

Does Rapid Urbanization Pose a Greater Threat than Climate Change?

Outline

1. Introduction:

- In 2024, over 57% of the world's population resided in urban areas, yet record breaking heatwaves, wildfires, and flood captured headlines across the globe.
- While rapid urbanization brings significant effects such as socioeconomic inequality and environmental strain, the threats posed by climate change are far more pervasive and irreversible in scale and scope.
- Thesis Statement: Urbanization causes infrastructure strain, poverty, environmental degradation, and increase in crime rates, while climate change has more global

effects, such as extreme weather events, economic losses, threats to biodiversity, and food and water insecurity.

2. Effects of Urbanization:

2.1. Straining Urban Infrastructure and Resources

In cities such as Manila, for instance, chronic traffic congestion and recurring power outages reveal the imbalance b/w infrastructure development and population growth.

2.2. Intensifying Urban Poverty

As people move from rural areas to cities, the demand for housing, food, transportation, and healthcare exceeds supply.

2.3. Accelerating Environmental Degradation

Expansion into pre-urban zones causes deforestation and soil erosion. For instance,

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Jakarta's sinking due to overdevelopment.
2.4. Foster ^{higher} crime rates

Rapid urbanization often fosters higher crime rates by creating densely populated areas with inadequate housing, unemployment, and limited access to social services.

3- Effects of Climate change:

3.1. Extreme weather conditions

Climate change contributes to extreme weather conditions such as frequent floods, heavy rainfall and unpredicted droughts globally.

3.2. Economical losses

Weather-related disasters caused economic losses exceeding \$313 billion globally in 2022 (AON weather, climate & catastrophe insight, 2022).

3.3. Impacts on Human

Extreme heat caused the death of

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DATE: _____

1300 pilgrimage in 2024.

3.4. Food and Water insecurity

In Pakistan; 67% decline in winter rainfall during the 2024-2025 season severely disrupted the agriculture cycle. Wheat production fell by over 30%.

4- Conclusion:

Essay

In 2024, over 57% of the world's population resided in urban areas, yet it was not overcrowding or housing shortages that dominated global headlines. Rather, record-breaking heatwaves in Europe, catastrophic floods in Pakistan, and unstoppable wild fires in Canada painted a grim picture of a world increasingly shaped by climate change. While rapid urbanization brings significant challenges such as socioeconomic inequality and environmental strain, the threats posed by climate change are far more pervasive and irreversible in scale and scope. Urbanization causes infrastructure strain, poverty, environmental degradation, and increase in crime rates, while climate change has more global effects, such as extreme weather events,

economic losses, threats to biodiversity, and food and water insecurity.

Urbanization undeniably places immense pressure on city infrastructure and public resources. As urban population surge, essential services like transportation networks, water supply systems, and sanitation facilities struggle to keep pace. In cities such as Manila, for instance, chronic traffic congestion and recurring power outages reveal the imbalance between infrastructure development and population growth. Urban growth, when not matched by equitable infrastructure expansion, deepens social inequalities and undermines overall city resilience.

Furthermore, urbanization causes increase in urban poverty and living costs. The influx of migrants in urban cities contributes to poverty in such a way that high demand increases prices. As

people move from rural areas to cities seeking better opportunities, the demand for housing exceeds supply. This leads to the growth of slums and informal settlements with poor living conditions. Urban areas often cannot provide enough formal jobs for the growing population. Many new urban dwellers end up in the informal sector, working in unstable, low-wage jobs. Thus, urbanization leads to poverty.