

URBANIZATION AND MIGRATION IN INDIA
AN OVERVIEW

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An analysis of the distribution of urban population reveals that the process of urbanization in India has been city-oriented. This is manifested in a high percentage of urban population being concentrated in class I cities. The three million plus cities viz. Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi supported more than 39.3 percent of total urban population of the country in 2001.

One of the remarkable features of all types of internal migration is that it is dominated by women.

Urbanization is the most significant phenomenon of the 20th century which has affected all aspect of national life in India. Being the second most populous country in the world after China, India's fast growing urbanization has a regional as well as world wide impact. India's urban population constitutes a sizeable proportion of the world's urban population.

India has a long tradition of urbanization which has continued since the days of the Indus Valley Civilization. The Indus valley people had attained high standards of town planning and architectural style. Despite a long tradition of urbanization, India was at a low level of urbanization in the beginning of 20th century with only one-tenth of its population residing in urban areas. It was around one-sixth



urban at the time of Independence. In the 2001 census 27.7 percent of its total population lived in urban areas.

The increasing concentration of population in cities, that too in large cities has been the striking features of India's urbanization during the last century.(Bhagat,2004)

Urbanization the Present Status:

The total urban population of India has grown from 25,851,873 in 1901 (the adjusted figure of populations for the area under Indian Union) to 285,354,954 in 2001. When the total population increased from 238,396,327 in 1901 (adjusted figure) to 1,027,015,247 in 2001,(Census,2001) Thus, the urban population has increased more than 1003.80 percent over the last hundred years (1901-2001).

Distribution of Urban Population by Size Classes:

An analysis of the distribution of urban population reveals that the process of urbanization in India has been largely city-oriented. This is manifested in a high percentage of urban population being concentrated in class I cities, which has gone up systematically over the decades in the last century. The massive increase in the percentage share of class I cities from 51.42 in 1961 to 68.7 in 2001, has often been attributed to faster growth of large cities, without taking in to consideration the increase in the number of these cities. The basic reason for the increasing dominance of these cities is graduation of lower order towns into class I category. (Kundu, 2003).

Urbanisation Patterns :

The regional variations in the distribution of urban population are significant. A large proportion is concentration in six most developed states, namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab and West Bengal, accounting for about half of the country's urban population. In 2001 census, these cities reported a percentage of urban population much above the national average of 27.78, whereas the less developed states report significantly low figures. Thus, the level of urbanization in the states with high per capita income is high and the level of urbanization in the states with low per capita income is low. These states attracted population in urban areas due to industrialization and infrastructure investment (Kundu, 2006). The urbanization process in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala and M. P. has registered more or less equal to national average. In contrast the states like Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and Manipur have registered below the national average. Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized state amongst the major states in India with 43.86 percent of its population living in urban areas though the number is only 27 million against a staggering 41 million in Maharashtra with 42.4 percent population living in urban areas.

Table 1: Number of Towns, Percentage and Growth of Urban Population in India, 1901 to 2001

Census Year	Number of Uts/Towns	Urban Population (in million)	Per cent of Urban to Total Population	Annual Exponential Growth Rate (%)
1901	1,827	25.85	10.84	
1911	1,815	25.94	10.29	0.03
1921	1,949	28.07	11.17	0.79
1931	2,072	33.46	11.99	1.76
1941	2,250	44.15	13.86	2.77
1951	2,843	62.44	17.29	3.47
1961	2,365	78.94	17.97	2.34
1971	2,590	109.11	19.91	3.24
1981	3,378	159.46	23.34	3.79
1991	3,768	217.18	25.72	3.09
2001	4,368	286.12	27.78	2.73

Source : Population Census, Paper 2, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

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States/ UTs	Percentage urban population				Annual exponential growth rate		
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Andhra Pradesh	19.31	23.25	26.84	27.08	3.94	3.55	1.37
Arunachal Pradesh	3.70	6.32	12.21	20.41	8.32	9.28	7.00
Assam	8.82	9.88	11.09	12.72	3.29	3.29	3.09
Bihar	10.00	12.46	13.17	10.47	4.34	2.65	2.57
Chattisgarh	NA	NA	NA	20.08	NA	NA	3.09
Delhi	89.70	92.84	89.93	93.01	4.56	3.79	4.14
Goa	26.44	32.46	41.02	49.77	4.37	3.96	3.32
Gujarat	28.08	31.08	34.40	37.36	3.42	2.90	2.8
Haryana	17.66	21.9	24.79	29.00	4.65	3.58	4.00
Himachal Pradesh	6.99	7.72	8.70	9.79	3.02	3.11	2.81
Jammu,Kashmir	18.59	21.05	22.76	24.88	3.80	3.44	3.44
Jharkhand	NA	NA	NA	22.25	NA	NA	2.55
Karnataka	24.31	28.91	30.91	33.98	4.08	2.55	2.53
Kerala	16.24	18.78	26.44	25.97	3.19	4.76	0.74
Madhya Pradesh	16.29	20.31	23.21	26.67	4.46	3.71	2.71
Maharashtra	31.17	35.03	38.73	42.4	3.35	3.27	1.21
Manipur	13.19	26.44	27.69	23.88	9.70	2.98	1.21
Meghalaya	14.55	18.03	18.69	19.63	4.87	3.10	3.16
Mizoram	11.36	25.17	46.2	49.5	11.79	9.57	3.27
Nagaland	9.95	15.54	17.28	17.74	8.49	5.58	5.27
Orissa	8.41	11.82	13.43	14.97	5.21	3.08	2.61
Punjab	23.73	27.72	29.72	33.55	3.62	2.55	3.19
Rajasthan	17.63	20.93	22.88	23.38	4.52	3.31	2.71
Sikkim	9.37	16.23	9.12	11.1	9.55	-3.23	4.83
Tamil Nadu	30.26	32.98	34.2	43.86	2.45	1.76	3.56
Tripura	10.43	10.98	15.26	17.02	3.26	6.19	2.53
Uttar Pradesh	14.02	18.01	19.89	20.78	4.78	3.27	2.84
Uttaranchal	NA	NA	NA	25.59	NA	NA	2.84
West Bengal	24.75	26.49	27.39	28.03	2.75	2.54	1.84
Union Territories -							
Andaman,Nicobar	22.77	26.36	26.8	32.87	6.38	4.10	4.40
Chandigarh	90.55	93.6	89.69	88.78	5.92	3.07	3.40
Dadra,Nagar Haveli	0	6.67	8.47	22.89	-	5.28	14.59
Daman and Diu	-	-	46.86	36.26	-	4.93	1.87
Lakshadweep	0	46.31	56.29	44.47	-	4.46	-0.77
Pondichery	42.04	52.32	64.05	66.57	4.66	4.92	0.39
All India	20.22	23.73	25.72	27.78	3.79	3.09	2.73

The urban growth at all-India level declined during the decade 1971-81 and this trend continued for most of the states of India for the decade 1991-2001. The states like U.P., M. P., Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan have shown very high growth rate during the decade 1971-81 which registered decline in urban growth rate by almost 50 percent for the decade 1991-2001.

Trend and Pattern of Migration in India

Urbanisation is crucially linked to migration. In India migration not only occurs due to economic reasons, but these are of social- cultural and other factors responsible. The Indian census collects the data on migration using two questions asked to individuals,

are language, family attraction government policies etc. table 2 represents the distribution of internal migrants by type of movement namely intra-district inter-district. Both are short distance movements and inter-state and international migrants are long distance movements.

It has been observed that the growth rates of migrants in all distance categories have declined from 27 percent during the decade 1971-81 to 9.8 percent in 1978-91, but accelerated during the decade 1991-2001 to 34.7 percent. One of the remarkable features of all types of internal migration is that it is dominated by women. This is because women move to their husband's place of residence after marriage. (Bhagat 2005).

Table 2. Migrants Classified Based on Place of Last Residence in 2001, and Growth Rates during 1991-2001, India.

Migrants	2001 (in million)	Percentage Distribution 2001	Growth Rate %		
			1971-81*	1981-91*	1991-2001**
Intra-district	193.5	61.6	24.9	8.3	37.0
Inter-district	74.6	23.7	44.3	13.7	26.3
Inter-state	41.1	13.1	28.1	11.7	53.6
International Migrants	5.1	1.6	-9.1	-6.1	-13.4
All migrants	314.3	100.0	27.0	9.8	34.7
Total Population	1028.6	-	24.7	23.7	21.4

Source: Census of India 2001, Census Commissioner and Registrar General, India, New Delhi.

namely place of birth and place of last residence. The place of last residence provides better situation of current migration as it captures the latest move in case a person has migrated more than once. Based on this concept, a person is defined as migrant if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than his place of immediate last residence.

The intra-district and inter-district movement comprises largest share of migration i.e. 61.6 percent and 23.7 percent respectively. While inter-state migration and international migration comprises less share of migration i.e. 13.1 percent and 1.6 percent respectively.

The factors responsible for long distance migration

Conclusion

The level of urbanization is different in different states. Some states are more urbanized as compared to other states. The six states viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West- Bengal, Karnataka registered high urban growth. While U.P., M.P., Bihar, Rajasthan and Orissa are less urbanized states. States like U.P, M.P, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan have shown very high growth rate during the decade 1971-81 which registered decline in urban growth rate by almost 50 percent for the decade 1991-2001.

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