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**PATTERNS OF URBANIZATION – GLOBAL AND INDIAN SCENERIO**

**Patterns in the process of urbanization across the world:**

Urbanization is not only about a simple increase in the number of urban residents, but also involves a series change from rural to urban styles in terms of industry structure, employment, living conditions, and social public services.

a) Three dimensions: industrialization, urbanization, and globalization have close relations with each other. In general economic growth promotes the expansion of modern industries and an increase in the urban population.

b) World urbanization is changing quickly and the rate of change has been increasing since the last three decades.

c) World has entered an urban age, and an urbanization level of 50% has already been reached by the most rapidly developing country, China. The focus of world urbanization has shifted from the developed countries to the developing world.

d) The crude statistic that the world is now more urban than rural, and that we are heading towards the 70% threshold by 2050.

e) The impacts of these regional differences in the Urban Age is due to demographic, economic and environmental patterns which is further linked to global urbanization and urban change.

Urbanisation represents the demographic transition or change from rural areas to urban areas. Urbanisation is defined as “the increasing proportion of people that live in towns and cities” and can be viewed at regional, national, continental and International scales. The word proportion in this definition is very important, because it indicates that we must judge urbanisation by looking at both the numbers of people living in both rural and urban areas. It is also important to remember that world population has grown massively since 1945 (the global population was estimated at 2.556 billion in 1950 and is over 7.5 billion in 2019 4), so not only have the % of people living in urban areas gone up but so has the absolute number of people in them.

Variation in urbanisation around the world:

Urbanisation varies from place and from time to time. There are clear patterns in when urbanisation has occurred and where in different parts of the world.

1. The most urbanised places on planet Earth are the most economically developed, with North America, Europe and Oceania all displaying high percentages of urbanisation and all starting with high levels after 1950 (all over 50%). These have all continued to urbanise, but rates have slowed down as these areas approach their peak for urbanisation. The UK is a good country example of this pattern.

2. Asia contains many Newly Industrialising Countries (NICs) such as India, and China, and Asian Tigers such as Malaysia, Thailand and South Korea. These areas have had a phenomenal rise in urbanisation from 18% to 45% in 2011 and are predicted to continue to do so. These changes go hand in hand with rapid industrialisation (as seen in China’s special enterprise zones) and changes in agriculture in those countries. This is evidenced clearly on the China.

3. Africa is a more complex case, and some countries are urbanizing whilst industrializing, whilst others are urbanising based on the exportation of primary resources.

Rates of urban growth are slowing down however, in all continents and globally. This means that urban areas, whilst still growing, are doing so at a slower pace and is predicted by the United Nations to continue to do so. Even China is expected to experience a decline in growth, and eventually a shrinking in urbanisation. Growth in Africa remains strong, but declining, whilst European Urban growth rates are declining towards zero.

Urbanisation has a geographic distribution. The highest rates of urbanisation are in North America, Western Europe, South America and Australasia. Lower rates of urbanisation are found in Africa and across Asia, but as mentioned previously urban growth rates are high in these areas and their overall percentage urbanisation is catching up with other areas.

**Patterns in the process of urbanization in India:**

In order to understand the patterns of urbanization in a large country like India, it is important to examine the changes in the levels and pace of urbanisation across states. At the state level, the pattern of urbanisation is full of diversities, but economically advanced states more or less show higher levels of urbanisation. All the southern states, including Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal, have higher levels of urbanisation than that of national average, but small states like Goa continue to top the list among states (62% urban), followed by Mizoram (51.5%). Among the large states, Tamil Nadu continues to be ahead of the others, with levels of urbanisation at 48.4% in 2011. States that lag behind are Himachal Pradesh with an urban population of 10%, followed by Bihar (11.3%), Assam (14%) and Orissa (16.6%). Other states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand also continue to have lower levels of urbanisation than the national average. However, a reversal noticed in the declining trend in urban population Growth rate at the national level is a major feature revealed by the 2011 census, there are only 15 states and union territories which show an increased urban population growth rate during 2001-2011 as compared to 1991-2001. Among them, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand are the major states. A very high urban population growth has occurred in the states of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh while urban population growth rates have increased to 6.5% per annum in Kerala and 3% per annum in Andhra Pradesh during 2001-11 compared to just about 1% per annum during 1991-2001. In both Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, as well as in West Bengal and Gujarat, a large number of new towns have emerged as a result of rural-to-urban classification in 2011.