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TRENDS AND PATTERN OF URBANIZATION IN INDIA: AN INTER STATE ANALYSIS

T. Chandrasekarayya* & P. Ganesh**

Abstract

Rapid urbanization has been a world wide phenomenon in the twenty first century. Though the level of urbanization in terms of the proportion of urban population (27.7% in 2001) to the total is low in India, in absolute terms, India's urban population (285 millions in 2001) is the second largest in the world, after China. The present study aims to study the trends, growth rate of urbanization and pattern of population concentration by urban size classes across major states of India in recent decades (1981-2001) based on census data. The levels of

* Department of Population Studies & Social work, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, India-517502, Phone: 09440078579, Email: tcsdps.svu@gmail.com

** Academy of Gandhian Studies, Tirupati, India-517502. Phone: 09052275448, Email: ganeshbhavana@yahoo.com ganeshbhavana2006@rediffmail.com

urbanization were high in industrially as well as economically developed states. The pace of urban population has high in backward states. An over whelming proportion of urban population inhabited in class I cities.

I. Introduction

Rapid urbanization has been a world wide phenomenon in the twenty first century. In developing countries like India, challenge of urbanization becomes even more serious in the context of over population and its consequences. Urbanization in demographic sense, is an increase in the proportion of the Urban population (U) to the Total population (T) over a period of time (Ashish Bose, 1978:3). While in sociological sense, urbanization refers to the phenomenal growth of towns and cities or urban centres (Shankar Rao, 2007:339). Further, urbanization is involving a change from agricultural to non-agricultural occupation and being associated with organizational and behavioural change (Patil, 1993:44).

Though the level of urbanization in terms of the proportion of urban population (27.7% in 2001) to the total is low in India, in absolute terms, India's urban population (285 million in 2001) is the second largest in world, after China. Further, it is estimated to increase in the range of 435-485 millions by the year 2010 and represent about 41.0 per cent of the total population (Jacob, 2007:71). Moreover, the unique features of India's urbanization are being differentials in the levels as well as pattern of urbanization across the states and diversity in the share of urban population in urban size classes among the states over a period of time. The study of India's urbanization, therefore, assumes added importance. In India, attempts have been made from time to time to study the urbanization at national level in different contents (Ashish Bose, 1978; Patil, 1993; Premi, 2003; and Bhende and Kanitkar, 2006). Inter state analysis on trends and patterns of urbanization are rather rare. In the present context such analysis is highly relevant to a country like India.

II. Importance

Proper understanding of the trends, spatial structure and concentration of urban population among the states, especially in recent decades are an essential prerequisite for urban governance as well as other programmes for the development and management of urban areas. In this direction, an attempt is made in the present paper to analyse the trends and patterns of urbanization among major states of India.

III. Objectives

- To study the trends and growth rate urbanization across major states in recent decades (i.e. 1971-2001).
- To examine the pattern of population concentration by urban size classes across major states in recent decades (1981-2001).

IV. Data and Method

The study is based on the data, collected from Census of India. The analysis is made for the period 1971-2001 taking into account of the latest census years, where in the momentum of urban population growth was found to be increasing. However, the present study covers seventeen major states, which constitute huge share of urban population. The rest of states and union territories are smaller in terms of urban population as well as in area, which is difficult for comparison. The data relating to 1971-81 periods for Assam are not available. Hence, analysis is made on the basis of available information using percentages and ratios.

V. Results and Discussion

V.I. Urbanization Across States

Trends as well as pattern of urbanization across the major states of India are furnished in Table-I. The levels of urbanization were high in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab and West Bengal and moved above the level of national average. These states are mostly either economically or industrially developed with higher per capita income, consisting with high concentration of economic activities. Further, a moderate trend of urbanization recorded in states like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala and Rajasthan. In these states, however the pattern of urbanization is more or less equal to national average. This is due to predominance of agricultural sector and disparities of industrialization in these states. While, backward and hilly states like Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh had low levels of urbanization, because of socio-economic backwardness and these states are far behind in industrialization. Further, in these states levels of urbanization is below the national average.

Table-I : Trends of Urbanisation Across Major States

S.No.	States	1971	1981	1991	2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19.31	23.25	26.84	27.08
2.	Arunachalpradesh	03.70	6.32	12.21	20.41
3.	Assam	-	9.88	11.08	12.72
4.	Bihar	10.00	12.46	13.17	10.47
5.	Gujarat	28.08	31.08	34.40	37.75
6.	Haryana	17.66	21.96	24.79	29.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	06.99	7.72	08.70	09.79
8.	Karnataka	24.31	28.91	30.91	33.98
9.	Kerala	16.24	18.78	26.44	25.97
10.	Madhya Pradesh	16.29	20.31	23.21	26.67
11.	Maharastra	31.17	35.03	38.73	42.40
12.	Orissa	08.41	11.82	13.43	14.97
13.	Punjab	23.73	27.72	29.72	33.95
14.	Rajasthan	17.13	20.93	22.88	23.38
15.	Tamil Nadu	30.26	32.98	34.20	43.86
16.	Uttar Pradesh	14.02	18.01	19.89	20.78
17.	West Bengal	24.75	26.49	27.39	28.03
	All India	20.22	23.73	25.72	27.78

Source: Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Computed from Census of India, 1981, 1991 and 2001, paper-2, Rural-Urban Distribution.

V.II. Growth of Urban Population

The analysis of growth of urban population across major states indicates the trends as well as pattern of urbanization over a period of time (Table-II). The trends in the growth of urban population are characterized by dualism. The pace of growth has generally been high in relatively backward states like Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This can be attributed to government policies popularly known as "a gap-filling approach", where in urban development programmes has been adopted and due to rural-urban migration. It is owing to lack of diversification in the agrarian economy, which shows enormity of the situation. However, few developed states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana also recorded a high or medium growth. These states attracted population to urban areas due to concentration of economic activities as a result of industrialization, advanced agrarian economy and infrastructural investment.

V.III. Urbanization Across Size Classes

The analysis of urbanization across size classes of major states reveal that the trends as well as pattern of structural changes in urban population. Indian census classified urban areas into six size classes. However, the smaller towns with population below 20,000 clubbed into one category here for analysis the growth profile and also structure of urban population. Data relates to these aspects were given in Table-III. The proportion of population in class I cities has been increasing gradually. These shares however widely differ among the major states and reveal a regional pattern. An overwhelming proportion of urban population inhabited in class I cities in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh in most of the study period. Further, in states like Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka and Kerala a moderate (nearly 50-70 per cent) proportion, inhabited in class I cities, as the case of National average. In these states, agriculture is predominance apart from slow rate of industrialization. Evidence indicates that about two-thirds of increase in the urban population of larger cities was due to a result of natural growth (Singh, 1992) and rest as the result of inflow of people (Oberai, 1993). Most of these Class I cities in India are economically prosperous with industrialization. Moreover, the rapid growth can be attributed to increased opportunities of manufacturing employment, infrastructural facilities and level of social development (Sivarama Krishnan, *et al.*, 2006:62).

The share of urban population in medium towns (Class II and III) however, have remained constant in most of the states over a period. However, in hilly states like Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, an overwhelming proportion of urban

Table-II: Annual Exponential Growth Rate of Urbanization Across Major States

S.No.	States	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.94	3.55	1.37
2.	Arunachalpradesh	8.32	9.28	7.00
3.	Assam	-	3.27	3.09
4.	Bihar	4.34	2.65	2.57
5.	Gujarat	3.42	2.90	2.80
6.	Haryana	4.65	3.58	4.11
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3.02	3.11	2.81
8.	Karnataka	4.08	2.55	2.53
9.	Kerala	3.19	4.76	0.74
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4.45	3.71	2.71
11.	Maharashtra	3.35	3.27	2.95
12.	Orissa	5.21	3.08	2.61
13.	Punjab	3.62	2.55	3.19
14.	Rajasthan	4.52	3.31	2.71
15.	Tamil Nadu	2.45	1.76	3.56
16.	Uttar Pradesh	4.78	3.29	2.84
17.	West Bengal	2.75	2.54	1.84
	All India	3.79	3.09	2.73

Source: Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Computed from Census of India, 1981, 1991 and 2001, paper-2, Rural-Urban Distribution.

Table - III : Percentage of Population in Different Size Categories to Total Urban Population Across Major States

S.No.	States	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV-VI		Total			
		1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53.69	66.88	16.17	12.60	13.95	20.95	16.53	8.35	9.19	3.99	2.31	100
2.	Arunachalpradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37.66	100	100	62.34	100
3.	Assam	-	37.56	44.34	11.65	14.37	-	25.61	18.56	-	25.18	22.72	100
4.	Bihar	54.12	52.62	59.31	17.58	13.66	19.26	20.80	23.57	12.24	9.00	3.46	100
5.	Gujarat	57.92	64.43	76.50	12.73	9.67	13.37	10.52	9.47	14.18	10.32	4.36	100
6.	Haryana	56.64	58.54	72.57	15.11	5.78	14.80	11.95	11.89	17.74	14.40	9.75	100
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-	24.70	24.30	-	-	12.49	19.60	25.87	65.97	55.70	49.82	100
8.	Karnataka	58.60	64.60	67.20	7.35	9.63	17.75	17.68	17.28	17.19	10.37	5.88	100
9.	Kerala	53.13	66.34	68.82	7.22	11.32	31.86	19.08	14.05	5.49	7.36	5.80	100
10.	Madhya Pradesh	46.84	50.38	55.77	13.94	12.00	12.24	12.82	15.95	22.92	22.86	16.39	100
11.	Maharashtra	75.24	77.85	79.70	6.49	6.66	10.88	10.39	9.42	7.93	5.27	4.22	100
12.	Orissa	41.63	44.43	48.41	12.76	17.12	21.83	19.73	18.20	23.78	21.19	16.27	100
13.	Punjab	46.40	54.36	58.39	13.28	16.45	21.31	12.89	12.50	19.01	12.96	12.67	100
14.	Rajasthan	46.52	50.09	57.23	13.67	13.94	22.02	21.31	20.80	21.41	14.93	8.03	100
15.	Tamil Nadu	62.19	65.96	36.35	15.21	11.64	12.52	11.19	12.21	9.30	7.64	19.80	100
16.	Uttar Pradesh	51.49	55.99	62.16	11.45	9.95	12.34	13.94	14.40	23.46	18.62	13.49	100
17.	West Bengal	76.84	81.71	83.54	6.58	4.34	7.71	7.66	5.96	4.67	4.05	6.16	100
	All India	60.32	64.89	68.67	11.63	9.67	14.30	13.33	12.23	13.75	10.82	9.43	100

Note: All-India average excludes Assam in 1981 and Jammu & Kashmir in 1991, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh represent their undivided status.

Source: Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Computed from Census of India, 1981, 1991 and 2001, paper-2, Rural-Urban Distribution. Population consist in size classes as : Class I: 1,00,000 and above; Class II: 50,000-99,999; Class III: 20,000-49,999; Class IV: 10,000-19,999; Class V: 5,000-9,999 and Class VI: Below 5,000.

population concentrated in small size class towns (Class IV to VI) as well as medium size towns (Class II and III). While in case of Assam, the share of population by size classes is more or less equal, though slightly higher proportion recorded in class I cities. These states are far behind in development. Further, agriculture is mainstay of the economy and the opportunity for big and heavy industry in these states are limited because of topographical and other factors, there by less influence of migration which leads to low pattern of urbanization in large size classes.

VI. Summary

Economic development has been regarded a significant factor an increasing urbanization, which is confirmed from the analysis of the trends as well as pattern of the urban scenario among major states. The developed states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab and West Bengal had a higher proportion of urbanization and stands above the national average. While, less developed states like Bihar, Orissa, and hilly states like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh recorded low pattern of urbanization. The trends in growth of urban population characterized by dualism. Backward states had high growth rate as a result of migration and by a gap-filling approach. While, few developed states had a high or moderate growth rate due to economic development there in industrialization and agrarian based sector have developed resulting to rural-urban migration.

An overwhelming proportion of urban population inhabited in class I cities of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. Further, in some states also a moderate share of population concentrated in class I cities, as is the case of national average. The high pattern of urbanization in class I cities signals the enormity of the urban problems such as socio-economic, environmental and administrative aspects etc. In contrast, the hilly states like Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, however, an over whelming proportion of urban population concentrated in small size classes (IV to VI class town) and medium size classes (II and III class towns). While in Assam, the concentration of urban population is more or less equal among the all urban size classes though slightly higher proportion recorded in class I cities. Thus, the urbanization scenario in India is diverse in nature by higher levels and pattern recorded in socio-economically developed states and mostly characterized by class I cities oriented urbanization in major states, causes for regional imbalances. There is a need to develop the backward states as well.

VII. Suggestions

- (1) Incentives for industrialization have to be adopted in backward states where in low pattern of urbanization existed.
- (2) Medium and small class of towns should be developed with infrastructural, economic activities and linked with rural hinterland.
- (3) Agro based as well as small scale industries has to be developed in rural areas which curtail migration.
- (4) Development of roads and transport services linking with rural sector stimulus to commutation rather than migration.
- (5) Improvement in employment as well as infrastructural facilities in rural areas holds population than push the population.

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