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**IS MIGRATION TO CITIES THE PRIMARY FACTOR THAT IMPEDES THE
NATURAL URBAN ENVIRONMENT?**

INTRODUCTION

The world's population is growing, and people are migrating to cities in search of better opportunities and a sophisticated lifestyle. These shifts contribute to the urban population growth that causes overcrowding, which results in pollution, congestion, etc., which damages the environment.

CAUSES

Urban areas attract people who are looking for better facilities, more work options, and better wages. Numerous issues, including joblessness, poverty, and low salaries, in rural areas have contributed to this movement.

While rural areas have not seen the same level of development in most countries, major cities have changed as a result of the growth of more businesses and economic advancement. This means that the factors like cultural, and social factors available in cities influence people to migrate there and drive them out of their home.

CONSEQUENCES

The environment of modern cities is polluted these days because of things like high population density, overcrowding, and inadequate access. Modern urban lifestyles are causing rural cultures to be forgotten as people migrate and adapt to the updated version of living. Due to these ongoing migrations, urban watercourses are negatively impacted by inadequate sewage and sanitation services. "91% of urban dwellers are thought to breathe contaminated air" (WHO, 2018).

This shows that pollution is a consequence of overcrowding because of migration in cities. People in cities mostly throw all the rubbish from homes as well as industries into the waterways. Industrial wastewater from the city contains a wide range of dangerous contaminants. This renders it hazardous for humans to use the water for everything from irrigation to drinking. This event has an impact on the aquatic ecosystem.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

People start migrating from rural to urban areas in search of opportunities in the cities which causes huge impacts on the environment. "Cities with high air pollution levels may experience short-term respiratory issues like coughing, shortness of breath, and wheezing" (NLM,2020). Huge migration, which leads to overcrowding, results in conditions such as poor air and water quality in cities. As the world's metropolitan centres expand, good city planning will be critical in dealing with these and other difficulties that will arise without global rural development.

The most populated cities, including Tokyo, Delhi, and Shanghai, welcome immigrants from all of their undeveloped rural areas and other foreign migrants. Shanghai welcomes international migrants, mostly from the US, Korea, and Japan. According to the International Migration Outlook (2022), "Japan welcomes migrants mostly from Vietnam (11%), China (26%), and Korea (16%)". This migration causes overcrowding and pollution, which harms the environment.

"In 2020, an estimated 281 million people lived in nations other than their native countries, predominantly in cities, which was more than three times the expected amount in 1970 due to migration." (IWM, 2022). I support that this information is global in nature since it talks about international migrants who relocate to different cities in different countries, which leads to overcrowding.

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

China was my choice because Shanghai is one of the most populous cities in the world, which welcomes three million people each year to settle. "The primary kind of migration in China is from the countryside to cities, making up 40.7% of the total as per the 2000 census" (Wang, 2008). China's rural communities go to Shanghai in order to get all commodities and services and

increase their income. Migrants migrate to cities (Shanghai) for their survival, individual development and to get better job opportunities.

Because of migration, the urban infrastructure was unable to support itself, and there was an increase in pollution, and a bustling atmosphere, etc. Eventually, the government monitored rural migration, which positively impacted economic growth.

SIMILAR PERSPECTIVES

Both perspectives are alike because Global research is conducted on the issues related to populations migrating to metropolitan cities. These include details about the immigrants who are welcomed in cities across the world, such as China, and the problems that follow, such as pollution, which impacts the city's environment.

SOURCE EVALUATION

The article “International Migration Outlook” (2022) from OECD iLibrary.org is a reliable source since it offers both Positive and negative information about the migration, ensuring that it is unbiased. Furthermore, since it is an organisation, only people with access have the authority to make changes to it.

The article from the ILO (2008) titled “Rural-Urban Migration and Policy Responses in China” is a reliable source as it only provides reliable information and is a globally recognized group for labour and human rights.

NATIONAL COURSE OF ACTION

People say that Shanghai, the capital of China, attracts the majority of migrants from nearby nations and rural areas for its top-notch infrastructure. China can restrict immigration and migration within its borders in order to lower the population in the cities where the majority of the immigrants are moving.

China should enhance the rural area's conditions to maintain an advanced environment while providing the same amenities there, which will reduce more than half the amount of the migration to Shanghai. China should impose stringent visa requirements to permit migrants only for tourism, as well as stringent rules for their intended settlement and valid reason for availing residency in Shanghai.

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

I have only heard that migration offers job opportunities and job security, but nowadays it also contributes to overcrowding and other issues, putting the environment at risk. Suburban issues can be easily resolved by transitioning to electric vehicles and other solutions if the city's population is manageable and controlled; otherwise, huge environmental problems may arise.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the government should limit the number of migrants to their cities, except few who truly need to relocate there and address the proportions mentioned above in the personal perspectives. If implemented, the overcrowding issue will be resolved, resulting in less environmental damage. The world is continuing to grow and expand, and in order to keep up, urban areas require effective methods to impede their environment.

WORD COUNT - 984

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