

# Impact of Urbanization on Socio-Economic Development: A Geographical Study of Meerut District

## Abstract

Urbanization represents a revolutionary change in the whole pattern of social life. It is itself a product of basic economy and technological developments it tends in turn, once it comes into being, to affect every aspect of existence. It is a process by which village turn into towns and towns develop into cities. Urbanization is widely accepted as a process with several consequences, such as social, economic or environmental and it usually occurs in developing countries. In cities and towns, there are ample job opportunities that continually draw people from the rural areas to seek better livelihood. Modernization plays a very important role in the process of urbanization. Urbanization effects seems on social and economical development and the quality of services.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Migration, Development, Cities and Towns.

## Introduction

Urbanization refers to the increasing number of people that live in urban areas. It is closely linked to modernization, industrialization and the sociological process of rationalization. It can describe a specific condition at a set time, i.e. the proportion of total population or area in cities or towns, or the term can describe the increase of this proportion over time. So the term of urbanization can represent the level of urban development relative to overall population, or it can represent the rate at which the urban proportion increasing. It is not merely a modern phenomenon, but a rapid and historic transformation of human social roots on global scale, whereby predominantly rural culture is being rapidly replaced by predominantly urban culture.

Accordingly, urbanization is very common in developing and developed worlds as more and more people have the tendency of moving closer to towns and cities to acquire privileged social and economic services as well as benefits. These include social and economic advantages such as better education, health care sanitation, housing, business opportunities and transportation. Majority of people move to cities and towns because they view rural areas as places with hardships and backward lifestyle. Therefore, as population move to more developed areas the immediate outcome is urbanization. This normally contributes to the development of land for use in commercial properties, social and economic support institutions, transportation, and residential buildings. Commence and trade play a major role in urbanization. The distribution of goods and services and commercial transactions in the modern era has developed modern marketing institutions and exchange methods that have tremendously given rise to the growth of towns and cities. commercialization and trade comes with the general perception that the towns and cities offer better commercial opportunities and returns compared to the rural areas.

There are numerous social benefits attributed to life in the cities and towns. Include better educational facilities, better living standards, better sanitation and housing, better health care, better recreation facilities and better social life are main facilities which provided the town to the people. In cities and towns there are ample job opportunities that continually draw people from rural areas to seek better livelihood. Therefore, the majority of people frequently migrate into urban areas to access well paying jobs as urban areas have countless employment opportunities in all developmental sectors such as public health, education, transportation sports and recreation, industries and business enterprises. Services and industries generate and increase higher value added jobs, and this leads to more employment opportunities.

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**Objectives of the Study**

Following objectives have been selected to complete the study–

1. To find out the urbanization is the result of population and service centers growth.
2. To find out the development of the city depends on the geographical condition, and urban functions.
3. Pollution, unemployment, poverty and migration are the result of mechanization.

**Hypothesis**

There are created some hypothesis to complete this study. These are following as–

1. A range of economic, political, social, cultural and environmental factors affects urbanization.
2. Urbanization is the result of migration because people move from rural areas to urban areas.
3. Transportation facilities are responsible for the development of the rural-urban fringe.

**Data Base and Methodology**

Both types of data has been used to complete the study and statistical methods has been used to find out the result. To find out the urbanization and the level of socio-economic development in the study area the following formulas has been used–

$$(i) \quad DU = \frac{U}{T} \times 100$$

Where,

DU = Degree of Urbanization

U = Urban Population

T = Total Population

- (ii) The model of z-score method is as follows–

$$Z_i = \frac{x - \bar{X}}{\sigma}$$

Where,

Z<sub>i</sub> = The standard score or z-score of ith variable

x = The individual observation

$\bar{X}$  = The mean of variable and

$\sigma$  = Standard deviation

- (iii) The model of composite mean z-score is thus–

$$C.S. = \frac{\sum z_{ij}}{N}$$

Where,

C.S. = Composite mean/z-score

Z<sub>ij</sub> = z-score of an indicator j in area i

N = Number of variables

**Study Area**

Meerut district lies between 28°7' to 29°02' North latitude and 77°40' to 77°45' East longitude in the Indo-Gangetic plains of India. It is bound on the

north by Muzaffarnagar district, in the South by Bulandshahar district while Ghaziabad and Baghpat districts from the southern and western limits. The river Ganga forms the eastern boundary and separates and district from Amroha district and Bijnor district. The Hindon forms the western boundary and separates the district from Baghpat. The ground is not rocky and there are no mountains. The soil is composed of Pleistocene and sub-recent alluvial sediments transported and deposited by river action from the Himalyan region. Land is very fertile for growing crops, especially wheat, sugarcane and vegetables.

Meerut is the second largest city in the National Capital Region. It has covered 2522 km<sup>2</sup> geographical area. It has 3 Tehsils (Meerut, Sardhana and Mawana) and 12 Blocks (Meerut, Rajpura, Kharkhauda, Jani Khurd, Rohta, Mawana, Parikshitgarh, Machhara, Hastinapur, Sardhana, Daurala and Sarurpur Khurd). According to 2011 census Meerut district has a population of 34.43 lakh. The district has a population density of 1346 inhabitants per square kilometer. It has a sex ratio 886 females for every 1000 males. It has a literacy rate of 72.64%, higher than the state average of 69.72%. It has 51.07% urban population. It has 61.15% Hindus, 36.05% Muslims, 0.92% Jains, 0.41% Christians and 1.47% others population. According to census of 2011 it has 18 cities/towns. It is an education hub of Western Uttar Pradesh and have the higher level medical facilities in the Western Uttar Pradesh.

**Urbanization in Study Area**

Urbanization refers to the proportion of the total population concentrated in urban settlements or else to arise in this proportion. It's represents a revolutionary change in the whole pattern of social life. It is itself a product of basic economy and technological developments it trends in turn, once it comes into being, to affect every aspect of existence. Urbanization as a process is concentration of non-agricultural occupations and land uses around a single nucleus or multiple nuclei. This is primarily the result of rural to urban shift of population, with urban centers growing either at the expense of the countryside or serving the countryside through modern transport and communication systems.

The study area Meerut district situated in the middle of Ganga-Yamuna doab. Human and natural resources are fulfill in the study area. Transportation facilities connect the urban area and rural areas. The growth of urbanization is growing rapidly in the study area. This is the result of migration from rural to urban. Social and economically facilities pulled the people from rural area to urban areas. The rate of urbanization of the study area is given below–

**Table-1**  
**Urbanization in Meerut District (1971-2011)**

S. No.	Decade	Total Population	Rural Population	Urban Population	Urban Population Growth (%)	Urbanization (%)
1.	1971-81	2207877	1153754 (52.25%)	1054123 (47.75%)	14.34%	47.75%
2.	1981-91	2767246	1539972 (55.65%)	1227274 (44.35%)	16.42%	44.35%
3.	1991-01	2973877	1521894 (51.18%)	1451983 (48.82%)	18.30%	48.82%
4.	2001-11	3443689	1884507 (48.92%)	1759182 (51.08%)	21.15%	51.08%

**Source:** Computed by the author on the basis of 1971-2011 census.

According to the above table the growth of urban population was 14.34% in the decade of 1971-1981, 16.42% in 1981-1991 decade 18.30% in 1991-2001 decade and 21.15% in 2001-2011 decade. Urban population is growing rapidly in the study area. The average growth rate of urban population in the study area is 17.55%. The ratio of rural population is decreasing and the ratio of urban population is increasing. In the period of 1971-2011 the ratio of urban population is increased 6.73%. The average growth of urbanization is 48% in the study area in the period of 1971-2011.

#### Cities/Towns in Study Area

On the basis of 2011 census 18 towns/cities are present in the study area. 8 cities/towns are in Meerut tehsil 6 cities/towns are in Mawana tehsil and 4 cities/towns are in Sardhana tehsil. On the basis of population size these cities/towns are classified into 7 categories. These are as following-

**Table-2**  
**Classification of Cities/Towns on the Basis of Population of 2011 in Meerut District**

S. No.	Size of Population	No. of Cities/Towns	Percentage
1.	5000-10000	4	22.22%
2.	10000-20000	6	33.33%
3.	20000-40000	4	22.22%
4.	40000-60000	1	5.55%
5.	60000-80000	0	0%
6.	80000-100000	2	11.11%
7.	> 100000	1	5.55%
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Computed by the author on the basis of 2011 census.

According to the above table 4 cities/towns are in the category of 5000-10000 population and 6 cities/towns are in the range of 10000-20000 population, 4 cities/towns are in the range of 20000-40000 population, 1 city/town is in the category of 40000-60000 population, 2 cities/towns are in the category of 80000-100000 population and 1 city/town have more than 1 lakh population.

#### Socio-Economic Development In The Study Area

Development depends on the resources and technologies. Literacy, total working population, per capita income, social service centers and transportation and communication service centers

have been selected to find out the level of development. On the basis of composite z-score of the 6 variables, the level of socio-economic has been estimated. The level of socio-economic development in the study area has been calculated on the basis of z-score or composite z-score. The level of socio-economic development is given below-

**Table-3**  
**Socio-Economic Development in Meerut District (2011)**

S.No.	Tehsil	z-Score	Composite z-Score
1.	Meerut	1.75	1.16
2.	Mawana	0.86	0.52
3.	Sardhana	0.62	0.35
	Average in District Meerut	1.08	0.67

**Source:** Computed by the author on the basis of 2011 census.

According to above table the level of socio-economic development in the study area is 1.08 and on the basis of composite z-score it is 0.67. The level of socio-economic development is 1.16 in Meerut tehsil, 0.52 in Mawana tehsil and 0.35 in Sardhana tehsil.

#### Impact of Urbanization On Socio-Economic Development

The current global trend knows a massive expansion of urban areas, this growth being actually generated by numerical population growth and migration. Urban development determines changes regarding the organization of places, economic and social changes but these effects exceed the territorial barriers and generate a board impact. Urbanization is seen as an effect of the current globalization phenomenon, with social aspects as well as economic ones representing the migration process of the population organizing in urban areas, areas considered to be true centers of progress that offer multiple options to residents. Cities are centers of changes, placed in a relationship of interdependence with demographic growth and economic growth.

Urbanization yields several positive effects if it happens within the appropriate limits. Some of the positive implications of urbanization therefore include creation of employment opportunities, technological and infrastructural advancements, improved transportation and communication, quality educational and medical facilities and improved standards of living.

However, extensive urbanization mostly results in adverse effects. Urbanization attracts people to cities and towns which lead to high population increase with the increase in the number of people living in urban centers, there is contained scarcity of houses. This is due to insufficient expansion space for housing and public utilities, poverty, unemployment and costly building materials which can only be afforded by few individuals.

The problem of joblessness is highest in urban areas and it is even higher among the educated people. It is estimated that more than half of unemployed youths around the globe live in metropolitan cities and as much as income in urban areas is high, the costs of living make the incomes to seem horribly low. The increasing relocation of people from rural or developing areas to urban areas is the leading cause of urban unemployment.

Because of overpopulation and rapid population increase in most urban centers. It is common to find there are inadequate sewage facilities. Municipalities and local governments are faced with serious resources crisis in the management of sewage facilities. The social, economic and living conditions in congested urban areas affects access and utilization of public health care services.

#### **Conclusion**

Urbanization is a process whereby populations move from rural to urban area, enabling cities and towns to grow. It can also be termed as the progressive increase of the number of people living in towns and cities. It is highly influenced by the notion that cities and towns have achieved better economic, political and social mileages compared to the rural areas. Majority of people move to cities and towns because they view rural areas as placed with hardship and backward/primitive lifestyle. There are numerous social benefits attributed to life in the cities and towns. Cities/towns provide better educational facilities,

better living standards, better sanitation and housing, better health care, better recreation facilities, and better social life in general. On this account, more and more people are prompted to migrate into cities and towns to obtain the wide variety of social benefits and services which are unavailable in the rural areas. Social and economically facilities play an important role to development the cities/towns and create a base for expansion of the city. Substantial expansion of urban areas is due population migration to these areas, the identification of new feature options that can ensure the raising of welfare levels of individuals and improve their conditions of life. Emphasis on the process of urbanization intensify pressure on resources, environment and its ecosystems.

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