

Hubab Said

batch (91)

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## Urbanization and its Hazards

### Outlines

#### 1. Introduction

- a. Urbanization in the views of Manmohan Singh
- b. What does urbanization mean?
- c. How urbanization started?

#### 2. Factors Behind Increasing Urbanization

- a. Adequate health facilities
- b. Quality education
- c. Job opportunities

#### 3. Hazards of Urbanization

- a. Increasing crime rates
- b. Increasing risk of communicable diseases
- c. Contributor to global warming
- d. Adversely impacts natural flora and fauna
- e. Over population and limitation of resources due to urbanization
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- g. Clash of cultures and sects

#### 4. Urbanization in Pakistan and its Consequences

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6. Conclusion

"Urbanization is an inevitable outcome of the processes of growth and modernization.", said

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Mammohan Singh. Urbanization is the phenomena of shifting of denizens from villages to cities in search of comfortable and quality life. For the first time, urbanization started in 16th century, when the Turkish assaults resulted in migration of Christians from the east to western European countries. In addition, a further boost was provided ~~with~~ to urbanization with the arrival of "Industrial Revolution" in 18th and 19th century. However, urbanization started in the first half of 20th century in Asia and in the last half of 20th century in Africa. It has brought along some serious hazards: overpopulation, increasing crime rate and the list goes on. Meanwhile, urbanization, with its significant advantages, has its serious hazards, in order to cope them the administrations need to provide basic facilities in rural areas to prevent and reduce migration, and address the problems connected to urbanization.

Firstly, the provision of good and adequate health facilities attracts the rurals

towards cities. Villages normally do not have proper hospitals, which prompts the villagers to move towards cities for even normal checkups. The problems involved with these occasional visits force them to live in cities. Furthermore, even some urban dwellers have lost their loved ones in the way to reach a proper hospital, which are located in cities. These factors drive the rurals to settle in cities, and thus accelerates urbanization.

Secondly, education is the right of every citizen of a state, and it is not like there is no school in rural areas but all the standard and quality education institutions are built in cities. So, in order to enroll their wards in good institutions, villagers are attracted towards cities. One can clearly notice the increase in population of cities having top educational institutes as compared to a city, having sub-standard learning institutions. So people also migrate towards cities to make their children's career bright.

Thirdly, job opportunities attract people towards cities. People in the villages work really hard for

the entire year and wait for the crops to grow to get money, which is very less when compared to the efforts they put into it. They feel hard to meet their daily expenses. That is why villagers tend to sell their lands and move to cities where they find it easy to work for some money, and make a reasonable livelihood adequate to cope with the family expenses. Hence, they prefer to settle down in cities - leading to increased urbanization.

The essay has discussed the bright side of urbanization, and following are the hazards associated with it.

To start with, increasing crime rate is a hazard caused by increased and unplanned urbanization. The public influx into cities has become a hindrance for youth to find a reasonable job. The competition in job market and resources consumption touches new heights. Jostling people further intensify the competition not only in job market but also in resource and food sectors. When it becomes difficult to fulfill the basic needs, disappointed youths start adopting unfair means of earning money, forcing them

to commit crimes. This is how increasing urbanization at such a neckbreak speed is acting as a catalyst to a proportional increase in crime rates.

Secondly, unplanned urbanization has increased the risk of transmittable diseases. As in an urbanized society, people come from different areas having different associated and communicable disease with them.

Therefore, when they settle in an urban center, there is an increased risk that any infectious or viral disease may transmit from one family to another. Thus, posing a serious threat to the whole community. It might also disturb the social life of that community.

Still another significant issue is global warming, which is caused and increased by pollution and unplanned urbanization.

The growing number of industries in cities and increasing usage of automobiles and fossil fuels have significantly contributed to greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, causing air pollution and excessive smog in urban centers. In addition, the waste materials not properly disposed of spread pollution and toxic gases. Therefore,

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leading into public health and mobility problem. The resultant diseases, if not controlled, take a heavy toll on public as well as their exchequer. Hence, Urbanization not only contributes to global warming, but also leads to health problems.

Moreover, Urbanization has also led to ~~a~~ decline in natural flora and fauna. In order to adjust the massive migrated people in urban centers, deforestation is carried out, and new towns and cities are build there. Thus, leading to the migration of animals from that area, and the destruction of almost all plant species residing there. Hence, Urbanization has also badly impacted some species of plants and animals.

In addition, over population is another major hazard caused by rapid urbanization. People prefer to live in cities, because of the facilities in the cities. This preference leads to mass migration that results in over population and resources depletion.

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This over population causes a huge pressure on the available resources, leading to a severe shortage of resources and associated social problems. The shortage of gas and electricity in Pakistan is a case in point that fast urbanization, largely ignored over the last decade, has led to over population, and consumption of resources. Now the resources are witnessing depletion as compared to the increase in ever increasing population - Hence, over population has become a menace caused by urbanization.

Eventually, unplanned urbanization results in poor infrastructure, and has the capacity to engulf the lives of hundreds of people. In order to build houses and other public facilitation center in urban centers, mostly sub-standard material is used in infrastructure. Such houses and building could not sustain even a less intense natural disaster and collapse. Thus resulting into the death of hundreds of people. Meanwhile, this serious hazard is associated to urbanization.

As far as urbanization in Pakistan is concerned, it too, is mostly unplanned, unarranged, and unkindred. Some of the major issues of urbanization in Pakistan are mass migration, increasing crime rates which requires a broad mechanism to address them. In fact, Pakistan has witnessed urbanization in an unprecedented way. Some of its cities like Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi are immensely populated. This increasing population has impacted educational, health and job sectors in these areas, resulting in skyrocketing crime rates. Furthermore, Urbanization has led to a shortage of gas in all over Pakistan, even there is a shortage of gas for cooking, forcing the residents to find some other ways to cook for themselves. This indicates that urbanization has caused a sharp increase in administrative and social problems.

To overcome this problem, a proper broad mechanism needs to be put in place. Firstly, the



rural areas must be provided enough facilities to make them preferable place for the dwellers and shun migration, and reduce burden on cities. Secondly, a proper functional body could be formed to check the irregularities in industrial sector that affects the natural environment. In addition, severe penalties may be slapped to ensure environment friendly atmosphere. Furthermore, there may be imposed a complete ban on the use of four stroke engines to reduce toxic gas pollution. Lastly, plantation drives may be encouraged, and seminars could be arranged to ensure or create a sense of brotherhood among the citizens to reduce crime rates, and bring peace and stability in the cities.

In a nutshell, the hazards of urbanization are serious. It is an obvious fact that urbanization leads to cultural and sectarian divides, resulting in disputes. It also increases crime rates and causes the resources to fall short and deplet. Furthermore, many forests are destroyed to build urban centers there instead. Along with humans,

animals and plants have also suffered the deadly impacts of overpopulation and urbanization. The increasing number of industries, and recently discovered disease are of great concern. Meanwhile, the government needs to form a proper and broad mechanism to address this major issue of mass migration, and to avoid its upcoming consequences. However, the main issue is to conduct awareness programs related to urbanization and mass migration, if further delayed, its consequences can engulf the entire universe, and make us all die a slow death.

