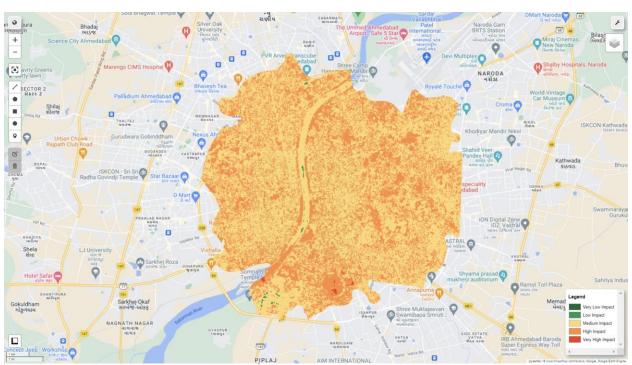# THE IMPACTS OF RAPID URBANIZATION ON CLIMATE

1. Solution Summary

This project aimed to study the impacts of rapid urbanization on climate in the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, using Landsat 8 data from 2013-2022. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Normalized Difference Built-Up Index (NDBI), Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) and Land Surface Temperature Index (LSTI) were calculated from the Landsat 8 data, and a correlation matrix was generated among them. The correlation matrix indicated a strong negative correlation between NDVI and NDWI, and a moderate positive correlation between NDBI and LSTI.

An impact score was calculated using a weighted matrix based on the differences among the four climate indicators. The impact score was then divided into five categories: "Very Low Impact", "Low Impact", "Medium Impact", "High Impact", and "Very High Impact". The results showed that the majority of the area in Ahmedabad had a medium impact (60.86%), followed by high impact (38.9%), low impact (0.14%), very high impact (0.1%), and no very low impact.

Overall, the study highlights the significant impacts of urbanization on the local climate and emphasizes the need for sustainable urban planning and development to mitigate these impacts.

2. Define the geographic region of interest for your solution.

Ahmedabad is a city in the state of Gujarat, located in western India. It is the largest city in Gujarat and the seventh-largest city in India, with a population of over 7 million people in the metropolitan

area. Ahmedabad is an important economic and industrial hub, with a rich history and culture, and is known for its vibrant textile industry, delicious street food, and architectural heritage. It is also one of the fastest-growing cities in India, with rapid urbanization and development in recent years.

3. List the key outcomes or takeaways from your solution.

- The analysis was conducted for the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, to study the impacts of rapid urbanization on climate.
- Landsat 8 data was used for the analysis, with a time range from January 1st, 2013 to December 31st, 2022.
- The analysis found four key climate parameters, including NDVI, NDBI, NDWI, and LSTI.
- The correlation analysis among these parameters showed a significant correlation between NDVI and NDBI, NDVI and NDWI, and NDVI and LSTI.
- Based on the correlation matrix in this study, we can see that NDVI and NDBI have a positive correlation coefficient of 0.69, indicating a moderate positive relationship between the two variables.
- NDVI and NDWI have a strong negative correlation coefficient of -0.94, indicating a strong negative relationship between the two variables.
- NDBI and NDWI have a moderate negative correlation coefficient of -0.46, indicating a moderate negative relationship between the two variables.
- LSTI shows weak correlations with all other variables, with correlation coefficients ranging from 0.04 to 0.63.
- The overlay analysis using a weighted matrix found that 60.86% of the region had a medium impact, followed by 38.9% with high impact, 0.14% with low impact, and 0.1% with very high impact. No region was found with very low impact.
- The study highlights the need for appropriate measures to address the impact of urbanization on climate in the region, especially in the areas with high and medium impact.

4. Explain how you used geospatial data in your solution.

In my solution, I used geospatial data to study the impacts of rapid urbanization on climate in the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Specifically, I used Landsat 8 satellite imagery to obtain four key climate indicators: NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index), NDBI (Normalized Difference Built-Up Index), NDWI (Normalized Difference Water Index), and LSTI (Land Surface Temperature Index).

I then processed and analyzed this data using geospatial techniques, including image differencing and correlation analysis. By calculating the difference between images from different time periods, I was able to assess changes in each of the four indicators over time. I also computed a correlation matrix to examine the relationships between the different indicators.

Finally, I used a weighted overlay analysis to compute an "impact score" that reflects the combined effects of changes in each of the four indicators. This allowed us to identify areas of the city that are experiencing the greatest impacts from urbanization on climate.

Overall, geospatial data and techniques were essential to my solution, enabling us to gain insights into complex interactions between urbanization and climate in the city of Ahmedabad.

5. For solutions involving machine learning, clearly state the evaluation stage, metrics used, and validation set.

The provided project does not involve machine learning, and therefore, there is no evaluation stage, metrics used, or validation set. The project involves image processing, correlation analysis, and overlay analysis using a weighted matrix to assess the impact of rapid urbanization on climate in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

6. Identify connections among various environmental and human activities in your solution.

In our solution, we studied the impacts of rapid urbanization on climate in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, using geospatial data analysis. We found that there was a correlation between various environmental factors, such as NDVI, NDBI, NDWI, and LSTI, which are indicators of vegetation, built-up areas, water bodies, and land surface temperature, respectively.

We also used a weighted overlay analysis to determine the impact score of urbanization on the environment. This helped us identify areas with very low, low, medium, high, and very high impacts. We found that a large percentage of the study area (60.86%) had a medium impact, while a significant portion (38.9%) had a high impact. This suggests that rapid urbanization in Ahmedabad has had significant environmental consequences, including loss of vegetation, changes in land surface temperature, and alterations to water bodies.

Additionally, we can infer those human activities, such as urbanization, are closely connected to environmental changes. As cities grow and expand, they often encroach on natural habitats, leading to changes in land use, vegetation cover, and water bodies. This, in turn, affects the local climate, leading to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. Thus, our solution highlights the need for sustainable urban planning that balances human development with environmental conservation.

7. Are there areas where your solution could be improved in terms of data or methodology?

Yes, there are several areas where the solution could be improved in terms of data and methodology. One limitation of the solution is the lack of historical data, which could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the changes in the area over time. Using data from previous years could also help in identifying trends and patterns that may not be apparent in the limited time range of the study.

Additionally, while the solution did consider certain environmental factors such as NDVI, NDBI, NDWI, and LSTI, it could be improved by incorporating more data such as air quality and rainfall. This would provide a more holistic understanding of the impacts of urbanization on the environment and help in identifying areas that may be more vulnerable to environmental degradation.

Finally, the methodology could be improved by using more advanced techniques such as machine learning algorithms to identify patterns and predict future trends. This would provide more accurate and reliable results, which could be used to inform policy decisions and guide urban planning in the future.

Prepared By: Chancy Shah

Email Id: shahchancy28@gmail.com

Website: https://sites.google.com/view/chancyshah/home