# Study of Urbanization , Causes and Effects in India & Some important features of Satellite Townships

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**Abstract :** The achievement of rapid growth that is both inclusive and sustainable, presents formidable challenges for urban planning in India. New cities will have to be built and additional spaces generated within existing cities and their peripheries so as to facilitate and accommodate rapid urbanization. Since systems of urban planning practiced in India have not been in sync with the processes of economic growth, they will need to be revitalized to address the challenges of structural transformation of the economy with rising share of non-agricultural sectors in GDP, relocation of people and resources from rural to urban areas, and the associated increase in urbanization

**The Approach to Urban Planning in India**

The current urban planning regime in India is rooted in the Town and Country Planning Act of the United Kingdom of 1947, and is primarily focused on detailed land use zoning. This practice was followed by many developed as well as developing countries, but for some years now, there has been a move away from rigid Master Plans in many countries, including the United Kingdom. Cities all over are now exploring more flexible ways to accommodate changes in land use and density patterns over time. The earlier approaches treating urban transportation as the consequence of land use planning are being given up in favor of simultaneous determination of policy, recognizing the two way relationship between land use planning and transportation. These changes are especially important for India in its current phase of structural transformation.

A Master Plan in India typically covers a time horizon of about 20 years, presenting a road map from the present state of the city to its ideal end-state with spatial details in the terminal year. In Delhi and Mumbai, it has taken over 10 years to complete the preparation of the Master Plans. The process begins with the projection of population of an urban area and an estimate of an average household size, which together with income levels of different household categories, determine the demand for residential space. The requirements of industry, office, and retail spaces are based on projections of the economic prospects

for the cities; the transport patterns follow from the land use pattern and the space requirement for transportation is typically a residual.

**Causes of Urbanization:**

Various reasons have led to the growth of cities. They are as follows:

1.  *Industrialization:*Industrialization is a major cause of urbanization. It has expanded the employment opportunities. Rural people have migrated to cities on account of better employment opportunities.
2.  *Social factors:* Many social factors such as attraction of cities, better standard of living, better educational facilities, need for status also induce people to migrate to cities.
3.  *Employment opportunities:* In rural sector people have to depend mainly on agriculture for their livelihood. But Indian agriculture is depending on monsoon. In drought situations or natural calamities, rural people have to migrate to cities.
4.  *Modernization:* Urban areas are characterized by sophisticated technology better infrastructure, communication, medical facilities, etc. People feel that they can lead a comfortable life in cities and migrate to cities.
5.  *Rural urban transformation:* It is an interesting aspect that not only cities are growing in number but rural community is adopting urban culture, no longer rural communities are retaining their unique rural culture. Rural people are following the material culture of urban people. Urban rural transformation can be observed in the following areas.
6.  *Spread of education:* The literacy rate has increased among the rural people. They have become more modernized.

**Effect of Urbanization:**

With a high rate of urbanization significant changes have taken place. The effect of urbanization can be summed up as follows:

*Positive effect:*

- Migration of rural people to urban areas.
- Employment opportunities in urban centers.
- Transport and communication facilities.
- Educational facilities.

- Increase in the standard of living.

Urbanization may yield positive effects if it takes place up to a desirable limit. Extensive urbanization or indiscriminate growth of cities may result in negative effects.

**Negative effects.**

They may be as follows:

- **Problem of over population:** Concentration of population is a major problem of cities. It has resulted in accommodation problem, growth of slums etc.
- **Disintegration of Joint family:** Joint family can't be maintained in cities on account of high cost of living: People prefer to live in the nuclear type of families so that cost of living might come down.
- **Cost of living:** High cost of living is a major problem of cities. In Metro cities like Mumbai, Bangalore etc. it is very difficult for lower income groups to maintain a decent standard of living.
- **Increase in Crime rates:** Urban centers are known for high rate of crimes. Theft, Murder, Cheating, Pick pocketing, rape etc. are common in urban centers.
- *Problem of Pollution:* In industrialized cities pollution is a major problems. It may be caused by industries or by excessive movement of vehicles.

**Satellite town or satellite city** :

A satellite town or satellite city is a concept of urban planning, although many satellite cities and towns appeared spontaneously near many metropolis. Satellite towns are smaller municipalities that are adjacent to a major city which is the core of a metropolitan area. They differ from mere suburbs, subdivisions and especially bedroom communities in that they have municipal governments distinct from that of the core metropolis and employment bases sufficient to support their residential populations. Conceptually, satellite cities could be self-sufficient communities outside of their larger metropolitan areas. However, functioning as part of a metropolis, a satellite city experiences cross-commuting (that is, residents commuting out of and employees commuting into the city). It may involve consciously planned cities to act as spiller or dormitory towns. Several of the world's capital cities are planned cities, including Washington, D.C. in the United States, Canberra in Australia, Brasília in Brazil, Abuja in Nigeria and Islamabad in Pakistan, National capital region of Delhi in India etc..Satellite cities are involved in the urbanism plans of Brasília, Jakarta, Singapore, Delhi and Canberra.

**Satellite town plans in India :**

Initially, the urban infrastructure development scheme for satellite towns was meant to be around cities with population of more than a million, at a project cost of over Rs 10,000 crore. There would be around 50 cities with million plus population by the year end, estimates suggest.

Subsequently, the scope of the project was cut down to just a pilot for a satellite town each around the seven mega cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

The towns being covered under the pilot project are Pikhuwa (Uttar Pradesh), Vikarabad (Andhra Pradesh), Sonepat (Haryana), Vasai-Virar (Maharashtra), Sriperumbudur (Tamil Nadu), Sanand (Gujarat) and Jyoti Basu Nagar (West Bengal).

The City Development Plans (CDPs) submitted by the states to the Centre indicate the likely cost escalation that the project may experience.

The scheme was approved in 2009, after which states were asked to nominate towns of their choice. After states named the satellite towns of their choice, work started on the project in 2010-11. Even as most of the towns, which are being developed under the pilot project, are industrial hubs, Sanand near Ahmedabad with the Nano factory being an example, officials said there was no directive from the government suggesting industrial activity should be the guiding principle. Innovative features such as Geographic Information System (GIS), energy audit, and disaster management are integral parts of the satellite town development project.

It is believed the government is now seeking a sustained and long-term engagement with towns across the country, rather than a piecemeal approach focused on just a few areas. An official said the new thinking may change the complexion of the urban infrastructure development scheme.

*Most important features of Satellite Townships*

- Satellite townships have their own local government and corporate life.
- They have all the necessary amenities and facilities present within their limits except for a few purposes like employment and sometimes education, they have to depend on the main city i.e. the parent city.
- Transportation means such as buses, trains etc all connect the various satellite townships to the main city so that travelling to the main city for work is not an issue. It is free to decide its economic, social and cultural activities.
- Satellite townships generally develop beyond the green belt of the city.

- Like we discussed earlier that people are well equipped with various amenities and facilities but have to depend on the parent city for work or higher education. The reason why people have to depend on the parent city for work is that setting up of industries is prohibited in Satellite townships. It is mainly a residential area having only local shops, schools for children, etc.

- Zoning regulations are not an issue in the development of satellite townships.

- These townships never become a rival to their parent city because their size and development is restricted and controlled.

- Sometimes, satellite townships are considered as a part of the market for some goods and services that are produced in the parent city.

- The workers living in a particular satellite may belong to a labour force of a particular industry and in that case, it will give a wider choice to the employers of such industries for finding the best man for the job.

**Conclusion :**

For a densely populated country like India scope for new development is limited. The developed countries with vast open spaces and even the developing countries with much less densely populated areas have the scope of experimenting with new township development. But for an already built up area like Delhi , Mumbai, and other metro cities , it is very hard to acquire free land at the periphery to expand the city. Under the present situation the on-going projects are like do or die situation for the government. Ruining the opportunity will be an utter and irreversible mistake. Hence significance must be given to integrate the land use, transportation, urban design and local plans to make these projects an example for future development. The open spaces and the water bodies must be preserved. Sustainable solution to waste water treatment and solid waste management must be incorporated in the satellite towns at once. This is high time that the city development authority work independently to make the projects a grand success.

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