



Development of Urban and Rural Areas in India 20th to 21st century

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Abstract

The 20th and 21st centuries mark a period of profound transformation for India's Urban and Rural landscapes. At the start of the 1900 India was overwhelming rural, with nearly 90% of the population living in villages. The 20th century especially after Independence in the focus shifted o food security. While the 20th century was defined by a transition from colonial extraction to planned economy, socialist-learning the 21at century has been India emerge as global 3powerhouse driven by liberalization, digital t6, and rapid urbanization. Therefore, there is and if proper planning for the area for development and raising the standard of living of people in the Nation but still, the majority of the Indian population (61% according to the 2011 Indian census)living in rural areas, rural development is very important because their contribute to the 46% of the National income, more or less 75% of the population live in rural areas and there is unemployment and low standard of living. The rural sector is dominant in the Indian economy because more than two-thirds workforce is engaged in rural areas.

Keywords: *Development in the Urban and Rural Areas Population, Economy, Infrastructure, Education, Rural Areas of Technology*

Introduction

From the 20th to 21st century urban economic growth was driven by industrialization and technology, diverse non-farm industries. Rural economics, which were traditionally based on primary sectors like farming, have become more varied and interconnected with the global system, though often with mixed results for the rural population. The 21st century goal is “inclusive growth” ensuring that prosperity of India's Silicon Valley reached its remotest villages. The current century is characterized by “New India”, a nation grappling with the challenge of massive population growth while leveraging technology to bridge the Urban. -Rurak divide. The world population is expected to have a positive trend from 7.6 billion based on senses of 2018 to 9.6 billion in the year 2050. (UN DESA,2019). As a result of population growth, there will be a critical need for rural development to ensure sustainable development. More than 40% of the global population has had internet access and there are major initiatives to connect those in rural areas of developing countries (world bank,2026).The positive transformation in living quality of technology, Technology has had its positive on the quality of life of the people in rural areas in terms of use of various technologies such as mobile, clean water facility, computer, automobile, TV, construction, etc. It is generally believed that large cities have grown faster than and at the expense of small and medium towns that this can be done by placing greater investment in small and medium towns. Urbanization is a natural outgrowth of socio-economic development and in the last hundred years the global urban population has grown by more than half of the population living in urban areas. Urban and rural development in the country should complement each other if we analyze from the point of view of development in the field of urbanization in different states of India.

Development in the Urban Area Population

India's urban area population grew significantly from the 20th and 21st century. The population of India's towns has been increasing more than the rural population. This growth is linked to India's economic examination. with urban areas contribution significantly to the National outputs. India's urban population grew from about 11.4% in 1901 to 17.3% in 1951, and then urbanization accelerated significantly after Independence, reaching 32.2% in 2011 and an estimated 34% in 2017, with projection indicating it will exceed 40% by 2030. The rapist expansion is creating immense pressure on infrastructure like water, housing, transformation and is leading to a rise in the prevalence of slums. India's cities contribute to a large portion of the country's economic output. Hence, accompanying India's rapid economic growth will be a fundamental shift in terms of a massive urban transformation, possibly the largest national urban transformation of the 21st century.

While the proportion of rural area population declined from 72.19% to 68.84% in the 2011 census. "The slowing down of the overall growth rate of population is due to the sharp decline in the growth rate in rural areas, while the growth rate in urban areas remains almost the same," Chandramouli said

"Many Indian cities are showing the way to improve adaptation measures, benefit from good practices and fast-track actions towards resilient urban growth," said Asmita Tiwari, co-author of the report. "Timely intervention will help India's cities continue to safeguard lives and properties, attract new business and jobs, and drive innovation,"

"The imperative for India to build resilient cities at scale is clear. By investing in more green and resilient urban development -including housing, transport, and municipal service -cities can better mitigate extreme heat condition and urban flood, and continue to grow and create Jobs," said Auguste Tano kouamé, World Bank country director.

From the 20th to 21st century, after independence in 1947 India adopted a mixed economy model that emphasized the growth of the public sector and heavy industry. The government invested heavily in urban infrastructure, as the road, power, and water supply, leading to the development of new industrial township and the expense of major metropolitan cities (Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai). Economy shifted from being predominantly rural and agricultural-based to a more urbanized, service -driven economy, driven by economic liberalization in 1991. Urban areas become major hubs for economic growth and industrial activity. The urban economy in the 21st century is largely driven by the tertiary (service) sector. including IT, telecommunications. and finance. With major urban agglomerates hosting the vast majority of the country's startups and unicorns (highly valued startups). The experience of public acquisition of land to say the least he's been poor, the formulation of urban land policy needs to be informed by the knowledge of the dynamic of growth and recognition should be given to the limit of the efficacy of public policy. In the 20th century, agriculture was the backbone of the rural economy, employing a large portion of the workforce and contributing significantly to GDP. The rural economy grew in output from 1970-71 to 2011-12, but employment growth was much slower, indicating a transition away from labour intensive agriculture. While agriculture remains, important there has been a push for rural industries and other sectors. Rural areas still face challenges like limited access to credit, slow implementation of policies, and the migration of educated youth of cities. The government has launched programs like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Mudra Yojana to improve financial inclusion and credit access.

Economy and infrastructure: Area's focus has shifted toward achieving universal connectivity and bridging the service gap with urban areas. Major government programs like India's Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have significantly improved all-weather road connectivity, linking over 99% of eligible rural habitation in some cases.

	Key Determinant for future growth	Favoured status	Time period	Current contributions to growth
Agriculture	Climate, agriculture technologies	Punjab Haryana	Green Revolution, 1970-1980	Low
Manufacturing	Urban, coastal, major port facilities, attracting, foreign direct investment	Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujrat.	1980 onward, with rising improvement in the 1990.	High
Tourism	Historical, cultural, and natural attraction, proximity at major ports of entry such as Delhi and Mumbai.	Rajasthan, Maharashtra.	1980 on words	Moderate
Hight-tech services (ginansh)	Urban, skilled labour force, universities	Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal.	1990	High

Source: Jeffrey Sachs and et al. (2002)

Education and Rural Technology

Urban and rural areas both have pedagogy across both areas, but particularly in under - resized schools. Rural schools often lacked basic facilities like proper building, drinking water, toilets and essential learning materials, contributing to high dropout rates. Underqualified teachers, absenteeism and lack of recruitment of teachers lead to poor quality and a limiting reach of education. With low income, education is often a low-priority area to start with. Rural area societies do not permit girls to go highly educated but rarely women are highly educated. But the present time grows with the rural areas' education side. Technology with the shifting emphasis to digital 'vidya' schools and children in rural areas are devoid of the basics in terms of computers and internet access. Urban area education highly flexibility well-equipped Schools, better libraries, dedicated labs and essential utilities. High adoption of digital learning. Higher availability of qualified and specialized teachers. based on census data from 1991, 52.9% children ages 5-9 from urban areas attended school, while just 24.3% of children of the same age from rural communities attended. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) (2001) targets universalising primary education and significantly improved enrollment figures across both urban and rural areas. Right of children to

free and compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009: made education a fundamental right for children aged 6-14, which particularly benefited rural areas. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Aims for holistic learning, flexibility, and skill development with a specific focus on achieving equality through better infrastructure and technological integration in all regions. With the rapid urbanization that is now expected in ensuing decades in India. The mechanism of self-financing is important because it serves as a self-correcting procedure whereby higher priority projects are implemented first and realistic planning becomes a necessity. Given the vast preponderance of rural population in India, it is not surprising that there has been little attention devoted to the problem of urban development at the in rural population in the coming years we can expect dramatic change in the given to the problem of cities The core of 21st century urban development is the Smart city concept, which uses technology to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and quality of life. All data collected by sensors is analyzed using Artificial intelligence to optimize city services, for example, public safety, Traffic Management, sustainable infrastructure, E-governance and financial, E-learning platform. Specific technology, such as Precision Farming or Smart Grids, Mechanism of agriculture, basic utilities (electricity).

Conclusion

India's urban population has been stagnant for a long time, and saw a continuous, sharp rise, particularly from the late 20th century into the 21st century. The economy shifted from a primarily agrarian base to one where industry and service contribute more significantly, with urban centres being the primary engines of this growth. Urban and rural areas both regions have seen substantial, though unequal, improvement in infrastructure roads, telecommunications and electricity access have expanded significantly, connecting rural India more closely to urban market and opportunities. Policy interventions focusing on rural development have led to improvements in literacy rates, poverty reduction and access to basic services (like sanitation, drinking water, Smart phone, banking) for a large section of the, rural population. India's success in the 21st century will ultimately be defined by its ability to bridge this development divide and achieve simultaneous, balanced and sustainable prosperity across both its urban and rural landscape.

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