage the disposal of wastes leading to poor sanitation and hygiene posing health risks to the people staying in those areas. This common in Kampala city, Gulu municipality, Mbale municipality were people get diseases like cholera, dysentery due to poor hygiene.
  
- ✓ There is also a problem of rapid spread of diseases especially air and water borne diseases in the urban areas. This is mainly caused by human congestions due to high population concentrations in these areas and also contamination of water sources due to poor disposal of wastes. This has resulted into loss of lives in towns like Kampala city, Masaka municipality etc.
  
- ✓ There is also a problem of poverty to many urban dwellers and this is because many people especially the youths migrate to urban centres in anticipation of getting better paying jobs but because of the high number of people looking for the same jobs, many remain jobless with no source of income and together with the high costs of living they become even poorer. This seen in the slum areas of Bwaise, kisenyi in Kampala city.

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