



## **URBANISATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SOCIETY - PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES**

### **Urbanization**

Urbanization is a process whereby populations move from rural to urban area, enabling cities and towns to grow.

### **Urbanism**

Urbanism is a way of life. It reflects an organization of society in terms of a complex division of labour, high levels of technology, high mobility, interdependence of its members in fulfilling economic functions and impersonality in social relations.

### **Characteristics of urbanism**

Louis Wirth has given four characteristics of urbanism

1. Transiency
2. Superficiality
3. Anonymity
4. Individualism

Soroking and Zimmerman have identified the following characteristics of the urban social sytem:

1. Non agricultural occupation
2. Size of population
3. Density of population
4. Environment
5. Social differentiation
6. Social mobility
7. Social interaction
8. Social solidarity

### **Causes of Urbanization**

1. Industrialization

2. Commercialization
3. Social benefits and services
4. Employment opportunities
5. Modernization and changes in the mode of living
6. Rural urban transformation

### **Social Effects of Urbanization**

1. Urbanization and Family
2. Urbanization and Caste
3. Urbanization and Status of Women
4. Urbanization and village life

### **Causes of Urban Problems**

1. Migration
2. Industrial Growth
3. Apathy of the Government
4. Defective Town Planning
5. Vested Interests

### **Problems of Urbanization**

1. Housing and slums
2. Crowding and Depersonalization
3. Water Supply and Drainage
4. Transportation and Traffic
5. Power Shortage
6. Sanitation
7. Pollution
8. Poor health and spread of diseases
9. Urban crime

### **Solutions to Urban Problems**

1. Systematic Development of Urban Centres
2. Regional Planning along with city planning
3. Creation of Job opportunities
4. Encouraging industries to move to backward areas
5. Municipalities to find own financial resources
6. Encouraging private transport
7. Amendment of Rent Control acts
8. Adopting pragmatic housing policy
9. Structural Decentralization
10. Building sustainable and environmentally friendly cities

11. Provision of essential services
12. Population control

To conclude, it may be pointed out that the effects of urbanization and urbanism and the problems of cities can never be solved until urban planning is modified and radical measures are taken.

## **Government measures**

### **Smart Cities Mission**

Launched on June 25, 2015, the Smart Cities Mission is a flagship scheme under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. This ambitious programme by the Indian Government aims at building 100 Smart Cities across India with focus on planned urbanisation and sustainable development as a support system for the neighbouring cities. It also involves the development of high-quality infrastructure with provision of basic amenities, education, health services, IT accessibility, digitisation, e-governance, sustainable development, safety and security.

### **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (Urban) or Housing for All**

The scheme was launched on June 25, 2015 for providing 20 million affordable homes for the urban poor including slum dwellers by March 2022. The beneficiaries include Economically weaker section (EWS), low-income groups (LIGs) and Middle-Income Groups (MIGs). Implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme with two components - PMAY (Urban) and PMAY (Rural), the mission involves providing central assistance to implementing agencies through States and UTs.

### **Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM - U)**

Launched on October 2, 2014, The Swachh Bharat Mission is the government's nationwide flagship programme with the objective of universal sanitation coverage in urban areas with a budget allocation of Rs 41,765 crore for 2018-19. It is a comprehensive sanitation scheme which aims to make the country open defecation free by 2019, promote 100 per cent collection and scientific processing of municipal solid waste, encourage healthy sanitation practices and equip the urban local bodies (ULBs) to design, execute and operate systems.

### **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNRUM)**

Launched in 2005, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was a city-modernisation scheme with an investment of over \$20 billion over seven years. It covers two components viz. provision of basic services for urban poor (BSUP) and an Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

The scheme was designed to raise investment in urban infrastructure, build better civic amenities, ensure universal access to basic utilities as well as create affordable homes for the urban poor, slum dwellers and people of economically weaker sections.

### **AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)**

Launched in 2015, the focus of the AMRUT scheme was on infrastructure creation that has a direct link to provision of better services to the citizens. Closely connected to the Swachh Bharat Mission, the scheme includes provision of water supply facilities, sewerage networks, stormwater drains, urban transport, and open and green spaces, across the selected 500 Indian cities. The allocated budget under the scheme is around Rs 50,000 crore for the period 2016 - 2021.

### **Other urban development schemes**

**National Urban Sanitation Policy (NUSP):** The National Urban Sanitation Policy was formulated in 2008 which laid out the government's vision to provide hygienic and affordable sanitation facilities for the urban poor especially women as well as addressing the challenges with effective city sanitation plans.

**Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY):** The scheme was introduced on 21st January 2015 for the holistic development of heritage cities. It deals with preserving and reviving the soul of the heritage city, as well as the development of core heritage infrastructure projects and revitalization of urban infrastructure for areas around heritage assets.

**National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM):** Launched on 24th September 2013 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA), the scheme is a livelihood promotion programme to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities thereby enhancing their livelihood. It also addresses the livelihood concerns of urban street vendors. It has been implemented across 790 cities.

**National Urban Transport Policy, 2006:** The National Urban Transport Policy involves incorporating urban transportation as an important parameter at the urban planning stage. It also focuses on the introduction of intelligent transport systems, reduction of pollution levels and encouraging greater use of public transport and nonmotorized modes through central financial assistance.

### **Urbanization and Tamilnadu**

As per 2011 Census the total urban population in the State was 34.92 million increasing from 27.48 million in 2001 Census.



Chennai, Kanniyakumari, Coimbatore, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Tiruppur and Madurai are highly urbanized districts.

Tamil Nadu accounted for 9.3 percent of the total urban population in the country.

The density of population living in urban areas of Tamil Nadu was 3521 persons per sq.km. The sex ratio (number of females per '000 males) in urban areas of Tamil Nadu at 1000 was comparatively well ahead of all India ratio of 929.

Tamil Nadu accounted for 10.5 percent of the total urban workers at all India.

Tamil Nadu accounted for 10.8 percent of the total main workers and 8.6 percent of total marginal workers in urban areas in India.

### **Issues and Challenges**

Lack of purchasing power, security tenure of land, unavailability of flexible housing finance schemes, lack of awareness about new building technologies and paucity of public funds are the main challenges resulting in inadequate housing for the poor and economically weaker sections. Apart from this, the poor land-man ratio in the State has its own effect on the availability of land for housing.

#### **Urban Development - Vision 2023**

It aims to create and promote urban infrastructure with an outlay of Rs.2.75 lakh crore during the 11 year period 2012-2023 and thereby facilitating regional and balanced development across the State. The Vision focuses its attention on:

- ✓ Providing affordable housing to economically weaker sections,
- ✓ Ensuring Universal access to 24 x 7 water supply and sanitation services,
- ✓ Achieving open defecation-free status in the urban areas by 2015,
- ✓ Introducing modernized solid waste management system and visualizing garbage free environment,
- ✓ Development of Chennai into mega polis,
- ✓ Development of ten world class cities
- ✓ Rehabilitation of 15 lakh families living in slums,
- ✓ Access to mass transit system for efficient urban transport,

### **Urban Poverty**

Poverty is symptomatic of inadequate economic growth, unemployment, inequitable distribution of income and population growth. The urban poverty ratio in the State declined from 19.7 percent in 2004-05 to 6.5 percent in 2011-12. In both the years, the ratio of urban poverty in the State was well below the National level

With a aim to focus livelihood security for the urban poor by enhancing their capabilities and providing employment opportunities, housing and basic amenities, universal access to health and education, ensuring social mobilization and special homes to vulnerable groups with special emphasis towards women destitute and differently abled persons Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM) was launched during 2012-13.

**The following multi-pronged strategy is required to ensure sustained urban poverty alleviation:**

- ✓ Accelerate the rate of job creation in urban areas,
- ✓ Impart relevant skills to urban poor,
- ✓ Generate self-employment opportunities for urban poor wherever viable,
- ✓ Proactive and mandatory creation/allocation of spaces within city boundaries to ensure livelihood opportunities to the urban poor,
- ✓ Provide basic services to the urban poor, especially through rehabilitation of slums,
- ✓ Ensure financial inclusion of urban poor,
- ✓ Ensure legislative inclusion of urban poor,
- ✓ Shift the urban poor from the informal sector to the formal one and extend the provisions of social security.

#### **Identification of Slums**

- **Notified Slums:** All notified areas in a town or city notified as 'Slum' by State, UT Administration or Local Government under any Act including a 'Slum Act'.
- **Recognized Slums:** All areas recognized as 'Slum' by State, UT Administration or Local Government, Housing and Slum Boards, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act.
- **Identified Slums:** A compact area of at least 300 population or about 60- 70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities (Identified).

Source: Primary Census Abstract for Slum, 2011 Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India

## **ROLE OF WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS**

Many women activists, who were working with political parties, trade unions, peasant and workers movements, realised that they were hesitant to take up issues which concerned women exclusively.

These led to the emergence of separate women's organisations in various parts of the country, which seriously attempted to organise poor women for change.

### Major Women Organisations

1. **Anti-dowry Movements:** Dowry murders have witnessed a sustained campaign by several women's organisations and civil rights groups. Journalists wrote extensively about the dowry problem. In the 1980s several women's and other progressive organisations formed a joint front in Delhi called “**Dahej Virodhi Chetna Manch**”.

After a sustained campaign, finally a Bill was introduced in the Parliament in 1984, which made certain changes in the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act of 1961. The Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1984 was passed.

2. **Anti-sati Movement:** In 1829 the practice of Sati was abolished through a legislation which marked the culmination of a debate initiated by the British.
3. **Anti-rape Movement:** An anti-rape movement was launched in the last decade demanding review of the Supreme Court judgment in a rape case, which acquitted the culprit. Women activists forced the government to review Rape Laws. Several women's organisations and legal and social activists held discussions with the Law Commission to amend the law and in 1983 Criminal Law (Amendment) Act was passed.
4. **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) (Gujarat)-** SEWA is a trade union. It is an organization of poor, self-employed women workers in the unorganized sector of the country. They are the unprotected labour force as they do not obtain benefits like the workers of organized sector. SEWA's main goals are to organize women workers for full employment.
5. **Working Women's Forum (WWF) (TN)-** The forum is committed to poverty reduction and strengthening of economic, social and cultural status of poor working women, through micro-credit, training, social mobilization and other interventions to poor women.
6. **Annapurna Mahila Mandal (AMM) (Maharashtra) -** It works for welfare of women and the girl child. It conducts various activities that include educating women on health, nutrition, mother and childcare, family planning, literacy and environmental sanitation. It works for the empowerment of women and enables them to take their own decisions and fight for security and rights. The organization also promotes individual and group leadership.
7. **Shadaha Movement (Maharashtra) :** The Shahada movement, which was a Bhil tribal landless laborer's movement against the exploitation of the tribal landless laborers by non-tribal landowners. It began as a folk protest, and became militant with the involvement of the New Left party.

It has been said that women were more active in the movement, and as their militancy increased, they demanded direct action on issues specific to them as women, such as physical violence and abuse as a result of alcoholism.

Groups of women would go from village to village, enter liquor dens and destroy liquor pots and containers. If any woman reported physical abuse by her husband, all other women would surround him, beat him up and force him to apologize to his wife in public.

8. **Progressive Organisation of Women:** The Progressive Organisation of Women (POW), developed in Hyderabad in the year 1974, worked towards organising women against gender oppressive structures in society, namely, the sexual division of labour and the culture that rationalised this discrimination. The organisation promoted the ideology of 'equality' and opposed the economic dependence of women on men.
9. **Chipko Movement:** Economic hardships faced by women in the Himalayan region due to cutting down of forests resulted in spontaneous mobilisation of women. They hugged the trees to prevent the contractors from felling them. This is popularly known as Chipko movement. The disappearance of forests means acute hardships to women who are primarily responsible for the collection of fuel, fodder, fruits, herbs for medicine and other forest produce which give them income and employment. This is why we find that women are even now in the forefront of these ecological agitations.
10. **Me too Movement:** The Me Too movement in India is a manifestation of the international Me Too movement that is currently taking place in parts of Indian society including government, media, and the Bollywood film industry. In India, the Me Too movement is seen as either an independent outgrowth influenced by the international campaign against sexual harassment of women in the workplace, or an offshoot of the American "Me Too" social movement.

The women's movement while being effective in bringing women's issues back into the arena of public debate, was only a beginning of the long struggle ahead for equality, justice and dignity to all women.