

## URBANIZATION: BOON OR BANE WITH REFERENCE TO RUDRAPUR CITY

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### ABSTRACT

*People and development have a strong relationship as people always run for development either for oneself or it's surrounding. Urbanization is also a part of the development process of the people. The transformation process of rural villages to urban cities shows the socio economic development of the area. Employment also plays a major role in the population shift from rural to urban. Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas. Urbanization related to a range of disciplines including urban planning, Geography, Society, Economies and Public health. The phenomenon is closely linked to modernization, Industrialization and sociological process of rationalization. Urbanization creates enormous social, economic and environmental changes.*

**KEYWORDS :** Uttarakhand, Rudrapur City, Urban Geography, Urbanization

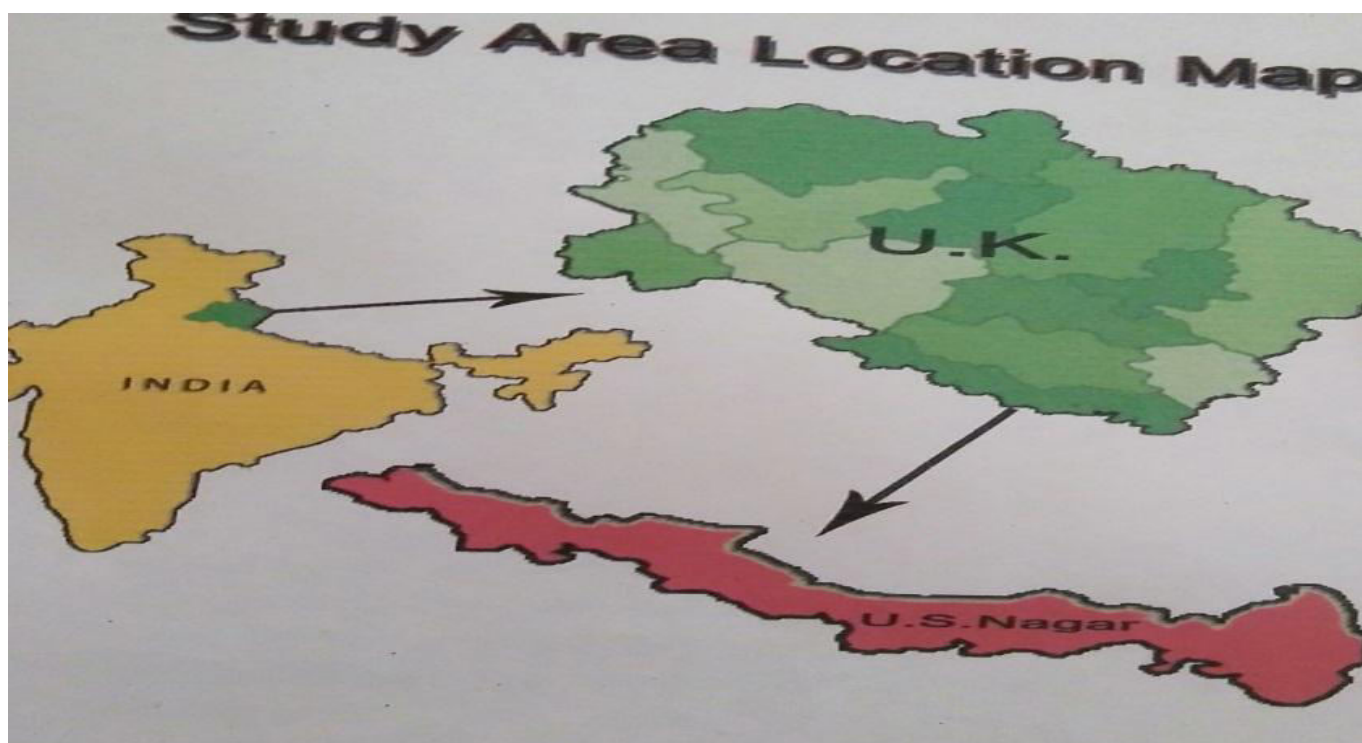
Industrialization leads to urbanization by creating economic growth and Job Opportunities that draw people to cities (Pandey, 2007). Urbanization typically begins when a factory and multiple factories are established within a region, thus creating a high demand of factory labor. Other businesses such as builders, vendors and service provider then follow the factories to meet the product demand of the workers. This creates even more jobs and demands for housing, thus establishing an urban area.

According to the definition of urbanization in 1971 in

India. (Bansal 1987 p 6) the main factors for urbanization are

1. The area comes under municipality.
2. The minimum population of the area should be 5000.
3. 75% Of the male population should be involved in the work other than agriculture.
4. The population density should be equal or more than 400 people kilometer square.

Here the area of our discussion is Kumaon region of Uttrakhand, mainly Rudrapur city where urbanization has taken



shape rapidly when Uttarakhand became 27<sup>th</sup> state of India. Six districts of Kumaon are Nainital, Almora, Bageswar, Champawat, Pithoragarh and Udham Singh nagar.

### OBJECTIVE AND IMPORTANCE

It became very important for us to take the note on as rapidly growing industrialization and urbanization is the main event in Kumaon region of Uttarakhand mainly Rudrapur, due to which there is huge population shift from hill region to the Plain region. Growing population in Rudrapur City is one of the latest examples; on the other hand city is not so well developed in that proportion. Urbanization of Rudrapur city is due to the rapid industrial growth in the region. Population of the city is growing but infrastructure needed to control the population growth is not there, due to which number of problems are emerging.

As Industrialization creates economic growth, the demand for the improved education and public works agencies that are characteristic of urban areas increases. This demand occurs because businesses looking for new technology to increase the productivity require an educated workforce, and pleasant living condition attracts skilled workers to the area.

I will discuss here the problem which arise when urbanization takes place and what solution is possible to solve these problems. What requires the area to develop an infrastructure that really needed curbs the problem? I will also discuss how the scenario changes with the changing conditions and requirement of the urbanization.

### URBANIZATION: BOON OR BANE

We all know that what urbanization stands for. If urbanization had not been there then we would be living in a world where no concept of cities and town had been in place. The urbanization concept has led to some of the greatest inventions and discoveries of the modern world and it is still giving motivation for the developing of new technologies and exploring new areas. But when we see the other side we see that it had led to one of the biggest menace i.e. pollution and a change in the ecosystem balance (R K Goswami 2007) p 220). Urbanization whether it is boon or bane one likes it or not, is here to remain. Human civilization cannot go back in terms of growth and development. Now it has become a curse which we cannot get rid of due to our own dependency on it. Urbanization is a serious concern. There should be checks and balances. While we cannot stop the juggernaut of urbanization, the government can impose certain rules and guidelines so that the ill effect of urbanization are at least minimized. Though the urbanization is a blessing to the world, as it has increased man's accessibility to comfort of life. It is also a great blessing a lot of the world greatest inventions in the field of life especially transportation, medicine, science, technology, building technology to mention a few.

### POSITIVE ASPECT OF THE URBANIZATION

People see only negative sides of the urbanization such as highly increasing pollution, lack of resources, destruction of habitats, social inequality etc. Society sees urbanization rather as a problem not an opportunity, although there are also a lot of positive effects of urbanization.

First of all urbanization provides efficiency. That might seem as a paradox, because are well known huge energy consumption and great amount of pollution, but actually cities are often more efficient than rural areas. Less effort needed to supply basic amenities such as heat and fresh water. Transportation is not so necessary because everything is available on the spot. In cities apartment are prevalent and people needs smaller living area. (César Chelala, 2010) Urban lifestyle is highly convenient to population. Everything is easily accessible, i.e. Education, health, cultural activities, social services and all other kind of services are easily available in the cities and urban areas. In cities communication and transportation network is very advanced. In short, urbanization means better easier life for people and higher life quality in reasonable cost. (Anderson L 2002)

Urbanization means increasing economics. All the economical development is actually based on urbanization. As urbanization is closely related to industrialization, it is also related to growth of economy (Anderson L 2002). People move to cities mostly because of job opportunities. As more enterprises and organization are being established, more people can have job and the added value increases. Urbanization is really necessary for the growth and development. It is true that this process has lot of negative side effect that can even cause destruction of modern world, but people must focus more on the ways how to reduce these negative side effects not how to stop urbanization. Urbanization goes hand in hand with development, so people should start to see it as positive process, which only needs some improvements.

On other hand urbanization also leads to some **negative aspects** which we cannot ignore and we have to have solution for them. Negative aspect such as high population density, inadequate infrastructure, lack of affordable housing, flooding, pollution, slum creation, crime, congestion and poverty (Chelala, 2010).

As people continue to move to urban areas, pollution becomes major issue in cities. The population increase in cities brings about problems in transportation as well as traffic management. Urbanization leads to an increase in the number of people on limited land in cities, the rise in numbers exceeds the supply of water, which results in water shortages, hence, hygiene is compromised. As a population increase fresh water in urbanized cities becomes expensive, and some of the people opt to take water from the nearby streams, this water is untreated and can cause diseases such as cholera.

GANGOLA : URBANIZATION : BOON OR BANE WITH REFERENCE TO RUDRAPUR CITY



Cities with high populations face problems of garbage management. Take the example of Rudrapur City, from the 40 ward in Nagar Nigam, which produce 100 tons of garbage’s everyday (source: www.livehindustan.com), the disposal of this garbage has become problem for the city as the population continues to grow, trenching ground which is build opposite to dudhiya mandir in the national highway no. 74, almost fifteen thousand people nearby and the passing through is facing this problem every day.

Year	Population	% Growth
1961	9622	----
1971	25173	160.5
1981	34658	37.7
1991	61280	76.8
2001	88676	44.7
2011	140857	58.8
2020	254816*	

Source DCHB US Nagar

**URBANIZATION IN CONTEXT TO THE RUDRAPUR CITY**

Rudrapur is located in Udham Singh Nagar districts of Uttarakhand in India. Rudrapur is a Terai region, which is spread in 27.69 sq Kilometer area lies in 28°59' N 79°24' E / 28.98°N 79.40°E . Rudrapur is one of the five main famous cities of Uttarakhand. Due to the industrialization in Rudrapur city( 217 Industries exist in SIDCUL area Including BIG and Small Industries Houses) , the development of the area is in the rapid speed, due to which educational institute, technical institute, other coaching center for higher studies, big hospital facilities, Hotels, residential colonies and big Mall are developing in the area. Which causes movement of people from nearby area and hilly areas to rudrapur city is very high. Population of Rudrapur is growing in a very high speed which leads to urbanization in the city. Rudrapur become a famous industrial and educational hub, which is also a districts Headquarter of US Nagar.

Population grows in a very rapid speed. This is the registered population, unregistered population are also increasing in the same ratio. This population was .012% of total India Population. If population growth rate would be same as in period 2001-2011( +5.71%/year), Rudrapur population in 2020 would be 254816\*(Rudrapur- population.city)

Fig. 1.1 Slum area is also increasing accordingly.

District/City	Area	Total population 2011	Slum population 2011	Percentage
District	US Nagar	516920	155256	30.03
City	Rudrapur	145554	83938	54.31

Source DCHB US Nagar

Rudrapur City is governed by Municipal Corporation which comes under Rudrapur Metropolitan Region. As per the provisional reports of census, population of Rudrapur in 2011 is 140,857 Of which male and female is 74040 and 66817

FIG. 1 Population growth in Rudrapur City.

respectively, although Rudrapur city has population of 140857, its urban/ metropolitan population is 154554 of which 81340 are male and 73214 are female.

Fig. 1.2 Population Ratio

Rudrapur Metropolitan	Total	Male	Female
Population	154554	81340	73214
Literate	96993	55939	41054
Children (0-6 year)	22142	11580	10552
Average literacy %	73.25	80.20	65.52
Sex Ratio	900		
Children Ratio	910		

Census 2011.co.in

## CHALLENGES

### Institutional challenges

#### Urban Governance

Urban areas are governed by Municipal Corporations, municipalities and nagar panchayat which are to be supported by state government. At present urban governance needs improvement which can be enhancing technology, administrative and managerial capacity of local bodies.

#### Planning

Planning needs to be decentralized to deal with the day to day issues at the local level. Need for the better plans for land use, infrastructure, environment, sustainability, economic productivity and financial diversity.

#### Finances

Revenue generation is also plays a very important role in urban development is a major challenge. The utilization of generated revenue from taxes by the local bodies is challenging task for water supply, sewerage and garbage disposal.

#### Infrastructural Challenges

##### Housing

To provide housing facility for the growing urban population is the biggest challenge for the government. The government has to assure the affordable housing with proper ventilation, lighting, water supply, sewage system etc. In Idian cities 27% population lives slums area which are dangerous for people(Rao and Sharma, 2001 p 281). For instance in Rudrapur, 54% population lives in slums. Housing colonies has been developing in and around Rudrapur as industrialization is increasing in a high speed; accordingly population is growing in the same ratio. Some of the housing colonies are Metropolis city, Omaxe city, Alliance housing society, Green Park etc.

##### Safe Drinking Water

To provide safe drinking water is becoming a very difficult as drinking water sources are also found to be contaminated as the expected population cannot be accommodated with the availability of water. The expenses on water treatment and reuse are difficult to bear.

##### Public Transport

The vehicle in the city is increasing day by day, in other word vehicle density is multiplying in the cities, Which become one of the major challenges posed in the transport system. People in the urban areas Drive to work and this creates a severe traffic problem, especially in the rush hours. So huge number of vehicles in the cities causes traffic jam that decrease the efficiency of public transport. The penetration of public transport is very poor due to lack and improper infrastructure, forces people to use private vehicle.

##### Waste Management

Garbage disposal is one of the biggest challenges in urban area and garbage management is always a major issue for the government and the municipality. Rudrapur is also facing the problem of garbage disposal as trenching ground in the city area opposite to dudhiaya mandir which is not good for the health of the people staying nearby and the people passing through this area.

##### Urban Crime

Rudrapur city is also facing increased criminal activities on account of unchecked migration. Illegal settlement, socio cultural disparities, Hindu-Muslims, gangsters, traffickers, rapists. Prevention of crime in the city is a challenge. Crime also takes place because of exploitation and unemployment. In 2014 city has been registered 748 criminal activity while in the next year 2015 ended with 738 criminal incidents. Chita police and CPU also playing a vital role to control the crime in the city.

## METHODOLOGY

I consider and collected secondary data to reach to a proper solution of the arising issues of urbanization. Data are the important source which helps to analyze the situation so that one can suggest a concrete & correct solution.

## SUGGESTIONS

Government should pass the law that plan and provide environmentally sound cities and smart growth technique, considering that people should reside in safe and unpolluted area, The objective is to build sustainable cities that embrace improved environmental conditions and safe habitats for all urban people. Government should encourage sustainable use of urban resources support an economy based on sustainable environment such as investment on green infrastructure, sustainable industries, recycling and

environmental campaign, renewable energy, green public transport and water recycling and reclamation, over all good city governance (Polsiou C, 2010). In 2014 Government has given the concept of Smart cities i.e. "One hundred smart cities" as satellite town of larger cities and modernization of midsized cities' E-Governance system through digital India initiative. Concept of swachh Bharat Abhiyan also given in this direction to manage waste and reduce land pollution. As Clean urban areas will attracts tourist and can increase economic diversity of the urban dwellers.

The people in urban areas must access to adequate essential social services namely education, health, sanitation and clean water, technology, electricity and food. The objective must be to provide and implement employment opportunities and wealth creation activities, at least people can earn a living to pay for the maintenance of the services. Subsidies must be provided to lower the cost of basic healthcare, basic education, energy, public transport, Communication system and technology.

Private investment must be encouraged so as to utilize natural resources and create more job opportunities. Tourism promotion and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources can create more jobs to lessen the negative effect of rapid urbanization. Government must provide subsidies and grants to encourage foreign and private investment in environmentally friendly development projects that encourage job creation (Polsiou C, 2010).

Government must provide campaigns and counseling for effective medical health clinics and family planning to help reduce the high rate of population growth. Medical health clinics must be oriented towards family planning options across the entire urban area with objective of controlling diseases and population growth.

## CONCLUSION

It is interesting that urbanization is taking place at a high rate even though major population in India is rural. The striking fact is that there is a new area developing simultaneously known as Urban Village. Despite of common trend of migration to cities, the rural communities has also started adopting urban culture like change in lifestyle, modern technology, transport and communication, empowerment of women, involvement in politics, growth of infrastructure like Banks, Post office, High standard goods and services. These facilities are essential for the development and the healthy being of a population ( Tolley and Vinod, 2006)

More than half of our GDP comes from the urban area as urbanization help in transforming the Indian economy by introducing industries and service sectors. It also encourages the modernization of agriculture by technological revolution and better warehousing, transport, marketing and food processing

facilities, which helped farmers to increase their standard of living.

Concept of urbanization which accompanied by more negative points than the the positive ones. When we see the urbanization with regards of Rudrapur, infrastructure does not take place with the pace of the population growth in the city. No doubts Government tried to give the infrastructure required for industrialization and urbanization in the small span of 15 years since the city was growing as industrial city, but positive aspects overshadow by the negative aspect of the urbanization. Like developing housing societies but that was not enough to cope with the population growth as more population grow in the lower level of job opportunities.

Due to lack of planning and management cities are becoming the centers of crisis : Uncontrolled population, growth without any planned infrastructure and amenities required by the people in the urban area. Urban areas are the play grounds for many demographic, environmental and social problems. Migration of people in the cities has caused housing problem, environmental pollution and generated urban conflict.

Thus, urbanization takes place in a balanced way i.e. urbanization and required infrastructure goes simultaneously so that expected population growth cope up with the upcoming urban scenario. Government policies shall be formulated and implemented at state and central level. Old plans shall be replaced by new plans that are applicable to current scenario of urbanization.

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**GANGOLA : URBANIZATION : BOON OR BANE WITH REFERENCE TO RUDRAPUR CITY**

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