
UNIT 1 URBANIZATION: AN OVERVIEW

Structure

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

The World is urbanizing very fast and more than 45 per cent of the World's population today are residing in urban areas. According to UN estimation, the World population is expected to increase by 72 percent by 2050, from 3.6 billion in 2011 to 6.3 billion in 2050. Customarily urbanization means increasing population living in cities and suburbs of a country. In 19th and 20th century, majority of the cities in the world are undergoing growth of urban population. In India also urban population which was 0.37 percent in 1951 has risen to 27.81 percent in 2001 and 31.16 percent in 2011 and is increasing day by day. According to Asian Development Bank, the national increase and net migration are the major contributory factors to urban growth. The share of world's population living in urban areas has increased from 39 percent in 1980 to 48 percent in 2000. However, urbanization without proper planning has given rise to several problems such as housing, sanitation, education, provision of safe drinking water, unemployment, etc. particularly in underdeveloped countries. This unit on "Urban Development: An Overview" will provide you information and knowledge regarding urbanization, its trends, impact and idea about sustainable urban development. After reading this unit, you will be able to:

- Explain meaning and trend of urbanization
- Narrate various causes of urbanization
- Discuss urbanization and urban problems
- Describe about sustainable urban development

1.2 URBANIZATION: CONCEPTS AND MEANING

Urbanization is popularly defined as the rise of population in urban areas. United Nations perceives urbanization as movement of people from rural to urban areas. Mishra (1998) defines urbanization in the following way "Urbanization is not a product. It is a process by which a people, instead of living in predominantly dispersed agricultural villages, start living in towns and cities dominated by industrial and service functionaries. It involves multiplication of urban places and/ or an increase in size of cities. Growth of urban population is only one of dimensions of urbanization." One of the eminent demographers Kingsley Davis

has classified the process of urbanization into three stages. The Stage-I is the initial stage, characterized by traditional rural society with predominance in agriculture and dispersed pattern of settlement. The stage-II is where proportion of urban population gradually increases from 25% to 40%, 50%, 60% and so on. This is otherwise called as the stage of acceleration where basic restructuring of the economy and investments in social overhead capitals including transport, communication take place. The stage-III is known as the terminal stage, where urban population exceeds 70% or more. According to Davis, at this stage, the level of urbanization remains more or less same or constant. Urbanization is derived from the Latin “Urbs” a term used by the Romans to a city.

The Census of India has broadly categorized urban areas in into following types:

- i) **Statutory towns:** all places with municipality, corporation, cantonment board, notified town area committees, etc.
- ii) **Census towns:** all villages with a minimum population of 5000 persons in the preceding census, at least 75 percent of male main working population engaged in non-agricultural activities and a population density of at least 400 persons per sq. km.
- iii) **Urban Agglomerations (UAs):** a continuous urban spread comprising one or more towns.
- iv) **Urban Growths (OGs):** areas around a core city or town, such well recognized places like railways colony, university campus, port areas, etc. lying outside the limit of town.

Table 1.1: Number of Urban Agglomerations/Towns and Out Growths in India

Types of Urban Units		2001 Census	2011 Census
1.	Towns	5161	7935
	a) Statutory Towns	3799	4041
	b) Census Towns	1362	3894
2.	Urban Agglomerations	384	475
3.	Out Growth (OGs)	953	981

Source: Census - 2011

However, in India, the Municipal Law classification of urban areas is different to that of the Census one. The categories according to the Municipal Laws are as follows: (i) **The Municipal Corporation** having population about 3 lakh; (ii) **Municipal Council** with 1 to 3 lakh population and (iii) **Nagar Panchayats** having 5000 – 10,000 population. The Municipal Council are further subdivided on the basis of their population which is as follows:

Type	Population
A or Class-I	1 to 3 lakh
B or Class-II	50,000 to 1 lakh
C or Class-III	25,000 to 50,000
D or Class-IV	10,000 to 25,000

Source: Census – 2011

1.2.1 Trends in Urbanization

The 2005 data envisages that the world is projected to continue to urbanize and 60 percent of the global population is expected to live in cities by 2030. According to UN estimation, the World population is expected to increase by 72 percent by 2050, from 3.6 billion in 2011 to 6.3 billion in 2050. After knowing about urbanization, let us now discuss the trend of urbanization in developed and developing countries.

Urbanization is taking place in almost all the countries of the world. It is generally faster in developed countries as compared to developing countries. The figure given in Table-1 clearly reveals that the percentage of urbanization in developed countries is 76, while that of developing countries is 40.

According to Asian Development Bank, the national increase and net migration are the major contributory factors to urban growth. The share of world's population living in urban areas has increased from 39 percent in 1980 to 48 percent in 2000.

Table 1.2: Total Urban and Rural Populations by Development Group, Selected Periods, 1950-2050

Development group	Population (billion)					Average annual rate of change (Percentage)			
	1950	1970	2011	2030	2050	1950-1970	1970-2011	2011-2030	2030-2050
Total population									
World	2.53	3.70	6.97	8.32	9.31	1.89	1.55	0.93	0.56
More developed regions	0.81	1.01	1.24	1.30	1.31	1.08	0.51	0.23	0.06
Less developed regions	1.72	2.69	5.73	7.03	7.99	2.23	1.85	1.07	0.65
Urban population									
World	0.75	1.35	3.63	4.98	6.25	2.98	2.41	1.66	1.13
More developed regions	0.44	0.67	0.96	1.06	1.13	2.09	0.89	0.52	0.29
Less development regions	0.30	0.68	2.67	3.92	5.12	4.04	3.33	2.02	1.34
Rural population									
World	1.79	2.34	3.34	3.34	3.05	1.36	0.87	-0.01	-0.44
More development regions	0.37	0.34	0.28	0.23	0.18	-0.48	-0.48	-0.92	-1.14
Less development regions	1.42	2.01	3.07	3.11	2.87	1.74	1.03	0.07	-0.40

Source: United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects, the 2011 Revision, Department of Economic & Social Affairs, Population Division.

Table 1.3: World top ten Countries with largest Urban Population and World top ten Urban Agglomeration (2011)

Country*	Urban Population, 2005 (in Million)*	Urban Agglomeration**	Population**	Rank**
China	535.96	Tokyo, Japan	37.2	1
India	312.89	Delhi, India	22.7	2
USA	232.08	Mexico, Mexico	20.4	3
Brazil	151.93	New York, USA	20.4	4
Indonesia	104.05	Shanghai, China	20.2	5
Russia	102.73	Sao, Paulo, Brazil	19.9	6

Japan	101.83	Mumbai, India	19.7	7
Mexico	80.07	Beijing, China	15.6	8
Germany	72.41	Dhaka, Bangladesh	15.4	9
Nigeria	62.62	Kolkata, India	14.4	10

*Source: www.mapsofworld.com

**Source: United Nations, World Urbanization respects The 2011 Revision, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, population Division

1.2.2 Trends in Developed Countries

The important trends in urbanization in the developed countries are suburbanization, urban renewal, gentrification and megalopolitan development.

- a) **Suburbanization:** One of the most significant changes in urban form that has happened in advanced capitalist countries in the twentieth century is the growth of suburbs. It has taken place around the edges of major towns and cities. A suburb is an area of residence, a neighbourhood of houses rather than mixed land use type of neighbourhood found in the city proper. Suburbanization has primarily been caused by the migration of people into the countryside escaping from the drawbacks of urban life .Customarily, suburbanization implies a separation between home and workplace, perhaps the most important is relatively cheap transport, as transport connectivity extends the distance of suburbs from the central city. Since 1945, the rate of suburban growth in the USA has been tremendous.
- b) **Urban Renewal:** Urban renewal is a continuous process of remodelling urban areas by means of rehabilitation and conservation as well as redevelopment. In urban renewal, the emphasis is given on those parts of the city which have fallen below current standards of public acceptability. They are commonly found to be in the residential part of the inner city and also in the central parts of the inner city, face problems of inadequate housing, environmental deprivation, social malaise and the presence of non-conforming uses. The central business city part faces problems of traffic congestion and obsolescence of building and obsolesce of building and sites.
- c) **Gentrification:** means change in the social character of neighbourhood as a result of professional higher income groups seeking residence in central city location. Gentrification is socially important in attracting some middle to high income residents back to central areas. Gentrification is so to say selective in nature not only in terms of population to attract but also of the conditions under which it occur. In the USA, most of the major cities are now experiencing varying levels of gentrification in their central area neighbourhoods. In Britain, the process has occurred in a few cities namely Bristol and London.
- d) **Megapolitan Development:** One of the most important facets of urbanization in the developed countries is the growth of cities not in terms of population but in terms of area. Here the cities expand physically and the same number of people is living in the cities but at low densities. The examples of megapolitan type of development are characteristics of Atlantic sea board of USA, and in Japan it has appeared naturally and in the Netherlands it has

appeared by design and planning. The United States megapolis extends over 600 miles from Boston to Washington D.C., the Tokaido megapolis extends from Tokyo, Yokohama to Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto and the Randstad megapolis comprises of three major cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. This process has also started in developing countries.

1.2.3 Trends in the Developing Countries

Some of the trends of urbanization in developing countries are as follows:

- i) Urbanization in the developed countries is higher as compared to the developing countries. As per UN statistics, the percentage of population residing in the urban areas of developed countries is 79.1%, while that of less developed countries is 46.8%.
- ii) The urbanization in the African region is found to be slightly higher than the Asian region. However in both the region, urbanization is comparatively lower than those of Europe and USA.
- iii) Urbanization takes place without much industrialization and strong economic base. Lack of industrialization led urbanization has resulted in growth of unorganized sector which is characterized by lower wage rate and poor service condition which affect the quality of life of urban population.
- iv) Unplanned urbanization in developing countries has led to growth of urban slum areas characterized by low quality housing, poor sanitation, access to unsafe drinking water, etc.
- v) It is not a flight of fancy, but delicately, the current pattern of urbanization in developing countries is alarming if viewed from a historical, spatial and cross country perspective. The unplanned urbanization greatly concerns most of the government in these countries.

Some of the features of urbanization as mentioned by the WHO are as follows:

- i) More than half of the world's population now live in cities.
- ii) By 2030, six out of every ten people will be city dwellers, which will rise to seven out of every ten people by 2050.
- iii) One in three urban dwellers lives in slums.
- iv) Urban air pollution kills around 1.2 million people each year around the world, mainly due to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases Tuberculosis incidence is much higher in big cities.
- v) Urban environment tends to discourage physical activity and promote unhealthy food consumption.

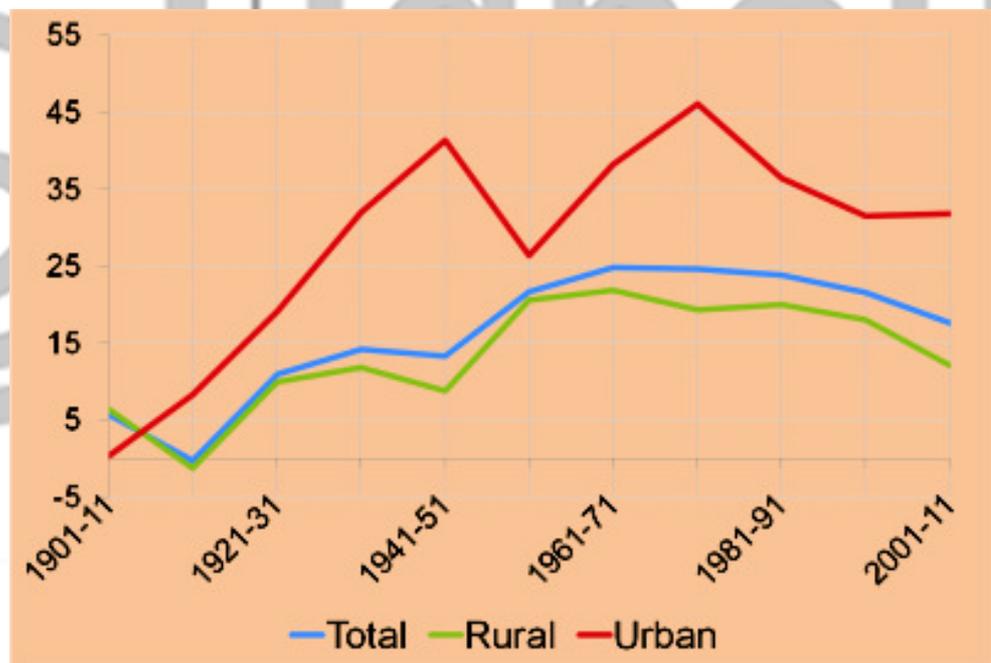
1.2.4 Trends of Urbanization in India

The trends of urbanization in India are as follows:

- i) Urban population in India was 0.37 percent in 1951 has risen to 27.81 percent in 2001 and 31.16 percent in 2011. According to 2011 census, 377 million populations live in urban areas of India.

Table 1.4: Population of India by Residence

Census years	Number of Urban agglomeration/ town	Urban population	Rural	Urban-Rural Ratio (Percent)
1901	1827	25851873(10.84)	212544454(89.15)	12.16
1911	1825	25941633(10.23)	226151757(89.71)	11.47
1921	1949	28086167(11.18)	223235046(88.82)	12.58
1931	2072	33455989(11.99)	245521249(88.82)	13.63
1941	2250	44153297(13.86)	274507283(88.01)	16.08
1951	2843	62443709(17.29)	298644381(86.14)	20.91
1961	2363	78936603(17.97)	360298168(82.71)	21.91
1971	2590	109113977(18.24)	489045675(82.03)	22.31
1981	3378	159462547(23.33)	523866550(76.66)	30.44
1991	3768	217177625(25.72)	627146597(74.28)	34.63
2001	5161	285354954(27.78)	741660293(72.22)	38.47
2011	7935	377105760 (31.16)	833087662 (68.84)	50.84



Sources: Various Census reports

- ii) In India, there is lopsided urbanization and the growth of population in class-I cities having more than one lakh population is higher as compared to other cities. According to 2001 Census, 69 percent of urban population lived in class-I cities. The percentage of urban population in class I, II, III, IV, V and VI cities according to census 2001 are 68.6, 9.67, 12.2, 6.8, 2.3 and 0.2 percent respectively. Besides census 2001 also shows that nearly 37 percent of population live in million plus cities.

Table 1.5: Number of towns and percentage of urban population in different size categories

Census Year	Number of towns						Percentage of urban population					
	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI
1901	24	43	130	391	744	479	26.00	11.29	15.64	20.83	20.14	6.10
1911	23	40	135	364	707	485	27.48	10.51	16.40	19.73	19.31	6.57
1921	29	45	145	370	734	571	29.70	10.39	15.92	18.29	18.67	7.03
1931	35	56	183	434	800	5009	31.20	11.65	16.80	18.00	17.14	5.21
1941	49	74	242	498	920	407	38.23	11.42	16.35	15.78	15.08	3.14
1951	76	91	327	608	1124	569	44.63	9.96	15.72	13.63	12.97	3.09
1961	102	129	437	719	711	172	51.42	11.23	16.94	12.77	6.87	0.77
1971	148	173	558	827	623	147	57.24	10.92	16.01	10.94	4.45	0.44
1981	218	270	743	1059	758	253	60.37	11.63	14.33	9.54	3.58	0.50
1991	300	345	947	1167	740	197	65.20	10.95	13.19	7.77	2.60	0.29
2001	393	401	1151	1344	888	191	68.67	9.67	12.23	6.84	2.36	0.23

Note: Size categories (Class) of towns by population:

Class I : 100,000 or more; Class II : From 50,000 to 99,999; Class III : From 20,000 to 49,999; Class IV: from 10,000 to 19,999; Class V: from 5,000 to 9,999 Class VI: Below 5,000.

Source: Census of India for different years.

Source: Kundu, A "Trends & Processes of Urbanization in India", Human Settlements Group, IIED, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA, 2011

Annual exponential growth rates of population in different categories of Urban Centre (1981-2001)

Types	1981-91	1991-2001
Metro cities	3.3	2.9
Capital cities	3.4	2.8
Class I cities	3.0	2.8
Common towns (excluding new and declassified towns)	2.8	2.6
Total urban growth	3.1	2.7

Source: Kundu, A "Trends & Processes of Urbanization in India", Human Settlements Group, IIED, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA, 2011

- iii) The top three states in terms of percentage of urban population in India according to 2011 Census are Maharashtra (13.5%), Uttar Pradesh (11.8) and Tamil Nadu (9.3%). Most of the North Eastern states are in the bottom line of the urban population. Mizoram (0.1%), Arunachal Pradesh (0.1%) and Sikkim (negligible).
- iv) The top three cities in terms of urban population in India according to the figure of 2011 census are Mumbai (18.41million), Delhi (16.31 million) and Kolkata (14.11 million).
- v) The spurt in urban population in India is largely due to (a) migration, (b) natural increase, and (c) inclusion of new areas under urban.

vi) There has been a consistent increase in both male and female literacy rate in urban areas. The steady increase in female literacy has reduced the gender gap from 13.41 percent in 2001 to 9.75 in 2011.

Data Profile-Urban Agglomerations India, 2011 Census (provisional)

Indicator	2011 Census	2001 Census
Population (in million)	377.105	167.4
Sex ratio	926	888
Population (0-6) (in million)	41.2	37.3
Sex ratio (0-6)	902	904
Literacy rate (above 6 yrs) (in %)		
Persons	89.84	82.45
Males	93.79	87.91
Females	85.44	76.30

vii) The sex-ratio in urban India is lower as compared to rural. The sex-ratio in 2001 and 2011 census are 900 and 926 respectively; while in rural it is 946 and 947 respectively for 2001 and 2011.

viii) The growth of urban population in urban areas has given rise to urban agglomerations. In 2001, there were 35 urban agglomerations in India and it has risen to 53 in 2011, having a population more than one million or more.

**Million plus UAs/ Cities
Distribution of Million Plus UAs/ Cities, 2011**

Uttar Pradesh, Kerala	7 each
Maharashtra	6
Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu	4 each
Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh	3 each
Punjab, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh	2 each
J&K, Chandigarh, Haryana, NCT Delhi, Bihar and Karnataka	1 each

Source: Census of India, 2011(Provisional)

In this section, you studied about the meaning and features and trends of urbanization, now answer the questions given in *Check Your Progress-1*.

Check Your Progress 1

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1) What do you mean by urbanization?

.....

2) Write the key features of urbanization?

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1.3 CAUSES OF URBANIZATION

The causes of urbanization are many; however, a few important reasons of urbanization are narrated below:

- i) **Agricultural Development:** Development of agriculture due to farm mechanization has resulted in fewer demands for labour force in the agriculture sector. These surplus labour usually migrate to urban sector for employment and livelihood. The labourers deployed in the construction and other low menial work and self employed activities are largely migrants from rural areas. It is also seen that agriculture development in Punjab has resulted in migration of rural Punjab population not only to the cities of different states of India but also to the cities of other countries of the world.
- ii) **Industrialization:** Generally, it is observed that industrialization takes place in and around the cities. This industrialization help people add value to their product and this in turn helps more and more people to earn livelihood and settle down in the outskirts of the cities. The industrial workforces in the cities are mostly migrants from the rural areas.
- iii) **Market Forces:** The proliferation of consumer goods industries through the play of market forces leads to an increase in the importance of the market oriented locations. Towns provide large readymade markets for consumer goods and thus attract new industries for the manufacturing of these goods, These new industries and the supply of labour in turn increase the size of the potential market. A snowball effect is set in motion and urban growth becomes self-sustaining.
- iv) **Growth Services Centres:** With the growth of cities, the living standards of the city dwellers rises and along with these trading increases and the tertiary sector services by their very nature, tend to be centralized in towns providing retailing, entertainment, catering, banking, insurance and administration. As more and more services are required, it attracts more and more people and gradually the urban area grows.
- v) **Emergence of towns as socio-cultural centres:** Now a day's towns have become the epi-centre of most of the socio-cultural activities of the nation-state. They have emerged more as a centre of entertainment. Towns with facilities such as cinemas, theatres, art galleries, museum, parks, etc, act as magnets to the surrounding population. Many people simply enjoy being near the centre of urban life .Because of the concentration of many socio-cultural activities, urban areas have become zones of immense opportunities.

People concentrate more and more in urban areas as success in urban areas is more attainable. The glamour of staying in urban areas becomes much more compared to rural areas. The influx of people makes the urban areas overcrowded.

- vi) **Improvement in transport and communication:** Development of nation-state focuses on improvement in infrastructure facilities and greater connectivity between rural and urban areas. More roads are constructed which improves the connectivity between rural and urban areas. As a result of improved communication and transport facilities, the migration of population from rural to urban areas becomes faster and easier. As the job opportunities available are manifold compared to rural areas more and more people prefer to migrate to urban areas leading to rise in urban population. The development of rail communication in backward areas also promoted migration of population from these areas to the towns, cities and metropolis.
- vii) **Natural increase of population:** This is one of the most important factors for the current urbanization in the world. Although the upper and middle class population of urban areas have lower fertility leading to natural increase of population in urban areas. In fact the growth and natural increase of population in urban areas are lower compared to rural areas, but it cannot be overemphasised as one of the factors of increase in population in urban areas. All these factors are responsible for urbanization.

1.4 URBANIZATION AND URBAN PROBLEMS

The rapid Urbanization has brought in its wave a host of problems particularly for the government of the developing countries. Although, higher income is an added benefits to the urban dwellers, yet urban poverty and unemployment and a host of problems associated with pollution and congestion are the most noted indicators of urban failures. According to Tolley and Thomas, there are three types of externalities associated with over urbanization and these are:

- i) First, environmental externalities such as those connected with pollution and congestion, meaning that cities sizes are large maximum national income and welfare;
- ii) Second, protected employment that maintain urban wages above market-clearing levels may make cities large or smaller than they otherwise would be, depending on the elasticity for labour; and
- iii) The attractiveness of urban areas can lead to excessive urbanization. On the whole, although, urbanization is contributing towards economic development and growth of a nation, yet the over urbanization has caused a sundry of problems to developing countries. Some of the important problems are given below.

Some of the problems due to urbanization are as follows:

1.4.1 Urbanization and Health

The World Summit on sustainable development identified health as an integral component of sustainable development and called for a more efficient, equitable, accessible and appropriate health care system for the population that rely on them. Urban areas, particularly the slums are exposed to many types of health

problems because of unhealthy environment and poor living conditions. The overcrowded and congested housing in the urban slum areas expose the slum dwellers to high rates of infectious diseases such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and diarrhea. Besides, the overcrowding combined with poor sanitary conditions and inadequate waste disposal creates conditions favorable to spread of infectious diseases. People in general and children in particular are susceptible to diseases when they are born and brought up in an environment characterized by overcrowding, poor hygiene, excessive noise and lack of space for recreation and study. Moreover, like the children, women and particularly pregnant women are vulnerable to environmental contaminants. Pregnant women's exposure to filthy environment increases the risk of abortion, birth defects, fetal growth and perinatal death. Many studies have shown that exposing pregnant women to carbon monoxide can damage the health of the fetus. Among the general population in the slum of the cities some of the diseases found occurring are HIV/ AID, tuberculosis, yellow fever and dengue. According to Trivedi, Sareen and Dhyani (2008) the range of disorders and deviances associated with urbanization is enormous and includes psychoses, depression, sociopathy, substance abuse, alcoholism, crime, delinquency, etc. such negative impact often results in unreasonable means which may result in communal violence. WHO has rightly remarked that "while urban living continues to offer many opportunities, including potential access to better health care, today's urban environments can concentrate health risks and introduce new hazards,"

1.4.2 Urbanization and Education

Although access to education is not a problem in urban areas, however, affordability is a problem particularly for the urban poor. Urbanization has boosted higher education in metropolis and cities. With the proliferation of cities, schools, colleges and universities have been established. As a result, literacy rate in urban areas are comparatively higher than that of the rural areas. However, education in the urban slum areas is still a concern. The migration of rural population to urban and semi-urban areas has put tremendous pressure on educational infrastructure and manpower in urban areas. Numbers of NGOs are seen to be working in education sector in urban slum. Despite free education, children of urban poor families are found to be engaged in income earning activities. Education for urban poor is still a luxury, particularly as far as the quality and higher education are concerned.

1.4.3 Urbanization and Sanitation

World Bank (1992) remarked that poor are the agents and victims of environmental degradation. The urban sanitation is a big problem as the provision of sanitation infrastructure is falling short of the growing population in urban areas. Customarily, sanitation means safe disposal of waste. It is estimated that 40 million people reside in slum without adequate sanitation. The drainage system in many unorganized slums either not exist and if existing are in a bad shape and in bits resulting in blockage of waste water. The open drainage passing through the slum colonies deeply affect the health of the people. Urban garbage disposal is one of the critical garbage management which has always remained a major challenge before the municipal areas and administration. In mega cities, urban people in general and children in particular suffer from many urban environment related health problems because of exposure to unhygienic garbage disposal.

Table1.6: Distribution of Urban Households by Means of Sanitation in India

Categories		Percentage
1.	Bathroom facility within the house	29.6
2.	Pit Latrine	14.6
3.	Water Closet	46.1
4.	Other Latrine	13.0
5.	No Latrine	26.3
6.	Closed Drain	34.5
7.	Open Drain	43.4
8.	No Drainage	22.1

Sources: Census of India, 2001

The National Urban Sanitation Policy has stipulated the norm for total sanitation of cities those that are open defecation free city; universal access to toilets for all including the urban poor; elimination of manual scavenging; safe collection, treatment and disposal of all wastewater, etc.

1.4.4 Urbanization and Safe Drinking Water

Securing a safe water supply in urban areas is an increasing problem in most of the urban areas of developing countries. The United Nations recognizes access to clean drinking water as a human right, but it remains out of reach of millions of people. According to UN statistics, some 400 million people in Africa live in urban areas but as of 2008, 55 million of them lacked access to clean drinking water. According to Stockholm International Water Institute, global effort to improve access to drinking water has been hindered by rapid urbanization. It has been remarked that bad water kills more people than HIV, malaria and wars together affecting the lives of families and the economic development of many countries around this world.

Most of the urban areas do not have adequate access to safe and reliable supply of drinking water. The safe drinking water surveillance lays emphasis on following five important aspects:

- i) Quality of drinking water
- ii) Quantity of drinking water
- iii) Accessibility of people to safe drinking water
- iv) Affordability that is paying capacity of the people towards water tariff and
- v) The continuity that is percentage of time a household spend for fetching which drinking water is available.

Although the percentage of households having access to safe drinking water is higher in urban areas as compared to rural areas, yet the poor management and distribution of water has resulted in unequal access to safe drinking water. The breakage in the water pipe sometimes leads to the contamination of drinking water sources. This has resulted in outbreak of waterborne diseases. The water shortage during summer and water contamination during the rainy season is problems which need to be tackled.

1.4.5 Urbanization and Housing Problem

One of the key challenges of urbanization is to provide healthy housing to urban population. However, the rising urban population has created serious housing problem, thus, leading to growth of urban slum featured with poor housing. Excessive urbanization has created manifold problems such as the haphazard growth of unauthorized housing colonies and slum and squatter settlements has become a well know phenomenon in the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmadabad, etc. Ricard Arnott has pointed out that the unauthorized and squatter housing are astoundingly high in low income and lower middle income countries. The underdeveloped countries are unable to provide healthy housing to its urban population particularly migrating from rural to urban areas.

Table1.7: Rates of owner-occupancy, unauthorized housing and squatter housing by country income group, 1990(%)

Country type	Low Income	Lower Middle Income	Upper Middle Income	High Income
Owner Occupancy	33	59	57	59
Unauthorized Housing	64	27	9	0
Squatter Housing	17	16	4	0

Source: Ricard Arnott, "Housing policy in Developing Countries: The importance of the informal economy, <http://www.growthcommission.org/storage/cgd>

1.4.6 Urbanization and Pollution

Urbanization and pollution has become the most common phenomenon in mega cities. The growing numbers of vehicles and slums have escalated the urban pollution problems in big cities. Besides this, outdoor pollution caused by vehicles and factories, the indoor air pollution caused by the use of fuel store and fire woods, etc. by slum population has increased the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and acute respiratory infections in childhood. It is one of the most important causes of deaths among children below five year age in India. Besides, car, factories and burning wastes also emit dangerous gases that affect the air quality in the cities. Dangerous gases like carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides cause respiratory diseases, has long effect on physical environment and human health.

1.4.7 Urbanization and Poverty

It is remarked that the most widely observed and acutely felt urban problem in developing countries is the large number of poor and unemployed people in the cities. According to ILO one third of the world's urban population approximately 400 million people were living in poverty. In has also noted that poverty-related problems such as overcrowding, hunger, disease, crime and malnutrition are increasingly prevalent in cities of many countries both developing as well as developed. Economic development and urbanization are closely correlated. For example in India, cities contribute 55 percent to country's GDP. Therefore for India, urbanization is considered an important component of economic growth. However, on the other hand, it is interesting to note that the ratio of urban poverty in some of the mega cities is even higher than the rural poverty which is termed

as “Urbanization of Poverty”. This urban poverty is a responsible factor for several problems in urban areas such as housing and shelter, water, sanitation, health education, social security and livelihood. It has been rightly remarked that with growing poverty and slums, Indian cities are grappling the challenges of making the cities sustainable i.e. inclusive, productive, efficient and manageable.

Table 1.8: Percentage of poor in different size classes of cities/ towns in India

Categories	1993-94	1999-2000
Large towns/ cities	18.4	14.2
Medium towns/ cities	27.6	20.4
Small towns	33.2	24.2
All urban areas	27.4	19.9
Rural areas	35.7	23.9

Eradication of poverty from urban areas was a major challenge before the government. Thus urban poor constitute nearly 20 percent of urban population. Thus unplanned urbanization has escalated the size of urban poverty.

Table 1.9: State specific poverty lines 2004-2005 (Urban Areas) in India

State	Per Capita Monthly Income
Andhra Pradesh	542.89
Assam	378.64
Bihar	435.00
Chhattisgarh	560.00
Delhi	612.91
Goa	665.90
Gujarat	541.16
Haryana	504.49
Himachal Pradesh	504.49
Jammu & Kashmir	553.77
Jharkhand	451.24
Karnataka	599.39
Madhya Pradesh	570.15
Maharashtra	665.90
Orissa	528.49
Punjab	466.16
Rajasthan	559.63
Uttar Pradesh	483.26
Uttarkhand	637.67
West Bengal	449.32
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	665.90
All India	538.60

Source: Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad, 2007

1.4.8 Urbanization and Unemployment

Generating employment for the increasing number of urban population is a challenge for the government. It is said that nearly 45 percent of the urban households are engaged in unorganized sector. The urban underemployment and casual employment is another problem which has resulted in poor quality of living among the urban poor. The ILO has remarked that most urban unemployment in developing countries takes the form of underemployment, in which people are obliged to undertake any available economic activity, however, productive and unproductive, because these are no social-safety nets and no alternatives in the form of unemployment insurance or job training in the formal sector. In sub-Saharan Africa, the urban informal sector is estimated to employ more than 60 percent of the urban labour force at extremely low incomes. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 83 percent of all new jobs created between 1990-93 were in the informal sector, the bulk of these jobs are poorly remunerated, unsafe and of low productivity. The large majority of Latin America's urban poor work in the informal sector.

1.4.9 Urbanization and Transport Issues

Transport is one of the factors which influences the rate and pattern of urbanization in a globalized world. Urban transport planning requires road layout, traffic lights and vehicle passages. The number of vehicles plying in the cities is not in consonance with the capacity of city roads. Another aspect of transport problem is the provision of public transport and its poor interface with the private transport. One of the exponents of urban transport has proposed economic rationale for preferring small and less capital intensive vehicles over large metropolitan buses. Another problem of urban transport is the number of accidents and casualties because of rush driving. All these problems are associated with urban transport. In fact most of governments do not have urban transport policy.

1.4.10 Urbanization and Urban Administration

Unbridled urbanization can pose surmountable challenges before the administration and municipal governance. Problems will arise as how to organize new administrative structure and manpower development, how to prevent uncontrolled expansion, how to organize transport and communication systems, how to finance public services, prepare master plans etc. Prioritizing the needs amidst socio-political pressure is a challenge before the district administration. Besides civic problems, the urban administration has to tackle other problems which population brings forth such as people's resentments and disregarding rules and regulations, spoiling public and private property and showing utter disregard for the rights and feelings of fellow citizens. Other issues like illegal migration, trafficking, etc. can pose problems for urban administration.

In this section you studied about the causes of urbanization and various problems of urbanization, now answer the questions given in *Check Your Progress 2*.

Check Your Progress 2

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1) Give an account of urban poverty.

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2) Unemployment is one of the burning problems of urbanization-Explain.

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1.5 SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) envisaged that sustainable development has now assumed a broader significance as a process of change in which the use of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional changes must all contribute to enhancing the quality of human life, today as well as tomorrow, within the carrying capacity of supporting economic systems. It broadly emphasises on the establishment of a condition of ecological and economic stability that is sustainable far into the future. The United Nations Environment Programme and its partners have been persuading the nations of the short and long-term benefits to be gained from the sound environmental management of natural resources. WCED declared that “all human being have the fundamental right to an environment adequate for their health and well-being. There has to be sustainable development which will be durable and beneficial to the present and future generation.”

Sustainable Urban Development must be the aim of all developing countries. The UNCHS (United Nations Conference on Human Settlement) defined sustainable city is a city “where achievements in social, economic and physical development are made to last”. A Sustainable city has lasting supply of the natural resources on which its development depends and a lasting security from environmental hazards which may threaten development achievements.

Sustainable urban development is important because urban areas now a day contribute significantly to the Gross Domestic Product. They contribute increasingly to export and is a rich place for capital formation. Cities offer quality education and health care; arts and science; technology and innovation and transport and communication.

Some of the pre-requisites of sustainable urban development are :

- i) Income and output to be produced at a constant or even increasing return to scale.
- ii) City should assure minimum level of living to its inhabitants.
- iii) A shift in the attitude of the people in the direction towards enterprise and equity.
- iv) City should become self-reliant and sustain itself without much depending on external sources.
- v) The developmental institutions undergo a continual renewal to maintain their relevance to the needs of the urban areas.
- vi) Participation of private sector, NGOs and CVOs should be encouraged in order to maintain the level of development.
- vii) Management of Urban growth to promote minimal use of environmental capital, while meeting social and economic goals.

The Agenda 21 of WCED held in 1992 in Rio-de-Janeiro for promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development is:

- a) Providing adequate shelter to all
- b) Improving human settlements management
- c) Promoting Sustainable land use planning and management.
- d) Promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage, hazardous and solid waste management.
- e) Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements.
- f) Promoting human settlement planning and management in disaster-prone areas.
- g) Promoting sustainable construction industry activities.
- h) Promoting human resources development and capacity building for human settlement development

To summarise, the aim of sustainable urban development is to ensure a sustainable city to the urban dwellers for improving the well-being and quality of life.

1.6 LET US SUM UP

Many cities in the world are experiencing growth in urban population. The globalization and migration of population from the rural to urban areas has hastened the process of urbanization in India. In India, the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata are experiencing pressure of urban population growth. The growth of urban population has given rise to sundry of urban problems such as unemployment, housing, sanitation, safe drinking water, etc. In this unit you studied about the meaning, features and problems of urbanization.

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1.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

1) What do you mean by urbanization?

Urbanization is a process by which a people, instead of living in predominantly dispersed agricultural villages, start living in towns and cities dominated by industrial and service functionaries. It involves multiplication of urban places and/ or an increase in size of cities. Growth of urban population is only one of dimensions of urbanization

2) Explain key features of urbanization.

Some of the key features of are:

- i) Urbanization in the developed countries is higher as compared to the developing countries.
- ii) The urbanization in the African region is found to be slightly higher than the Asian region.
- iii) In India, there is lopsided urbanization and the growth of population in class-I cities having more than one lakh population is higher as compared to other cities.
- iv) Urbanization takes place without much industrialization and strong economic base.

Check Your Progress 2

- 1) Give an account of urban poverty.

According to ILO, one third of the world's urban population approximately 400 million people were living in poverty. It has also noted that poverty-related problems such as overcrowding, hunger, disease, crime and malnutrition are increasingly prevalent in cities of many countries both developing as well as developed. Economic development and urbanization are closely correlated. For example in India, cities contribute 55 per cent to country's GDP. This urban poverty is a responsible factor for several problems in urban areas such as housing and shelter, water, sanitation, health education, social security and live hood.

- 2) Unemployment is one of the burning problems of urbanization-Explain.

Generating employment for the increasing number of urban population is a challenge for the government. It is said that nearly 45 per cent of the urban households are engaged in unorganized sector. The urban underemployment and casual employment is another problem which has resulted in poor quality of living among the urban poor. The ILO has remarked that most urban unemployment in developing countries takes the form of underemployment in which people are obliged to undertake any available economic activity, however, poverty and unemployment are critical, because these are no social-safety nets and no alternatives in the form of unemployment insurance or job training in the formal sector.

