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RESEARCH ARTICLE

URBANISATION IN INDIA-TRENDS AND ISSUES.

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Abstract

Urbanization is one of the important outcomes of the process of the economic growth and is one of the oldest phenomenon of the human existence and the process of civilization. The growth of urban population and hence the process of urbanization has been very rapid in the recent years specifically during the 20th century. Urbanization in India, like the other developing regions, has also been witnessed largely in the second half of the 20th century. The growth of cities of different class sizes in India indicates a faster growth of the urban population and its concentration in the big cities. Moreover, there has also been a considerable increase in the number of cities with million plus population in the country. The major issues related to urbanization include migration, degradation of environment, pollution, slum settlements and urban poor raise significant concerns regarding the urbanization process. Tackling these issues requires high amount of planning both at micro as well as macro levels. The modern approach to planning is viewed in terms of moving away from the traditional planning system and is required to have a decentralized and participatory approach.

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Introduction:-

Among the many developments in the history of human civilization, the process of urbanization is on from a few millennia. It is believed that human beings have been living in sizable settlement clusters, which can be called as 'urban', for nearly about 5000 years. However, for a long period of time, especially before the industrialization, population in these settlements constituted a very small proportion of the total population of the world. Widespread urbanization, defined as the movement of large proportion of population from villages to cities and towns, has been a relatively recent phenomenon and has taken place mainly in the 20th century. The proportion of urban population in the world was as low as 3 per cent at the end of the 18th century. This rose to about 13 per cent by the year 1900 and further to about 29% in 1950 (United Nations, 2007, p. 7). According to the World Urbanization Prospects 2007, the world urban population has grown to 3.3 billion in the year 2008, which is over 50% of the total world population and is expected to be about 60% by the year 2030 (United Nations, 2008, p. 3). The growing urbanization and the proportion of urban population come with a package of various issues that have an impact on the lives of people living in the urban areas. The spatial expansion of urban areas increases the requirement for infrastructure such as roads, bridges, public transport and public utilities. With the growing number of urban dwellers the issue of providing basic civic amenities to them crops up. Moreover, the growth of the urban population has an important contribution from the people migrating from rural as well as other urban areas. Migrants, especially coming from the rural areas, are usually poor and tend to reside in illegal settlements having inferior living conditions generating the

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issues of slum growth and urban poverty. The problem of health and hygiene of slum dwellers and provision of basic amenities and alternative housing to the urban poor are among the other related issues. Some of the other issues include pollution in the urban centers, traffic congestions, sanitation, urban unemployment, etc. In order to solve many of these issues a great deal of planning of urban areas is required. The significance of the urban planning exists because with the growth of the urban areas it is important to adopt means and ways for the improvement of the existing area and also for its extension.

In the present paper a brief review of the trends and issues in urbanization has been attempted. In the next section, global trends in urbanization have been discussed which includes the patterns of urban growth so far in the different regions of the world, comparison of urbanization in developed and developing nations and the future projections of the urban population in different parts of the world. Section III describes the trends in urbanization in India indicated by the exponential growth of urban population and urban areas over the various Census periods, the interstate comparison of the growth of urban population, and the growth of different types of cities in India along with the distribution of population in them. Section IV discusses some of the major issues directly related to urbanization process and the planning of urban areas in context of the urban centers of India. These issues include the process of migration occurring as a result of urbanization, outgrowth of slum areas and squatter settlements, and the access of urban population to the basic urban amenities namely water supply, drainage and sewerage, electricity, toilet facility, etc. Section V includes some other issues related to urbanization in India have been such as the issue of climate change related caused due to large scale urbanization, pollution of urban environment by heavy use of motorized vehicles, issue of urban employment and the problems related to slum clearances in large urban centers for implementation of urban renewal programs. Finally, section VI concludes the paper. The paper is solely based on literature review and empirical analysis. It has been developed to cultivate an elementary understanding on the trends and issues in urbanization

Urbanization: Global Trends:-

To view global trend of urbanization we begin by looking at the growth of urban areas in the major regions of the world. Table 1 below shows the same for the period 1975 to 2007 and the projection up to the year 2050. The proportion of the urban area has been constantly increasing in all regions of the world during the last 50 years. The developed regions of the world namely Europe, America and Oceania and Latin America are heavily urbanized with 70 to 80% of urban area in these regions. The less developed or developing regions of Asia and Africa still have only about 40% of the area that is urbanized (United Nations, 2008, p. 5). The future projections indicate towards a further increase in the urban areas of the world. By the year 2050 it is expected that the developed regions of the world would have about 80% of area as urban and the developing regions would have over 60% as the urban area. Considering the rate of urbanization, in most of the regions of the world it has remained positive during past five to six decades and is expected to remain positive over the coming decades. This is consistent with the growing proportion of urban areas, however, we find that this rate has been falling in almost all the regions of the world and will continue to fall in future. Moreover, the rate of urbanization has remained significantly higher in the developing regions of the world that have lower proportion of urban area. This indicates towards an inverse relationship between the total area urbanized and the expected rate of urbanization in that region.

Table 1:- Percentage of Urban Population in Major Regions of the World Current and Projections: (1950-2050)

Major Area	% of Urban Area					Rate of Urbanization (%)			
	1950	1975	2007	2025	2050	1950-1975	1975-2007	2007-2025	2025-2050
Africa	14.5	25.7	38.7	47.2	61.8	2.28	1.28	1.10	1.08
Asia	16.8	24	40.8	51.1	66.2	1.42	1.66	1.24	1.04
Europe	51.2	65.7	72.2	76.2	83.8	1.00	0.29	0.30	0.38
Latin America and the Caribbean	41.4	61.1	78.3	83.5	88.7	1.56	0.78	0.36	0.24
Northern America	63.9	73.8	81.3	85.7	90.2	0.58	0.30	0.29	0.20
Oceania	62.0	71.5	70.5	71.9	76.4	0.57	-0.05	0.11	0.24

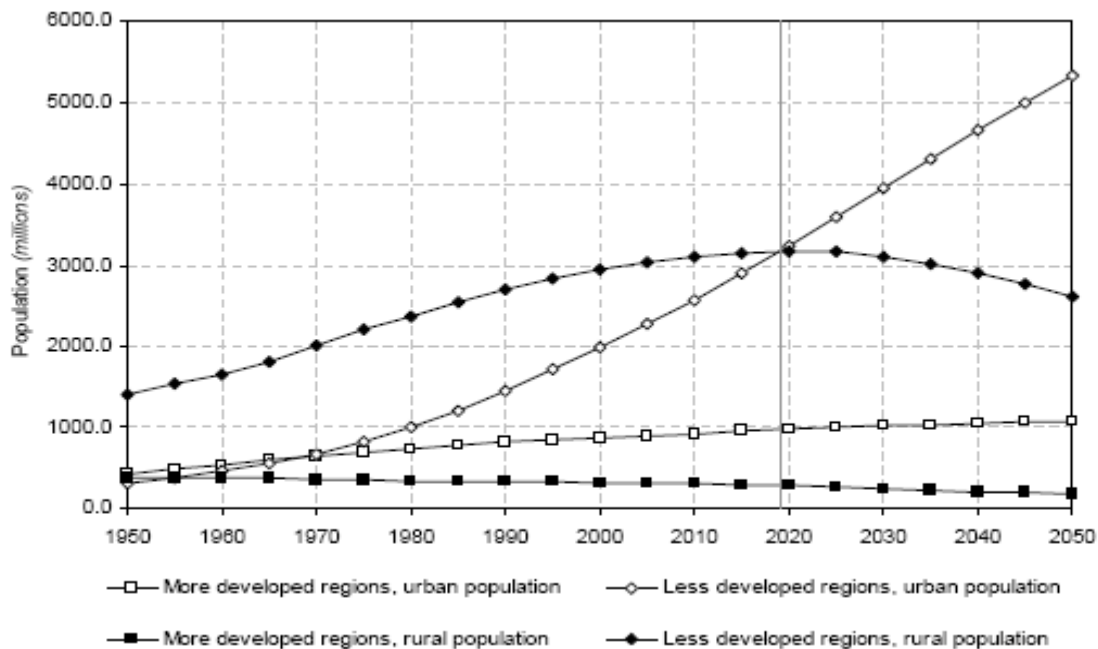
Source: (United Nations, 2008, p. 5)

The figures in the table 1 above also indicate that the process of urbanization in the modern context has been much faster in the developing world than the developed ones. The acceleration of urbanization generally takes place with

corresponding acceleration of economic growth. In the recent times the Asian countries have experienced a high urban growth as they have had the highest rates of economic growth (Mohan & Dasgupta, 2005, p. 220). In the later part of the 20th century it was the developing world that grew at a much faster rate than the developed nations and that the share of the developed countries in the urban population has declined from about 53% in 1950 to 27.5% in 2000 and is expected to further fall to 17% by the year 2030. The report on State of World Population states that, 'While the world's urban population grew very rapidly (from 220 million to 2.8 billion) over the 20th century; the next few decades will see an unprecedented scale of urban growth in the developing world. This will be particularly notable in Africa and Asia where the urban population will double between 2000 and 2030: That is, the accumulated urban growth of these two regions during the whole span of history will be duplicated in a single generation. By 2030, the towns and cities of the developing world will make up 80 per cent of urban humanity.' (United Nations, 2007, p. 1). The process of urbanization started much earlier in the developed nations. By the year 1950 half of the population in these nations stayed in the urban areas. Today in the developed regions of the world including Australia, New Zealand and North America, about 80% of the total population stays in the urban areas. Among the developing countries the Latin America and Caribbean are the highly urbanized ones with nearly 78% of their population staying in the urban areas. However, Asia and Africa still have a large proportion of the rural population and are expected to urbanize at a higher rate than rest of the world in the coming decades. The urban population in the world is highly concentrated. In terms of the urban population, nearly half of the urban world stays in Asia. About 75% of the total urban dwellers on earth stay in only 25 countries, most of which are highly urbanized. Moreover, India, China and America together account for 35% of the total urban population.

Increasing urbanization throughout the world leads to a fall in the rural population. The world rural population is estimated to rise to a maximum of about 3.5 billion by 2018 or 2019 and decline thereafter reaching nearly 2.8 billion in 2050. Figure 1 below shows the growth of urban and rural populations in more and less developed regions of the world for the last 50 years and the expected growth till the year 2050. The rural population in developed regions is already quite low as compared to the urban population. It is expected to further fall to a lower level in the years to come. In the developing regions the population in rural areas has so far remained greater than the urban areas. However, this trend is expected to be reversed by the year 2020.

Figure 1:- Urban and Rural Populations by Development Group – 1950 - 2050



Source: (United Nations, 2008, p. 3)

An important characteristic of the process of urbanization in the world is the growth of large cities. This is relevant if we consider the increase in number of cities in the world with population more than 10 million in the last 50 years. The total number of such cities was just 2 in 1950, grew to 3 by 1975 and today there are 19 such cities in the world.

By 2025 this number is expected to increase to 27. Moreover, the distribution of the urban population among different sizes of cities is found to be quite uneven. Table 2 below gives the percentage distribution of urban population among different size classes of urban settlements in the world. Despite the significant increase in the 10 million plus cities in the recent years, over 50% of the urban population in the world stays in cities with less than 0.5 million population. This is followed by the cities with 1-5 million populations with the second biggest proportion of people staying in them. In fact, the cities with population over 10 million constitutes one of the smallest proportions of the urban population. This situation is consistent among both the developed as well as the developing world.

Table 2:-Percentage Distribution of Urban Population by Area of Residence and Development Group

Development Group	Area of Residence and Size class of urban settlements	% Distribution		
		1975	2007	2025
World	Urban Area (Total)	100	100	100
	> 10 million	3.5	8.7	9.7
	5 - 10 Million	7.7	6.5	7.3
	1 - 5 Million	20.9	23	23.2
	0.5 - 1 Million	11	9.8	8.5
	< 0.5 Million	56.9	52	51.3
More Developed Regions	Urban Area (Total)	100	100	100
	> 10 million	6.1	9.8	10.3
	5 - 10 Million	7.1	5.4	6.9
	1 - 5 Million	19.6	22.2	20.4
	0.5 - 1 Million	10.2	9.1	9
	< 0.5 Million	57.1	53.5	53.4
Less Developed Regions	Urban Area (Total)	100	100	100
	> 10 million	1.3	8.3	9.6
	5 - 10 Million	8.3	6.9	7.5
	1 - 5 Million	22.1	23.4	23.7
	0.5 - 1 Million	11.7	10	8.4
	< 0.5 Million	56.6	51.4	50.8

Source: (United Nations, 2008, p. 9)

Urbanization in India:-

As per the Census of India an urban area is defined as an area that has,

- A municipality, a corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc.
- It has a minimum population of 5000.
- 75% of the male working population involved in non-agricultural economic activity and,
- It has a population density of at least 400 per square kilometer of area (Census of India 2001, 1961).

Moreover, an Urban Agglomeration (UA) is a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining urban outgrowths or two or more physically contiguous towns together and any adjoining urban outgrowths of such towns and a city is defined as an urban area with a population of more than 100000. At the time of the Census 1971 a new concept of 'Standard Urban Area' was introduced. Such an urban area is supposed to have a core town with a minimum population of 50000 and the surrounding UAs should have close mutual socio-economic links with the core town. This concept replaced the earlier one used in 1961 Census of the town group which was made up of independent urban units not necessarily contiguous to one another but were to some extent inter-dependent. The purpose was to provide comparable data for a definite area of urbanization which was not possible with the town area concept (Census of India 2001, 1961).

Urbanization process in India is indicated by the growth in the urban population is given by the Census data on population from 1901 to 2001. Table 3 below provides the same. The average annual rate of growth of the urban population was much low during the first decade at 0.03% but it picked during the 2nd and the 3rd decade and crossed the growth rate of rural population reaching 3.47% during the 1940s. The rate, however, fell during the 1950s to 2.34%, but increased in the subsequent decades reaching the maximum of 3.79% during 1971-81. However, since the 1980s and the 1990s the growth rate of urban population has been declining. Unlike the growth rate the proportion of urban population and the absolute number of urban individuals have consistently increased during all

the Census periods. The percentage of urban population in India has increased by about two and a half times from about 10.84% in 1901 to nearly 27.8% in 2001. Moreover, the absolute number of urban population has increased by eleven times from 25.9 million in 1901 to 285.4 million in 2001.

Table 3:- Census Population by Residence and Urban Proportions in India

Census Year	Total UAs	Population in millions			Average Annual % Growth Between Census Years	
		Total	Urban	% Urban	Total	Urban
1901	1827	238.4	25.9	10.84	-	-
1911	1825	252.1	25.9	10.29	0.51	0.03
1921	1949	251.3	28.1	11.18	-0.03	0.79
1931	2072	279	33.5	11.99	1.04	1.75
1941	2250	318.7	44.2	13.86	1.33	2.77
1951	2843	361.1	62.4	17.29	1.25	3.47
1961	2363	439.2	78.9	17.97	1.96	2.34
1971	2590	598.2	109.1	18.24	3.09	3.24
1981	3378	683.3	159.5	23.34	1.33	3.79
1991	3768	844.3	217.2	25.72	2.12	3.09
2001	5161	1027	285.4	27.78	1.96	2.73

Source: (Indiastat - Urban Statistical Handbook 2000)

The distribution of the urban population in India can be checked by considering the proportion of urban population in the states of Indian. Table 4 below shows the urban population for 2001 and percentage of urban population in major Indian states for Census 1981, 1991 and 2001. The given states form over 90% of the total and the urban population of the country as a whole.

Table 4:- Urban Population in Major Indian States (Census 1981, 1991 & 2001)

States/UTs	Population 2001 (in Million)		% of Urban to Total Population		
	Total	Urban	2001	1991	1981
Andhra Pradesh	75.73	20.5	27.08	26.78	23.32
Bihar +Jharkhand	109.79	14.67	13.36	12.47	13.14
Goa	1.34	0.67	49.77	41.01	32.03
Gujarat	50.6	18.9	37.35	34.49	31.1
Haryana	21.08	6.11	29	24.63	21.88
Himachal Pradesh	6.08	0.59	9.79	8.69	7.61
Jammu & Kashmir	10.07	2.51	24.88	23.83	21.05
Karnataka	52.73	17.92	33.98	30.92	28.89
Kerala	31.84	8.27	25.97	26.39	18.74
Maharashtra	96.75	41.02	42.4	38.69	35.03
MP + Chhattisgarh	81.18	20.28	24.98	23.18	20.29
Orissa	36.71	5.5	14.97	13.38	11.79
Punjab	24.29	8.25	33.95	29.55	27.68
Rajasthan	56.47	13.21	23.38	22.88	21.05
Tamil Nadu	62.11	27.24	43.86	34.15	32.95
UP + Uttaranchal	174.53	36.68	21.02	19.84	17.95
West Bengal	80.22	22.49	28.03	27.48	26.47
Total of given States	971.52	264.81	28.46	25.79	23
India	1027.02	285.35	27.78	25.71	23.34

Source: (Indiastat - Urban Statistical Handbook 2000)

The average of the percentage of urban populations for different census periods for the given states is almost similar to that of the national average. The proportion of the urban population has consistently increased in case of all the states during the two decades between 1981 and 2001. However, there is a large amount of disparity in the proportion of the urban population and the growth of these proportions overtime among the given states. The urban

population proportions in states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat are significantly above the national average and that in Bihar, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh are significantly below the national average. Moreover, it can be observed that most of the states with higher proportions of urban population are economically better off than the ones with lower proportions. An interstate comparison of the level of urbanization and the rate of urban population indicates that states with higher level of urbanization have relatively lower growth urban growth as compared to the ones having lower level of urbanization (Kundu, 2003, p. 3083).

The distribution of the urban population in the country can also be viewed in terms of the various types of cities. These cities are classified by the Census of India on the basis of the population size among various size classes. The broad categories or the class sizes used for differentiating these cities are: (a) class I with population greater than 100000, (b) class II with population between 50000 and 100000, (c) class III with 20000 to 50000 population, (d) class IV having 10000 to 20000 population, (e) class V having population between 5000 & 10000, and (f) class VI with less than 5000 population. The million plus (M+) cities with more than one million population and the mega cities with over 10 million population also has a significant share of the urban population (Census of India 2001, 1961). Table 5a and 5b gives the number of cities of each size class and the percentage population residing in these cities/towns from Census 1901 to 2001, and the annual exponential growth during each decade respectively. Table 5a indicates a consistent increase in the number of towns in the class I, II, III and IV throughout all the decades. The numbers of towns in the class V and VI class sizes have increased in the pre-independence period and then have fallen. This is partly explained by the changes and standardization of definition of 'urban area' after the 1951 census. Moreover, it is also attributed to the shifting of many smaller towns to the higher level of class size over time.

Table 5a:- Number of Towns/Cities and Percentage Population by Size Class

Census Years	No. of Towns by size class						% of urban population by size class					
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1901	24	43	130	391	744	479	26.0	11.2	15.6	20.8	20.1	6.1
1911	23	40	135	364	707	485	27.4	10.5	16.4	19.7	19.3	6.5
1921	29	45	145	370	734	571	29.7	10.3	15.9	18.2	18.6	7.0
1931	35	56	183	434	800	509	31.2	11.6	16.8	18.0	17.1	5.2
1941	49	74	242	498	920	407	38.2	11.4	16.3	15.7	15.0	3.1
1951	76	91	327	608	1124	569	44.6	9.9	15.7	13.6	12.9	3.1
1961	102	129	437	719	711	172	51.4	11.2	16.9	12.7	6.8	0.7
1971	148	173	558	827	623	147	57.2	10.9	16.0	10.9	4.4	0.4
1981	218	270	743	1059	758	253	60.3	11.6	14.3	9.5	3.5	0.5
1991	300	345	947	1167	740	197	65.2	10.9	13.1	7.7	2.6	0.3
2001	393	401	1151	1344	888	191	68.6	9.7	12.2	6.8	2.3	0.2

Source: (Kundu, 2003, p. 3082)

The above table also indicates towards a consistent and substantial increase in the proportion of population residing in the class I cities of the country. In all the other class sizes the proportion of population has reduced marginally for class II and III towns and significantly in the case of class IV, V and VI. This trend indicates towards faster growth of the urban population and its concentration in the big cities and hence the urban structure becoming 'top heavy' (Kundu, 2003, p. 3082). This can also be shown by examining the average annual exponential growth rates of these cities during two to three decades before 2001. The class I cities had relatively high growth rate during the 1940s and 1960s as compared to the other class sizes. Later in the 1970s, 80s and 90s there has been a consistent fall in growth rate among all the class sizes. However, the growth rates of class I cities fell marginally as compared to other class sizes where the fall was relatively of a greater magnitude.

Table 5b:- Annual Exponential Growth Rates of Urban Population in Various Size Categories

Census Year	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI
1901-11	0.54	-0.73	0.46	-0.55	-0.43	0.72
1911-21	1.57	0.68	0.5	0.03	0.46	1.47
1921-31	2.24	2.89	2.28	1.59	0.89	-1.25
1931-41	4.81	2.59	2.51	1.47	1.50	-2.26
1941-51	5.02	2.10	3.07	2.01	1.97	3.31
1951-61	3.72	3.50	3.05	1.65	-4.50	-11.62

1961-71	4.29	2.93	2.65	1.67	-1.14	-2.32
1971-81	3.46	3.09	3.33	3.00	3.15	3.90
1981-91	2.96	2.75	2.59	2.50	2.62	3.64
1991-01	2.76	2.37	2.27	2.19	2.22	3.26

Source: (Kundu, 2003, p. 3082)

A major proportion of urban population in India also resides in the million plus cities. Tables 5c and 5d below show the number of million plus cities and their growth in the country over the last century, and the population in major million plus cities in selected states of India, respectively. The table indicates that the country had only one such city in the beginning of the century. The number rose to 2 in the year 1911 and remained the same up to 1941. However, this number more than doubled by the year 1951 with 5 such cities and again between 1981 to 1991 it rose from 12 to 23 million plus cities in the nation.

Table 5c:- Number, Population and Percentage Share of Metropolitan Cities (Million Plus Population) in Total Urban Population in India

(1901-2001)			
Year	No. of Metropolitan Cities	Population (In Millions)	Share in Total Urban Population (%)
1901	1	1.51	5.84
1911	2	2.76	1.65
1921	2	3.13	11.14
1931	2	3.41	10.18
1941	2	5.31	12.23
1951	5	11.75	18.81
1961	7	18.1	22.93
1971	9	27.83	25.51
1981	12	42.12	26.41
1991	23	70.66	32.54
2001	35	108.34	37.87

Source: (Indiastat - Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Govt. of India)

Apart from the total number of these cities, the total population in them and its proportion to the total urban population has also risen significantly over the decades. By the year 2001 the country had 35 million plus cities with a total population in these cities being nearly 38% of the total urban population of the nation. Table 5d gives the population of million plus cities in major states of India and their proportionate share in the total population in all such cities as well as in the total urban population of the country.

Table 5d:- State wise Population of Cities with more than one Million Population- 2001 (Provisional)

City	State	Total Population (in millions)	% of Tot Pop. in MN+ Cities	% of Tot Urban Pop.
Greater Mumbai	Maharashtra	11.91	16.32	4.18
Delhi Municipal Corporation (Urban)	Delhi	9.82	13.44	3.44
Kolkata	West Bengal	4.58	6.27	1.61
Bangalore	Karnataka	4.29	5.88	1.50
Chennai	Tamil Nadu	4.22	5.77	1.48
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	3.52	4.81	1.23
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	3.45	4.72	1.21
Pune	Maharashtra	2.54	3.48	0.89
Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	2.53	3.47	0.89
Surat	Gujarat	2.43	3.33	0.85
Jaipur	Rajasthan	2.32	3.18	0.81
Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	2.21	3.02	0.77

Nagpur	Maharashtra	2.05	2.81	0.72
Indore	Madhya Pradesh	1.60	2.19	0.56
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	1.43	1.96	0.50
Ludhiana	Punjab	1.40	1.91	0.49
Patna	Bihar	1.38	1.89	0.48
Vadodara	Gujarat	1.31	1.79	0.46
Thane	Maharashtra	1.26	1.73	0.44
Agra	Uttar Pradesh	1.26	1.73	0.44
Kalyan-Dombivli	Maharashtra	1.19	1.63	0.42
Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	1.10	1.51	0.39
Nashik	Maharashtra	1.08	1.47	0.38
Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	1.07	1.47	0.38
Faridabad	Haryana	1.05	1.44	0.37
Haora	West Bengal	1.01	1.38	0.35
Pimprichinchwad	Maharashtra	1.01	1.38	0.35
Source: (Indiastat - Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001)				

The figures in this table are the provisional ones and show the population residing only in the municipal limits of these cities. It does not include the population of the urban agglomerations located around these cities. Nearly half of the population in these cities resides in the four mega cities – Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai. Moreover, majority of the million plus cities are located in Uttar Pradesh in the north, Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west and two each in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

The projections for urban population in India indicates that its proportion will reach over one third by the year 2015 with 36% percent of the population in the country staying in the urban areas as compared to 28% in 2001. The average annual growth rate of the urban population is expected to be at around 2.7% (Datta, 2006, p. 6). The number of million plus cities in the nation is also expected to rise from 40 in the year 2005 to 48 in 2010 and 54 in 2015. Between 2015 and 2020 6 more cities are projected to cross the one million population mark making 60 million plus cities in the nation (Datta, 2006, p. 10).

Issues in Urbanization:-

The process of urbanization gives rise to various issues related to its impact on the population residing in the urban areas. The primary issues involve provisioning of basic services to people such as housing, electricity, water supply, roads, sanitation, health and education services, etc. The other issues involve migration both from rural as well as other urban areas, poverty and the slum population, environmental impact on the urban periphery and hinterlands. Moreover, the provisioning of services and tackling the other issues requires great amount of planning of the urban areas in order to make decisions regarding resource allocation for a systematic urban growth and minimize a chaos created by mere resettlements. The present section highlights some of the major issues in urbanization with reference to the urban areas in India. Empirical data for the states and cities in the country are used for this purpose. Moreover, the issues related to planning of urban areas are also reviewed in light of the data.

Migration:-

Migration is one of the preliminary after effects of the process of urbanization in any country and hence may be regarded as an issue related to the same. The migration of population, specifically of the males, from rural to urban or from smaller urban areas to big cities is considered relevant to the process of urbanization. The migration of women can usually be attributed to socio cultural reasons rather than the urbanization. Migration in India has been regarded as one of the important constituents of the urban growth over the years. It has been also observed that despite an increase in the absolute number of male migrants in the urban areas, there has been a steady fall in the proportion of male migrants as compared to the urban population during census periods 1961 to 1991 (Kundu, 2003, p. 3080). This trend is observed in all kinds of migrants namely lifetime, inter-censal and the interstate migrant throughout these census periods. Considering the growth of urban population in India, the contribution of the rural urban migration as a percentage of incremental urban population has been increasing systematically from 18.7% during 1961-71 to 21.7% during 1971-81. However, this proportion fell marginally to 21% during the Census period 1991-01. A study by (Bhattacharya, 2002, p. 4220) addresses the issue of rural to urban migration which is an important constituent contributing to the urbanization and the recent trend of increasing migration of women along

with men in various parts of the developing world. The author also discusses the Harris-Todaro model that considers rural to urban migration to be a factor adding up to urban unemployment. However, he counters the argument by suggesting an alternative model stating that 'migration flow is likely to consist of at least two distinct streams, with one group bound for the informal sector only' and that migration itself accelerates economic development. He also points out the concern of over-urbanization due to pro-urban policies in many of the developing countries. The author, however, concludes that it is futile to regulate the size of the urban areas through direct controls of growth movements.

Migration of any kind, especially the rural to urban migration, raises a significant concern regarding the economic condition of the migrants and their probability of them adding to the urban poverty. In India the cities with population above one million have grown faster than other class I cities (with population greater than 1 lakh) and smaller towns (Kundu & Sarangi, 2007, p. 302). In terms of poverty, the authors quote figures indicating highest proportion of urban population below poverty line in the small towns as against the lowest in the large cities. The authors also use the data of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on consumption expenditure, employment status and other socio-economic and locational characteristics to identify the determinants of urban poverty in India. The authors find that the incidence of poverty is relatively higher among casual workers, illiterate people and those households having migrant members. The probability of being poor is lower among urban to urban migrants as compared to the rural to urban migrant population. However, migration in both the cases improves the economic well-being and lowers the risk of falling into poverty. The authors conclude that 'economic deprivation is not the most critical factor in migration decisions' and 'the probability of a person being poor works out low in large city compared to any other urban center' (Kundu & Sarangi, 2007, p. 306). Another important concern related to the migration is of availability of housing and basic amenities to the migrant population. Most of the migrants end up with extremely low access to these amenities and live in the urban slums under inferior living conditions.

Slums and Urban Poverty:-

One of the effects of the urbanization process is the outgrowth of the slum areas in the urban centers. A slum is a kind of human settlement on illegal or unauthorized land usually in urban areas characterized by the inferior living conditions. The slum areas are home to the urban poor population migrating from the rural areas in search of employment. Most of these slum areas have inferior living conditions in terms of poor and congested housing, usually the *kutchha* houses, poor availability of the basic amenities, and unhealthy environmental conditions. Apart from the amenities, the existence of the slums also raises the issue of health and hygiene of the slum dwellers caused due to the overall living conditions. The problem of large number of population staying in slum areas is quite serious and acute in big cities especially in the mega cities of India. Table 6a shows the proportion of urban population in the million plus cities in India as per the Census 2001. Many of these million plus cities have very high proportions of slum population with three of them having over 40% slum population in 2001.

The increase in the urban population in the nation has also lead to a corresponding increase in the slum population. Table 6b shows the state wise urban slum population and its proportion to the total population for the Census 1981, 1991 and 2001. The percentage of slum population has not significantly changed for major states and the country as a whole, however, the absolute number of slum dwellers has consistently increased in almost all the states. With the addition of the urban population in the urban centers, accommodating the masses becomes difficult in the core urban areas due to increasing congestion in the existing space.

Table 6a:- Slum Population in Million Plus Cities (Municipal Corporations) of India and its Proportion to Total Population 2001 (Provisional)

Name of the City	Total population (in lakhs)	Slum population (in lakhs)	% Slum Population
Greater Mumbai	119.14	58.24	48.88
Faridabad	10.55	4.91	46.55
Meerut	10.74	4.71	43.87
Nagpur	20.51	7.27	35.42
Thane	12.62	4.20	33.32
Kolkata	45.81	14.91	32.55
Ludhiana	13.95	3.15	22.56
Pune	25.40	5.31	20.92
Delhi (Urban)	98.17	18.55	18.89

Chennai	42.16	7.48	17.74
Hyderabad	34.50	6.01	17.43
Surat	24.34	4.06	16.68
Indore	15.97	2.60	16.25
Jaipur	23.24	3.50	15.07
Kanpur	25.32	3.69	14.57
Nashik	10.77	1.42	13.21
Pimprichinchwad	10.06	1.29	12.85
Varanasi	11.01	1.38	12.55
Ahmedabad	35.15	4.40	12.51
Haora	10.09	1.18	11.72
Agra	12.60	1.22	9.67
Bhopal	14.34	1.26	8.81
Vadodara	13.06	1.07	8.21
Bangalore	42.92	3.45	8.04
Kalyan-Dombivli	11.93	0.35	2.92
Patna	13.77	0.04	0.25
Total	708	166	23
Source: (Indiastat - Census 2001, 2001)			

This results in the masses shifting their settlements in the urban periphery giving rise to the rural-urban fringe. A fringe is the area of transition between the urban and the rural locality having mixed land use patterns in terms of urban use and the agricultural use. This area also constitutes of both rural as well as the urban population. Moreover, these fringes are identified as the poverty pockets with the population residing in the fringe areas being the urban poor. The urban poverty is usually associated with the population staying in the slums within the cities and in the fringes.

Table 6b:- State Wise Urban and Slum Population and Proportion of Sum Population (in Lakhs)

States/UTs	1981			1991			2001		
	Urban	Slum	% Slum	Urban	Slum	% Slum	Urban	Slum	% Slum
Andhra Pradesh	79.1	19.1	24.2	119.8	27.3	22.8	171.3	38.9	22.7
Assam	8.6	1.7	19.6	9.4	2.8	29.9	12.9	3.8	29.9
Bihar	48.2	15.0	31.0	59.6	18.4	30.9	79.3	24.8	31.2
Delhi	57.2	18.0	31.4	84.2	22.5	26.7	122.2	32.6	26.7
Gujarat	67.6	13.9	20.6	94.8	18.7	19.7	131.0	25.9	19.8
Haryana	16.9	2.3	13.8	23.8	3.6	15.1	35.8	4.9	13.7
Himachal Pradesh	0.7	0.2	27.4	1.1	0.3	31.0	1.5	0.5	31.0
Karnataka	65.8	6.8	12.5	90.0	9.4	10.4	129.6	13.6	10.5
Kerala	34.2	4.3	12.6	51.0	6.2	12.1	71.7	8.5	11.9
Madhya Pradesh	56.6	7.1	27.5	77.3	10.2	13.2	104.9	13.9	13.2
Maharashtra	166.9	46.0	10.5	237.7	65.0	27.3	325.6	88.5	27.2
Manipur	1.6	0.2	28.6	2.0	0.2	10.5	2.5	0.3	10.5
Meghalaya	1.7	0.5	18.0	2.2	0.4	18.8	2.8	0.5	18.8
Mizoram	0.7	0.1	-	1.6	0.3	18.0	3.4	0.6	18.0
Orissa	13.6	2.8	27.3	18.8	3.6	19.3	25.6	4.8	18.8
Punjab	24.1	6.6	24.3	32.5	9.2	28.4	44.3	12.7	28.7
Rajasthan	36.4	8.8	-	50.5	12.3	24.3	70.4	17.1	24.2
Tamil Nadu	104.8	22.1	21.0	127.0	24.2	19.1	157.8	30.4	19.3
Tripura	1.3	0.2	13.9	1.6	0.3	15.9	1.9	0.3	15.9
Uttar Pradesh	110.7	29.1	26.3	153.3	31.4	20.5	202.1	42.4	21.0
West Bengal	120.3	36.2	30.1	153.0	45.3	29.6	190.5	55.7	29.2
India	1023.9	242.9	23.7	1400.8	314.3	22.4	1900.5	424.5	22.3
Source: (Indiastat - A Compendium on Indian Slums, Ministry of Urban Affairs, 1996)									

The urban poor include both the rural-urban migrants and the original urban dwellers. Most of these individuals are involved in the low paid jobs in the cities and many a times remain unemployed. The urban poor also include those rural farmers who have lost their land, and hence the source of livelihood, which is acquired by the government due to land absorption in the fringe. Most of them take up the jobs in informal and unorganized sectors and then gradually shift to organized sector, if get a chance (Kundu, Pradhan, & Subramanian, 2002, p. 5045). The authors also indicate that the distance of the urban periphery or the fringes from the central cities and urban areas has a definite impact on the socio economic conditions of these areas. A greater distance from the urban location is identified by relatively lower levels of per capita incomes among the individuals and also lower level of wage rates. These regions also tend to be worse off in terms of the health indicators. They have relatively higher levels of infant and child mortalities and also a relatively higher frequency of short term morbidity among the individuals residing. Moreover, it is also found that these indicators show sharp declining trends mainly in the immediate periphery regions of the cities but stabilize as one moves to the rural areas at relatively a greater distance (Kundu, Pradhan, & Subramanian, 2002, p. 5043).

Poverty among people staying in slum and squatter settlements in urban areas is also characterized by very low levels of educational and income among them. A study conducted on the slum dwellers in different areas of the Mumbai city indicates that these household had extremely low levels of average monthly household income (Karn, Shikura, & Harada, 2003, p. 3579). The sample for the study also included the pavement dwellers in Mumbai who were found the least level of average monthly household income. Moreover, the average literacy level among the population was found to be as low as that in the rural areas in India with the pavement dwellers again having the lowest literacy. Among the households in different slum areas, the highest proportion of the pavement dwellers did not send any of their children to school. The study also indicates that a significant proportion of the population (40% to 50%) living in these slums areas fall below the poverty line based on percentage expenditure on food made by this population. The study also identifies the living conditions and health status of these slum dwellers. It highlights that over 95% of the households (except in one area with 74%) were single-roomed households (Karn, Shikura, & Harada, 2003, p. 3580). Most of these houses were flimsy and semi-permanent structures and were made of cloth, plastic, paper, wood, metal, etc. Almost all the households in the slums depend on municipal taps for water supply. The study also reveals that the average per capita consumption of water among the slum population is extremely below the average for the total urban areas. None of households, barring a negligent proportion in one of the areas, have sewerage or drainage facility and that they discard all kinds of household waste in open spaces. These households do not have any private toilet facilities. Many of the slum dwellers have a practice of defecating in open and a majority of them use public toilets which could be located nearby or even at a distance from their residence. The examination of health status in terms of the morbidity of people indicates greater prevalence of short duration ailments among the residents of the population.

Urban Amenities:-

With increase in urbanization and the growth of urban population access of all to the urban amenities is an important challenge. This issue is not only relevant in terms of the total availability of the amenities but also of the resource requirement for production of these services and the optimal pricing of these services. Beginning with the primary issues we may consider the provisioning of basic amenities such as water supply, electricity and sanitation. Availability of water is one of the most essential requirements for any kind of human settlement. In an urban area water would be mainly required for (i) domestic requirements such as washing and cooking, (ii) for industrial purposes and (iii) drainage purposes for clearing domestic and industrial waste. Historically the major sources of water supply in urban areas have been the surface water bodies such as rivers, ponds or lakes. This is the reason why most of the urban settlements were always around the major rivers. Moreover, in the recent history the underground aquifers also act as a major source of water supply (Buch, 1987, p. 97). Within water supply the availability of drinking water through sources that are considered safe becomes relevant. Table 7a provides the details of sources drinking water in households of urban areas in major states as per Census 2001. We find that majority of the households in these states had an access to tap, hand pump or tube well as a source of drinking water which are considered to be the safe sources. However, in some of the states such as Goa, Jharkhand, Orissa, Kerala and West Bengal, well was an important source of drinking water which falls in the unsafe source category. Moreover, proportion of household having other unsafe sources such as pond or river/canal, etc were quite low in all the state and for nation as a whole. The other important amenities in the urban areas include the availability of toilet facility and bathroom facility, drainage, and electricity. Table 7b below provides the details regarding availability of bathrooms, type of toilets and drainage among the urban households in the different states of India in 2001.

Table 7a:- State-wise Percentage Distribution of Households by Source of Drinking Water in Urban Areas in India - 2001

States	Source of Drinking Water							
	Tap	Hand pump	Tube well	Well	Tank, Pond, Lake	River, Canal	Spring	Any Other
	%							
Andhra Pradesh	71.9	11.7	6.5	7.2	0.2	0.1	Neg.	2.3
Bihar	26.4	57.9	6.9	7.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9
Chhattisgarh	60	25.2	3.6	9.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.6
Delhi	77	17.6	3.1	Neg.	0.6	Neg.	Neg.	1.6
Goa	81	0.7	0.4	16.7	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.5
Gujarat	83	7.1	5.3	1.4	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	3.1
Haryana	71.7	22.5	3.1	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.4
Himachal Pradesh	93.9	2.4	0.8	0.8	0.3	Neg.	0.8	1
Jammu & Kashmir	87.5	6.9	1.3	1.2	0.4	1.4	0.4	1
Jharkhand	48	16.4	3.8	28.7	0.5	0.9	0.2	1.5
Karnataka	78.4	6.2	7.5	6.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.9
Kerala	39.9	1	2	56	0.2	Neg.	0.1	0.9
Madhya Pradesh	67.9	13.5	7.1	9.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.9
Maharashtra	89.2	4.5	1.7	3.2	0.2	0.1	Neg.	1.1
Orissa	45.9	10.9	15.6	25.2	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.7
Punjab	66.8	29.4	2.6	0.2	Neg.	Neg.	0.1	0.8
Rajasthan	80.1	10.3	3.1	4.1	0.6	0.1	0.1	1.7
Tamil Nadu	65.4	14.4	6.1	9.6	0.2	0.3	0.4	3.6
Uttar Pradesh	54.5	41	1.6	1.9	0.1	Neg.	0.1	0.7
Uttaranchal	82.3	14.9	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.3
West Bengal	56.7	22.9	12.7	6.5	0.2	Neg.	0.5	0.5
India	68.7	16.2	5.1	7.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.5

Notes: 'Neg' – Negligible
Source : (Indiastat - Census 2001, 2001)

Table 7b:- State-wise Percentage of House-hold By availability of Bathroom, Type of Toilets and type of Drainage Connectivity in Urban India - 2001

States	Bathroom Facility	Type of Latrine				Type of Drainage		
		Pit latrine	Water closet	Other latrine	No latrine	Closed drainage	Open drainage	No drainage
	%							
Andhra Pradesh	78.5	15.1	47	16	21.9	36	46.3	17.7
Arunachal Pradesh	53.9	32.1	28.1	26.8	13	12.9	50.4	36.7
Assam	53	26.4	58.9	9.3	5.4	9.8	42.8	47.4
Bihar	43.1	11.4	43.4	14.9	30.3	22.1	46.5	31.4
Chhattisgarh	51.9	5.2	38.8	8.6	47.4	17.1	45.8	37
Delhi	71.7	15.2	47.4	16.5	21	51.7	39.4	9
Goa	77.2	18.7	38.9	11.6	30.8	38.1	30.9	31
Gujarat	80.6	9.8	62.1	8.7	19.5	59.3	19	21.7
Haryana	75.4	26.5	31	23.2	19.3	35	53.4	11.6
Himachal Pradesh	74.9	12	49.7	15.5	22.8	43.5	42.6	13.9
Jammu & Kashmir	77.7	20.2	26.5	40.2	13.1	25.5	56.3	18.2
Jharkhand	54.5	7.4	41.2	18	33.3	23.8	48.6	27.6
Karnataka	79.1	20.7	44.9	9.7	24.8	41.6	39.3	19
Kerala	78.9	11.1	74.8	6.2	8	14.9	16	69.1
Madhya Pradesh	63.2	11.9	41.1	14.7	32.3	24.5	51.4	24.1

Maharashtra	81.6	7.1	44.4	6.6	41.9	45.1	42.5	12.4
Manipur	16.4	67	20.5	7.8	4.7	2.9	54.3	42.9
Meghalaya	69.8	33.1	43.5	14.9	8.4	15	61.6	23.3
Mizoram	64.8	54.5	34.5	9	2	8.5	54.5	37
Nagaland	58.3	40.5	19.9	33.8	5.9	12.1	60.1	27.8
Orissa	48.9	9.5	43.1	7.2	40.3	19.6	37.9	42.5
Punjab	82.8	20.5	46.5	19.5	13.5	45	44.8	10.2
Rajasthan	71.4	18.2	40.6	17.3	23.9	24.1	56.1	19.8
Sikkim	83.4	1.9	87	2.9	8.2	57.9	36.2	5.8
Tamil Nadu	66.4	11.2	45.5	7.7	35.7	34.6	35.5	30
Tripura	43.4	44.8	43.1	9	3	6.8	46.3	46.9
Uttar Pradesh	63.8	18.1	32	30	20	26.5	65.9	7.6
Uttaranchal	77.9	26.7	40.8	19.3	13.1	28.4	59.9	11.8
West Bengal	58.6	22.9	55.2	6.8	15.2	21.8	45.3	32.9
India	70.4	14.6	46.1	13	26.3	34.5	43.4	22.1

Source: (Indiastat - Census 2001, 2001)

Table 8 below shows the percentage availability of amenities to households in different states and its growth over the three Census periods. We find a consistent increase in the coverage of toilet facilities, electricity and safe drinking water to the households in urban areas of the most of the Indian states. At the national level the percentage of household having toilet facility increased from 58.1% to 63.9% during 1981 to 1991 and to 73.7% in 2001. The corresponding figures for availability of electricity were 62.5% in 1981 to 75.8% in 1991 and 87.7% in 2001. The coverage of safe drinking water facility improved markedly from 74.1% in 1981 to 90% by the year 2001 in the urban India. An important point regarding the coverage of the basic amenities in urban areas is that in some of the areas of the nation, the low percentage of households being covered by amenities can be attributed to social, culture and natural factors (Kundu, Bagchi, & Kundu, 1999, p. 1894). In the northeastern states like Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, etc, a majority of population depends upon streams and rivulets for source of water supply. A similar situation occurs in Kerala where an important source of drinking water is 'well'. These sources are not considered strictly as 'safe' as per the classification system of the Population Census, but are generally hygienic and potable (Kundu, Bagchi, & Kundu, 1999, p. 1894).

The high rate of urbanization raises the demand for resources to efficiently manage the big cities. Also, the requirement of urban amenities such as water supply, electricity, solid waste management and public transport will rise. According to Mohan and Dasgupta (2005, p. 217) most of the Asian countries have done well in terms of providing these services to the urban population. The authors using facts and figures show that there has been a significant improvement in the proportion of population with an access to sanitation, water supply and electricity. However, the authors feel that there are various challenges in terms of provisioning of these services to the urban population and the investment required for the same.

Table 8:- State-wise Percentage Household with Availability of Amenities in India

States	Toilet Facilities			Electricity			Safe drinking Water		
	%								
	1981	1991	2001	1981	1991	2001	1981	1991	2001
Andhra Pradesh	44.1	54.6	78.1	52.2	73.3	90	63.3	73.8	90.1
Arunachal Pradesh	64.6	75	87	64.3	81	89.4	87.9	88.2	90.7
Assam	-	86.1	94.6	-	63.2	74.3	-	64.1	70.3
Bihar	53.8	56.9	69.7	44.5	53.7	59.3	65.4	73.4	91.2
Chhattisgarh	43	42.6	52.6	45.6	61.2	82.9	-	-	88.8
Delhi	68	66.6	79	74.9	81.4	93.4	94.9	96.2	97.7
Goa	49.5	55.8	69.2	70	88.8	94.7	52.3	61.7	82.1
Gujarat	60.1	65.7	80.5	74.4	83	93.4	86.8	87.2	95.4
Haryana	58.1	64.3	80.7	82.2	89.1	92.9	90.7	93.2	97.3
Himachal Pradesh	55.1	60	77.2	89.4	96.2	97.4	89.6	91.9	97.1

Jammu & Kashmir	64.5	-	86.9	92.2	-	97.9	86.7	-	95.7
Jharkhand	51.9	56.1	66.7	56.8	64.8	75.6	-	-	68.2
Karnataka	53.3	62.5	75.2	62	76.3	90.5	74.4	81.4	92.1
Kerala	59.1	72.7	92	54.6	67.7	84.3	39.7	38.7	42.9
Madhya Pradesh	55.4	56	67.7	59.4	75.7	92.3	66.6	79.4	88.5
Maharashtra	59.4	64.4	58.1	70.5	86.1	94.3	85.6	90.5	95.4
Manipur	62.7	70.2	95.3	48.3	75.5	82	38.7	52.1	59.4
Meghalaya	70.1	85.7	91.6	59.6	83	88.1	74.4	75.4	73.6
Mizoram	24.5	84.4	98	50.1	85.5	94.4	8.8	19.9	47.9
Nagaland	65.3	75.1	94.1	58.4	75.6	90.3	57.2	45.5	42.3
Orissa	41.9	49.3	59.7	51.7	62.1	74.1	51.3	62.8	72.4
Punjab	64.8	73.2	86.5	85.4	94.6	96.5	91.1	94.2	98.8
Rajasthan	56.5	62.3	76.1	63.7	76.7	89.6	78.6	86.5	93.5
Sikkim	53.2	77.7	91.8	71.8	92.4	97.1	71.9	92.9	97.1
Tamil Nadu	51.3	57.5	64.3	61.6	76.8	88	69.4	74.2	85.9
Tripura	95.7	96.3	97	92.1	80.4	86.4	67.9	71.1	85.9
Uttar Pradesh	61.9	65.9	80	54.2	66.7	79.9	73.3	85.8	97.1
Uttaranchal	64.3	75.4	86.9	61.4	81	90.9	-	-	97.8
West Bengal	77.7	78.8	84.8	57.9	70.2	79.6	79.8	86.2	92.3
India	58.1	63.9	73.7	62.5	75.8	87.7	74.1	81.6	90

Source: (Indiastat - Census 2001, 2001)

An important challenge that is coming up with the expansion of the urban centers in India is of providing these basic amenities to peri-urban regions which are a result of the transformation of rural hinterlands around the big cities (Shaw, 2005, p. 130). These regions receive services such as electricity and water supply but remain neglected as far the drainage, sewerage, sanitation, and street cleaning and garbage collection services are concerned. Resultantly these regions tend to have deteriorated environmental and living conditions with increasing amount of solid and liquid wastes lying uncollected by institutional arrangements. The major reason, as indicated by the author, is that these regions are mostly not governed by the urban local government but fall under the rural bodies which do not have the responsibility of majority of the services that are usually provided by the municipal authorities (Shaw, 2005, p. 131). The author further discusses the possibility of involvement of local community based, non-government organizations and private sector for providing these services. However, since many of these services fall in the category of public goods, it is often difficult to impose direct user charges and hence have to be provided through public resources. The involvement of other agencies raises other issues such as affordability and willingness of individuals to pay for receiving these services. Moreover, in context of the urban amenities and its overall provisioning in India, Bhattacharya (2002, p. 4225) states that both public and private sector have not been able to satisfactorily provide these services and suggests a partnership based model for the same which would include both private sector and community groups into public planning.

Other Issues:-

Apart from the above discussed major issues, the urbanization process also generates a number of other related concerns. Among these issues, the impact of urban growth on the environment causing the climate change has been a matter of concern. The relationship of urbanization to the possible risk of climate change can be viewed as - 1) its effect on the rural areas leading the poor migrating to the urban centers and become eco refugees, 2) the increasing pressure on resources as a result of increased energy consumption by the urban middle class and 3) worsening of urban climate leading to a negative impact on people residing especially the vulnerable population (Mukhopadhyay & Revi, 2009, p. 61). The urban households tend to have relatively higher amount of energy consumption as compared to rural households due increased dependency on appliances consuming electricity and fuel in large quantities. Moreover, usage of energy intensive technologies for buildings in the cities, modern transportation facilities and even for water supply and treatment of waste require large amount energy creating a huge pressure on environment of the urban areas. Urbanization has become an inevitable outcome of the economic growth of countries like India. The authors argue that the current process of urbanization is unsustainable and can lead to serious consequences in terms of climate change (Mukhopadhyay & Revi, 2009, p. 68).

A major contribution to the urban environmental degradation comes from use of motorized vehicles. The increased levels of urbanization leads to increase in the number of privately owned motorized vehicles that are crucial for the movement of masses within the cities largely for their employment. These vehicles not only end up polluting the urban environment but also add up to the traffic congestion at the urban centers. Moreover, an important concern here raised is regarding the policy that aims only at providing infrastructure for these vehicles because of the growing pressure on current roads (Badami, 2009, p. 45). Such a policy tends to ignore and marginalize a large proportion of population that may not be able to afford private vehicles and are pedestrians who depend upon the public transport system. There is a challenge for the policy makers to reduce the fast motorization of the urban areas and provide better to access to the public transport system, not only for the pedestrians but also for others who impose pressure on the roads and more importantly on the urban environment. It is also important to have rational pricing of the public transport system and also develop cleaner technologies for the same (Badami, 2009, p. 47).

Among the other issues we may also include the problem of urban employment especially among the migrant population. As mentioned earlier, a large number of these migrants end up being absorbed in the unorganized sector mainly in the tertiary sector as there has been a decline in the share of manufacturing employment in the urban areas. This also is attributable to the shifting of manufacturing units away from the central urban areas to the urban periphery. The NSSO (National Sample Survey Organization) survey of various enterprises suggested that there is a possibility of fall in the capacity of unorganized activities to absorb more migrant population in the future (Kundu, 2003, p. 3084). Another study of employment status among individuals in the metropolitan cities of India indicates that the unemployment rates in these cities have remained higher than that of the total urban area in India (Mahadevia, 2008, p. 67). This is largely because people find greater opportunities of employment in the metropolitan cities than the other smaller urban areas and hence they prefer to remain unemployed until they find the job. It is also observed in the study that these cities have relatively higher level of work participation ratio (WPR) among men as compared to the total of urban areas. However, the WPR among women has been observed to be quite lower in the metro cities. The study, using a comparison of WPR and the unemployment rate, indicates that work participation among women is related to the cost of living in the metropolitan cities. The cities where the cost of living is higher the WPR among women were found higher and vice-versa.

NURM (National Urban Renewal Mission):-

An important step towards the improvement of urban areas in India has been taken in form of the NURM which is expected to convert selected cities in the country in to “world class” ones. The term “world class” signifies the achieving international standard of infrastructure in the cities such as roads, airports, public transport facilities, and real estate projects, etc. (Mahadevia, 2006, p. 3399). For this purpose there have been large amount of fund transfers occurring from the center to state and the local governments of the cities. The mission is spread over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012. The total number of cities to be covered are 60 which include 7 cities with population over 4 million population, 28 with one to four million and 25 cities with less than 1 million population. The NURM includes two sub-missions for urban infrastructure and governance and, for basic services to urban poor. The former undertakes the projects such as road and infrastructure, public transport, water supply, drainage and sanitation, parking lots, and city beautification and the latter is responsible for slum improvements and access of urban poor to the basic services. The mission is funded partly by the local and the state governments with an element of grants received from the central government for the sub-missions. Moreover, there are various conditions that have been laid down for the state and the local government which needs to be fulfilled for them to access the funds from the center. These conditions include policy level changes and reforms, making tax collection more efficient, providing the urban poor with the amenities at affordable prices for the same, etc.

One of the important concerns related to the NURM and its implementation in the Indian cities is the effect of various projects on the urban poor. In many cities in India the NURM projects have led to large scale slum demolitions and displacement of slum dwellers. These demolitions have a definite impact on the dwellers in terms of the loss of shelter, assets; injuries while demolitions and loss of employment. Moreover, they also impact the vulnerable groups such as elderly persons end up in traumatic conditions and children who tend to lose schooling and education (Narayanan, Mahadevia, & Mathew, 2008). The rehabilitation and resettlement of those displaced from the slums and provisioning of proper housing to them also is an important challenge that the policy makers and local governments end up facing. The demolition activity can also create a huge uncertainty for those who reside in unauthorized settlements (Mahadevia, 2006, p. 3401).

Conclusion:-

The present paper has examined a few of the major issues that are related to the process of urbanization with a special reference to issues in India. The process of urbanization in India on a large scale is leading to a compulsory activity of planning of the urban areas. The significance of planning exists because with the growth of the urban areas it is important to adopt means and ways for the improvement of the existing area and also for its extension. It indicates towards the arrangements made of various components of an urban area to make the life and functioning of the individuals residing in these areas more comfortable and smooth. The process of urban planning involves various issues that can be categorized in two sets – (i) issues related to land use policy and use of space, and (ii) provision of basic amenities and infrastructure.

The land use policy implies decision of the state regarding the use of land for various purposes such as housing, industrial and commercial complexes, schools, parks, playgrounds, etc. An important aspect regarding the land use policy is that in developing nations like India there is a huge pressure on land in the urban areas. The land use policies prioritize the economic development and growth of the urban areas through infrastructure development. Building and broadening of roads, flyovers, bridges, drainage services, etc in order to improve the facilities in the existing residential and commercial areas requires huge amount of land. This kind of policy, when pursued at a large scale, tends to increase this pressure resulting in the urban population being pushed to the urban fringes and the peripheral areas around the cities. These policies also have a definite trickle-down effect on the urban poor and marginalized as they are pushed out and tend to be worse off. This further gives rise to another set of issue related to planning in terms of the provisioning of the basic amenities.

The issue of planning for providing amenities in an urban area arises with respect to the unavailability of these services in the slum and squatter settlements. This is because most of the population residing in these regions is non-affording and is unable to pay for these services. Moreover, high density in many of the illegal settlements due to unplanned urbanization leads to chaotic situations and crowding in the urban fringes. This along with the lack of amenities results in issues concerning to health, hygiene and sanitation, and the environmental damage. The challenges and issues of the modern day planning mechanism, therefore, not only include providing the basic services to the urban poor but also the provision of employment, environmental concerns and equity (Jain, 2006, p. 15). Moreover, the modern approach to planning is viewed in terms of moving away from the traditional planning system of the Master Plan approach. This approach is considered highly authoritative and centralized. Hence, it is required to have a decentralized and participatory approach.

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