

Impacts Of Urbanisation On Rural Areas Exploring The Role Of Small And Medium Towns In Urbanisation. - A Comprehensive Review.

Chauhan Nipa S^{*}

^{*}Research Scholar, Architecture & Planning, Parul University, Vadodara, Gujarat

Citation: Chauhan Nipa S ,et.al. (2024) "Impacts Of Urbanisation On Rural Areas Exploring The Role Of Small And Medium Towns In Urbanisation. - A Comprehensive Review. *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30(2) 1514-1520

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i2.7794

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

The new development plan's detractors believe that post-liberalization urbanization will be extremely high, even though the plan's supporters acknowledge that this will lead to poverty, low-productivity jobs, and worse city life overall. This highlights the critical need for research into the effects of economic liberalization on urbanization traits and trends. The Indian state of Gujarat is rapidly becoming an industrial powerhouse, and this article aims to analyze the trends and patterns of urbanization in the state. It accounts for shifts in the job market and changes in land management/development techniques, companies offering essential services, and systems of urban administration. We tackle persistent development issues by utilizing our newly created dataset of poverty measurements for India spanning 60 years, including 20 years following the commencement of reforms in 1991. For now, this dataset is all we have to work with. Despite rising inequality, we show that poverty measures have been falling since 1970, with a sharp acceleration after 1991. A quicker decline in poverty occurrences was linked to higher growth and more pro-poor growth. The data gathered after 1991 shows stronger connections between different sectors; for example, the growth of urban consumption helped the poor in rural areas as well as those in urban centres, and the relative importance of the primary, secondary, and tertiary components of economic growth is no longer relevant since they have all played a role in eradicating poverty.

Keywords: Urbanization, rural area, urban agriculture, urban agriculture utilization, farmers, land use planning/management, urban sprawl.

1. Introduction:

The realization that rural areas need to be incorporated into national, regional, and municipal development has been brought to the attention of urban policymakers. This is necessary for development to occur within the continuum of human settlements. Small and intermediate towns are strategically positioned in strategically important locations when it comes to establishing interaction between central governments, metropolitan regions, and rural areas. An indicator that these nuclei act as halting spots for migrants on their journey to larger cities is the expansion of these smaller and intermediate towns. If you are a semi-skilled rural labourer, the finest prospects for employment begin in the centres of the villages or the smaller towns. Only once you reach the larger cities are reliable employment opportunities available. This marks the beginning of their transition into city life. In the present day, urbanization in India is synonymous with the growth of megacities that are unplanned and cannot be maintained. Smaller and medium towns in India are seeing a decline in population as compared to the country's megacities. According to the 2001 Census, out of all the urban residents, around 39% lived in the 35 largest cities, which together comprised nearly 63% of the Class I city population, or about 108 million people. The population of three of these cities is over ten million. The four million mark has been exceeded by four more cities. Greater Mumbai, Kolkata, and Delhi are the three megacities that could accommodate about 65 percent of the megacity population, or over 42 million people. Roughly 15% of the total urban population falls into this category (Sudhira H, 2012). As a result of

this kind of urbanization, the standard of living in India's cities has been steadily falling. Population growth and urban poverty caused by people moving from rural areas and smaller towns to megacities are two major contributors to this surge of concentrated urbanization. Poverty in rural areas has moved into urban areas as a result of urbanization. This has led to the development of slums in every major city in India, where the urban poor endure appalling living conditions and lack access to basic necessities like clean water, proper sanitation, safe housing, and medical care. Small and intermediate cities offer essential links to rural regions, promoting equitable economic growth and balanced development. However, they confront issues such as weak infrastructure, governance, and planning. To maximize the potential of rural areas, governments should invest in infrastructure and services in these towns. These investments should be coordinated to enable integration and interaction among towns, the area, and higher-ranking cities. To maximize impact, decentralization plans should be institutionalized and supported by capacity-building in financial, human, political, and infrastructure resources for small and intermediate communities(Kago, J). Literature shows that it is conceptually unclear whether rural poor care more about city growth or town growth. We assess empirically whether India's secondary towns' economic growth contributed more to recent rural poverty reduction than big city growth. A geographic Durbin fixed-effects model of rural India's poverty indicators is calibrated to a panel of 59 regions observed four times over 1993–2012 and uses satellite observations of night lights to quantify urban expansion on ample and intensive margins. Lit area expansion has a greater impact on rural poverty than intensive margin growth on urban light brightness. Considering India's progress, secondary school growth (Gibson, J., Datt, G.(2017)). Absence of economic growth and urban job creation can lead to rapid urbanisation, as seen in Africa and Latin America in the 1980s. Why do certain countries urbanise quicker but have lower economic growth? This study reveals that increasing agricultural risk drives rural-to-urban migration, adding to the urbanisation trend. Uninsurable foreseen risk may cause rural-urban migration as ex-ante insurance for households facing cash constraints and unpleasant shocks. The effect persists despite controlling for industrialization-driven urbanisation and other hypotheses like government investment.

2. Urbanization as Process

Urbanisation is a complex and evolving series of processes that are influenced by shifting attitudes and perceptions of the fundamental qualities of rural and urban regions. Although all processes are interconnected, they are not singular. Urbanisation, at the macro scale, refers to the progressive concentration of population in urban regions, both in relative and absolute terms. The disparities in quality of life, such as employment opportunities and living circumstances, between urban and rural areas have led to contrasting outcomes and repercussions in developed and developing nations. Simultaneously, urbanisation is commonly associated with urban expansion, namely urban growth called urban sprawl. This encompasses a range of activities occurring at both regional and local scales. The macroscopic processes of urban growth can be readily associated with urban expansion and sprawl.

Nevertheless, urban areas can expand without significant population growth or increased activity concentration in urban regions. This expansion occurs due to people seeking different lifestyles and the changing needs of human activities, especially in older industrialised countries. The changing requirements over the twentieth century have encompassed:

- Horizontally set-up industrial production processes require larger land areas.
- Large shopping centres are transforming the nature of retail spaces.
- Transportation infrastructure such as airports and highways require adequate space for its accompanying parking facilities, particularly on the outskirts of major urban areas.

2.1 Trends and Patterns of Urbanization in Gujarat

Urbanization in Gujarat has been characterized by rapid growth and transformation, influenced by industrialization, economic development, and government policies. Key trends and patterns include:

a) Rapid Urban Growth:

Gujarat has experienced significant urban growth, particularly in cities like Ahmedabad, Surat, and Vadodara. This growth has been driven by industrialization, infrastructure development, and economic opportunities.

b) Industrialization and Economic Development:

The state has seen substantial industrial growth, particularly in sectors like textiles, chemicals, petrochemicals, and automotive. This has spurred urbanization as people migrate to cities for employment opportunities.

c) Infrastructure Development:

The development of infrastructure such as roads, ports, and airports has facilitated urban growth. Major projects like the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar exemplify this trend.

d) Migration:

Both internal and external migration have played crucial roles in urban growth. People from rural areas and other states migrate to Gujarat's cities for better employment prospects and living conditions.

e) Urban-Rural Linkages:

Urbanization in Gujarat is also marked by strong urban-rural linkages. The rural economy benefits from urban growth through remittances and employment opportunities in nearby urban centers.

f) Government Policies and Initiatives:

Policies such as the Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and various housing schemes have contributed to planned urban development.

g) Urban Sprawl and Peri-Urban Growth:

Cities in Gujarat have expanded beyond their traditional boundaries, leading to the development of peri-urban areas. This has sometimes led to challenges in infrastructure and service provision.

Economic Corridors and Special Investment Regions:

The development of economic corridors and special investment regions, like the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) estates, has facilitated urbanization.

h) Primacy Rate in Gujarat / Primate Cities

Primate cities are those that are disproportionately larger than other cities in a region or country and serve as the central hub for economic, political, and cultural activities. In Gujarat, Ahmedabad serves as the primate city, followed by Surat. The primacy rate and characteristics of these cities include:

i) Ahmedabad:

- **Economic Hub:** As the largest city in Gujarat, Ahmedabad is a major economic center with industries such as textiles, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
- **Cultural Significance:** The city has rich cultural heritage, with numerous historical sites, museums, and festivals.
- **Educational Institutions:** Home to premier institutions like the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) and Gujarat University.
- **Transport and Connectivity:** Excellent infrastructure with a well-connected transport network, including the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport.

ii) Surat:

- **Industrial Growth:** Known as the "Diamond City," Surat is a major hub for diamond processing and textiles.
- **Rapid Growth:** One of the fastest-growing cities in the world, with significant urban sprawl and infrastructure development.
- **Economic Diversity:** Diversifying into sectors like IT, logistics, and finance.

2.2 Urban Primacy and Its Implications

Urban primacy in Gujarat, with cities like Ahmedabad and Surat, has several implications:

1. Economic Dominance:

These cities attract the majority of investments, leading to economic concentration.

2. Resource Allocation:

Primate cities often receive more resources in terms of infrastructure development, healthcare, and education, potentially at the expense of smaller cities and rural areas.

3. Migration Patterns:

High migration rates to these cities can lead to overcrowding, pressure on infrastructure, and urban sprawl.

4. Urban Planning Challenges:

Ensuring sustainable development in primate cities requires comprehensive urban planning to address issues like traffic congestion, pollution, and housing shortages.

5. Regional Disparities:

The dominance of primate cities can lead to regional disparities, with smaller cities and rural areas lagging in development.

3. Political Economy of Urbanization

Looking at the concepts of political economics can help us understand urbanization. Analyzing the monetary components of governmental actions is the focus of the Political Economy Model for Urban Planning. Political actions, such as policies and programs, are analyzed to see how they affect the economy. To understand the political economy of urbanization, one should start by looking at the discourse around urbanization in India after independence. During the time immediately following independence, there are thorough and specific policy declarations concerning the growth of industry, agriculture, and the population. A national policy statement regarding urbanization is necessary, nevertheless. According to Sivarama krishnan (2011), development planning in India has not prioritized urban expansion and management. There has been a

glaring manifestation of the deep economic shifts in the patterns of urbanization in India. The political economy of India is beset by four major structural problems. Rising land prices, cronyism, and economic inequality all contribute to a legitimization dilemma. Sluggish employment growth is another problem that has stoked discontent among young people. A surge in land prices and regional imbalance further worsen the problem. The course of India's political economy was affected by these challenges. The federal government can only assist the states in carrying out development programs because the urban sector is under the purview of the individual states. The role of the state has been reduced as a consequence of privatization. The state, however, must not ignore the urbanization trend. Due to a lack of defined property restrictions and inaccurate land records, the state has more freedom to decide whether or not the land is legal. Extensive industrialization and urbanization cannot be achieved without the state. Among the state's development initiatives were the industrial site policy, the transit policy, the effort to replace imports, and the development of economically depressed areas. The implementation of these policies will affect certain regions (Deb, 2006). Despite being granted the capacity to design urban policy, states have failed to do so thus far.

4. The Political and Economic Foundations of Urban Policy in India after Independence

During the first forty years of independence, economic and urban planning were carried out in a bureaucratic fashion, with choices being taken at the highest level and then implemented at the lowest. The pattern focused on promoting import substitution industrialization (Frankel, 2005, 2012). At first, the Socialist pattern and the implementation of Five Year Plans emphasized the rapid growth of industries. The government aimed to construct the nation and follow a development agenda. As a result, policy-making initially centred on agriculture and eventually shifted towards the manufacturing sector. During the time of Pandit Nehru and Indira Gandhi, achieving self-sufficiency in food grains and agricultural goods was a top aim, alongside a strong emphasis on the green revolution. While education and industrialization embraced a modern perspective and scientific enthusiasm, policy efforts to promote urbanization experienced a different level of advancement. During the initial years of independence, many new towns were established. The urban plans implemented throughout the 1960s and 1970s needed to adequately address the fast expansion of major cities or promote the development of smaller cities in secondary and tertiary tiers. The government prioritized the expansion of the city into more remote and previously unoccupied areas rather than focusing on the development of the existing central metropolis. Several emerging regions have been established near big industrial sites and electricity installations. India, after gaining independence, received a dual model of urban development. The urban development process involved both deliberate actions by the authorities and spontaneous growth driven by the lower and middle classes, as Shaw (2012) noted. Metropolitan areas within urban systems have been deliberately designed, whereas more diminutive towns and non-metropolitan regions have developed organically and independently.

5. Why role of small and medium towns is an important factor in regional development.

The role of small and medium towns is crucial in regional development for several reasons. These towns serve as intermediaries between rural areas and larger urban centers, providing essential services, employment opportunities, and fostering economic growth. Here are the key factors that highlight their importance:

5.1 Economic Diversification

Small and medium towns often host a variety of economic activities, including agriculture, manufacturing, services, and small-scale industries. This diversification helps to reduce the economic dependency on a single sector, making the regional economy more resilient to shocks and downturns.

5.2 Decentralization of Development

Focusing on the development of small and medium towns helps in decentralizing economic activities from large metropolitan areas. This reduces the pressure on big cities, mitigates urban overcrowding, and promotes a more balanced regional development.

5.3 Rural-Urban Linkages

These towns act as bridges between rural and urban areas, facilitating the flow of goods, services, and information. They provide rural populations with access to markets, healthcare, education, and other essential services, which can improve the overall quality of life in rural areas and prevent excessive rural-to-urban migration.

5.4 Employment Opportunities

Small and medium towns create local employment opportunities, reducing the need for people to migrate to larger cities in search of jobs. This can help in sustaining local populations, preserving community structures, and ensuring a steady labor force for local businesses.

5.5 Infrastructure Development

Investments in infrastructure, such as roads, telecommunications, and utilities, are often concentrated in small and medium towns. This infrastructure development not only benefits the towns themselves but also enhances connectivity and accessibility for surrounding rural areas, fostering regional integration.

5.6 Social Services and Amenities

These towns often serve as hubs for social services like education, healthcare, and administrative functions. By providing such services locally, small and medium towns improve the living standards of their residents and those in nearby rural areas, contributing to human capital development.

5.7 Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Small and medium towns can be centers for innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly in regions where large cities may dominate traditional industries. These towns often have lower costs of living and operating businesses, which can attract startups and small enterprises, driving economic growth and innovation.

5.8 Cultural and Social Cohesion

The development of small and medium towns can help preserve local cultures and traditions. These towns often have strong community ties and social cohesion, which can contribute to a stable and harmonious regional development environment.

5.9 Environmental Sustainability

Development strategies focused on small and medium towns can promote more sustainable land use and reduce environmental pressures compared to large urban centers. By managing growth and development at a smaller scale, these towns can implement more sustainable practices and better manage natural resources.

5.10 Equitable Development

Promoting the growth of small and medium towns can contribute to more equitable regional development. It ensures that economic benefits and development opportunities are more evenly distributed across a region, reducing regional disparities and promoting social equity.

In summary, small and medium towns play a multifaceted role in regional development by fostering economic diversification, decentralization, rural-urban linkages, employment, infrastructure development, social services, innovation, cultural preservation, environmental sustainability, and equitable development. Their strategic importance lies in creating a balanced and resilient regional economy that benefits both urban and rural populations.

6. Impact of urbanisation on rural livelihood / resources / services

Urbanization significantly impacts rural livelihoods, resources, and services in both positive and negative ways.

6.1 Impact on Rural Livelihoods

1. Economic Opportunities:

- **Positive:** Urbanization can create new economic opportunities for rural populations. With improved infrastructure and connectivity, rural producers can access larger markets, leading to increased incomes.
- **Negative:** Urban migration can lead to a loss of labor in rural areas, which affects agricultural productivity and local businesses.

2. Employment:

- **Positive:** Employment opportunities in urban areas attract rural populations, offering them higher wages and diverse job options.
- **Negative:** Rural areas may experience a shortage of labor, leading to a decline in traditional farming and artisanal industries.

3. Income Diversification:

- **Positive:** Remittances from family members working in urban areas can supplement rural incomes, allowing for investment in agriculture and other rural enterprises.
- **Negative:** Dependence on remittances can make rural economies vulnerable to urban economic fluctuations.

6.2 Impact on Rural Resources

1. Land Use:

- **Positive:** Urbanization can lead to more efficient use of land through the adoption of modern agricultural techniques.
- **Negative:** Expansion of urban areas often encroaches on fertile agricultural land, reducing the area available for farming.

2. Natural Resources:

- **Positive:** Improved infrastructure can lead to better management and conservation of natural resources.
- **Negative:** Urban sprawl can lead to overexploitation of rural natural resources such as water, forests, and minerals.
- 3. **Environmental Impact:**
 - **Positive:** Urbanization can lead to the implementation of better environmental regulations and practices.
 - **Negative:** Pollution from urban areas can affect rural water sources, air quality, and soil health, harming agriculture and local ecosystems.

6.3 Impact on Rural Services

1. **Healthcare:**
 - **Positive:** Urbanization can lead to better healthcare facilities and services in rural areas through improved infrastructure and investment.
 - **Negative:** Healthcare services may become concentrated in urban areas, making it difficult for rural populations to access quality healthcare.
2. **Education:**
 - **Positive:** Improved connectivity can provide rural populations with better access to educational resources and institutions.
 - **Negative:** There may be a brain drain as educated individuals move to urban areas for better opportunities, leaving rural areas with a shortage of skilled professionals.
3. **Infrastructure:**
 - **Positive:** Development of urban areas often includes the improvement of transportation, communication, and utility services that benefit nearby rural areas.
 - **Negative:** Infrastructure development may prioritize urban needs over rural ones, leading to disparities in service quality and availability.

6.4 Social and Cultural Impact

1. **Cultural Exchange:**
 - **Positive:** Urbanization can lead to cultural exchange and the introduction of new ideas and practices in rural areas.
 - **Negative:** Traditional cultures and lifestyles in rural areas may be eroded as people adopt urban ways of life.
2. **Community Structure:**
 - **Positive:** Urban-rural migration can lead to the formation of new social networks and communities.
 - **Negative:** The outmigration of young people can lead to an aging population in rural areas, weakening community structures and support systems.

7. Affordable Housing

A fundamental right that every human being in the city possesses is the right to own a shelter. In contrast to the utopian scenario in which every family in the city possesses a housing unit, the reality is very different. As long as there is a significant demand for housing and a limited supply, affordable housing will continue to be a pipe dream. Private developers interested in earning lucrative profits mainly drive the housing market. Large metropolitan areas are made so unaffordable by the instability of land prices, forcing the housing sector to relocate to neighbouring cities with lower prices for both land and labour. The fact that land prices constantly fluctuate is a primary driving force behind the fact that satellite towns benefit real estate development.

8. Economic Sub-centre

The metropolitan areas have been the centres of investment ever since the country gained its independence; nevertheless, after a certain amount of time, they have reached the point where they are saturated. After 1991, which opened doors for international organisations in terms of Foreign Direct Investment, the growth of the investment sector was given a significant push, which led to the industry's expansion. As a result of the increasing number of multinational corporations that are moving their operations to India, together with the emergence of small and medium-sized businesses, it is of the utmost importance to establish new economic growth centres that have the potential to serve as sub-centres for large metropolitan areas.

9. Economy

Capital investment is necessary for the development of humans, from the construction of cities to the establishment of nations. It is transitioning from interdependence to independence in terms of the dependence of suburbs of metropolitan areas on it. Any regional economy can benefit from Natural resources, including water, land, minerals, and so on. The financial industry includes both governmental and private sector investments in capital.

A human resource that is educated, competent, and unskilled is called a workforce. The satellite towns located on the outskirts of the major metropolitan areas provide several new opportunities for financial investment. It is anticipated that implementing these satellites as sub-centers would contribute to the comprehensive development of an area and help combat polarisation in the parent metropolis. The potential of satellite cities is significantly higher for the region's expansion and the most efficient use of resources.

10. Conclusion:

Satellite towns have emerged as a successful countermeasure to the magnetic pull of significant cities. In order to halt the exodus to megacities and the subsequent population boom, counter magnets must be created. Due to their well-appointed infrastructure, satellite towns have emerged as the sole viable option for alleviating traffic congestion in megacities. Proper planning and connection with the parent city are also crucial for these new towns to function well. Potential areas with accessible public and private transit are seeing the expansion of the idea of satellite towns. This research used the appealing coefficient criteria to study the population attraction level in small cities.

- 1) Making small communities in the region more employable.
- 2) Bringing the population of small towns in the Indian area into balance via investment and providing amenities and services.
- 3) More funding from rural regions to help the governments address and enhance rural residents' living circumstances and issues.
- 4) To improve the urban system, fewer people living in the biggest city and more people living in smaller and medium-sized cities.
- 5) Utilising knowledgeable and experienced persons to address urban challenges in municipalities and providing small municipalities with the resources and financing they need to improve their urban management systems at the provincial level.
- 6) Developing lower-level urban centres by regulating the people's slow movement to larger urban centres.
- 7) In terms of maintaining the integrity of land space, small towns play an important role by supplying national strategies for growth inside metropolitan areas.

Urbanisation in India is driven by economic expansion, industrialization, and government efforts. Prime cities in Gujarat like Ahmedabad and Surat drive economic progress but also threaten sustainable development and regional balance. Strategic planning and state-wide equitable development policies are needed to address these issues.

References:

1. King, R. A., Rath, S., & Sudhira, H. S. (2012). An approach to regional planning in India. In *Int. J. System of Systems Engineering* (Vol. 3, Issue 2).
2. Kago, J. (n.d.). *The Role of Small and Intermediate Towns in Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization*. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322909630>
3. Gibson, J., Datt, G., Murgai, R., & Ravallion, M. (2017). For India's Rural Poor, Growing Towns Matter More Than Growing Cities. *World Development*, 98, 413–429. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.05.014>.
4. Poelhekke, S. (2011). Urban growth and uninsured rural risk: Booming towns in bust times. *Journal of Development Economics*, 96(2), 461–475. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2010.07.007>
5. Bardhan Pranab, 2015, Reflections on Indian Political Economy in *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. LIssue No.18, pp. 14-17.
6. Sivaramakrishnan K C, 2011, Re-visioning Indian Cities: The Urban Renewal Mission, Sage Publications, New Delhi.
7. Ramachandran, R. (1989) Urbanization and Urban Systems in India, Oxford: New Delhi.
8. Deb Kushal, 2006, Role of the State in City Growth : The Case of Hyderabad City in Patel Sujata & Kushal Deb (Eds), *Urban Studies*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, pp-340-352.
9. Francine Frankel, (2005) 2012, India's Political Economy 1947-2004, New Delhi, Oxford University Press.
10. Shaw Annapurna, 2012, Oxford India Short Introductions : Indian Cities, Oxford University Press.