Research Paper　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Economics**

"March of the cities: A Boon or A Bane?"

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ABSTRACT

The urbanization in India has led to a growth of the larger cities, the number of cities with a population over 100000 inhabitants is today 393 and among these cities 35 have a population over 1 million. Recent made calculations estimate that the by the year of 2021 the number of cities with a population over 100000 will be 500 and cities with a population over 1 million will be 75. As the housing shortage today is 24,71 units it is clear that something needs to be done. Indian government and planners should concentrate their attention on metropolitans (small villages and towns). We cannot make our cities sustainable unless our villages are sustainable. The Indian economic is rural-centric. Then majority of the rural population depend upon agriculture for livelihood. At present the growth of agriculture is sluggish. The Indian government through its pragmatic policies must make villages self-sufficient. All villages must be provided with the necessities of life namely food, cloth, shelter, education, health, security and above all, opportunities to work. If the villages are sustainable, people will not migrate in large numbers. This paper deals with the 'what are the responsible factors for urbanization?' and effects of urbanization. Some measures of avoiding them have been pointed out.

Keywords :Responsible factors, Positive and negative of effects for urbanization

Introduction:
People move from one place to another everywhere in the world. They migrate from a village to a city; from one region to the other within the country; from one country to the other. In the developing countries, generally, the migration takes place from one village to cities. This migration is called urbanization.

This is an urban age. Today more than half the world's population is living in the cities, as cities are origin of growth. India too has witnessed rapid urbanization. India's population is 1.1 billion. India's urban population is 300 millions which are one tenth of the world's urban population and one third of its own population. India ranks third among the countries of the world in terms of urban population. In the report of United Nations' 'State of the World Population 2007' says that by 2030, 40.76 per cent of India's population will be living in urban areas compared to about 28.4 per cent now. The urban population of the world was estimated to be 2.96 billion in 2000. it was estimated that nearly 50 million people are added to the world's urban population and about 35 million to the rural population on each year. The share of world's population living in urban centers has increased from 39 percent in 1980 to 48 percent in 2000. The developed countries have higher urbanization level (76 percent in 2000) compared with the developing countries (40 percent). The urbanization level has almost stabilised in the developed countries.

India's urbanization is concentrated in a million plus cities, class 1cities, capital cities and six mega cities- Mumbai, kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Banglore and Hyderabad. Thirty five million plus cities have population of 107.88 million, which accounts for 37.8 Percent of urban population. The total population of 393 class 1 cities is 195.95 million, which accounts for 68.67 percent of the total urban population. The total population of six mega cities is 60 million, which is 21 percent of the total urban population. One of the most disturbing features of urbanization is the wide regional disparity in the level of urbanization. Only a few out of 23 Indian states have a level of urbanization above the national level. A Paradoxical situation is also revealed by the fact that despite abundant natural resources in states like Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar, they are least urbanized. Our cities are distress. They are civic nightrnares, crumbling infrastructure, shortage of necessities

of life, severe air pollution, vehicular pollution, congestion, traffic-jams, stressful long hours of commuting; these factors have made our cities unlivable. Inequality crime, poverty and failure of governance are the hallmark of modern cities.

Responsible factors for urbanization:
The main factors responsible for urbanization in India are as follow.

Non economic factors: - many youth are motivated to migrate to the urban areas by a strong desire to get rid of the rigidities of the orthodox social life in the village. Some people move to urban areas because of the attraction of the liberal lifestyle and open culture in those areas. Migration has become less inconvenient and less expensive too as the result of the expansion of transport and communication facilities.

Economic factors: - the three main economic factors of urbanization in LEDCs (less economically developed countries) since 1950 are:

1. Rural to urban migration is happening on a massive scale due to population pressure and lack of resources in rural areas. These are 'push' factors.
2. People living in rural areas are 'pulled' to the city. Often they believe the standard of living in urban areas will be much better than in rural areas. They are usually wrong. People also hope for well paid jobs, the greater opportunities to find casual or 'informal' work, better health care and education.
3. Natural increased caused by a decrease in death rates while birth rates remain high.

Positive and negative effects of urbanization:
Urbanization affects urban and rural economy both. Some effects of urbanization are positive and therefore desirable. Some other effects are negative and hence undesirable.

Following are the positive effects of urbanization:
· There are so many employment opportunities in cities so that the migrants easily get employed.
· The migrants get better wages so that their living stand-

ard improves to the extent.
· The migrants can avail of better facilities of education and medical treatment in urban areas.
· The migrants find that there are several means of entertainment and recreation in urban areas.
· They can participate in open and liberal social life of cities, free from the conservatism and taboos of rural society.

Negative effects of urbanization are as follows:
· As the result of urbanization, demand for residential units increases in cities. Rent and prices of residential units and land shoot up.
· Almost one- third of the income of the middle class persons is eaten into house rent.
· Slum areas crop up near factories, around railway tracks and on the riverbanks.
· Many of the migrants take up anti social activities when they fail to get employment in the city.
· Traffic problems. Car ownership and commuting means an increase in congestion and pollution.
· Decline in industry. As older manufacturing industries have closed they have left empty, derelict buildings towards the center of the city. Modern industries need more space so tend to locate on the edge of the city.
· Changes in shopping have also caused problems. City center locations are no longer favored. There has been a recent growth in out of town shopping centers, which has led to the decline of many CBDs (central business districts).
· The public authority finds it difficult to provide adequate water supply to all people in urban areas.

Measures of avoiding them:
Counter- urbanization: counter- urbanization is the movement of people out of cities, to the surrounding areas. Since 1950 this process has been occurring in MEDCs (more economically developed countries). There are four main reasons for counter urbanization.

I. The increase in car ownership over the last 40 years means people are more mobile. This has led to an increase in commuting. Also, the growth in information technology (E-mail, faxes and video conferencing) means more people can work from home.
II. Urban areas are becoming increasing unpleasant place to live. This is the result of pollution, crime and traffic congestion.
III. More people tend to move when they retire.
IV. New business parks on edge of cities (on Greenfield sites) mean people to longer have to travel to the city center. People now prefer to live on the outskirts of the city to be near where they work.

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