

Urbanization poses Greater Threat than climate change

Outlines:

1- Introduction:

Thesis Statement:

"Urbanization poses a faster and a direct risks than climate change through heat, flood, and resource pressure. Yet, ~~through~~ ^{with} smart planning and sustainable infrastructure, cities can turn these challenges into opportunities for safer and lasting growth."

② Urbanization Intensifies Heat and Health more than climate change:

②a cities heating faster than rural areas.

Urban areas, heating up 2-3°C faster than rural areas.

(UN-Habitat
2024)

(M T W T F S S) :6/1

②b) Deadly Urban night temperature
poor neighbourhood's face
harshest night heat.
(UCAR, Resource for future)
2023, 2024

②c) Air pollution causes deaths.
millions of people die each
year due to inhaling polluted
air (WHO 2023)

(3) Urban Flooding And infrastructure collaps:

③a) Weak Urban drainage system.
Weak drainage and fast but
unplanned urban growth is the main
reason behind growing floods (World
Bank 2022)

③b) Floods causing massive urban
displacement:
2022 floods affected 33 million people
(NDMA 2022 / UN OCHA)

③c) Cities are sinking faster
from Groundwater loss.
[peer reviewed study] in
Journal reported. "major
cities are sinking because
of groundwater extraction

4. Urbanization Driving Resource Stress and Energy crisis.

(4a) cities as major contributors to Global emissions -

UN-Habitat highlights that Urban areas consume 2/3rds of energy and are responsible for more than 70% global Gas emissions.

source: UN-Habitat
- Urban Climate Action

(4b) Energy demand rising uncontrollably - IEA (2022)

IEA (2022): warned that cooling demand in urban areas is increasing due to which the use of electricity is going beyond a safer sustainability limit.

(4c) slums facing extreme inequality (World Bank 2023)

World Bank (2023): noted that over 1 billion people live in slum dwellers face worse heat pollution and water stress compared to wealthier urban residents.

*A long term
slower than*

Climate change - A long term challenge, but slower than Urbanisation.

- ① Slow agricultural shifts vs. Immediate Urban flood: crises.

World Bank 2025 } "Food insecurity grows fastest in cities where population expand quickly

② melting glaciers and Rising seas (UNEP 2023), 900 million ~~in~~ coastal regions may be at risk by 2050, but urban floods hit within hours destroying homes.

- ③ Extreme Weather Patterns.

(WMO 2023) confirms disasters increased five-fold. Since 1970, yet urbanisation creates daily dangers in health, housing, and air.

⑥ Way Forward : Building Safer and Greener cities:

⑥ Resilient urban infrastructure
climate-smart urban drainage,
housing, and transport systems.
(World Bank - Urban Resilience)

Date: _____ Day: _____

(6b) cleaner energy and transport shift
IEA (2023) urged renewable energy integration & green mobility to reduce urban emissions
(IEA : 2023)

(6c): Equitable urban planning
sustainable planning
with community
participation can reduce
slum vulnerabilities
and prevent future
crises.

UN-Habitat -

Urban Planning

Conclusion:

Way forward : Building
 safer and Greener cities.