

Batch IOB # 78

LMS ID = 38975

Does Rapid Urbanization pose a Greater Threat than Climate Change.

1. Introduction

1.1 : Hook

1.2 : Background

1.3 : Thesis Statement:

Rapid Urbanization has become a major setback in South Asia. It is the influx of masses from rural to urban areas continuously posing various threats to environment than climate change.

2. Explain the term Urbanization

3. Major causes that trigger rapid Urbanization

3.1 : Mass displacement due to extreme weather events

3.2 : low economic opportunities in rural areas

3.3 : sake of more socio-economic facilities in urban areas.

4: Reasons - How rapid Urbanization poses greater threats than Climate Change.

4.1 : triggering unusual urban housing increases pollution

4.2 : increasing the demand of resources for survival

4.3 : increasing uncontrolled deforestation for housing area poses a serious threat on ecosystem.

4.4 : increasing urban population demands more industries / factories for their livelihood

4.5 : increasing the threats of water sewage and increase health Crisis.

4.6 : rising urban population is burden on urban management institutions

5: Remedies which can mitigate the threats of Rapid Urbanization

5.1 : investing in rural areas to provide livelihoods

5.2 : taking measures to control the natural

hazards in slum rural areas.

5.3: strengthening the lower local groups to maintain urban environment

5.4: strengthening many initiative measures and policies for land reforms to overcome major threats.

6: Conclusion.

The Essay

In South Asia, Pakistan is second largest country where quarter of its population living in urban areas. Urbanization is the process of continuous movement of people from rural to urban areas for different purposes such as education, employment, health facilities. It is curious to find out that either rapid urbanization is major threat than climate change or any other factors that cause climate changes. Yes, Rapid Urbanization poses a greater threat than Climate Change. Climate Changes occur

due to disturbance in natural environment which is done by regular movement of peoples and their irregular activities. Rapid urbanization is threat created by ourselves and we have the responsibility to control it and mitigate its challenges. The question is not who pollute the environment but the question is we are seeing it without doing else. The **50%** population of Pakistan living in urban area and highly contributed in Climate Change. There are various reasons behind rapid urbanization such as low economic opportunities, inefficient education and health facilities in rural areas. The highly mass displacement during extreme natural hazards push the people toward urban. The uncontrolled rapid urbanization has very dangerous threats such as increasing pollution, increasing demand of resources, uncontrolled deforestation, increasing industries, increasing health crisis, and overburdened urban institutions. These factors pose a greater threat than Climate Change. Climate Change is also triggered due

to these reasons. Rapid Urbanization is very harmful if no step is taken at time. Now this is time to take action and control rapid Urbanization. This can be controlled and mitigate threats due to investing in rural areas to provide them best livelihood and by taking crucial step to control natural hazards. There is a need to strengthen local group for maintaining urban environment and strengthening policies and enforce initiative measures to control greater threats caused by urbanization. Unless these problems are controlled properly, Pakistan could not become a prosperous and respectable country.

Begin with major causes of rapid urbanization, natural hazards remain a big challenge for rural areas. Rural areas are mostly in down slum areas which highly effected by excess rainfall, drought, floods. These natural hazards enforce the helpless people to migrate other areas

where they can fulfill their needs. More than **165** major events Pakistan faces since its inception in **1947** to **2025**. For example, in flood of 2015 and 2022 more than **36 million people** are displaced. The earthquake of 2005 is also the major natural hazard that displaced the people to move towards other secure areas. Recently, an excessive rainfall in All Pakistan especially in Southern areas and upper Punjab is highly effected by this rainfall. More than **40 people** are killed and infrastructure is also destroyed in this natural events.

Further, more efficient cause of rapid urbanization is the low-economic opportunities in rural areas. People in rural areas has no more resources than their agriculture, which is also destroyed in extreme weather. There are no economic facilities with which they can fulfill their needs. More than half childrens of rural areas are uneducated, have no skills to

earn. This is due to poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and vested political interests. When there is no source to earn and improve livelihood, people turn to illegal activities and become the part of militant groups.

"Poverty is not only the reason to create violence."

There are no economic opportunities in rural areas due to which people live in poverty up to **44.7%** in Pakistan according to World Bank report. The rural population is under the control of their political leaders which does not want their progress. Leaders hold them due to several conditions, they can't go anywhere without leader's permission. Some are succeeded in flee out toward urban for seeking economic opportunities and best livelihood. These rapid flow of people towards urban areas impact more seriously than Climate Change.

Next with the socio-economic opportunities which are the demand of every citizen for his progress and survival. Unfortunately, the number of rural areas are deprived from these needs. They have no best education, health, water, and food for their proper growth. The malnourished children in Pakistan are **40%** and **19%** living in extreme poverty according to the report of World Bank. The government are working on developing weapons and defense system instead of paying attention on socio-economic opportunities of rural areas.

"Every dollar spent on weapons is the dollar of education, health, and economy for the people."

(UNSG - Antonio Guterres)

The 36 million children are out-of-school in the age of 5 to 16 years but this is the right of government to

Provide education of **16 years** to children according to constitution **25A**. All the peoples entangled in poverty, decide to move towards urban areas for the sake of proper socio-economic opportunities.

After that there are severe consequences of rapid urbanization that poses a greater threat than Climate Change. We discuss them:

Firstly, the unusual rapid urbanization demands housing, livelihood and other economic needs. Rapidly growing population in urban areas pose significant role in increasing pollution such as air pollution, and water pollution.

50% population of Pakistan live in urban areas that increases the burden on industries and factories. This rapid urbanization contribute in **70%** rise in global warming.

South Asia is twice in global warming as the rest of other world.

The uncontrolled urban population make irregular housing on the river bank that increase the pollution in Ocean water and destroy marine life. The increasing demands of people exacerbate in infrastructure and industries which play role in air pollution. The rapid urbanization is the main cause of changing climate and increasing pollution in environment.

Secondly, the increasing demand of resources for the survival of people in urban areas cause more threats than Climate Change. The population of Pakistan increases rapidly upto **250 million** in 2025 which was **200 million** in 2000. This rising population demand resources for their survival. In ancient times, the resources are in surplus with respect to population. Now resources are not enough to meet the demand of increasing population. The major threat is water scarcity which was **5000 cm³** per capita

but now reaches to **546 cm³** per capita in 2023. There is a shortage of resources to meet the demand of peoples so,

447. population living in poverty. It has become so furious to manage available resources with regard of rising urbanization. The lack of sufficient resources is the main cause of threat than Climate Change.

Thirdly, forests are the lungs of environment which clean the air from acidity and toxicity. Forests absorb the pollutants from atmosphere and clean it for human beings. Deforestation is the process of cutting forests for different purposes. Construction is the one which does not stop in any situation. Wood extracted from deforestation uses in housing purpose, furniture, and other household items. For instance, **0.41%** of deforestation contribute in **10%** of Global warming and **5%** of forests contribute in **0.51%** of GDP of the

world. Increasing urbanization prefer to deforestation for their housing purpose and in this way ecosystem of the environment disturbs. This will contribute to highly increase in Greenhouse Gases which pose more threats than Climate Change.

Fourthly, industries and factories are enhanced to overcome the needs of rising urbanization and for the survival of increasing population. With the arrival of industries, the scope and market of agriculture decline rapidly.

60%. population of Pakistan depend on agriculture for their survival but the low demand of agriculture tilted them to urban areas and enhance the burdens on industries.

for their livelihood. The increase in industries leading to increase in pollution and changing environment.

disturbances. The highly influx of industries shed their smoke and chronic chemicals in the environment which enhances the Global warming and disrupt hydrological cycles.

Due to this rainfall excess to 16% than previous decades. So, rapid grow of industries pose a greater threat than Climate Change.

Lastly, rapid urbanization is the over-burdened on the institutions of management authorities in urban areas. The institutions are burdened due to which lack of accountability and transparency declines. For example, the Natural Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), work for the control natural hazardous threats and rehabilitate the affected peoples. The schools, hospitals, and other institutions are not working well due to over-loaded urbanization.

The best seeking point is to mitigate the rapid urbanization and to secure the urban areas and environment. This can be done by investing in rural areas to provide proper livelihoods to meet their demands. The establishment of factories and industries in rural areas through which they can earn and survive. Then, there is need to taking immediate measures and making law and policies to control the natural hazards.

The Risk Reduction Department (RRD) is ensured to mitigate the risk factors and strengthening more stable local groups in urban colonies to maintain the environment. In this way, the need of every citizen can be fulfilled easily. Moreover, there is need to take initiative measure and implemented them. The United Nation Initiative

Measure to seize **25 million acre** degraded land through suitable methods and make this land accessible for urban housing and livelihoods.

In conclusion, the urbanization is more greater threat than Climate Change due to the rising pollution, deforestation, increasing industries, low socio-economic opportunities and weak implementation of policies.
