

# Urbanization as a Driver of Socio-Economic Transformation and Environmental Stress: A Critical Global and Indian Perspective

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**Abstract**—Urbanization has emerged as one of the most significant demographic and socio-economic transformations of the modern era. Characterized by the large-scale movement of population from rural to urban areas, urbanization reshapes economic structures, social relations, cultural values, and environmental systems. This article critically examines the historical evolution of urbanization, its principal causes—namely industrialization, commercialization, employment opportunities, infrastructure development, and modernization—and its multifaceted impacts on society. While urbanization has contributed to economic growth, innovation, and improved access to services, it has simultaneously generated serious challenges such as environmental degradation, overcrowding, unemployment, housing shortages, and the proliferation of urban slums. Drawing upon global trends with special reference to India, this study highlights the paradoxical nature of urbanization as both an engine of development and a source of socio-environmental stress. The article concludes by emphasizing the need for balanced, inclusive, and sustainable urban policies to mitigate adverse effects while maximizing the developmental benefits of urban growth.

**Index Terms**—Urbanization; Industrialization; Migration; Urban Infrastructure; Slums; Environmental Impact; Employment; Sustainable Development

## I. INTRODUCTION

The process through which huge populations of people become permanently concentrated in relatively limited

regions, so giving rise to cities, is referred to as urbanisation. “Although the characteristics that define a city are subject to vary over time and from one location to another, it is common to practise describing the word in terms of its relation to population statistics. The United Nations does not have its definition of “urban,” and instead relies on the definitions that are commonly accepted in each nation, which might differ significantly from one another. In the United States, for example, the term “urban place” refers to any community with a resident population of more than 2,500 people”. In Peru, the phrase refers to population centres that have one hundred or more individual homes<sup>1</sup>.

## URBANIZATION “HISTORY”

Regardless of how the term “urbanisation” is defined quantitatively, it is evident that the path of human history has been characterised by an increasingly rapid process of urbanisation. “It wasn't until the Neolithic Period, which began at around 10,000 BCE, that people were able to build tiny villages that were intended to last permanently. Before the period of classical antiquity, there were no cities with a population of more than one hundred thousand people. Even after that time, such cities did not become frequent until the steady population growth over the last three centuries. In the year 1800, fewer than 3 per cent of the world's population was living in cities with 20,000 people or more; by the middle of the 1960s, this

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<sup>1</sup> 'Urbanization | Definition, History, Examples, & Facts' (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 2022)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/urbanization>  
accessed 1 June 2022.

percentage had climbed to almost 25 per cent of the total population. More than half of the world's population was living in urban areas by the turn of the 21st century. It was only because of advancements in agriculture and transportation that it was even conceivable for ancient civilizations to have small settlements, and this was true in both the Old World and the New World. Because of increases in agricultural productivity, there was an abundance of food available. The discovery of the wheel about 3500 BCE marked the beginning of the development of the means of transportation that made it feasible for the excess food produced in rural areas to be used to feed people living in urban areas. This is a system that is still in use today. Even though these settlements were very tiny, the individuals who lived in early cities lived rather near to one another. Nobody could reside outside of the range of the water supply, and distances could never be more than what could be covered in a stroll. In addition, towns were often walled since they were under continual threat of invasion; yet, it was difficult to build barriers across a broad region. According to the findings of archaeological digs, the population density in the cities around the year 2000 BCE may have reached as high as 128,000 people per square mile (49,400 per square km). On the other hand, the contemporary cities of Kolkata and Shanghai, both of which have population densities that are more than 70,000 people per square mile, are considered to be examples of excessive overpopulation. The affluent, powerful, and influential people of ancient cities—including aristocrats, government officials, clergy, and other members of the clergy—tended to dwell in the city centres, which were often situated close to the most significant religious buildings. Poor people lived farther afield, and they were occasionally even forced to relocate beyond the city walls completely. Rome was the most populous and expansive city of ancient times; at its peak in the third century CE, it encompassed an area of over 10 square kilometres (almost 4 square miles) and had a population of at least 800,000. To meet the needs of such a large population, the empire built a network of aqueducts that brought drinking water from hills as far as 44 miles away (70 km). Within the city proper, the water was delivered to

specific residences using an extraordinary network of conduits and lead pipes, the likes of which were not seen again until the 20th century. Housing in Roman cities was first constructed from dried clay that was moulded over timber structures, as was the case in most early towns<sup>2</sup>. As the population of the city increased, new buildings appeared, first constructed of mud, then brick, then concrete, and finally intricately carved marble<sup>2</sup>. The movement of people from rural to urban regions is referred to as urbanisation. Urbanization is defined as "the progressive growth in the percentage of people living in urban areas," and it also refers to the methods by which each community adjusts to the change. "The transition that occurs as civilization moves away from a rural way of life and toward an urban way of life. By the year 2050, it is anticipated that around 64 per cent of Africa and Asia, in addition, to 86 per cent of the industrialised world, would be urbanised. Notably, the United Nations has recently forecasted that almost all of the worldwide population increase that will occur between 2017 and 2030 would be absorbed by cities. This equates to around 1.1 billion more urbanites over the next 13 years. Since the 1950s, urbanisation has started to get a foothold in Africa and Asia as well, which led to a fast expansion of urbanisation across the Western world. At the start of the 20th century, just 15% of the world's population was living in urban areas. The data on urbanisation was published by Yale University in June of 2016, and they covered the period from 3700 BC to 2000 AD". The data were used to create a video that shows the growth of cities around the world during that period.

Urbanization, which can be described as the increasing number of cities and the urban population, is not only a demographic movement, but also includes the social, economic, and psychological changes that constitute the demographic movement. "Urbanization is defined as the increase in the number of cities and the urban population. It is a process that ultimately results in the expansion of cities as a consequence of the industrialization and economic development that takes place. One of the most significant challenges facing public health in the 21st century is keeping up with the explosive growth of urban populations throughout the

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<sup>2</sup> 'Urbanization | Definition, History, Examples, & Facts' (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 2022)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/urbanization>  
accessed 1 June 2022

globe. By the year 2030, the United Nations Population Division estimates that there will be more people living in urban areas than in rural regions in the developing world. By the year 2050, it is anticipated that two-thirds of the population of the developing world would be living in urban areas. This pattern is having an impact on the situation in India as well. It is estimated that around 28 per cent of the population of India lives in urban areas, and it is anticipated that this number would climb to 41 per cent by the year 2020. The process of urbanisation is accompanied by its own distinct set of benefits and drawbacks. This demographic transition is accompanied by economic expansion and industrialisation, as well as significant changes in the structure of family life and social organisation<sup>3</sup>. The effect of increasing stressors and causes, such as overcrowding and pollution in the environment, high levels of violence, and less social support, may hurt a person's mental health as a result of urbanisation.

## II. REASONS FOR URBANIZATION

In every metropolitan centre, the majority of the buildings and other structures are planned for the following uses, with the appropriate proportions: “Residential- 60.0 percent; Industrial-4.0 percent; Commercial- 2.0 percent, Roads - 18.0 percent; Administration- 4.0 percent; Recreational -10.0 percent; Others -2.0 percent; Total-100.0 percent. The residential sector is often the one that takes up the largest amount of land in any urban community. During the working days of the week, residential land use sectors see massive amounts of crisscross movements of human and vehicular traffic. This is because residential land-use sectors are centres of population concentration. The administrative, commercial, and industrial sectors of any city are where the majority of the community's energy may be found. These are hubs with a significant job pool. A network of communication linkages binds the physical makeup of metropolitan regions into a coherent whole. ROAD: A well-functioning network of roads and transportation systems facilitates the free flow of both people and vehicle traffic while simultaneously

increasing efficiency. Congestion and disorder are inevitable results of a roadway plan that is both narrow and uneven. A road reserve that is sufficiently wide and has sufficient setbacks gives room for the construction of necessary lanes as well as infrastructure. Infrastructure facilities such as water supply, power, telephone, and solid waste disposal, amongst others, are often found in urban centres. The size of an urban community is often substantially larger than the size of a rural community during the same period and in the same nation. This is because urban communities tend to have a higher population density. Because of this, urbanisation and the amount of its population are positively associated. The population density of metropolitan regions is higher than the population density of communities located in rural areas. There is a strong connection between urbanisation and population density. When it comes to urban communities, a higher priority is placed on the individual than it is on the family. In metropolitan locations, there is a greater prevalence of nuclear families. In the case of urban communities, love weddings and marriages between people of different castes are more common than other types of marriages. One also encounters a rising number of marriages that end in divorce. The majority of people living in metropolitan regions have jobs that are either administrative, professional, or industrial. In highly populated urban areas, divisions of labour and occupational specialisation are practised that may often be seen. A metropolitan town or city is home to individuals who come from the wealthiest and lowest socioeconomic backgrounds. In a metropolis, the slums of the poor may be found right next to the opulent bungalows of the affluent, right in the centre of the flats of the members of the middle class. Towns and cities are considered heterogeneous, whilst rural areas are classified as homogeneous. The cities are distinguished by the large number of people who belong to a variety of racial and cultural groups. There is a large amount of diversity among the urbanites in terms of their eating habits, clothing habits, living circumstances, religious views, cultural practices, and customs and traditions. Social distance is caused by anonymity and variety in a society. The vast majority

<sup>3</sup> Kalpana Srivastava, 'Urbanization And Mental Health' (PMC, 2009)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2996208/> accessed 2 June 2022.

of social encounters in a town or metropolis are impersonal and characterised by their segmentation. Interest groups serve as the foundation for the social structure of urban areas. When compared to the countryside, the social networks that exist in cities are far more extensive. City life is very intricate and multifaceted. because of the larger area of interaction between each individual and the aggregate as a whole. The process of urbanisation often results in high levels of social mobility. The amount of talent, intellect, and persistence a man has a significant impact on the social position he enjoys in an urban setting”. Therefore, urbanisation and moility have a favourable correlation with one another<sup>4</sup>.

#### CAUSES OF URBANIZATION INDUSTRIALIZATION

Industrialization is the transition from an agrarian economy to a manufacturing economy that takes place throughout the process of industrialization. “The use of assembly lines and mass manufacturing has eliminated the need for manual and skilled labour. The process has traditionally resulted in urbanisation as a result of its role in fostering economic development and the creation of employment opportunities, both of which lure people to cities. The establishment of a factory or numerous factories within an area often marks the beginning of urbanisation since this results in a significant increase in the need for factory workers. The factories are followed by other enterprises such as construction makers, merchants, and service providers to satisfy the product wants of the workforce. This results in the creation of even more employment as well as increased demands for housing, which ultimately leads to the formation of an urban area. As a result of industrialization's contribution to increased economic activity, there is a growing need for the kind of better education and public works agencies that are typical of metropolitan regions. This need arises as a result of companies searching for new technologies to boost production, which necessitates an educated staff. Additionally,

businesses in the region benefit from attractive living circumstances, which attract competent personnel. People tend to travel to locations where there are more possibilities, and as industries started to appear in big cities, this caused a migration of people from rural areas to the cities themselves. On the other hand, this leads to the inevitable expansion of the human population. Also, keep in mind that having access to more options means having bigger economic prospects. Therefore, individuals can afford to have bigger families since they can earn more, which contributes to the expansion of more population as compared to rural regions. This results in cities having a higher population density”<sup>5</sup>.

#### “COMMERCIALIZATION”

The idea that towns and cities provide greater business opportunities and returns than rural areas is closely linked to the concept of commercialization and commerce. “There are ten states in the nation that are home to more than 75 per cent of the country's urban population. These states include Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Kerala.13.5 per cent of the entire urban population of the nation may be found in Maharashtra, which has a population of 50.8 million people. The next largest population is in Tamil Nadu, with 34.9 million people, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 44.4 million. With a population that is 62.2 per cent urban, Goa is the state that has the highest rate of urbanisation. Over forty per cent of the population of the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Gujarat live in urban areas. With 51.5 per cent of its total population living in urban areas, Mizoram is the most urbanised of the North-Eastern States. The percentage of people living in urban areas of Bihar, Odisha, Assam, and Uttar Pradesh is still much lower than the national average. The National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have the highest urbanisation rates, with 97.5 per cent and 97.25 per cent of their populations living in urban areas respectively. Daman

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<sup>4</sup> Paul Sanyalou, 'URBANIZATION' (*researchgate.net*, 2018) [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329523636\\_URBANIZATION\\_1](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329523636_URBANIZATION_1) accessed 2 June 2022.

<sup>5</sup> 'How Does Industrialization Lead To Urbanization?' (*Investopedia*, 2021) <https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/041515/how-does-industrialization-lead-urbanization.asp> accessed 2 June 2022.

and Diu and Lakshadweep have the lowest urbanisation rates. Aside from the fact that the statistics shown above indicate the most urbanised locations in India, we can deduct from looking at the data that each of these regions is comprised of highly commercialised sites. The development of cities is significantly influenced by commercial activity and commerce. The distribution of products and services, as well as commercial transactions in the modern age, have led to the development of contemporary marketing organisations and exchange techniques, both of which have enormously contributed to the expansion of urban areas”.

#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The average growth path of a country and the number of jobs that are created in non-agricultural sectors are inextricably linked to one another. “Large-scale job creation typically follows an agricultural economy's transition from mechanisation to manufacturing to industry. This is the case provided that manufacturing is a sufficiently large source of demand and that jobs in the manufacturing sector are accessible to rural migrants by their low entry requirements. Due to this, a significant portion of the rural population is employed in agricultural work that has a low rate of productivity. Since there is a finite amount of land available for cultivation, the marginal product that can be produced by an additional farmer is zero. Manufacturing wages and agricultural wages are equalised for a lengthy transition time because the vast rural population keeps urban wages flat. However, as soon as the urban industry gets off the ground, it pulls people from the countryside (factories can always find more workers). In the last stage, the availability of workers in rural areas starts to decrease, which causes a decrease in the population of rural areas while simultaneously leading to an increase in the population of urban areas. Depending on the level of

specialisation that a city<sup>24</sup> possesses, various urban structures also link to a city's levels of productivity and employment in a variety of different ways. Smaller, highly specialised cities that tend to focus on one or two sectors, typically revolving around manufacturing, heavy industry, or technology, can be particularly useful when it comes to harnessing the benefits of industrial agglomeration and localization within the confines of a specific industry. Such cities tend to be very good at creating jobs, but less good at innovating, and they are also highly susceptible to the fortunes of a particular industry (for example Detroit). Other, more diversified cities, which tend to be larger and have developed without an anchor industry, tend to be more dynamic, more effective at facilitating innovation, and better-prepared to sustain productivity and employment growth over the long term. These cities tend to have a greater potential for long-term growth in both productivity and employment<sup>6</sup>. The establishment of one or more manufacturing facilities is often one of the distinguishing characteristics of the expansion of an urban centre. As a consequence of this, a need for labour is created. Companies still require people to run, manage, and maintain their machines, despite the even thoroughly making the manufacturing process easier and the output considerably quicker. This is achieved by the work of trained labourers”<sup>7</sup>.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

“Over the next several decades, the primary factor that will drive expenditure on infrastructure will be the rapid urbanisation that will occur in emerging nations as well as the sustained urbanisation that will occur in mature economies. There are now 3.5 billion people living in cities, which accounts for fifty per cent of the total population of the globe. This number is expected to reach 5 billion by the year 2030, representing sixty per cent of the total population. This growth will need

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<sup>6</sup> HOWARD MILLER, 'What Are The Features Of Urbanisation And Cities That Promote Productivity, Employment And Salaries?' (*Assets.publishing.service.gov.uk*, 2014) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a089efe5274a27b200032b/What\\_are\\_the\\_features\\_of\\_urbanisation\\_and\\_cities\\_that\\_promote\\_productivity\\_employment\\_and\\_salaries.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a089efe5274a27b200032b/What_are_the_features_of_urbanisation_and_cities_that_promote_productivity_employment_and_salaries.pdf) accessed 2 June 2022.

<sup>7</sup> JAVIER SANCHAZ REAZA, RIJAK GROVER and NICHOLAS CHARLES LORD, 'Looking At Urbanization Through A Jobs Lens' (*World Bank Blogs*, 2016) <https://blogs.worldbank.org/jobs/looking-urbanization-through-jobs-lens> accessed 3 June 2022.

ongoing investments in infrastructures, such as railways, highways, bridges, ports, airports, water, electricity, energy, and telecommunications. As a result, enormous possibilities will arise for multinational contractors and their international and local suppliers. “ It is projected by industry professionals that over \$40 trillion will be spent in urban infrastructure over the next 20 years. This investment will encompass many social amenities like homes, hospitals, and modes of transportation, all of which will be dependent on the availability of electric power. China is constructing new power stations, airports, ports, and subways; the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait are using oil wealth to build transportation hubs and seek energy-efficient solutions for future power and water needs; the United Kingdom has committed £200 billion between 2011 and 2016 on rail, energy, and broadband infrastructure projects; Canada is expanding its PPP initiatives to update ageing facilities; and China is building new power stations, airports, ports, and subways. This is an essential component of the urbanisation process. A city’s infrastructure must increase in proportion to its growing population. This includes the construction of roads and highways, the construction of schools and houses, the installation of various systems (such as sewage, water, and electricity), and the establishment of communication networks. The economy cannot function well without adequate infrastructure. It is comprised of the fundamental structure, facilities, networks (transportation, electricity, and communications), and buildings that a nation, organisation, or community requires to operate in a manner that is competitive and to enhance the quality of life of its people. There is a significant demand for home renovations in wealthy nations. However, for developing economies to go to the next stage of their growth, urbanisation and the development of infrastructure are absolute”.

#### MODERNIZATION

The term "modernization" leads to the creation of new cultural values that prevailed in European societies following the Renaissance and the Industrial

Revolution. “These new cultural values succeeded the pre-existing traditional social, ethnic, and diplomatic norms, such as the replacement of feudal society with a free representative democracy, the separation of the church from the state in favour of a secular nation-state, the replacement of traditional agrarian, cottage, and handicraft economies with industrial economies, and the replacement of customary laws with The trend of urbanisation is proceeding at a considerably quicker pace as a direct result of the rise of industrialization. Changes in social and cultural aspects of communal life are ushered in as a result of urbanisation; these shifts correlate to modernisation. On the one hand, the characteristics of an urban and modern way of life that are commonly observed include the loss of group solidarity and community life as well as traditional large-sized joint families. On the other hand, the characteristics of an urban and modern way of life that are commonly observed include the growth of individualism, the shrinking sizes of households, and the development of independent personalities in a diverse community. These five worldviews—cosmopolitanism, egalitarianism, humanism, secularism, and democracy—are the hallmarks of what we mean when we talk about "urban culture." On the other hand, as was said before, this way of life is not exclusive to the people who live in a metropolitan area”. Even in rural regions, which have more exposure to other aspects of modernity, such as industry, education, communication, and transportation, it is possible to see this phenomenon<sup>8</sup>.

### III. IMPACTS OF URBANIZATION ON OUR SOCIETY

#### IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Causing a loss of habitat and deforestation, both of which may lead to a reduction in species numbers and ranges as well as a change in the interactions between different creatures. “The development of life cycles and characteristics that facilitate the survival and reproduction of organisms in environments that have been disrupted or otherwise changed. Some bird populations that have adapted to living in urban

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<sup>8</sup> 'Relationship Between Urbanization And Modernization' (*Your Article Library*) [https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/relationship](https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/relationship-between-urbanization-and-modernization/30731)

-between-urbanization-and-modernization/30731 accessed 3 June 2022.

contexts have, for instance, modified the curvature of their beaks so that they are better able to consume the seeds that are provided by human-made bird feeders. The spreading of infectious illnesses. Diseases may quickly spread across people in highly populated places, both within populations themselves and between populations, thanks to the ease and volume of movement. a rise in the number of invasive species that are brought into new areas, either on purpose or by mistake, as a result of increased human mobility and the import and export of goods between cities. The process of urbanisation results in the creation of disturbed ecosystems, which are typically dominated by alien species that outcompete local species. Many invasive plant species, for instance, do particularly well on narrow strips of land that are located adjacent to roads and highways. rising average temperatures in the area. In metropolitan areas, the prevalence of asphalt and other materials of dark hue contributes to an increase in the quantity of sunlight that is absorbed. This results in urban heat islands, which are characterised by greater temperatures inside cities compared to their surrounding locations. Paving land with concrete may lead to increased water runoff, which in turn can increase erosion and lower the quality of the soil. This may also have the effect of lowering water quality by contributing to an increase in silt and other pollutants in rivers and streams. modifying the amount of water that cycles through the biosphere and the atmosphere as well as the speed at which it does so. Through a process that is referred to as transpiration, trees and other plants are responsible for returning a significant amount of the precipitation that falls to the sky. Therefore, a reduction in the quantity of water that cycles through the biosphere and atmosphere is caused by a loss in plant productivity and biomass, while an increase in the amount of water that cycles results from an increase in plant productivity and biomass. The process by which uninhabited or sparsely inhabited territory is transformed into densely populated cities is referred to as urbanisation. Increases in the human population or migration into urban regions are both potential drivers of growth in urban areas. Deforestation, habitat loss,

and the extraction of fresh water from the environment are common outcomes of urbanisation, all of which have the potential to reduce biodiversity and change the ranges of species and the interactions between them. Pollutants in the environment may be increased as a result of human activities in metropolitan areas, such as the combustion of fossil fuels and industrial waste. These pollutants can hurt the health of both people and other animals<sup>9</sup>.

#### OVERCROWDING

Since the end of World War II, overcrowding in metropolitan areas has gradually evolved into a significant societal issue. “This trend has continued right up to the present day. Overcrowding in metropolitan areas has become a very significant problem as a direct result of the rapid rise in the overall population. The movement of people from rural regions to urban areas is another factor that contributes to the issue of overcrowding in housing. This migration occurs as a direct result of urbanisation. According to the United Nations [10], the issue of overcrowding in metropolitan areas has gotten significantly more serious in the past 20 years, particularly in the nations that are still in the process of growing their economies. It is not uncommon for four or five individuals to share a room in large cities like Beijing and Shanghai, such as those two cities. As a consequence of this, the issue of overcrowding substantially disrupts people's sleep, their job, their privacy, and other related activities. The majority of the time, overcrowding takes place in metropolitan settings, particularly inside the homes of rural migrants. The statistics from Beijing and Shanghai in 1995 showed that the average living spaces of rural migrants in the two cities are only 7.5 and 9.0 m<sup>2</sup>, whereas the living areas of residents are three times greater than those of the rural migrants. People tend to feel sad, frightened, or even develop certain psychological issues as a direct result of the problem of overpopulation. The majority of rural migrants choose to share housing to save costs since renting a private home is one of the most common housing options available to them. As a result, many people

<sup>9</sup> 'Urbanization - Understanding Global Change' (*Understanding Global Change*) <https://ugc.berkeley.edu/background->

[content/urbanization/#:~:text=Urbanization%20can%20impact%20the%20Earth,and%20alter%20interactions%20among%20organisms.](https://ugc.berkeley.edu/background-content/urbanization/#:~:text=Urbanization%20can%20impact%20the%20Earth,and%20alter%20interactions%20among%20organisms.) accessed 3 June 2022.

who migrated from rural areas dwell together, which causes housing shortages. The migrants, particularly the rural migrants, often live in housing that is quite cramped when compared to the dwellings they had in their original communities. The study was done in the United States in 1989 by the researcher, who discovered that it is standard practice to accommodate more than one person per room. The researcher also highlights that migrants live in crowded dwellings because they simply do not have any other options. These individuals said that the reason why they were forced to live in such a crowded neighbourhood was because of their limited financial resources. They did not give housing crowding any thought, and their lives were not in any way altered as a result of it. In general, the problem of housing congestion hurts more than half of the lives of rural migrants<sup>10</sup>.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

People move from more rural locations to urban areas when the economy improves so they may take advantage of the opportunities that come with industrialization. "Although non-farm businesses are growing more significant, agricultural activities continue to be the most important source of income in rural regions. Despite this, bread and butter come from farms. The urbanisation of the world's population, on the other hand, is proceeding at a rapid pace as more and more people move to cities. This migration is caused by the quick shift in industry and growth in urban regions, which has lured so many people from rural areas in pursuit of employment and better living circumstances over time. As a result of these changes, urban areas have seen an increase in population. People were pleased with urbanisation since the prevalent belief at the time was "more urbanisation, more employment." However, as time went on, the tendency changed, and the general rule no longer applied. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), one-third of the world's urban population, or roughly 400 million people, was living in poverty at the beginning of this decade. One of the most immediate reasons for this was a lack of productive work. By the year 2000, it is anticipated

that the number of people living in poverty in metropolitan areas would have increased to as many as one billion. Asia has the highest percentage of the world's urban population living below the poverty line than any other region. African cities have the largest number of people living in poverty of any city in the developing world; in fact, 41% of the urban population in African cities lives below the poverty line. According to the findings of the study that was compiled for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, it has been observed that the increase in urban joblessness has been matched by the urbanisation of poverty in both developed and developing nations. It is observed that issues associated with poverty, such as overcrowding, hunger, sickness, crime, and malnutrition, are becoming more prominent even in the inner cities of the richest and most technologically sophisticated industrialised nations. The urban poor in any country at any stage of development have a difficult time gaining access to adequate housing, educational opportunities, medical care, and other social services, and they frequently have to pay higher prices than those who are better off for necessities like food, water, and clothing. Because there are no social safety nets and no alternatives in the form of unemployment insurance or job training for formal sector workers, the majority of urban unemployment in developing countries takes the form of underemployment. Underemployment is a form of unemployment in which people are forced to engage in any available economic activity, regardless of how poorly paid or unproductive it may be. According to one poll, the unemployment rate in Ghana was 1.6% of the workforce; however, the percentage of underemployment was over 25% of the workforce. This is an example from Ghana. Cities in underdeveloped countries are not the only places where unemployment is a problem. Because the majority of manufacturing took place in urban areas, developed country cities have been struck disproportionately hard by the process of de-industrialization. In the G7 nations, the percentage of people employed in manufacturing has decreased by

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<sup>10</sup> Liu Wen Tao, 'The Drawbacks Of Housing Overcrowding Characteristic To Rural Migrants' Life In Beijing' (*Science direct.com*, 2015)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1687404815000711> accessed 3 June 2022.

15% on average during the last two decades. The percentage of the working population that is employed in manufacturing fell by 43 per cent in the United Kingdom, 23 per cent in France, and 14 per cent in Germany among the main EU nations. The majority of EU nations are grappling with unemployment rates in the double digits, and as a direct consequence, social isolation, which was historically uncommon in western Europe, is more common in the region's major cities and towns. The unemployment rate in the United States is very low, but during the last 20 years, real earnings on average have remained relatively unchanged, and high unemployment rates may be found in several metropolitan cities in the United States".<sup>11</sup>

#### RISE OF SLUMS

In the 1820s, the term "slum" was initially used for the first time. It was used to designate certain areas in London that were recognised for having the lowest quality dwellings and the filthiest conditions possible. "This term was used throughout London. It was common knowledge that these places served as the incubators for a variety of undesirable behaviours, including a substantial number of illegal activities and the usage of drugs. The majority of the world's greatest slums seem to be distributed throughout the developing globe, and as the rate of urbanisation rises, so does the rate of inequality. In the not too distant future, slums will not only be an unavoidable impediment, but they will also begin to stand in the way of the accomplishment of sustainable development objectives. Trade generally increased from the 1940s through the 1960s, but this trend halted as the Cold War loomed larger in the background. Trade did not take up at an unfathomable rate and the globe did not enter the age of globalisation until 1990 when the Iron Curtain in Europe fell. This event marked the beginning of the globalisation of the economy. The well-known decades of the 1980s and 1990s were also the time when new communication technologies began to increase connectedness. This, in turn, made it much easier for emerging nations to locate economic possibilities elsewhere. The

penetration of new markets grew less difficult, and the practice of hiring less expensive trained labour from poorer countries became the norm. Although there are many positive aspects of globalisation, it has also contributed to widespread poverty and inequality throughout the globe. Bridging the gap between the developing world first seemed to be an optimistic and lucrative endeavour. The concepts of progressive taxation, social safety nets, and labour regulation were increasingly influenced as emerging countries opened their economies to globalisation. The neoliberal ideology was gaining popularity, and its proponents sought to maximise profits while expanding market participation. As a consequence of this, the rate of economic and social progress, particularly in emerging nations, was quicker than was originally anticipated...it was only a matter of time before problems began to emerge. As a result of these trends, individuals with lower incomes who live in developing countries are finding themselves forced to seek out work in the informal sector to survive. As the city's already affluent residents continued to amass more riches, those living in slums were no longer able to make a livelihood that was considered respectable, and the number of families in metropolitan areas who were living below the poverty line began to rise. The majority of the world's population that is of working age may be found in the developing countries. In rural regions, high rates of unemployment and underemployment have prompted substantial movement patterns into urban centres, where the informal sector has, to some extent, provided a means of subsistence for the disadvantaged population thus far. However, if proper steps are not taken to attract these semi-skilled and unskilled populations into the mainstream formal sector, there will continue to be a rising problem of the urban poor collecting in neighbourhoods that have the potential to become slums. The problem is slowly becoming more apparent as a pattern due to the absence of a policy approach. The urbanisation of our planet interacts with a lot of other components of our environment. As an

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<sup>11</sup> 'Unemployment Threatens World Cities; Jobs Are Needed To Check Growth In Urban Poverty, Says ILO' (*Ilo.org*, 1996) <https://www.ilo.org/global/about->

[the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_008055/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-) accessed 3 June 2022.

unintended consequence of urbanisation, slums are the result of unequal distribution of resources”<sup>12</sup>.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In this research paper, I had learnt about the causes and as well as impacts of Urbanization. Even though there are many benefits due to urbanization there are some side effects, especially in rural areas where the population will decrease and rural regions' occupation, lies mostly in agriculture and its allied sectors where in depletion of population leads to a low labour force and also depletion of agriculture products. So the governments must take care of this particular issue and immediately should make counterbalance measures to avoid these side effects.

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<sup>12</sup> 'Urbanisation And The Rise Of Slum Housing - Habitat For Humanity GB' (*Habitat for Humanity GB*)

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