Urban Growth and problems of Urbanization in India

Urbanization :

Urbanization is a socio-economic process by an increasing proportion of population of an area concentrates into towns and cities. The urbanization process increases both the number and size towns and cities.

"A shift of people from village to town or city is called urbanization"------------After G. Taylor.

"The conversion of villages into urban centres is known as urbanization."------After E.E.Bergel.

Urbanization is the most significant phenomena of 20th century which has almost affected all aspects of national life in India. In India, urbanization has a long tradition since the days of Indus Valley Civilization. In the medieval period, the development of cottage industries and tertiary activities encouraged the process of urbanization. There were 3200 towns and 120 cites in India in or around 1586.------------Munish Raja, 1985, P.60.

Urbanization in India may be studied since 1881 when the first reliable census data became available. In 1881, the percentage of urban population in India was 9.3%. Though, the growth trend remained sluggish and even negative in 1911-21particularly due to outbreak of epidemics and natural calamities. The following data shows the growth of urbanization in India:

Urban Growth in India

Decade	Urban pop. (In millions)	Urbanization in %age	No of towns/cities
1881	-----	9.3	
1901	25.85	11.0	1917
1951	62.44	17.6	3059
1981	156.19	23.7	4019
1991	217.61	25.7	4689
2001	286.12	27.8	5167
2011	377.11	31.16	7935

Source: 1) Census of India,1971, Part-II A, General Population Table.

2) Bose,A. 1991, Demographic Diversity of India, 1991 census

3) Census of India,2001.

3) Census of India,2011.

The trend of urbanization remained slow in 1931 but in 1931-41, 32% growth in urban population was recorded which shared 14.1% of India's total population in 1941. The growth trend was further accelerated but latter on again went on slowly because of :

1) Decreasing opportunity of employment in towns

2) Increasing pollution

3) Decreasing residential facilities in urban centres

4) Increasing and expanding slums

5) Lack of livelihoods in urban centres.

The above description leads to conclude that during the last 110 years:

- Number of towns increased by 314%
- Urban population increased by 1359%
- Urbanization Ratio increased by 183%

INDIA : URBAN POP.(In Millian)

On the basis of above description, the trend of Indian urbanization may be identified in 3 distinct phases:

1) Period of Slow urbanization :

This includes early part of 20th century i.e. from 1901 to 1931 when urban growth was around 1% or negative due to epidemics, famines, high mortality rate etc.

2) Period of Medium urbanization :

This includes the period between 1931 to 1961 when urban growth was around 12.2% to 18.3%. This was the period of planned development in the country through 5-Yr.Plans which led to the establishment of big industries on modern lines. This provides sound base for urban development.

3) Period of Rapid urbanization :

After 1961, due to stabilization of the economic development, the urban development got momentum. From 1961 to 2011 urban growth was experienced from 18.3% to 31.16%. The country was passing through the period of urban explosion as a result of it urban centres became the hub of economic activities and are generating a great pull over the rural population.

At the state level, Goa recorded the highest increase in urbanization ratio (62.17%) while the lowest is in Himachal Pradesh (11.04%) and Bihar has the second lowest percentage of urbanization i.e. only 11.30% according to 2011 census.

Problems of Urbanization:

1. Problems of space:

Towns and cities are horizontally expanding day by day, hence there appeared a lack of space for the towns or cities. City planners allot different sectors for industrial, residential and commercial requirements which soon become over crowed and congested. This lead to enormous increase in land values and rents which make the living of poor people difficult and painful. Many of them, who are not able to pay high rent, are thus, forced to live in slums and squatter settlements which is great slur on the face of modern civic society.

2. **Residential problems :**

Urban population, particularly in developing countries, is rising at terrific rate which is leading to shortage of houses and residences. According to one estimate there is annual shortage of about 1.7 million houses in Indian cities. This has led to phenomenal rise in houses rent and many families are compelled to spend 30 to 50 per cent of their of their monthly income in hiring residential accommodation. This has also forced low income group people to live in slums or occupy footpaths and road pavements.

3. **Problems of slums:**

A slum connotes an extreme condition of blight in which the housing is so unfit as to constitute a menace to the health and morals of the community. Slums are one or two room hutments mostly occupying government and public lands, private a hat and old areas in the Indian cities. Here houses are built of mud or brick walls, low roofs mostly covered with old corrugated sheets, tins, bamboo mats, polythins,gunny bags and thatches, devoid of windows, ventilators and public utility services.

4. **Encroachment of cultivable land :**

In urban area, there is need of new industrial production, restaurant, shop, museum, offices, park etc. And, we have to need more and more land. For this that people use cultivable land .And use of more land causes the encroachment of cultivable land. Thus, the land where crop, vegetables, fruit, flower etc were produced, there are making in huge number of factories and industries.

5. **Problems of residential houses:**

Increasing population day by day give birth to problem of residential houses. In urban area, in a huge number of people comes from villages causes increase in population, due to which the population is increasing in urban. But In the ratio of increasing population the number of houses can't be increased. And the conclusion is that there is occurrence of problem of residential houses.

6. **Problems of transport:**

Transport bottleneck and traffic congestion are major problems of the Indian cities. Most of the city roads are carrying higher traffic than their actual capacity. If the number of vehicles are allowed to increase at present rate without upgrading the roads the whole system of capital's transport is bound to collapse. Already with the rising pressure of traffic there is jam and traffic bottleneck in several localities of the old city and the causalities in road accidents are mounting at alarming rate.

7. **Problems of Water Supply :**

Water is life and man cannot subsist without water. Modern cities which represent huge human agglomeration require large supply of water for domestic and industrial needs of their residents. The average per head per day consumption of water in Kolkata is 272 litres, in Mumbai 190 litres, in Delhi 90 litres. Similarly, each tonne production of aluminium, rayon, woollen textile, cotton textile, and steel requires 1280,780, 560, 218, and 710 cubic meters of water respectively.

Gap in the Demand & Supply of Water in Improvement Indian Cities 1993 (in mld)

City	Demand	Supply	Gap
Mumbai	3360	2448	912
Delhi	2840	2145	695
Ahmadabad	653	432	221
Vadodara	234	177	56

Source: NIVA, Urban Environmental Maps,2010

8. **Problems of Electric Supply :**

Urbanization needs 24 hours electric supply which is nowhere available in any the towns in India. Without electric supply, no town can exists anywhere. We can't think about modern urbanization without electricity. Electricity makes our work easily. If we know about our country, state and what is going to be happen there, then only because of electricity. Electricity makes easily living life. Without electricity life cannot be seen in brightness.

9. **Problems of Medical Facilities :**

Urbanization needs sufficient number of hospitals in order to serve the total population for 24 hours. The hospitals of the towns also requires qualified doctors as well as adequate supply of medicines which are rarely available in any town of the country.

10. **Problems of Educational Facilities :**

Education is the most useful for everybody. Education bright the future of students. Without there is no need of life in modern time. There should schools for child's, so that every child should be educated. There should be colleges and universities for higher education, so that students don't go outside for higher education. Due to lack of education people have to face so many problem in their life.

11. **Problems of Environment :**

Problem of environment can be easily seen in most of the towns, cities etc. Pollution affects environment and make dirty. Pollution in wind is very harmful our life. The gases comes from factories and industries which is harmful for our living life. It affect our internal body part which is injurious to health. The chemicals of industries and factories comes in river as a sewage mix with water is used by common people for drinking, washing etc. is bad for health. Sometimes we throw our wastage in river, this make problem for our environment.

For the sum up, We can say that there is so many problems in India which faced by common people. So many problems occur in urbanization .