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topic Settlements in
Paper I unit IV

B.A. I Sem. II

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URBAN GEOGRAPHY

A Text-Book

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WORLD URBANIZATION

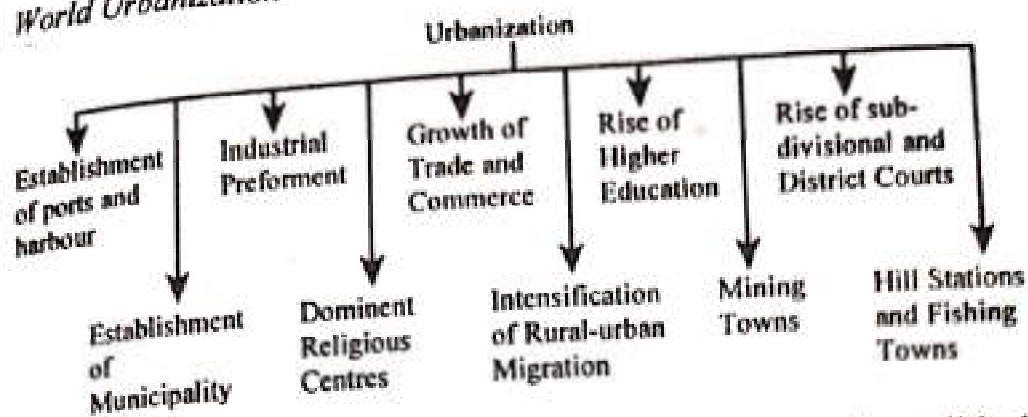
THE GROWTH of population in urban areas is known as 'urbanization' whereas the decrease of population is known as 'de-urbanization'. The gonedays have seen the birth of thousands of towns and cities, many of which have largely expanded during the last 50 years. The growth is almost explosive. At present urban population explosion is found in each and every country, leading to the formation of fabroblast and sacroma settlements.¹

The economic development of society and the progressive division of social labour have of necessity led to the formation and expansion to towns and cities, with ever increasing migration of people to perform a wide variety of functions. Urbanization throughout the world is not reflected in a steady direct linear increase in the proportion of town dwellers in each given society in temporal dimensions. Towns and cities have taken shape as centres of administrative and cultural significance through the centuries.

Urbanization depends on the socio-economic system of the society and the rate of its development. Each nation which has founded towns and cities imparts to them their own special appearance and their own unique content. With time this content alters, reflecting the changes in the development of the productive forces. While towns are necessary as strong points of power and military force they express the preparatory stage of urbanization. This process is characterized by the growth in labour productive in the rural and urban economies, class stratification of society, and the growth in the country's population.

The urbanization as a social phenomenon seem to have percolated even in countries which were rural and the greater acceleration in growth rates have been observed for towns and cities which are old and new. It is closely associated with the spread of industry, commerce, manufacturing and the improvement of transport and industries. The main factors contributing to the urban development are as follows :

World Urbanization



Urban growth is infinenced by physical, socio-economic, political, demographic, cultural and technological factors. It is therefore, essential to study the impact of these factors and as to accelerate the tempo of urban development.

Urbanization is a dynamic socio-economic forces which involves urban element that suffer considerable temporal and spatial variations. In case the process is viewed with a definite regional background, urbanization influences the surrounding rural-urban fringe, which could really be seen in rural-urban linkages. Hence, urbanization is equipped with the potentialities of development of non-agricultural sector to fulfil the economic requirements or urban manufactured goods in the hinterland. Nowadays, the term 'urban' has developed much wider connotation than ever before. In the context of regional development, reference may be to the various economic and social problems which are closely linked with the process of urbanization and creates a strange behaviour by which one could find that there is more impersonality and higher specialization.

The World Urbanization has four directions :

1. Coastal location of very many cities.
2. Peripheral location of small towns, industrial suburb and urban sprawls.
3. Complex building structure in developed countries but simple structure in developing countries.
4. Urban centres are the emblem of polarization of population and economic development.

Pull and Push Factors

Changes in the level of urbanization has been caused by pull and push factors. Due to pull factor the urban amenities like higher education,

banks, wholesale, retail business, employment opportunities, recreational facilities and religious places attract people towards urban centres, whereas retirement from job and marriage migration push urban people outside urban centres.

The basic function of urban centres which they perform for the surrounding zone of influence and the income comes to the town is known as basic income. The functions which a town perform for its own population and the income accrues out of it is known as non-basic function. These two basic and non-basic have immensely helped in changing the levels of urbanization in most parts of the globe.

Sectoral Changes

So far as the sectoral changes of urbanization is concerned the industrial sector grows fast in comparison with the agriculture sector of sub-urban zone. It means with the industrial establishment the population supporting capacity of the urban centres improves a lot in comparison with the agricultural economy.

Degree of Urbanization

The degree of urbanization refers to the percentage of total population living in urban areas. The formula for computing degree of urbanization is as follows :

$$L = \frac{U}{T} \times 100$$

where L is degree of urbanization, U is urban population, and T is total population.

In accordance with the international comparison, this index is further defined in two ways :

- (a) Instead of total urban population living in cities with 100,000 and more inhabitants is considered as urban population.
- (b) In place of total urban population, the population living in urban places at least 20,000 inhabitants is considered as urban population.

Rate of Urbanization

It is simple arithmetic growth rate of the degree of urbanization, between two or more census figures.

$$\text{Rate of Urbanization} = \frac{L_2 - L_1}{L_1} \times 100$$

where L_1 and L_2 are the degree of urbanization at two point of time.

There are two ways of measuring the urban growth. One is the instantaneous method which ascertains population in all urban categories in each and every census, tracing the changes in each class regardless of the cities that make it up. Other is the continuous method which begins with particular centre and traces the subsequent extension of these groups.

Tempo of Urbanization

In 1991 about 45 per cent population of the world is living in urban areas. The level of urbanization is 84 to 85 per cent in Australia and New Zealand; 77 per cent in Japan; 72 to 75 per cent in North America, South America, Latin America and Europe; 66 per cent in Central America and former U.S.S.R.; 34 per cent in Africa and Asia; 32 per cent in Pakistan and just 26 per cent in India.

In South America the percentage of urban population in Argentina is 83 per cent, Chile 81 per cent, Uruguay 84 per cent, Venezuela 84 per cent, Brazil 68 per cent and Cuba 66 per cent. In Asia Singapore is 100 per cent urbanized, Kuwait 89 per cent, Hongkong 90 per cent, Yemen 11 per cent, Bhutan 4 per cent, Nepal 6 per cent, Myanmar 28 per cent, Sri Lanka 27 per cent and Bangladesh 15 per cent urbanized in 1991.

In 1991 the density of population in bigger urban centres vary from 67,00 per km² in Calcutta to 57,000 in Ottawa, 55,000 in New York, 52,00 in Montreal and 49,000 in Moscow.

Trends of Urbanization

The trends of urbanization differ substantially from country to country. In the United States of America in A.D. 1800 only 5 per cent people were residing in urban areas. This has gone upto 70 per cent in 1980 and it will be 85 per cent by A.D. 2000. So far as the logistic curve of urbanization is concerned, it is typically of S shape for Costa Rica, Tanzania and Switzerland.

The average annual population increase for 34 countries comes to 4.5 per cent especially for the continents of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In the entire 19th century the continent of Europe experienced an annual growth of only 2 per cent. Most of the urbanization of

19th century was migration based, whereas today it is in the form of Shantytowns,² development of colonies and flow of industrial workers to towns and cities. In Switzerland, Tanzania and India about 80 per cent urban growth is due to rural-urban migration. In the year 1900 the four leading cities of the world are London, Paris, New York and Shanghai. In the year 1920 only 24 cities have touched the million mark but in 1991 it is about 150 in number.

TABLE 18.1 : Millionaire Cities, 1870-1991

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of Cities</i>
1870	7
1900	20
1920	30
1939	57
1951	95
1964	140
1979	213
1986	257
1991	300

Density of Urban Population

Cities are always very crowded places in the world. In Calcutta about 69,000 persons reside in one square kilometre and the corresponding figure for New York is 55,000, Montreal 52,000 and Moscow 49,000. The overall density is 25 for United States of America, 3 for Canada and only 11 persons for the Common Wealth of Soviet Union.

Levels of Urbanization

In 1991 about 40 per cent of the world's population is urban, and about 25 per cent urban population live in the centres of 20,000 persons or more. About 10 per cent people live in cities of 100,000 persons and more than 5 per cent people live in million cities. In case the 1981-91 growth rate of urban population is 3.5 per cent per annum continues by the year A.D. 2000 about 50 per cent world's population would be urban and by the year 2050 the entire world will be urbanized. In such a situation the people will get food from ocean and our mighty forests. In most of the industrialized countries, e.g., Britain, Germany, Australia, Argentina, California, Canada, New Zealand and the Common Wealth of Soviet Union, there will be a decreasing demand for farm labour but

an increase in demand for industrial workers, and skilled people in transport, trade and commerce, administration and in educational institutions have revolutionized the scene. In most of the above mentioned countries the percentage of urban population ranges between 60 to 90 per cent. In older settled countries the urban people live in medium and small sized towns besides market towns, small industrial towns along with a few large cities.

In countries of peasant economy, e.g., in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, India, Pakistan and China the percentage of urban population has increased fast but the pace of urbanization is still very slow between 5 to 20 per cent. In developing countries of the world the urban population is growing fast in comparison with total population.³ In between 1900 and 1990 the urban population grew by 300 per cent. This increase is spectacular in Tropical Countries where due to the provision of health facilities the mortality rate has declined but on the other hand, this has enhanced the rural-urban migration thereby giving rise to shanty towns.⁴

In economically advance countries the growth of urbanization is not very high, because they had already covered 70 to 90 per cent during the past decades and further there is little scope for development on the current technology.

Urban Regions

The world could be divided into two regions from the point of levels of urbanization :⁵

Highly Urbanized Regions

In some countries of the world the level of urbanization has reached at a very high stage except few towns, cities and regions. Such areas are Australia, New Zealand, the East Coast of Brazil, China, Japan, Venezuela, Canada and the eastern parts of U.S.A. and Argentina. In all these areas the towns having coastal location are bigger in population size and the inland towns are of smaller size. The four fully urbanized regions of the world are as follows :

1. North-Western Europe—London, Paris.
2. North-Eastern U.S.A. and Canada—New York, Philadelphia.
3. Eastern Coast of Japan and Australia—Tokyo, Sydney.
4. Easter Coast of Asia—Shanghai, Calcutta and Manila.

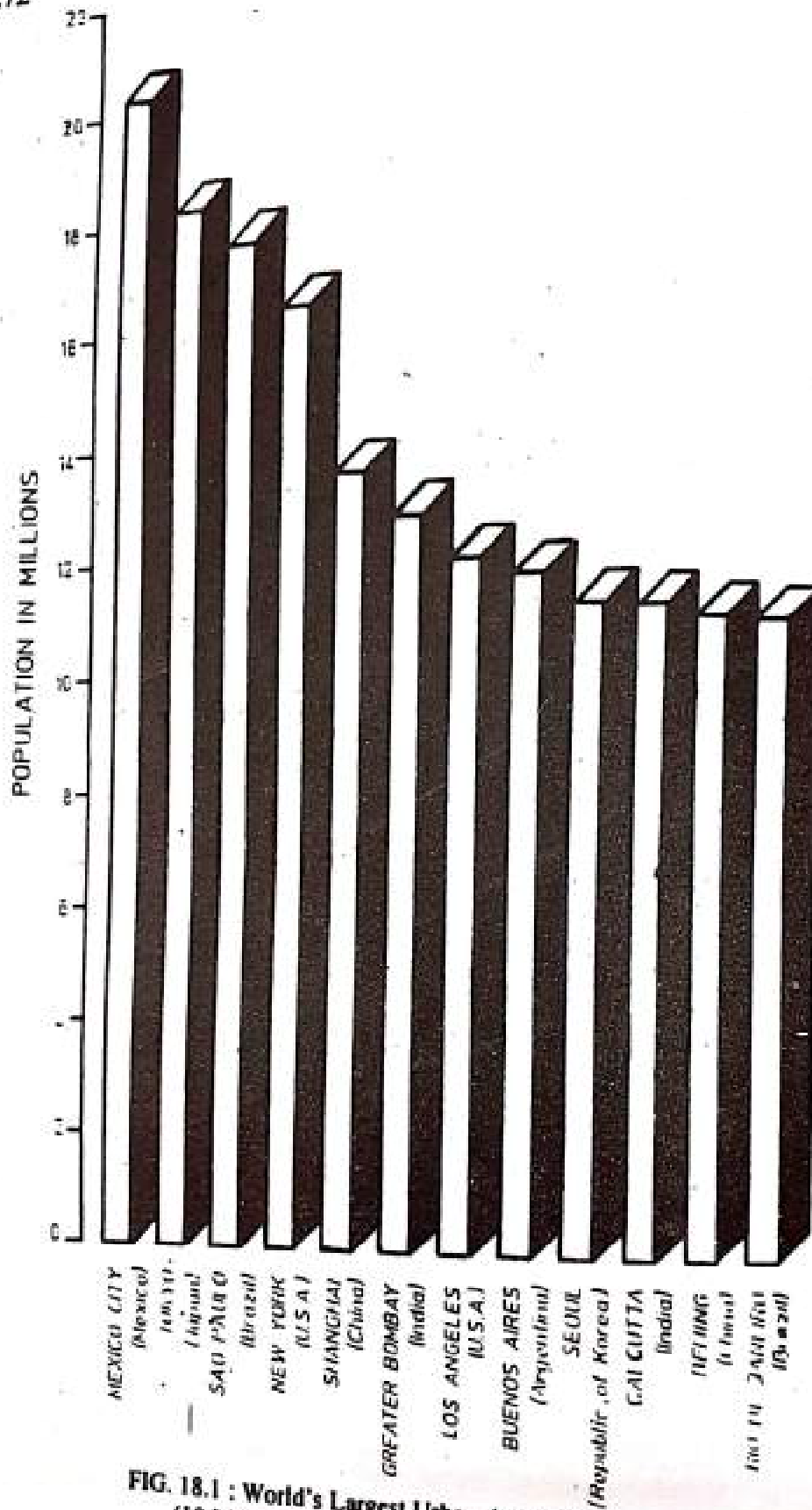


FIG. 18.1 : World's Largest Urban Agglomerations
(10 Millions or More Inhabitants in 1990)

Note : Population figures for Indian Cities are given as per the 1991 Census.

In these regions industrialization and urbanization dominate the scene along with port location.

Less Urbanized Regions

Most parts of Asia, Africa,⁶ South-America and Siberia have very low levels of urbanization. In these areas less than 10 per cent population are urban. The causes are low levels of transport development, lesser industrialization and the predominance of farm economy and forest economy. We may say that urban centres dominate the scene and even in city level centres the facilities are very poor and spontaneous settlement dominate the scene.⁷

The problems created by urbanization and urban centres are :

- (a) Urban development threatens the expansion of world's agricultural sector;
- (b) It exacerbates the water supply and aggravated the situation of waste disposal;
- (c) It produces almost incurable traffic problems;
- (d) It provides obvious targets for aerial attack;
- (e) It has favoured the decline of traditional culture;
- (f) It has brought refinement in criminal activities;
- (g) Urban machine civilization have damaged the rural cottage industries and seriously affected the morality of people; and
- (h) Urbanization favoured the transport of pollution to the nearby rural areas in terms of waste disposal and emitting smoke.