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Dr. Preeti

Research Scholar, Department
of Geography, Maharishi
Dayanand University, Rohtak,
Haryana, India

Effects of increasing population in urban Haryana

Dr. Preeti

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Abstract

This study investigates the multifaceted impacts of population growth on urban development in Haryana, with a focus on sustainable and resilient urban planning strategies. In the context of Haryana's burgeoning population, the research employs a comprehensive approach to examine the social, economic, and environmental consequences of urban expansion. Through a combination of quantitative data analysis and qualitative assessments, the study aims to provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with the increasing population in urban areas of Haryana. The global concern over the rapid population growth in urban areas extends to Haryana, India. Haryana, being highly urbanized, has witnessed fast urban growth due to factors like migration, industrialization, and better living standards. This research paper examines the impact of the increasing population in urban Haryana. This study also investigates the social, economic, and environmental repercussions of population growth in urban regions, and shedding light on the challenges faced by both the government and residents.

The increase in population has caused many effects in Urban Haryana. One of the main consequences is the burden on infrastructure and public services. The need for housing, transportation, healthcare, education, and other necessary facilities has risen, which has put stress on the existing resources and facilities. Moreover, the growing population has resulted in more traffic congestion, pollution, and strained public transportation systems, impacting the overall well-being of the residents. The ultimate goal of this research is to contribute to the formulation of effective and adaptive urban policies that can accommodate the growing population in Haryana while fostering a balanced and sustainable urban environment. Through an interdisciplinary approach, this study aims to provide stakeholders with valuable insights to address the challenges associated with increasing urbanization and promote the well-being of the residents in the region.

Keywords: Population growth, urbanization, infrastructure, facilities, resource depletion, environmental degradation

Introduction

Urbanization is the process of more people living in urban areas rather than rural areas. It happens when people move from the countryside to cities. In India, Haryana has 34.88% of its population living in urban areas, while the national average is 31.16%. The urban population of Haryana has increased significantly over the years. In 1901, it was 5.7 lakh, but in 2011, it reached 88.2 lakh, which is more than fifteen times the initial number. The proportion of urban population in the state has also seen a two-fold increase from 17.07% in 1951 to 34.88% in 2011. However, there are significant variations at the district level. In 1951, Ambala had the highest urbanization rate at 37.19%, while Faridabad had the lowest at 6.24%. But currently, Faridabad has become the most urbanized district with 79.51% urban population due to its development as an industrial hub. On the other hand, Mewat is the least urbanized district in the state, with only 11.39% urban population.

Haryana, being highly urbanized in India, has witnessed fast urban expansion caused by migration, industrialization, and better living conditions. Nevertheless, this growth has brought about certain repercussions that must be tackled for sustainable progress. Furthermore, the impact of population growth in urban Haryana on the economy can be both advantageous and disadvantageous. Firstly, a larger population can result in heightened economic activity, more job prospects, and overall economic advancement. However, rapid population growth also brings about certain challenges like unemployment, inequality, and

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Preeti

Research Scholar, Department
of Geography, Maharishi
Dayanand University, Rohtak,
Haryana, India

strain on resources. Additionally, the scarcity of land for industrial and commercial use makes it arduous for businesses to expand and prosper. The impact of a growing population in urban Haryana is varied and complex. The state faces significant challenges in terms of social, economic, and environmental consequences. However, by implementing proper planning, effective policies, and involving the community, these challenges can be reduced. It is essential for the government to prioritize sustainable development and invest in infrastructure and services to improve the quality of life for urban Haryana residents.

Roots of Urban expansion

- 1. Economic Growth:** Haryana's economic growth is a significant factor in the expansion of urban areas. The state's robust industrial sector, along with supportive policies and infrastructure development, has attracted many industries and businesses. This has resulted in more job opportunities and higher incomes, prompting people from rural areas to move to urban centers. The urban population has consequently grown rapidly ^[1]. According to the Haryana Economic Survey, the per capita income in the state has consistently increased over the years. This economic progress has played a crucial role in the expansion of urban areas ^[2].
- 2. Government Initiatives:** The government's efforts and strategies have been vital in speeding up urbanization in Haryana. The state's administration has actively encouraged industrialization, urban development, and infrastructure projects, realizing the advantages of urbanization. The Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) has played a key role in establishing industrial estates and attracting investments. Moreover, the government's emphasis on enhancing connectivity through the construction of highways, flyovers, and the introduction of the Delhi Metro Rail system has facilitated the growth of cities ^[3].
- 3. Real Estate and Urbanization:** Investments in real estate have played a crucial role in driving urban growth. The increasing need for homes, offices, and leisure facilities has resulted in the development of many tall buildings, residential areas, and shopping malls. This urbanization has completely transformed towns such as Gurugram, Faridabad, and Panchkula into bustling urban hubs, drawing people from all over

Haryana. According to the 2011 Census, the population of Faridabad district increased by 57.99% from 2001 to 2011, mainly because of rapid urbanization.

- 4. Agricultural transformation:** Haryana's traditional farming society has seen notable transformations in how land is used. The state's thriving agriculture industry has faced the division of land due to inheritance laws and population growth. As a result, farm profits have decreased and new economic activities have emerged in cities. This has caused many people from rural areas to move to urban regions in search of job prospects ^[4].

During the period from 1901 to 2011, the state witnessed an increase of 82.5 lakh in its urban population. Out of this, a significant portion of 78.5 lakh, which accounts for 95.15 percent, occurred between 1951 and 2011. Interestingly, more than half of this increase, specifically 47.7 lakh, took place in the last two decades of 1991-2001 and 2001-2011. From 1951 to 1961, the urban population grew by 3.39 lakh people. However, the proportion of urban population only slightly increased from 17.07% in 1951 to 17.23% in 1961. This increase was almost two and a half times greater than the total increase of 1.32 lakh people in urban population during the four decades from 1901 to 1941. During the period from 1961 to 1971, Haryana witnessed a significant increase in activities. It achieved full statehood on November 1, 1966, which brought about a renewed sense of enthusiasm and dedication among the people, government officials, and leaders of the state. They displayed their strong commitment to the development of Haryana. As a result, administrative and developmental initiatives expanded on a large scale, leading to the emergence of new urban centers. Consequently, the urban population of Haryana experienced a remarkable growth rate of 35.58% during this decade. In terms of numbers, the increase of 46.5 thousand individuals in the urban population was almost equivalent to the total urban population of 48 thousand in the state in 1921.

During the period of 1971-81, urbanization gained even more momentum in the state. This was due to the expansion of administrative and developmental activities on a large scale, which led to the establishment of new administrative centers. In terms of numbers, the urban population increased by 10.5 lakh individuals during this decade, surpassing the total urban population of 9.6 lakhs in the state in 1951.

Table 1: Haryana: Growth of Urban Population, 1951-2011

Districts	Urban Population as percent to Total Population						
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Haryana	17.07	17.22	17.66	21.88	24.63	28.92	34.88
Panchkula	17.33	17.07	12.54	19.47	35.82	44.49	55.81
Ambala	41.61	33.70	35.79	36.77	35.44	35.20	44.38
Yamunanagar	22.06	28.12	28.75	29.58	33.69	37.73	38.94
Kurukshetra	16.32	15.25	16.32	20.71	24.01	26.11	28.95
Kaithal	14.62	12.04	11.13	11.94	14.69	19.39	21.97
Karnal	25.73	22.98	22.43	25.94	27.46	26.15	30.21
Panipat	18.59	18.07	18.40	26.37	27.15	40.53	46.05
Sonipat	10.28	12.25	15.06	21.19	23.58	25.15	31.27
Jind	13.19	12.44	13.55	15.14	17.18	20.30	22.90
Fatehabad	8.84	10.81	11.17	14.87	15.93	17.36	19.06
Sirsa	17.16	14.26	14.29	18.07	21.16	26.28	24.65
Hisar	14.44	16.88	17.63	21.55	23.70	25.90	31.74
Bhiwani	15.27	14.08	14.55	15.89	17.24	18.97	19.66
Rohtak	15.35	14.92	16.68	19.27	21.31	35.06	42.04

Jhajjar	10.72	10.68	11.91	12.77	13.90	22.17	25.39
Mahendragarh	11.03	11.50	12.07	12.39	12.41	13.49	14.41
Rewari	15.19	13.63	12.92	12.20	15.59	17.79	25.93
Gurgaon	10.62	13.07	13.81	18.61	20.30	35.58	68.82
Mewat	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	7.51	11.39
Faridabad	6.24	8.15	7.16	41.43	48.57	77.80	79.51
Palwal	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	19.18	22.69

Source: i). Census of India (1991), Town Directory, Series-8, Haryana, Part IX-A, Statement-1, pp. 112-123.

ii). Census of India (2001), General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4), Series-7, India, Statement-4 & Table A-2, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 35, 86 -91.

iii). Census of India (2011), Primary Census Abstract, Haryana, Series 7, Tables - A5-A8, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana.

DNA – Data Not Available

During the period from 1981 to 1991, the urban population in the state reached 4.05 million, showing a growth of 43.41 percent. Additionally, the percentage of urban population rose from 21.88 percent in 1981 to 24.63 percent (Table 1). Between 1991 and 2001, the urban population in Haryana grew by approximately 2.1 million people, representing a growth rate of 50.82%. The increase in population during this period was more than half of the total urban population

in Haryana in 1991, indicating a rapid pace of urban growth. The proportion of urban population also rose from 24.63% in 1991 to 28.92% (Table 1). From 2001 to 2011, the urban population in Haryana grew by approximately 2.7 million people, representing a decennial growth rate of 44.25%. The proportion of urban population also increased from 28.92% in 2001 to 34.88% (Table 1).

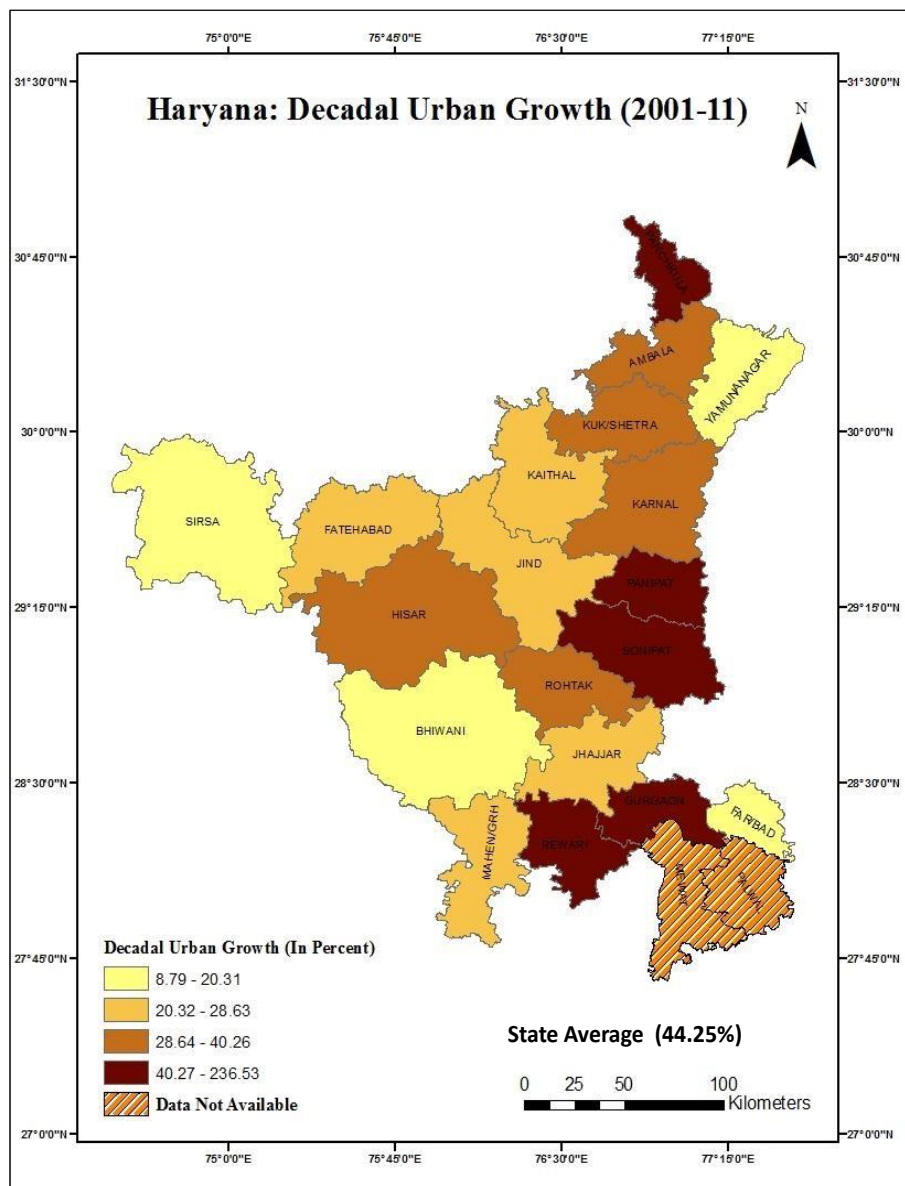


Fig 1: Decadal Urban Growth (2001-11)

The urban growth from 2001 to 2011 was highest in Gurgaon (236.53%), Rewari (71.42%), Panchkula (50.31%),

Panipat (41.57%), and Sonapat (41.07%) as they attract different types of people. In Rewari, the town of Dharuhera

has become an industrial center where people move in search of jobs. Gurgaon is a hub for multinational companies, while Panipat and Sonapat are major industrial towns for small and medium-sized industries. On the other hand, Sirsa, Bhiwani, Yamunanagar, and Faridabad

experienced the least urban growth. Faridabad is already more than 70% developed, so its urban growth is slower. Sirsa, Bhiwani, and Yamunanagar lack major industrial growth and other facilities, which act as push factors for urban growth.

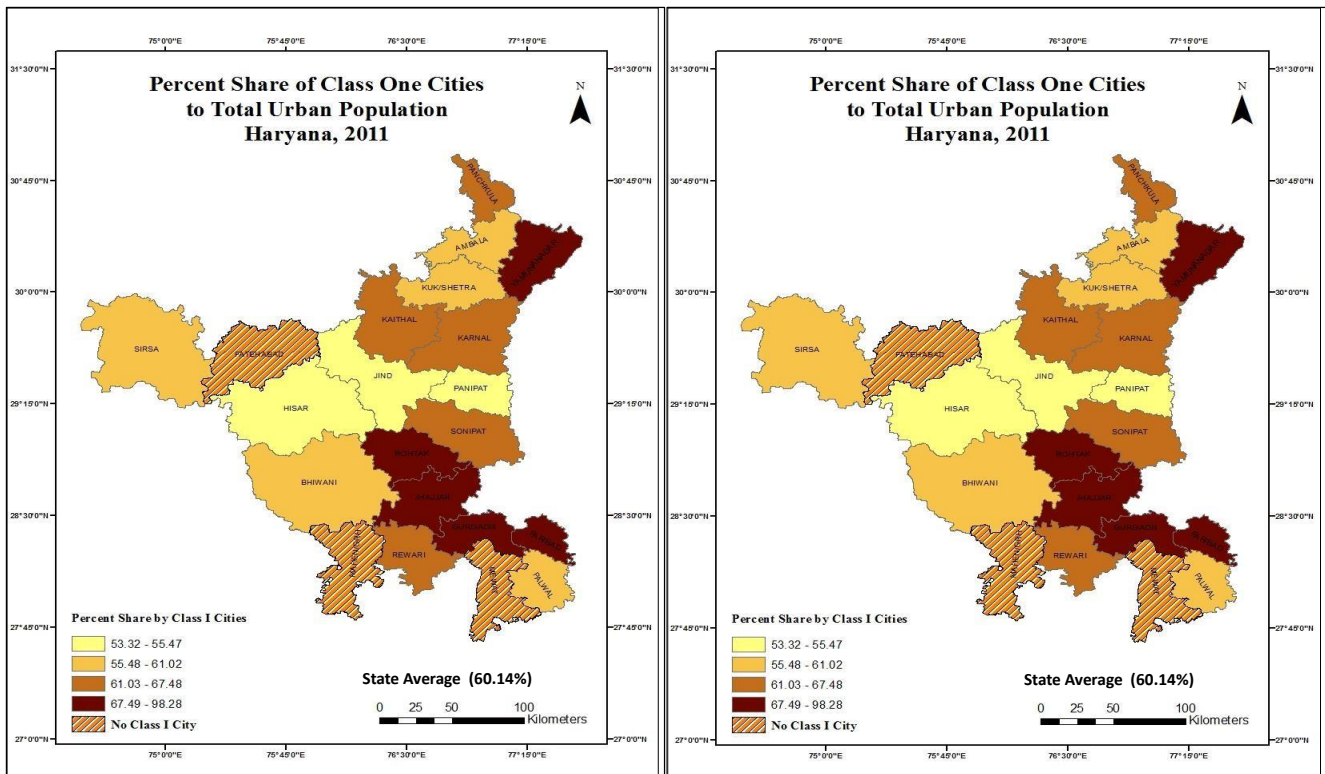


Fig 2: Percent share of urban population by Class I Cities

The map reveals that most urban population in districts is concentrated in class one cities, suggesting a trend towards increased urbanization in the coming years. It also shows that residents in class one cities often relocate in search of improved quality of life, services, and job prospects.

Problems and Challenges of Haryana cities

The rapid increase in urban population in Haryana has posed numerous challenges and problems for the cities of the state. As more and more people flock to urban areas in search of better opportunities and a higher standard of living, the infrastructure of these cities is struggling to keep up with the pace of growth. From overcrowding to inadequate housing, from traffic congestion to environmental degradation, the cities of Haryana are facing a host of issues that need to be addressed urgently. One of the major problems are-

- 1. Inadequate Infrastructure:** One of the main problems faced by the cities of Haryana due to the increase in urban population is inadequate infrastructure. With the influx of people into urban areas, the demand for basic amenities such as water supply, sanitation, electricity, and transportation has increased significantly. However, the existing infrastructure in many cities of Haryana is not equipped to handle this surge in demand. As a result, residents are facing frequent water shortages, power cuts, and inadequate public transportation services, leading to a decline in the quality of life for urban dwellers^[1].
- 2. Unplanned urban growth:** Another significant challenge posed by the increase in urban population is unplanned urban growth. With the rapid migration of

people to cities, urban areas in Haryana are expanding at an unprecedented rate. However, much of this growth is happening without proper planning or regulation, resulting in the proliferation of slums, informal settlements, and unauthorized colonies. This haphazard development not only strains the already limited resources and infrastructure of cities but also leads to environmental degradation, social inequality, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters^[2].

- 3. Traffic congestion:** In addition to infrastructure problems, another major challenge faced by Haryana cities is traffic congestion. The increase in urban population has led to a rise in the number of vehicles on already congested roads, resulting in traffic jams, increased air pollution, and road accidents. According to a study conducted by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board, the levels of air pollution in Haryana cities have increased significantly due to vehicular emissions (HSPCB, 2018)^[3]. This has not only resulted in health problems for residents but also contributed to environmental degradation. For instance, the city of Gurugram, often referred to as the Millennium City, has been struggling with severe traffic congestion^[4]. The city lacks a well-planned public transportation system, resulting in heavy reliance on private vehicles which further exacerbates traffic congestion and air pollution.
- 4. Limited access to basic services:** Another major problem that Haryana cities are facing due to the increase in urban population is limited access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and sanitation. With a growing population, the demand for these

essential services has also increased, putting a strain on the already limited resources and infrastructure. As a result, many residents in urban areas are unable to access quality healthcare, education, and sanitation facilities. For example, in the city of Faridabad, a significant portion of the population does not have access to adequate healthcare services^[5]. The city has a shortage of hospitals and healthcare facilities, leading to long wait times and overcrowding in existing healthcare facilities. Similarly, access to quality education is also a concern in many Haryana cities, with overcrowded classrooms and a lack of qualified teachers impacting the quality of education provided to students^[6].

5. **Lack of affordable housing:** Another major challenge faced by Haryana cities due to the increase in urban population is the lack of affordable housing options. As more people migrate to urban areas, the demand for housing has skyrocketed, leading to a shortage of affordable housing units. This has forced many people to live in overcrowded and informal settlements, which are often unsafe and lack basic amenities^[7]. The lack of affordable housing options in Haryana cities also exacerbates issues such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. Many low-income families are unable to afford decent housing in urban areas, which limits their access to education, healthcare, and other basic services^[8]. This not only impacts the well-being of these families but also undermines the overall social fabric of these cities.
6. **Environmental Degradation:** Another challenge facing by Haryana cities is environmental degradation. The increase in urban population has led to the destruction of natural habitats, deforestation, and pollution of water bodies^[9]. This has resulted in a decline in air and water quality, posing serious health risks to the residents of these cities. Additionally, the rapid urbanization has also led to the loss of agricultural land and green spaces, further contributing to environmental degradation.

In addressing these challenges, it is essential for Haryana cities to prioritize sustainable urban planning and development. This includes investing in public transportation, improving waste management systems, and promoting green initiatives^[10].

Conclusion

In conclusion, while the burgeoning population in urban Haryana presents numerous challenges, there is a silver lining that emerges when proactive measures are implemented. Sustainable urban planning, efficient resource management, and the development of robust infrastructure can transform the effects of increasing population into opportunities for growth and progress. By fostering a collaborative approach between government bodies, private sectors, and local communities, it is possible to create a harmonious balance between population expansion and resource utilization. The key lies in adopting innovative solutions that prioritize environmental sustainability, social well-being, and economic prosperity. Through strategic policies that address housing, transportation, and healthcare needs, urban Haryana can not only accommodate its growing populace but also enhance the overall quality of life for its residents. By embracing a holistic and forward-

thinking approach, urban areas can navigate the challenges posed by increasing population, turning them into catalysts for a thriving, resilient, and harmonious society.

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