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Distorted Urbanisation:

Urbanisation has been directed towards large cities. There has been an increasing concentration of population in ^{million} ~~mt~~ cities. On the contrary, the concentration of population in medium & small towns either fluctuated or declined. This has resulted in top heavy structure of Urban Developments in India.

Levels of urbanisation in the states with high per capita income are generally high, Opposite being the case in less urbanised states.

Hidden Urbanisation

According to 2015 World Bank Report

- Urban sprawl accounts for 55.3% of Country's total population. & that official census figure understate it as only 31.16%.

This discrepancy is due to the fact that in major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad.

Kolkata, population growth has been largest, Outside the fringes of official administrative boundaries,

These areas have urban characteristics but do not fulfill the criteria to be designated as Urban.

According to Census 2011, the rate of growth of urban population during (2001-11) was 2.46% per annum. Total urban population is 377 million. Most urbanised states are Goa (62%), Mizoram, Tamil Nadu. Delhi (97.5%) is the most urbanised among the UTs. Least Urbanised States are Himachal Pradesh (10%), followed by Bihar, Assam & Odisha.

Characteristic Features of Indian Urbanisation

Indian Urbanisation is characterised by —

1. Lopsided Urbanisation

growth of class I cities.

2. Urbanisation in India occurs without industrialisation & strong economic base.
3. Urbanisation is mainly a product of demographic explosion & poverty induced Rural Urban migration.
4. Rapid urbanisation leads to massive growth of slums followed by misery, poverty, unemployment, exploitation, inequalities, degradation in the quality of life.
5. Urbanisation occurs not due to "Urban Pull" but due to "Rural Push".
6. Poor quality of Rural-Urban migration leads to poor quality of urbanisation.
7. Distressed Migration initiates 'Urban Decay'.

Issues related to urbanisation in India

1) Rural-Urban Migration

Migration & urbanisation are direct manifestation of the process of economic development, particularly in contemporary phase of globalisation.

A large part of migration & urbanisation in India have been linked to

- i) Stagnation & Volatility of Agriculture
- ii) Lack of Substantial Diversification within Agrarian Economy.
- iii) Low growth rates in Agricultural Production & Income.
- iv) A low rate of Infrastructural Investment in rural regions.
- v) This has led to "Out migration" from several backward rural areas, most of the migrants being absorbed within urban informal economy.
- vi) But the capacity of the cities & towns to assimilate the migrants by providing employment, access to land, basic amenities are limited.

2) Emergence of Slums :-

Due to lack of Housing, in every city more than 15% population live in slums. Slums have few characteristics.

in common —

- Poor structural quality & durability of housing
- Insufficient living areas.
- Lack of secure tenure.
- Poor access to water.

According to census data, 1.37 crore households or 17.4% of Urban Indian Households lived in slums in 2011. Among all million(+) cities Visakhapatnam has the highest proportion of slums. (44.1% of households). Some of the reasons for creation of slums are —

- i) Increased Urbanisation leading to Pressure on available land & infrastructure, especially for the poor.
- ii) Natural increase in the population of Urban Poor & migration from rural areas & small towns to larger cities.
- iii) In appropriate system of Urban Planning which does not provide adequate space for the Urban poor in city master plans.
- iv) Sky rocketing land prices due to

increasing demand for land & constraints on supply of land

v) Absence of programmes of Affordable Housing for the Urban Poor in most states

vi) Lack of availability of credit for low income housing

vii) Increasing cost of construction.

2) Urban Transport

India is transitioning from developing to developed country, with the high pace of economic development. Urbanisation is increasing at high pace as Mega cities, cities & towns are providing better economic opportunities.

The major objective of Urban Transport initiative is to provide efficient & affordable public transport.

Urban Transport Problems →

→ Traffic injuries & fatalities due to

- poor conditions of road, increasing ^{vehicular} traffic, ii) unsafe drinking behaviour, ~~overcrowding~~ ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ overcrowding of buses, auto etc, iv) environmental pollution i.e air as well as noise pollution, v) Roadway congestion etc.

4) Waste Disposal

Removing garbage, cleaning drains & unlogging ~~sewers~~ ^{sewerage} are the main job of municipalities & municipal corporation in Indian cities. In most cities the municipal service of collection & transportation of urban solid waste comprises 3 separate function—

- a) Sweeping
- b) & curb side
- c) Domestic waste collection from garbage bins
- d) Transporting by hand carts to large or road collection points which may be open dumps & transportation by vehicles to the disposable sites.

The weakness of existing system of solid waste management are →

D) The professional & managerial capacities of the municipal bodies are limited & this is more pronounced in the case of smaller cities.

ii) No charges are levied for garbage collection & disposal nor are there any incentives for reducing garbage generation or recycling waste.

iii) No separate coating is done for this function.

iv) Indiscriminate use of plastic bags & goods.

v) Recourse to modern technology is rare.

vi) Segregation of garbage at source is not enforced.

vii) Indian Waste Management System is starved with resources to tackle the increasing demand associated with growing urbanisation. Due to budgetary constraints, inadequate equipments, & poor learning house to house.

collection is very rare in India, particularly in certain low income areas where the waste is not collected at all. It is estimated that upto 30-40% of Disposed Solid wastes are left uncollected.

5) Water Supply, Drainage & Sanitation

According to 2011 census, amenities available with the households are -

a) 87% of the households are using Tap Water, Tubewell, Hand pumps, & covered well as the main source of drinking water. Only 47% of the households have Source of water within their premises.

While 36% of the households have to fetch water from the source located within 500 metres in rural areas & 100 metres in urban areas & 17% still fetch drinking water from a source located more than 500 metres away in rural areas or 100 metres in urban areas.

5) India also have one of the highest cases of open defecation in the world for which govt. has come out with Swachh Bharat Mission which would attempt to vanish open defecation within a decade. Further Bio-Toilets have been introduced which is suitable in any area in India.

6) E-Waste :

E-waste consists of all wastes from electronic & electrical appliances, which have reached their end of life period or are no longer fit for their original intended use & are ~~not~~ destined for recovery, recycling & disposing. It includes computers & its accessories, printers, key boards, CPUs, typewriters, mobile phones, chargers, remotes, LED plasma TVs etc.

The main source of E-waste in India are —
the govt. public & private sector which

account for almost 40% of Total waste generation.

- The contribution of individual household is relatively small at about 15%. The most being contributed by manufacturers. Though individual households are not large contributors to the waste generated by computers, they consume large quantities of consumer durables & are therefore potential creators of waste.
- In India most of the E-waste management activities right from the collection, transportation, segregation, dismantling etc are done by unorganised sectors manually. Being a rich source of re-usables, & precious materials E-waste is also a good source of Revenue generation for many people in India.
- Big portion of Indian Population ~~on~~ earned their livelihood by collecting & selling the inorganic waste like plastics, polythene bags, glass bottles, cardboards, paper etc.

• In the absence of adequate technologies & equipments, most of the techniques used for recycling are very raw & dangerous.

• Improper recycling & disposal operations found in different cities of India often involve open burning of plastic waste, exposure to toxic elements, dumping of acids & widespread general dumping.