

Vol 2 Issue 8 Feb 2015

ISSN No: 2321-5488

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*International Multidisciplinary  
Research Journal*

# Research Directions

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**ISSN No.2321-5488**

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Research Directions  
ISSN:-2321-5488  
Impact Factor : 2.1005 (UIF)  
Volume 2 | Issue 8 | Feb 2015  
Available online at www.lsrj.in



## **PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF URBANIZATION IN INDIA: A SOCIOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Sachin S. Huggi**

Research Scholar in Department of Sociology, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Karnataka.

**Abstract:-** The urbanization is a process which urban social and urban civilization forming gradually. On the way of urbanization, we develop the economy first and improve the quality of people's life later. Although it help to avoid the "over-urbanization" phenomenon which usually appeared in developed countries, but it also led to the economy imbalance of our country. Urbanisation in India has become an important and irreversible process, and an important determinant of national economic growth and poverty reduction. The process of urbanisation is characterised by a most dramatic increase in the number of large cities, although India may be said to be in the midst of transition from a predominantly rural to a quasi urban society. Rapid and unprecedented population growth have contributed to common, pressing issues for India's cities. Many of these are inherently linked to transportation, including reducing urban sprawl, ensuring safe access to city services, and addressing the real estate industries' roles in determining cities' designs. to show a general picture about urbanization and its consequences, we introduce the most common concept of urbanization and review the urbanization history briefly. Dedicated to the development of the urbanization, their respective pros and cons have been discussed. While urbanization is a powerful "master" process of long historical duration, current vibrancy, and even stronger future impact, it is not monolithic or unidimensional. On the contrary, urbanization carries several important dimensions that collectively and individually produce macro and micro impacts on the society and everyday life.

**Keywords:**Urbanisation,Poverty,Rising Levels of Pollution,Population Explosion,Economic Disparity,Crime,TrafficSafetyandAccessibility,Overcrowding,Slums,Unemployment,Sewerage Problems,Trash Disposal.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Urbanization is relevant to a range of disciplines, including geography, sociology, economics, urban planning, and public health. The phenomenon has been closely linked to modernization, industrialization, and the sociological process of rationalization. In today's increasingly global and interconnected world, over half of the world's population lives in urban areas although there is still substantial variability in the levels of urbanization across countries. The coming decades will bring further profound changes to the size and spatial distribution of the global population. The continuing urbanization and overall growth of the world's population is projected to add 2.5 billion people to the urban population by 2050, with nearly 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa. At the same time, the proportion of the world's population living in urban areas is expected to increase, reaching 66 per cent by 2050. There is great diversity in the characteristics of the world's urban environs: close to half of urban dwellers reside in relatively small settlements of less than 500,000 inhabitants, while nearly one in eight live in the 28 mega-cities of 10 million inhabitants or more. The number of mega-cities has nearly tripled since 1990; and by 2030, 41 urban agglomerations are projected to house at least 10 million inhabitants each. Whereas several decades ago most of the world's largest urban agglomerations were found in the more developed regions, today's large cities are concentrated in the global South, and the fastest-growing agglomerations are medium-sized cities and cities with 500,000 to 1 million inhabitants located in Asia and Africa. The process of urbanization

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Research Directions | Volume 2 | Issue 8 | Feb 2015, Online & Print

historically has been associated with other important economic and social transformations, which have brought greater geographic mobility, lower fertility, longer life expectancy and population ageing. Cities are important drivers of development and poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas, as they concentrate much of the national economic activity, government, commerce and transportation, and provide crucial links with rural areas, between cities, and across international borders. Urban living is often associated with higher levels of literacy and education, better health, greater access to social services, and enhanced opportunities for cultural and political participation. Urbanization is integrally connected to the three pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environmental protection. The outcome of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”

**OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER:**

- \* To know the urbanization.
- \* To analyse the problems and challenges of urbanization in india.

**Methodology:** This research paper focus on problems and challenges of urbanization in india: a sociological evaluation This research paper is based on secondary source. data are drawn classified from the Publications of books, monthly journals, article, magazines, produced by the State Government, comprising literature review, and population census.

**concept of urbanization:**By definition, urbanization refers to the process by which rural areas become urbanized as a result of economic development and industrialization. Demographically, the term urbanization denotes the redistribution of populations from rural to urban settlements over time. However, it is important to acknowledge that the criteria for defining what is urban may vary from country to country, which cautions us against a strict comparison of urbanization cross-nationally. The fundamental difference between urban and rural is that urban populations live in larger, denser, and more heterogeneous cities as opposed to small, more sparse, and less differentiated rural places. To locate the origin of urbanization today, we go back in time to identify the earliest form of urban life as beginning in the Middle and Near East—near what is today Iraq—around 3,500 BC. In other words, the oldest urban communities known in history began approximately 6,000 years ago and later emerged with the Maya culture in Mexico and in the river basins of China and India. By as early as the thirteenth century, the largest cities in the world were the Chinese cities of Chang’an (Xi’an today) and Hangzhou, which had over one million people. And London didn’t reach one million people until the 1700s. However, until the nineteenth century, constrained by the limits of food supply and the nature of transportation, both the size and share of the world’s urban population remained very low, with less than three percent of the world’s population living in urban places around 1800 (Clark, 1998).

**Causes of Urbanisation:** Urbanization occurs naturally from individual and corporate efforts to reduce time and expense in commuting and transportation while improving opportunities for jobs, education, housing, and transportation. Living in cities permits individuals and families to take advantage of the opportunities of proximity, diversity, and marketplace competition. People move into cities to seek economic opportunities. A major contributing factor is known as “rural flight”. In rural areas, often on small family farms, it is difficult to improve one’s standard of living beyond basic sustenance. Farm living is dependent on unpredictable environmental conditions, and in time of drought, flood or pestilence, survival become extremely problematic. In modern times, industrialization of agriculture has negatively affected the economy of small and middle-sized farms and strongly reduced the size of the rural labour market. Cities, in contrast, are known to be places where money, services and wealth are centralized. Cities are where fortunes are made and where social mobility is possible. Businesses, which generate jobs and capital, are usually located in urban areas. Whether the source is trade or tourism, it is also through the cities that foreign money flows into a country. It is easy to see why someone living on a farm might wish to take their chance moving to the city and trying to make enough money to send back home to their struggling family. There are better basic services as well as other specialist services that aren’t found in rural areas. There are more job opportunities and a greater variety of jobs. Health is another major factor. People, especially the elderly are often forced to move to cities where there are doctors and hospitals that can cater for their health needs.

**Major Factors that Encourage Urbanization:** Some of the major factors that encourage urbanisation are as follows: It includes Population growth, Poverty.

**Population Growth:**There are three components of urban population growth: natural growth of urban population rural urban migration and the reclassification of areas previously defined as rural. Natural increase provides a base for urban population growth rates, and rural-urban migration and reclassification supplement this growth. Anyhow

the natural increase of the population in the city often declines sharply together with the urbanization process that has happened for example, in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

**Poverty:** Poverty means that human needs are not met. Poverty is everyday life in every country, even in developed areas. In every country can be identified individuals who have so small income that they cannot afford even the very basic goods. These physical needs are adequate diet, housing work, water supply, sanitation and health care. For humans a few mental demands are also important, like basic civil and political rights and feeling of safety. Poverty can be measured by income level. This is not always the best way to define poor people because some level of personal income cannot substitute problems with health, crime physical violence or life expectancy. Still using this kind of income level is normal in every country. People whose income is under this minimum level are considered poor.

**Economic impact of Urbanization:** In recent years, urbanization of rural areas has increased. As agriculture, more traditional local services, and small-scale industry give way to modern industry. Research in urban ecology finds that larger cities provide more specialized goods and services to the local market and surrounding areas, function as a transportation and wholesale hub for smaller places, and accumulate more capital, financial service provision, and an educated labour force, as well as often concentrating administrative functions for the area in which they lie. This relation among places of different sizes is called the hierarchy. As cities develop, effects can include a dramatic increase in costs, often pricing the local working class out of the market, including such functionaries as employees of the local municipalities. Urbanization is often viewed as a negative trend, but can in fact, be perceived simply as a natural occurrence from individual and corporate efforts to reduce expense in commuting and transportation while improving opportunities for jobs, education, housing, and transportation. Living in cities permits individuals and families to take advantage of the opportunities of proximity, diversity, and marketplace competition.

**Urbanism as a form of Social Organisation:** The distinctive features of the urban mode of life have often been described sociologically as consisting of the substitution of secondary for primary contacts, the weakening of bonds of kinship, and the declining social significance of the family, the disappearance of the neighborhood, and the undermining of the traditional basis of social solidarity. All these phenomena can be substantially verified through objective indices. Thus, for instance, the low and declining urban-reproduction rates suggest that the city is not conducive to the traditional type of family life, including the rearing of children and the maintenance of the home as the locus of a whole round of vital activities. The transfer of industrial, educational, and recreational activities to specialized institutions outside the home has deprived the family of some of its most characteristic historical functions. In cities mothers are more likely to be employed, lodgers are more frequently part of the household, marriage tends to be postponed, and the proportion of single and unattached people is greater. Families are smaller and more frequently without children than in the country. The family as a unit of social life is emancipated from the larger kinship group characteristic of the country, and the individual members pursue their own diverging interests in their vocational, educational, religious, recreational, and political life.

**Urbanization in Developed and Developing Countries :** Urbanization is a new trend throughout the world. Over the span of nine decades since 1900, the worlds population trebled from 2 billion to 6 billion, but the urban population increased more rapidly from 2.4 billion to 2.9 billion in 2000 and is expected to rise to 5 billion by 2030. Prior to 1950, the majority of urbanization occurred in developed countries. Rapid urbanization took place during the period of industrialization in Europe and North America in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many people moved from rural to urban areas to get jobs in the rapidly expanding industries in many large towns and cities. Since 1950, urbanization has slowed down in most of the developed countries. The present day situation is such that the biggest cities in these countries are losing population as people are moving away from the city to rural environments. This is known as counter urbanization.

**The Social Impacts Of Urbanization:** It is now widely accepted that urbanization is as much a social process as it is an economic and territorial process. It transforms societal organizations, the role of the family, demographic structures, the nature of work, and the way we choose to live and with whom. It also modifies domestic roles and relations within the family, and redefines concepts of individual and social responsibility. The highest propensities to form separate households, however, have been within two principal groups: the young and the elderly. The former includes single parents, the most rapidly growing household type in Western cities; the growth of the latter has been facilitated by increased longevity and improved health and social benefits. In previous generations, and in most rural societies, many of these individuals would have shared accommodation, often as part of extended family groupings. Domestic relations. Such labor market changes are also interrelated, as cause and effect, with shifts in domestic relations inside the household and family. The impact of these changes have been most obvious for married women. Not only has their involvement in the formal (paid) labor market increased, but so too has their economic position within the family. This gives women more autonomy in decision making, but it has not been without

drawbacks. For many women the challenge of balancing work, domestic responsibilities, and the imperatives of everyday urban life, have increased, not decreased. Smaller families, and the dispersion of extended families in contemporary urbanized societies, have in combination also reduced the level of kinship support systems available to these women.

**Why is the urban population increasing so fast:** The rapid growth of urban areas is the result of two factors: natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths), and migration to urban areas. Natural population growth has been covered in other units, and consequently, here we will concentrate on migration. Migration is defined as the long-term relocation of an individual, household or group to a new location outside the community of origin. Today the movement of people from rural to urban areas (internal migration) is most significant. Although smaller than the movement of people within borders, international migration is also increasing.

**Problems Associated with Rapid Urban Growth:** The urbanization process refers to much more than simple population growth; it involves changes in the economic, social and political structures of a region. Rapid urban growth is responsible for many environmental and social changes in the urban environment and its effects are strongly related to global change issues. The rapid growth of cities strains their capacity to provide services such as energy, education, health care, transportation, sanitation and physical security. Because governments have less revenue to spend on the basic upkeep of cities and the provision of services, cities have become areas of massive sprawl, serious environmental problems, and widespread poverty. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, urbanization resulted from and contributed to industrialization. New job opportunities in the cities motivated the mass movement of surplus population away from the countryside. At the same time, migrants provided cheap, plentiful labor for the emerging factories. Today, due to movements such as globalization, the circumstances are similar in developing countries. Here the concentration of investments in cities attracts large numbers of migrants looking for employment, thereby creating a large surplus labor force, which keeps wages low. This situation is attractive to foreign investment companies from developed countries who can produce goods for far less than if the goods were produced where wages are higher.

**Urbanization and its Political Challenges in Developing Countries :**Developing countries in the twenty-first century is experiencing rapid urbanization with a high concentration of people in the urban areas while the population of people in the rural areas is decreasing due to the rise in rural-urban push which has adverse consequences on the economic and political development of developing countries, in particular African cities. Therefore, this study seeks to analyze the trends and nature of urbanization in Africa from the pre-colonial era to the contemporary period of globalization in order to ascertain the implications of rapid urbanization on the processes of democratic transitions, on the vagaries of food sufficiency and crisis as well as its multiplier effects on the escalating rate of poverty and insurgency in the cities. These problems stem from the lack of good governance, high rate of corruption and the misappropriation of state resources through diverse economic liberalizing reforms and development strategies. Thus, this study affirms that urbanization is a process that requires objective management and institutional role differentiations and performance to create the organizational synergy, moderation and frugality necessary for the equitable distribution of the common wealth for the greatest good of all peoples not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas which invariably will bring about political and economic development in African cities, and reduce the high incidences of poverty, insurgency and food crisis.

**Challenges of Urbanization:** Population growth and rapid urbanization are combining to create huge challenges for Indian cities. According to McKinsey, the country's cities are expected to grow from 340 million people in 2008 to a whopping 590 million in 2030. Meeting demand for urban services in these cities will require US\$ 1.1 trillion in capital investment over the next 20 years. Without the right design and planning, this massive urban growth could exacerbate existing problems of congestion, pollution, and traffic safety. Humans have created urban areas right since the ancient times. Urbanization, as we know it now, began with the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, and has only been on the rise ever since. Statistics tell us that half of the world's people already live in urban areas, with that number set to expand in the years to come. Our cities have been luring people for various reasons, the basic one being the hope of a better life. People are drawn to the cities for the comforts they offer, the opportunities they hold, and the sleek lifestyle they promise. As cities continue to beckon people from all nooks and corners of the globe, a pertinent question remains to be answered - are our cities crumbling under the pressure? Urbanization, or rather, unplanned urbanization has led to the creation of several problems. Cities in developing countries, in particular, are home to the neo-urban dwellers, and are seen to be bearing the maximum brunt of it all. What follows are a few negative consequences of unstructured urbanization.

**Rising Levels of Pollution:** Cities have been invariably blamed for their contribution to the disturbing levels of pollution. Densely populated areas, coupled with a scant regard for environmental laws add to the woes. The urban population's daily commute costs the planet hard, with public transport systems failing to deliver, or people simply

choosing luxury over sensibility and using private cars, which add to the emission of toxic fumes. Traffic congestion is a perennial problem, with no feasible solution foreseeable in the near future. Huge cities create enormous amounts of waste, and the urban lifestyle includes creation of waste that is mostly non-biodegradable, thanks to the generous use of plastic wares. This leads to an unprecedented increase in the garbage that stays in our landfills, polluting the soil for years to come.

**Population Explosion:** Countries experiencing a steady growth in population have their specific problems to deal with. With this population growth centered in and around the urban areas, the problems are further narrowed. The rapidly increasing number of arrivals to the cities are proving to be unmanageable to the authorities, owing to lack of resources and organizational skills. The rising demand for space pushes the property prices higher, simultaneously paving the way for the creation of slums. Living conditions here take a definite beating due to the absence of basic amenities like safe drinking water, clean toilets, and drainage systems.

**High Cost of Living:** Living in a city does not come cheap, with people having to pay the added cost of transportation and taxes for regular commodities. It's not too hard to imagine a time when city dwellers will be asked to pay a tax on the oxygen they breathe. The swelling population makes every commodity pricey, and at the same time, leads to an influx of low-grade substitutes of food products, water, and even medical supplies. Costs of food, transportation, rents, and other necessities are perpetually on the rise, as their demand keeps exceeding the supply.

**Economic Disparity:** While the cities are a haven for the opportunity seekers, the unfortunate reality is that they are not handed out equally. Cities are the best places to view examples of economic inequality, where the rich keep getting richer, with the poor remaining the way they are. Extreme affluence and acute poverty live right next to each other in the cities, albeit grudgingly. At some point, this makes way for rebellion. Opportunities, or rather, their limited nature, translates into unemployment. As the population spirals out of control, the disenchantment is bound to increase, resulting in a flare-up of sorts. If there's one thing we fail to understand, it is the fact that every city has its limits, and burdening it will only cause it to burst at the seams.

**Increase in Crime Rates:** With the undue pressure that we're putting on our cities each day, it is going to be nothing short of a challenge for the governing bodies to manage these sprawling metropolitan areas. Deftly managing densely populated areas is next to impossible, which raises issues regarding civic duties; law and order, in particular. As the city life pulls in all sorts of people, and allows for all sorts of activities to flourish, criminals, too, find their share of opportunities here. Street crimes go on to become common as the authorities find it tough to patrol cities that are crowded beyond limits. As the safety concerns increase, it is ultimately the citizens who have to bear the consequences.

**Future Real Estate Development:** As more and more people move into India's cities, these people will need safe places to live, work, and commute. There's already a projected shortage of 18.78 million households in India between 2012 and 2017. Real estate developers will inevitably aim to fill this gap, which means that they'll have a massive influence in shaping what India's cities look like in the future. Will the private sector invest in developments that provide access to sustainable transport, or will they follow a business-as-usual path and perpetuate problems of urban sprawl, pollution, and unsafe roads.

**Traffic Safety and Accessibility:** According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 10 percent of the world's road fatalities (130,000) occur in India alone. Traffic crashes occur every minute, and a life is lost every 3.7 minutes. Crashes have a significant negative impact on the nation's economy, costing the country the equivalent of 3 percent of its GDP between 1999 and 2000. These startling numbers mean that city leaders and other decision-makers must consider issues of safety not only on the road, but also in the surrounding environment. Safety and accessibility are key components of ensuring that cities become secure, sustainable places to live.

**Major Problems of Urbanisation:** The sheer magnitude of the urban population, haphazard and unplanned growth of urban areas, and a desperate lack of infrastructure are the main causes of such a situation. The rapid growth of urban population both natural and through migration, has put heavy pressure on public utilities like housing, sanitation, transport, water, electricity, health, education and so on. Some of the major problems of urbanisation in India are 1. Urban Sprawl 2. Overcrowding 3. Housing 4. Unemployment 5. Slums and Squatter Settlements 6. Transport 7. Water 8. Sewerage Problems 9. Trash Disposal 10. Urban Crimes 11. Problem of Urban Pollution.

**Urban Sprawl:** Urban sprawl or real expansion of the cities, both in population and geographical area, of rapidly growing cities is the root cause of urban problems. In most cities the economic base is incapable of dealing with the problems created by their excessive size. Massive immigration from rural areas as well as from small towns into big cities has taken place almost consistently; thereby adding to the size of cities. During 1991-2001, well over 20

million people migrated to cities. The greatest pressure of the immigrating population has been felt in the central districts of the city (the old city) where the immigrants flock to their relatives and friends before they search for housing. Population densities beyond the "old city" decline sharply.

**Overcrowding:** Overcrowding is a situation in which too many people live in too little space. Overcrowding is a logical consequence of over-population in urban areas. It is naturally expected that cities having a large size of population squeezed in a small space must suffer from overcrowding. This is well exhibited by almost all the big cities of India. For example, Mumbai has one-sixth of an acre open space per thousand populations though four acre is suggested standard by the Master Plan of Greater Mumbai. Metropolitan cities of India are overcrowded both in 'absolute' and 'relative' terms. Absolute in the sense that these cities have a real high density of population; relative in the sense that even if the densities are not very high the problem of providing services and other facilities to the city dwellers makes it so.

**Housing:** Overcrowding leads to a chronic problem of shortage of houses in urban areas. This problem is specifically more acute in those urban areas where there is large influx of unemployed or underemployed immigrants who have no place to live in when they enter cities/towns from the surrounding areas. The Census of India 2001 concluded the first ever and the largest survey of household amenities and assets which points a never-before profile of problem relating to housing in India. The outcome is both instructive and amusing. Taking India as whole, there are 179 million residential houses, i.e., about six people to each house.

**Unemployment:** The problem of unemployment is no less serious than the problem of housing mentioned above. Urban unemployment in India is estimated at 15 to 25 per cent of the labour force. This percentage is even higher among the educated people. It is estimated that about half of all educated urban unemployed are concentrated in four metropolitan cities (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai). Furthermore, although urban incomes are higher than the rural incomes, they are appallingly low in view of high cost of living in urban areas. One of the major causes of urban unemployment is the large scale migration of people from rural to urban areas. Rural-urban migration has been continuing for a pretty long time but it has not always been as great a problem as it is today. The general poverty among the rural people pushes them out to urban areas to migrate in search of livelihood and in the hope of a better living.

**Slums and Squatter Settlements:** The natural sequel of unchecked, unplanned and haphazard growth of urban areas is the growth and spread of slums and squatter settlements which present a striking feature in the ecological structure of Indian cities, especially of metropolitan centres. The rapid urbanisation in conjunction with industrialisation has resulted in the growth of slums. The proliferation of slums occurs due to many factors, such as, the shortage of developed land for housing, the high prices of land beyond the reach of urban poor, a large influx of rural migrants to the cities in search of jobs etc.

**Transport:** With traffic bottleneck and traffic congestion, almost all cities and towns of India are suffering from acute form of transport problem. Transport problems increase and become more complex as the town grows in size. With its growth, the town performs varied and complex functions and more people travel to work or shop. As the town becomes larger, even people living within the built-up area have to travel by car or bus to cross the town and outsiders naturally bring their cars or travel by public transport. Wherever, trade is important, commercial vehicles such as vans and trucks will make problem of traffic more complicated. Such areas include the roads leading to factories, offices, schools, etc., which will be thronged with people in morning and evening; minor shopping centres which grow up in the suburbs; sporting arenas, entertainment districts which will be busy at night, roads leading to residential and dormitory towns which will be busy when commuters flock to the cities in the morning to work and return home in the evenings. The traffic scenario in almost all the Indian cities presents a pathetic picture with Mumbai still having the best city transport system and Chennai, Ahmedabad and Pune being reasonably well served by local transport system. In all other cities, if one does not own a personal vehicle, great hardship is experienced in moving about in the city. Some relief is expected with the completion of metro rail. But experts fear that by the time the metro rail becomes fully operational, the demand for transport facilities will outpace the capacity of both road and rail transport.

**Water:** What is one of the most essential elements of nature to sustain life and right from the beginning of urban civilisation, sites for settlements have always been chosen keeping in view the availability of water to the inhabitants of the settlement. However, supply of water started falling short of demand as the cities grew in size and number. Day by day we have reached a stage where practically no city in India gets sufficient water to meet the needs of city dwellers. In many cities people get water from the municipal sources for less than half an hour every alternate day. In dry summer season, taps remain dry for days together and people are denied water supply at a time when they need it the most. The individual towns require water in larger quantities. Many small towns have no main water supply at all and

depend on such sources as individual tubewells, household open wells or even rivers. Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) was launched to provide water to towns with population of less than 20,000.

**Sewerage Problems:** Urban areas in India are almost invariably plagued with insufficient and inefficient sewage facilities. Not a single city in India is fully sewered. Resource crunch faced by the municipalities and unauthorised growth of the cities are two major causes of this pathetic state of affairs. Most cities do not have proper arrangements for treating the sewerage waste and it is drained into a nearby river (as in Delhi) or in sea (as in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai), thereby polluting the water bodies. In most Indian cities, water pipes run in close proximity to sewer lines. Any leakage leads to contamination of water which results in the spread of several water borne diseases.

**Trash Disposal:** As Indian cities grow in number and size the problem of trash disposal is assuming alarming proportions. Huge quantities of garbage produced by our cities pose a serious health problem. Most cities do not have proper arrangements for garbage disposal and the existing landfills are full to the brim. These landfills are hotbeds of disease and innumerable poisons leaking into their surroundings. Wastes putrefy in the open inviting disease carrying flies and rats and a filthy, poisonous liquid, called leachate, which leaks out from below and contaminates ground water. People who live near the rotting garbage and raw sewage fall easy victims to several diseases like dysentery, malaria, plague, jaundice, diarrhoea, typhoid, etc.

**Urban Crimes:** Modern cities present a meeting point of people from different walks of life having no affinity with one another. Like other problems, the problem of crimes increases with the increase in urbanisation. In fact the increasing trend in urban crimes tends to disturb peace and tranquility of the cities and make them unsafe to live in particularly for the women. Growing materialism, consumerism, competition in everyday life, selfishness, lavishness, appalling socio-economic disparities and rising unemployment and feeling of loneliness in the crowd are some of the primary causes responsible for alarming trends in urban crime. According to study made by Dutt and Venugopal (1983), violent urban crimes like rape, murder, kidnapping, dacoity, robbery, etc. are more pronounced in the northern-central parts of the country.

**Problem of Urban Pollution:** With rapid pace of urbanisation, industries and transport systems grow rather out of proportion. These developments are primarily responsible for pollution of environment, particularly the urban environment. We cannot think of strong India, economically, socially and culturally, when our cities remain squalor, quality of urban life declines and the urban environment is damaged beyond repair. As a matter of fact, cities comprise the backbone of economic expansion and urbanization is being seen in a positive light as an engine of economic growth and agent of socio-political transformation. National Commission on Urbanization (NCU) has, in its policy proposal of 1988, stressed the need for (a) the evolution of a spatial pattern of economic development and hierarchies of human settlements, (b) an optimum distribution of population between rural and urban settlements, and among towns and cities of various sizes, (c) distribution of economic activities in small and medium-sized growth centres, (d) dispersal of economic activities through the establishment of counter-magnets in the region, and (e) provision of minimum levels of services in urban and rural areas.

**Urban Bias Conceptual Approach of Urbanization:** The concept of urban bias is another conceptual approach that is relevant to the study and understanding of urban development in Africa. This concept emphasizes that the development of new cities or existing urban centers are due to political persuasions, issues or motives rather than economic reasons. Lipton (1977:50) was one of the precursors of this approach who believes that in post-colonial Africa that emphasis on urban development have shifted from its economic prospective to political dynamism. He further argues that political drive of governmental and non-governmental actors influence the yearnings of Africa states to develop the urban centers to the detriment of the rural areas. Such political decisions led to the high concentration of infrastructural facilities and utilities in the urban centers.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The second UN Conference on Human Settlements in 1996 came to the conclusion that the cities all over the world are facing problems due to urbanization. But how do the type and scale of problems differ between those in the developed and the developing world? The initial problems faced by the developing countries are mostly due to demographic changes. The new migrants from rural areas are usually young males. The existing infrastructure of the city cannot usually cope with the influx of new migrants and this brings about social problems. Most of the cities in these countries suffer from chronic housing shortages. This causes a proliferation of slums and squatter settlements. Central slums are usually in old, sub-standard buildings, which have been subdivided into tiny, cramped flats. Most newcomers initially move here in search of work, but access to services is poor. There is a high incidence of crime, suicide, drugs and alcohol. These central areas are often nicknamed 'slums of despair.' Later, with more money and joined by the family, the early migrant may move to peripheral squatter settlements. Conditions here are fractionally

better, but the huge informal settlements are a headache for the city authorities. It may take many years for the settlements to be provided with adequate water and electricity, education and healthcare. The self-built houses are often sub-standard with no regard for building regulations. Cities in the developed world have social problems too, though urbanization, population size, megacities, rural population, urban population, self-generated or endogenous urbanization, industrialization, modernization theory, dependency/world-system theory, rural-urban imbalance, the global urban hierarchy, global cities, urban localities, percentage the labor force in industry, urban hierarchy, sectoral inequality, rural to urban migration, urban primacy, growth and wealth distribution, over urbanization, under urbanization, demographic natural increase, urbanization-environment relationship, job creation, informal sector, housing, spatial form, education, health.

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**Sachin S. Huggi**

Research Scholar in Department of Sociology, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Karnataka.

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