

What type of impact urbanization phenomenon has on the adjacent rural areas?
What measure you would suggest to mitigate bad impacts and ways to capitalize good impacts?

1. INTRODUCTION: DEFINING URBANIZATION:

One of the major problems of this century is urbanization. The phenomenon is defined below:

"Urbanization is the growth of rural or natural lands into urban area as a result of increased migration of people from rural areas to urban areas."

The phenomenon has positive as well as negative effects. However, in developing countries, negative effects surpass the positive effects and cities are being slummed.

2. IMPACTS OF URBANIZATION ON THE ADJACENT RURAL AREAS:

Urbanization impacts the whole world. It has impacts on the countries where it is increased manifold, but more importantly, it impacts the rural areas that are adjacent to

existed and.

The cities the impacts are discussed below

- i - Negative growth in the population of rural areas
- ii - Urban sprawl
- iii - Loss of agricultural land
- iv - Loss of forest cover
- v - Pollution
- vi - Water crisis

i - NEGATIVE GROWTH IN THE POPULATION OF RURAL AREAS:

Due to increased urbanization, rural areas are being abandoned by people. Rural areas are being uninhabited and the population is experiencing a negative growth in rural areas. For example: According to United Nations, Pakistan's urban population is 38% and is likely to be 50% by 2025.

ii - URBAN SPRAWL EATS THE RURAL LAND:

One of the negative impacts of urbanization is urban sprawl. It results into the uncontrolled and unplanned invasion of urban area into rural area. For example: The city of Lahore expanded

very rapidly and ate the surrounding rural area.

iii - LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND DUE TO URBANIZATION:

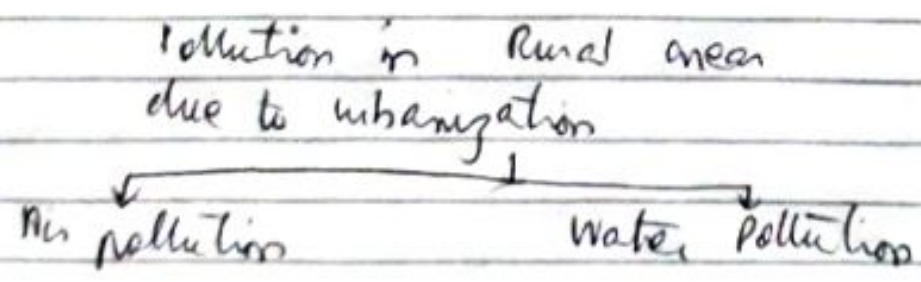
The city areas are expanding and encroaching the agricultural lands to fulfill the increased demand.

iv - LOSS OF FOREST COVER:

Rural areas have forest cover. Due to uncontrolled urban sprawl, forest cover of rural areas is removed. Studies show that before 2017, Pakistan's forest cover was only 5%. After the Ten Billion Tsunami Tree Project, this cover increased to 12% in 2018.

v - DUE TO INDUSTRIES IN URBAN AREAS RURAL AREAS FACE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION:

Cities are the hub of economic growth of the country. Increased urbanization leads to increased industrialization that caused pollution.



a - Air pollution:

Carbon emissions of industries and transportation cause air pollution in rural areas that are adjacent to urban areas.

b - Water pollution:

Untreated waste water and industrial waste of industry contaminate the water bodies which are the main source of drinking water for rural areas.

Example: Rural areas around Lahore city face severe problem of pollution due to brick kilns and transportation in Lahore.

VI - INCREASED DEMAND OF WATER IN CITIES CAUSE WATER CRISIS IN RURAL AREAS:

Urbanization led to the increase in demand of water in urban areas. Ground water is increasingly consumed by big cities and the rural areas at the outskirts of big cities now face scarcity of water.

For example: Lahore city consuming more water causes water scarcity in areas that are adjacent to the city.

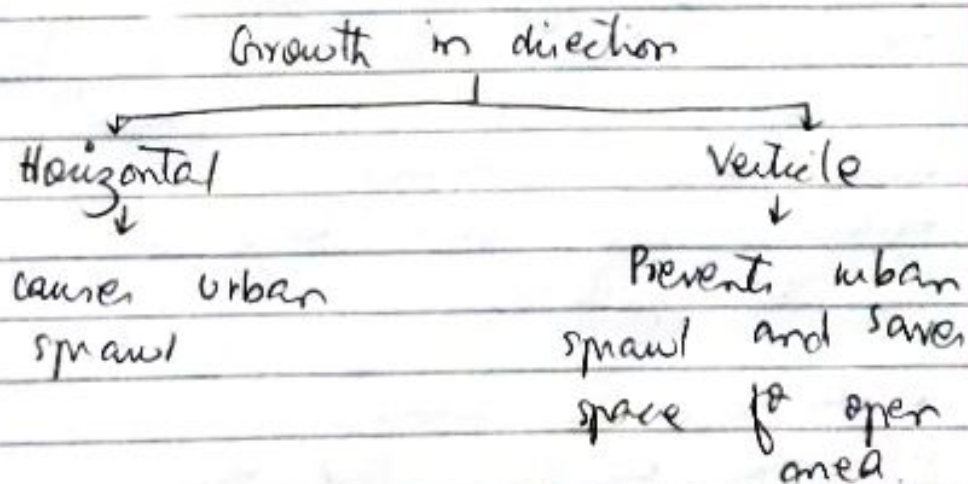
3 - MEASURES TO MITIGATE BAD IMPACTS AND CAPITALIZE GOOD IMPACTS:

Following are the ways to mitigate bad impacts of urbanization on adjacent rural areas and capitalize good impacts.

- i - Vertical growth of city to prevent urban sprawl
- ii - Green belts around cities
- iii - mixed land use to reduce carbon emissions
- iv - Green policies to make cities carbon neutral

i - VERTICAL GROWTH OF CITY TO PREVENT URBAN SPRAWL:

The growth pattern of cities are of two kind.



To prevent the urban sprawl, planners should go for vertical growth i.e., high-rises.

this way more density of a residential area could be achieved and outward expansion of a city could be prevented.

ii - GREEN BELTS AROUND CITIES TO PREVENT OUTWARD EXPANSION:

Green belts should be provided around cities so that outward expansion can be prevented. Moreover, it also helps in absorbing the carbon emissions of the country.

iii - GREEN POLICIES SHOULD BE ADOPTED TO MAKE COUNTRIES CARBON NEUTRAL AND PREVENT POLLUTION IN RURAL AREAS:

As established earlier, industrialized cities are a source of pollution for rural areas. Therefore, green policies should be adopted to prevent pollution and make cities carbon neutral.

Following are some ways to mitigate pollution.

- + Plantation in cities
- + Green buildings that save energy and depend on renewable energy sources.
- + Air pollution controlling devices in industries

* Shift from private transport to public transport to reduce VKT (Vehicle Kilometer Travel).

IV - MIXED LAND USE TO REDUCE VKT AND INCREASE WALKABILITY OF CITIES:

To prevent carbon emissions, cities should be made mixed land use so that the VKT of the cities is reduced and ~~car~~ walkability is increased. It will give a good impact on adjacent rural areas and air pollution will be reduced.

V - INSTALLATION OF INDUSTRY IN RURAL AREAS WOULD PREVENT URBANIZATION:

To make urbanization slower industry should be installed in rural areas so that people can get economic benefits and adverse impact of urbanization are mitigated.

4 - CONCLUSION:

In short, uncontrolled and poorly managed urbanization pose severe threats to the country in general and rural areas adjacent to urban areas in particular. These severe impacts can be managed by

managing urbanization efficiently.
moreover, the positive impacts of
urbanization can also be capitalized
and benefit the country and
the economy as well.

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What will you suggest to control the haphazard urbanization in Pakistan? Please elaborate it with local or international examples.

1. INTRODUCTION: URBANIZATION IN PAKISTANI:

One of the burning question of 21st century is urbanization. Developed nations take benefits of it, whereas, developing nations face more challenging situations triggered by urbanization. Pakistan is one of the developing countries. It is urbanizing at the highest speed in South Asia. Economist Shahid Javed Burki said

"Pakistan is at the threshold of demographic transition."
Shahid Javed Burki

The cities are expanding and are incapable of providing the facilities to their residents. Moreover, the expansion caused several problems. According to 2017 census data 36.9% of population of Pakistan lives in urban areas and it is expected to rise to 50% by 2025. Urbanization in Pakistan is uncontrolled and haphazard and it must be controlled and managed.

2 - MEASURES TO CONTROL HAPHAZARD URBANIZATION IN PAKISTAN:

i - PROVIDE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS TO DISCOURAGE URBANIZATION:

People move from rural areas to urban areas in search of economic opportunities so they can earn some livelihood. These people should be provided with economic opportunities in their rural areas so they may not feel the urge to move to urban areas.

For example cities like Abbottabad, Sukkur, Hyderabad and other small towns have economic opportunities now and people can earn their livelihood and do not feel the urge to move to big cities like Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

ii - PROVIDE BASIC NEEDS TO PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS:

People move to rural areas in search of basic needs such as education and health. To avoid migration from rural areas to urban in search of basic needs, government should provide these basic facilities in rural areas. Studies show that almost all rural areas of USA have hospitals so that people can attain health.

ilities and do not feel compelled to move to urban areas.

iii - POPULATION SHOULD BE CONTROLLED TO PREVENT EXPANSION OF CITIES:

Urbanization in Pakistan does not only occur due to rural-urban migration but also due to rapid growth in population. Studies show that Pakistan has the highest population growth rate in South Asia, i.e., 2.2-2.4%. To prevent rapid increase in demand and expansion of cities, the population must be controlled.

* China's one child policy to control population:

China also faced severe challenges of population growth, but by the end of 2016, it was capable to overcome the problem. The country introduced one child policy which ended in 2015 and two child policy was introduced then.

iv - VERTICAL GROWTH OF CITIES TO PREVENT OUTWARD EXPANSION:

A technical measure that city planners and developers

can take in shifting from horizontal growth to verticle growth pattern of the city. There should be high rises, so that more number of people can be accommodated in less land space. It would prevent the expansion and invasion of urban cities into rural areas.

There are many cities in the world that have verticle growth pattern for e.g., Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo etc. In these cities due to shortage of land multistory buildings are built so that more people can be accommodated in less space and more density can be achieved.

✓ - ECO-FRIENDLY CITIES SHOULD BE MADE TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON RURAL AREAS:

Another reason behind migration of rural people to urban is the impact of climate change on rural areas that is being triggered by cities. Therefore, cities should be made eco friendly so that the emissions are reduced and effect of climate change is mitigated. It will also help in prevention of pollution. Following green policies

can be adopted to make cities eco-friendly.

- + Shift from nonrenewable energy sources to renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal etc
- + Make green buildings that are adaptable to season such as winter and summer.
- + Make buildings that are carbon neutral and self-sustaining
- + Increase the walkability of the cities by making them mixed land use
- + Provide public and mass transport
- + Make system to recycle water

One such example of these green policies is the sponge city concept of China. A sponge city is a kind of city where there is an adequate share of unpaired area in a city to absorb the rainwater and prevent flooding.

VI-GOOD INFRASTRUCTURE SHOULD BE IN RURAL AREAS TO MAKE THEM CLIMATE RESILIENT:

People move to urban areas to flee the devastation they experience due to climate-related disasters such as floods and heavy rains. In recent times this has

become a major reason of people ~~leaving~~ residing in an urban area. To prevent such migration to urban area good and resilient infrastructure should be installed in rural areas. It would help prevent the catastrophic devastation and people from rural areas would not be compelled to move to urban areas to save their lives.

→ Example: floods of 2010 in Pakistan. Studies show

that in 2010, people who were affected by floods preferred to emigrate in urban areas after the water receded in their rural areas. They did not want to face any such disaster again and they permanently stayed in urban areas of Pakistan.

vii- PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND WATER BODIES SO THAT THE ASSOCIATED INDUSTRY REMAINS EMPLOYED:

Expansion of cities horizontally result in the desertification of agricultural lands. The fertile lands are being eaten by the demands of cities and lavish life style. Moreover, the water bodies are

also culminated that cause loss of sea life. These two adverse impact make a ripple effect and the workforce associated with these two sectors end up losing their jobs. Unemployed farmers and fishermen are, thereafter, compelled to move to urban areas to earn livelihood. To prevent such kind of migration, agricultural land and health of water bodies must be maintained. It would stop migration of farmers and fishermen to urban areas and would also increase the food security of the country.

3- CONCLUSION:

In short, urbanization is not the problem. However, uncontrolled and haphazard urbanization is a problem. Pakistan is subjected to this issue and this problem is causing many other problems. There are some measures that should be taken to stop rapid urbanization and manage urbanization effectively. The authorities should manage the push factors that compel people to move to urban areas such as poverty, natural disasters, lack of

basic necessities etc moreover, cities should
also be maintained in such a way
that they become sustainable
and manage urbanization and
the challenges triggered by it