

**UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESSES OF
URBANIZATION AND SPATIAL CONCENTRATION
IN INDIA: A STUDY OF KARNATAKA**

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Abstract

Urbanization in India is neither unique nor exclusive but is similar to a world-wide phenomenon. Urbanisation is referred to as a process in which an increasing proportion of population lives in cities and the suburban of the cities (Sivaramakrishnan, 2005). Indian urbanization has proceeded as it has elsewhere in the world as a part and product of economic change. Occupational shift from agriculture to urban-based industry and services is one part of the change. The processes of urbanization and counter-urbanization refer to the stages of growth and decline of the demographic and economic aspects of cities. The process of urbanization starts with early industrialization when people migrate from rural to urban areas. It proceeds with industrial expansion and the proportion of urban population increases.

Urbanization starts with early industrialization when people migrate from rural to urban areas proceeding with industrial expansion and proportionate increase of urban population. He also critiqued those theorists that highlighted the decline in the process of urbanization by means of the model that uses demographic and economic aspects of understanding city growth.

Key Words: *Urbanization, Industrialization, Occupational Shift, Industrial Expansion, Economic Development, City Growth, Rural-Urban Migration, Deindustrialization, Absolute Decentralization, City Live ability*

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Full Paper

1. Introduction

Urbanisation is referred to as a process in which an increasing proportion of population lives in cities and the suburban of the cities (Sivaramakrishnan, 2005). The 2005 revision of the United Nation World Urbanisation Prospects Report described the 21st century as witnessing urbanization as the integral component of economic development. In India out of the total population of 1027 million, in 2001, about 285 million persons i.e. 27.78 percent lived in urban areas. The proportion of urban population has increased from 20.17percent in the year 1971 to 27.78 percent in the year 2001.

The decadal growth of urban population was 31.2 percent in 1991-2001. At the country level, natural increase has been principal source of urban population growth. The contribution of rural-urban migration ranges between 19 to 21 percent of the net increase in urban population (Table 1). Increasing concentration of urban population in larger cities is one of the key features of urban India. The number of cities over 1.0 million population, in 2001, was 35 and population and their share was over 37 percent.

Urbanization in India is neither unique nor exclusive but is similar to a world-wide phenomenon. Indian urbanization has proceeded as it has elsewhere in the world as a part and product of economic change. Occupational shift from agriculture to urban-based industry and services is one part of the change. The processes of urbanization and counter-urbanization refer to the stages of growth and decline of the demographic and economic aspects of cities.

The process of urbanization starts with early industrialization when people migrate from rural to urban areas. It proceeds with industrial expansion and the proportion of urban population increases. A state of 'relative centralization' occurs when cities stretch over their boundaries and begin to develop suburbs. The latter leads to 'relative decentralization of population, later the economic activities and leads to 'absolute decentralization' as people move out of the center of cities, which in turn become more specialized in tertiary activities. The final stage is that of ruralization and the complete deindustrialization of urban areas (Safa, 1982).

2. Review of literature

Numerous studies have been carried out on regarding the pace and pattern of urbanization in the recent decades (Bhalla and Kundu 1984, Kundu 1983, 1989, 1992, 1997, Sivaramkrishnan, 2005). Studies also concentrated at the socio-economic parameters with respect to the urban centers. However, these studies had number of deficiencies. It is thus necessary to consider region specific studies for analysis of the pattern and impact of urbanization.

Generally, there is strong empirical relationship globally between index of city liveability and a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, suggesting that long-term growth is only feasible if city attributes in terms of congestion, pollution, and safety are improved alongside urban economic management (Gill and Kharas, 2007). There is a robust relationship between urbanization and per capita income: nearly all countries become at least 50 percent urbanized before reaching middle-income status and all high income countries are 70-80 percent urbanized.

However, there two important parts of making urbanization work. First challenge is to foster the high-growth productivity activities benefit from agglomeration and scale economics. The second involves managing the likely side effects of the economic success of cities-congestion, regional inequality, and high land and housing prices. Meeting the second challenge is essential for mitigating divisive impacts of successful economic growth and spreading benefits of higher economic productivity widely (Spence, Annez and Buckeley, 2009). It is clear that urbanization is inevitable and India needs to improve its urban infrastructure and governance to improve productivity and create jobs for the poor.

Harvey, Castells (1977) argues that the state plays a critical and central role in the organization of the four spheres that define advanced capitalist society, i.e., production, consumption, exchange and politics. The state mediates between the various elements that constitute the urban system and engages in dialectical relationships with capitalist interests, elite groups, its own employees and the 'masses'. Since the city is the spatial location of capitalist development, it is the city, and hence space, that reflects the workings and outcomes of this relationship.

The urban crisis occurs as a result of state failure to manage resources of and for collective consumption. Urban social movements articulate the crisis of the system, as city is the critical element of the means of production of consumption. Historical explanations have allowed us to highlight how urbanization and industrialization have not been universally coterminous not only in the colonized worlds but also in North America and the rest of Europe.

History and inter-disciplinarily provide a wider scope to the study of the interconnections of capital and space. Thereby these introduce a comparative perspective for urban studies. To do comparison implies that analysis need be empirically grounded. For instance, in assessing the differences between urban forms and patterns of their evolution, there is a need to compare empirically relative densities of cities, the stage of development of their means of communication and transportation. These comparisons can be then extended over different urban systems regionally and nationally. This would yield an understanding of the universals and the specifics of the processes of spatial concentration and urbanization.

McGee (1969) and Armstrong (1985) critiqued the theory that urbanization starts with early industrialization when people migrate from rural to urban areas proceeding with industrial expansion and proportionate increase of urban population. He also critiqued those theorists that highlighted the decline in the process of urbanization by means of the model that uses demographic and economic aspects of understanding city growth.

Castells (1977, 1983) has entered into this debate by extending the dependency approach. He refers to social movements emerging as a result of ‘urban contradictions’, namely those related to the production, distribution and management of the collective consumption of goods and services and states that the urban crisis is directly linked to the phenomenon of marginality.

3. Objectives of the Study

1. To study the trends and patterns of urbanization in Karnataka.
2. To highlight the factors influencing the process of urbanization in Karnataka.

4. Research Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary sources of the data. The census data is the main source of information. The study followed the descriptive as well as analytical methods of research. The descriptive method of research deals with the processes of urbanization over the decades from 1991 to 2011. The study also analyse the factors influencing on the processes of the urbanization. The study covers the duration from 1991 to 2011.

5. Results and Discussions

Urbanization in India as replication of urbanization where in people arrives in cities not due to urban full nut due to rural push. Urbanization starts with early industrialization when people migrate from rural to urban areas proceeding with industrial expansion and proportionate increase of urban population. These comparisons can be then extended over different urban systems regionally and nationally. This would yield an understanding of the universals and the specifics of the processes of spatial concentration and urbanization.

Table 1: Composition of Urban Population Growth in India, 1961-2001

Particulars	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Urban population increase (Million) Out of which	30.18	49.45	56.45	67.81
Natural Increase (Million)	19.68 (65.2)	25.56 (51.3)	35.37 (61.3)	40.17 (59.4)
Net R-U Migration (Million)	5.91 (18.7)	9.83 (19.6)	12.76 (20.7)	14.32 (20.9)
Residual Component (Million)	4.59 (16.1)	14.06 (29.1)	8.32 (18.0)	13.32 (19.7)

Source: Census of India, 1961 to 2001. Figures in parenthesis are in per cent

Regarding the status of urbanization in karnataka, recently the Director of Census Operations-Karnataka released the State Primary Census Abstract. Accounting to the report, state's population grew 15.6 per cent to touch 6.10 crore (6, 10, 95, 297) during 2001-2011. In 2011, the number was 5.28 crore (5, 28, 50, 562) people. Out of the 6.10 crore persons enumerated in the State, 3.74 crore reside in the rural areas and 2.36 crore in urban areas.

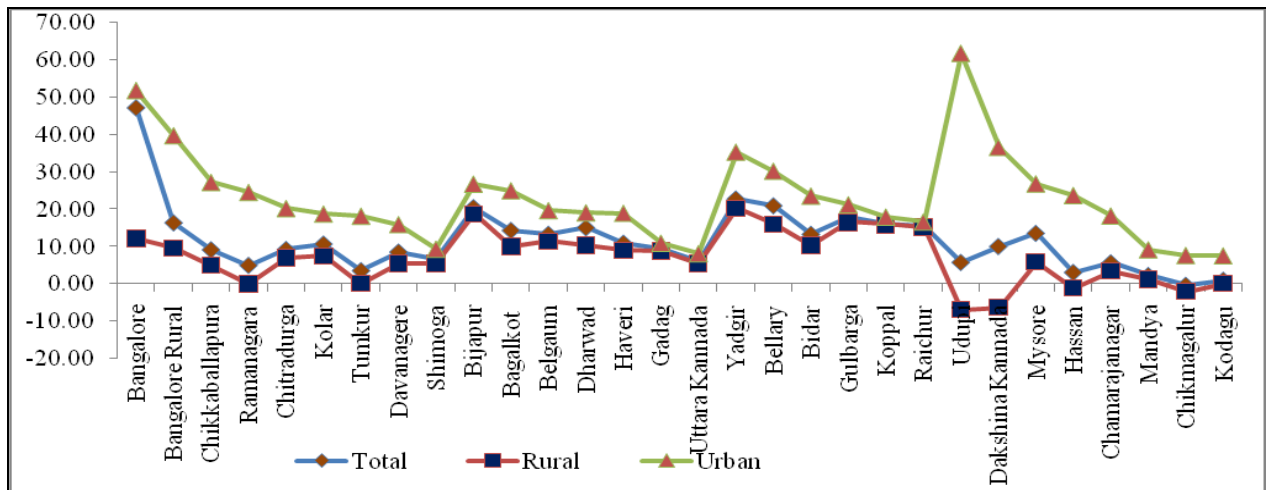
Table 2: Growth of urban population across administrative divisions of Karnataka: 1901-2011 (Percentage decadal variation)

Admin. Divisions/ Decades	Belagavi Division	Kalaburgi Division	Bangaluru Division	Mysoru Division	NK Region	SK Region	Karnataka
1951-61	23.12	16.10	18.68	29.35	19.61	24.01	21.57
1961-71	20.66	25.65	23.28	23.57	23.16	23.42	24.22
1971-81	23.85	24.19	29.28	23.80	24.02	26.54	26.75
1981-91	19.06	26.68	20.32	14.37	22.87	17.34	21.12
1991-01	15.44	22.05	16.61	11.25	18.74	13.93	17.51
2001-11	12.88	18.38	13.73	5.37	15.63	9.55	15.67

Source: population census report of 2011, Dept. of Population, government of India

In terms of percentage, 61.33 per cent are rural residents and 38.67 per cent are urban residents. In terms of urbanization, the State has witnessed an increase of 4.68 per cent in the proportion of urban population in the last decade. Among the districts, Bangalore is the most urbanized district with 90.94 per cent of its population residing in urban areas followed by Dharwad district (56.82 per cent), Dakshina Kannada district (47.67 per cent), Mysore district (41.50 per cent) and Bellary district (37.52 per cent).

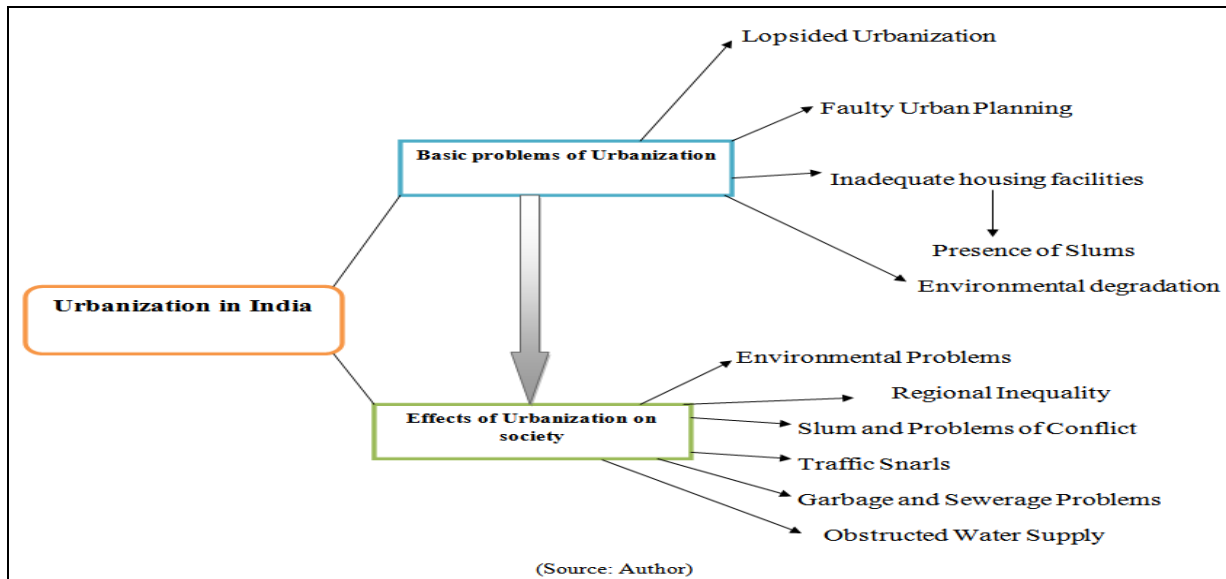
Figure 01: Growth of urban population across administrative divisions of Karnataka: 1901-2011 (Percentage decadal variation)



Source: population census report of 2011, Dept. of Population, government of India

The least-urbanized district in the State is Kodagu with 14.61 per cent, preceded by Koppal district (16.81 per cent), Mandya district (17.08 per cent), Chamaraja nagar district (17.14 per cent) and Yadgir district (18.79 per cent).

Figure 02: The process of urbanisation and its effect on urban governance



Source: population census report of 2011, Dept. of Population, government of India

Breese (1969): the study depicts that urbanization in India as replication of urbanization where in people arrives in cities not due to urban full nut due to rural push. Ram B. Bhagat and Soumya Mohanty (2008) has analyzed that the twentieth century witnessed a rapid shift of population from rural to urban areas in most of the countries of the world. Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture.

Mahendra (1991): Urbanization process is not mainly "migration led" but a product of demographic explosion due to natural growth. Besides, rural out-migration is directed towards class I cities. Jitendra (2014): In his study "Slums in India: a focus on metropolitan cities" has mentioned that rapid urbanization and increasing migration from rural areas has led to growth of slums in every city/town, not only in India, but elsewhere in the world. Nearly world's 1/3rd urban population were lived in slums in 2001. Majority of them were in the developing regions accounting for 43 percent contrast to 6 percent in more developed regions.

6. Conclusion

Urbanization in India is neither unique nor exclusive but is similar to a world-wide phenomenon. Indian urbanization has proceeded as it has elsewhere in the world as a part and

product of economic change. Occupational shift from agriculture to urban-based industry and services is one part of the change. The processes of urbanization and counter-urbanization refer to the stages of growth and decline of the demographic and economic aspects of cities.

The twentieth century witnessed a rapid shift of population from rural to urban areas in most of the countries of the world. Urban social movements articulate the crisis of the system, as city is the critical element of the means of production of consumption. Urbanization is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on a global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture. The rapid urbanization and increasing migration from rural areas has led to growth of slums in every city/town, not only in India, but elsewhere in the world. Nearly world's one third urban populations were lived in slums.

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