Original Research Paper

Geography

IMPACT OF URBANISATION ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF ROHTAK CITY

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ABSTRACT Urbanization is the migration of individuals or family from rural to urban areas, creating a redistribution of population. As a result rural population declines and a surge in urban population is observed. Consequently, this influx of people entails changes in land use, social structures in the cities as well as rural area in the vicinity. The current study aims to examine the influence of urbanization on the social conditions of Rohtak City, focusing on social aspects aspects such as religion, language, dialect, and family structure.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION:
Urban areas are densely populated regions which keep on growing with time both in terms of population and spatial area. This growth can be either gradual or sudden. If both the growth in the population and area are simultaneous, it preserves the land use and infrastructure is proportionally built (Cohen, 2004). But if the change in population is sudden in comparison to spatial area, it causes pressure on the ecosystem or natural resources; urban sprawl is one such example. Urban sprawl or fringe expansion changes socio-economic condition and might imbalance the social set-up (Bengston, 2004).

Conversely, socio-economic conditions determined the expansion, infrastructure of an urban town. This is true in developing nations where the urbanization is increasing rapidly due to migration from rural areas for better education, health infrastructure, life style etc. Due to social hierarchy people from particular community tend to stay together thus neighborhood becomes important factor and causes the city to expand. The urban cities have basic nature of having higher number of nuclear families than joint families. Thus family grows and members have their own job or business they tend to have their separate house enabling the expansion. Similarly, financial advanced families like to live in bigger houses in comparison to smaller house. Life style could be another reason for expansion, since females do not have freedom in orthodox societies in comparison to open societies.

Socio-economic survey are designed to gather information for understanding the importance of social set up, resources managed and build by the government as well as developed by civic societies. The surveys provide first hand information about how a sustainable development model can be designed for city so that the local municipal bodies can supply basic amenities to its population. With the help of surveys, the government can determine land use for future to avoid any environment hazards due to population growth and resource scarcity.

For this paper, the survey is designed for conducting household information and its impact on the expansion of the city. The survey includes individual as well as family, whose for individual age, sex, employment status is asked whereas at the family level, the families are asked about spatial area of the house and preference. The households are chosen randomly and made sure that at least five families are surveyed in every ward. This survey contains families which moved in 1950's as well as migrated in 2021. The sample size in a survey should be large enough such that methods are statistically relevant and in this regard, the survey is conducted over 400 families which are quite large a number depending on the resources such as man power, time and finance, available since the survey was conducted by the researcher alone. Almost 700 households were approached but all the households were not ready to answer the questions in the survey. The survey contains closed queries where multiple choice questions are asked which are easier, quicker to answer and analyzed in depth without further insinuation. While designing the survey, the same definitions are used as in the census. A household is defined as a family if the food is taken from a common kitchen. Though in orthodox traditional families this question sometimes is not rightly answered because the family does not want to reveal to society that their families are living in one house are divided. Since Rohtak is part of national capital region (NCR), further it is asked if individual is working in Delhi. This type of question will help in determining if Rohtak City can become as buffer for National Capital Delhi where people can commute to Delhi. The primary data used in this paper is after conducting survey in almost 410 families. The role of social determinants is discussed in the context of expansion of Rohtak city.

Social Factors:
In Indian context caste and religion are two most important social indexes. Haryana is Hindu majority state with roughly 87.5 percent of Hindus and 7 percent Muslims, 4.9 percent Sikhs and other religions share remaining 0.6 percent of population. Muslims and Sikhs are found more in numbers in few districts e.g Mewat as Muslims dominated district and Ambala, Sirsa contains roughly 30 percent of Sikhs population.

Religion:
Religion is important factors in smaller cities since the related cultural bias can lead to segregation by caste and religion. This can hamper the diversity in society. However in the primary survey data conducted here follows the same trend as state where majority of the population is Hindu and other religion is in minority. In the survey, it is found that 98.5 percent of the population is Hindu and remaining are Sikh, Muslim, Christian as shown in Table 6.1 and the pie chart Figure 6.1.

Table A: *Religion, caste and dialect distribution of families calculated from the survey*

Religion	NOF	POF	Caste	NOF	POF	Dialect	NOF	POF
Hindu	395	98.5	General	243	60.6	Haryanvi	169	42
Sikh	2	0.5	OBC	65	16.2	Punjabi	218	54
Muslim	1	0.2	SC	93	23.2	Hindi	14	4
Christian	1	0.2				Others	2	1
Others	2	0.5						
Total Responses	401			401			403	

Source: Based on the Primary Survey conducted by researcher
OBC: Other Backward Caste
SC: Scheduled Caste
NOF: Number of families
POF: Number of families

Caste:

Caste remains another dominating social parameter which plays an important role. Interestingly, the population SC's were supportive in providing the information to conduct the survey. The possible reason could be that scheduled caste population are habitual of surveys since government try to fetch information to make sure the scheduled caste population is advancing in all walks of life and do not get discriminated against. The scheduled caste population is marginally higher than the respective representation found in 2011 census. The census does not enumerate other backward caste (OBC) population; in the conducted survey the OBC population is 16.7 percent which is marginally lower than the estimated OBC population in the city Table 6.1 and Figure 6.2. There are few wards where it is observed that more scheduled caste population than general or OBC. This is also found true in the outer wards or colonies and the reason for migration is economical since the land price in that area were lower in comparison to other parts of the city. Those areas were also lacking in basic facilities such as sewage and drinking water. As the area developed other caste population also migrated to those areas. However, there is no segregation of any caste or religion in any of the wards.
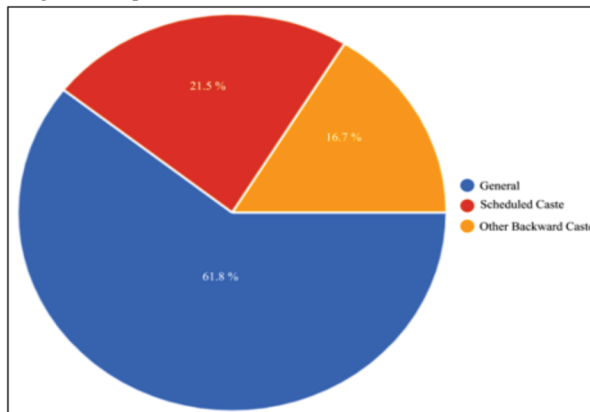

Figure A : *Caste-wise population distribution calculated from the survey*
Source: Table 6.1

Dialect:

The official language of Haryana state is Hindi. Haryanvi is a dialect and in the survey, dialect choice is provided. It is found that Haryanvi dialect is spoken by more than half of the population surveyed (53.6 percent). Hindi is spoken by 42.5 percent.

Interestingly, 3.1 percent communicate in Punjabi which is possibly migrated population during the partition of India in 1947. Interestingly, it is found that the family head who is living in the city by birth speaks Hindi, for example out of 56 families (Table 6.1 and Figure 6.3) 48 families speaks Hindi.

The families which have moved to the city after 2000, the spoken dialect is almost equal but the families when moved prior to 2000 speak Hindi or English instead of Haryanvi. The reason for this language shift is schooling of the children which is only done in Hindi and parents as well as grandparents are advised by the school administration not to speak Haryanvi with the children. This is more recent change where in almost every school primary education is provided in English. Though all the families are not well verse in English, they chose to speak in Hindi
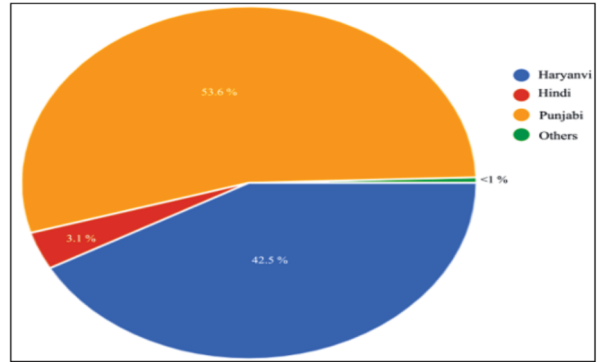

Figure B: *Dialect spoken at home in Rohtak city calculated from the survey*
Source: Table 6.1

instead of Haryanvi by that way they can communicate well to the children. This needs attention from administration since a cultural dialect is losing its identity. The other dialect in most of the cases is Bhojpuri and is spoken by the labor migrant. Though the number of Bihari families in the survey is higher than 1 percent , the low number in speaking language is due to their misunderstanding between language and dialect. In the survey there was no mention of forth dialect.

Family Structure:

Family is most important base and primary unit of any society or culture. There is a recent trend towards nuclear families in the society due to various reasons. The city culture due to higher living expenses support nuclear family where it is easy to plan and maintain expenditure. In the survey, less than one third of the families are joint where at least two generations are living together. Out of 106 joint families, 88 families have shifted prior to 2010 and only 18 families are joint which have shifted after 2010 meanwhile the total number of migrated people after 2010 are 147 which is only 12 percent of total families (Figure 6.4). This clearly indicates that the newer migrated families prefer nuclear structure instead of joint. Out of 106 joint families, 30 families have at least one retired person from government job. The increasing trend of nuclear families can be a reason for the spatial expansion of the city.

Literacy:

Literacy is one of most important factor affecting the demography, employment, and future of

Table B: *Education level of surveyed population*

	People who have left studies	Still studying
Education Level	Number	
Illiterate	61	-
Up to 5th	70	102
5th-9th	94	150
10th	128	--
12th	127	79
ITI	3	1
Graduation	143	72
B. Tech	18	10
LLB	5	3
PG	144	15
M. Phil.	5	--
Ph.D.	25	2
MBBS/ Medicine	5	8
Total	851	442

Source: Based on the Primary Survey conducted by researcher
Note: Students still studying are in the course mentioned in column I

the city, state and country. The literacy of Rohtak city is higher than national as well as state average. In the survey it is found that above the age of 4 years the kids go to school. Along with the traditional degree, the population is well verse with the professional degrees as shown in Table 6.2 and the literacy is 100 percent in the population above the age of 5 years &below 18 years.

Housing Preference:

There is socio-culture bias that one should own a house and this has resulted in more owned houses in comparison to rented house in Rohtak City. Interestingly, in the survey it is observed that 74 percent of families owned the house and only 26 percent families have rented houses or apartment. Families who like to stay in single apartment or single house are 46 percent meanwhile 54 percent of the families like to live in big houses. Since families like to own the houses it has resulted in increase in the price of land to very high value. Haryana Shahri Vikas Pradhikaran has encouraged this increase in the price of the land. Earlier HSVP was known as Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) used to sell the plots by lucky draw at minimum price i.e. circle rate. But this has now changed to auction mode where minimum base price is fixed and then people bid and highest bidder gets the ownership. The auction is done block-wise. In the next auction then the highest bid is considered as base price. This also causes the increase in the price of land in the area. The increase in the wealth of population also affects the production of PM2.5 due to large number of vehicles in the city (Wang, 2017; Hennig, 2016). The sustainable development is needed in smaller as well as big cities. (Singh,2009; Riva 2018; Okkonen, 2016).

CONCLUSION:

The survey is conducted on the approximately 419 families which include total population of roughly 1420. In many aspects the survey conducted is similar to census data but provide more information and insight than census. The literacy percentage in population above 6 years and below 18 years is 100 percent. The families with contractual jobs live in very narrow spaces as well as use wood or dung for cooking and water-heating. This can create a problem for environment in future. The government should provide affordable housing as well as subsidized gas cylinders and/or electricity. Interestingly, in the survey it is observed that 74 percent of families owned the house and only 26 percent families have rented houses or apartment. There are government schemes such as Ujjawala for gas cylinders but the cylinders are provided only once. The city culture due to higher living expenses support nuclear family where it is easy to plan and maintain expenditure. Survey finds that the newer migrated families prefer nuclear structure instead of joint

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