CHAPTER – 1

INTRODUCTION

An increasing number of people all over the world live within the framework of a city system; this not only influences the people of several countries directly or indirectly, but also their socio-economic, politico-cultural activities, organisation, developments of life and behaviour. Urbanization has to be accepted as a way of life, a condition of man characterized by certain attitudes, a mode of behaviour, which is an essential part of regional development as well as an important index of national progress and prosperity of human society\(^1\) (Verma, S.S. 1980).

Cities are the centers of political power and industrial might, higher education and technological innovation, artistic achievement and medical advances. They are the real markets of today. In short, cities have become the cruciales of civilization.

It is therefore difficult to think of a world of humans without cities. Humans migrated from far and wide to the cities though glaciations come and went and climates warmed and cooled. However, only 8000 years ago human settlements began to grow into larger places\(^2\).

The role of urban centers is pertinent in regulating the system of economic transition, channelising resource mobility. They have also become
centers of multi-faceted activities as innovators, receivers, containers and distributors. Hence, a spatio-temporal study of urbanization becomes necessary to identify the problems of urban centers and to chalk out a plan for balanced urbanization and socio-economic development, which in turn, is the regional development in future.

Process of Urbanisation:

Urbanization involves the transformation of rural attributes to urban ones thus implying the rural precedes the urban. The urbanization process relates to concentration of people engaged in non-agricultural occupations and concentration of non-agricultural land-use in a specialized area involving population, occupational and land-use shifts.

Urbanisation thus involves:

a. Concentration of people at population densities higher than those associated with agricultural populations with only very rare exceptions on either side;

b. Population shift (migration) from rural to urban areas;

c. Occupational shift from agricultural to non-agricultural and

d. Land-use shift from agricultural to non-agricultural.

These shifts, associated with economic developments are not always co-terminous; contiguous or sequential and are accompanied or should be
accompanied by rise in incomes and as a consequence, improvement in standards of living, changes in life style and changes in the institutional framework.

While population shift implies a physical shift of population from the rural to the urban milieu, occupational and land-use shifts can take place in situ i.e., without change in residence. This leads to sub-urbanisation (near the city): staying in the villages and commuting to the city for work. Equating the urbanization process with concentration, the process involves not only an increase in concentration at a point but also multiplication of points of concentration in the urban settlements.

**Urbanisation:**

The term urbanization is used to denote the gigantic concentration of the productive forces and social and informative activity reaching its apex in the megalopolis and the emergence of individual urban settlements sparsely located in some area, which are often distinguished by the extremely varied living conditions of the population.

B.S. Khorev³ (1971) takes the term urbanization as the first approximation to mean the growing number of towns, especially large and super large cities, the increasing share of the urban population in the country or in the world.
Concentration of more dynamic part of the population and more progressive kinds of human activities in cities especially big cities result in playing a role, which is apparently out of proportion to their share in the population of a country or region. "Urbanisation is characterized by movement of people from small communities, to generally larger areas where activities are primarily centred in management, trade, manufacture or allied interests" (Dudley Stamp, 1960).

This characteristic feature of urbanization gives rise to the definition of urbanization as a growth of importance of towns and cities in the life of a country or a region conditioned by social and economic progress.

Concentration of population and its diverse activities in limited areas give birth to a new socio-economic phenomenon, the urban way of life, sometimes termed as ‘urbanism’.

Urbanization, in the demographic sense, is an increase in the proportion of the urban population (U) to the total population (U/T) over a period of time. As long as U/T increases there is urbanization. However, theoretically it is possible that, this proportion remains constant over a time in a situation, where there is absolutely no rural to urban migration and both the rural and urban population grow at the same rate. In such cases there will be urban growth without urbanization (Ashish Bose, 1980).
Smailes\(^6\) (1975) has defined urbanization as a process whereby land and inhabitants become urban. Urbanization means that, an increased proportion of human society becomes town folk, and as this happens, towns grow in population, spread in area and make an ever-increasing impact upon the countryside, both upon its appearance and upon the life of its inhabitants. More and more of the landscape becomes townscape and people come to live in an environment that is both physically and socially urban.

V.L.S. Prakash Rao and V.K. Tiwari\(^7\) (1958) define urbanization as a process of concentration of non-agricultural occupation and land-use around a single nucleus or multiple nuclei. This is primarily the result of rural to urban shift of population with urban centres growing either at the expense of the countryside or serving the countryside through a modern transport and communication system.

Urbanization, on the other hand, is a spatial and social process which refers to the changes of behaviour and social relationships which occur in society as a result of people living in towns and cities. Essentially, it refers to the complex changes of life style, which follows from the impact of cities on society\(^8\) (Clark D. 1976).

As the population concentrates in relatively small areas in space, the forms of social and economic structure and organisation, which are appropriate for rural living, break down and are replaced by new patterns of relationships more suited to urban needs. These changes are restricted to and
are experienced by those actually residing in the city, but over a period of time, they diffuse and are adopted by those living in rural areas so that the whole of society becomes dominated by urban values, expectations and life styles. This process of behavioural and relational change is known as urbanization\(^9\) (Clark D. 1976).

Urbanisation refers to the concentration of population at the urban center. It may be defined, in a crude form, as the proportion of population residing in urban centers and in a sophisticated way, refers to the proportion of population engaged in the secondary sector of economy in urban places\(^{10}\) (Hauser P.M. 1965).

Urbanization as a process involves the multiplication of points of population concentration as well as an increase in the size of individual urban concentration\(^{11}\) (Gibbs J.P. 1966). This urbanization is a result of three components; natural increase, increase due to migration and appearance of new urban centers.

Generally, the population gained by natural increase or reclassification of urban centers forms a small segment of the total gain to the urban population. Therefore, rural to urban migration is the moving force behind the progress of urbanization.

The rural-urban migration is mainly a consequence of the push factors causing the workers to leave the rural areas and agricultural fields.
Unemployment, non-availability of services, lower levels of income and economic pressure are 'push factors in the countryside which act continuously, push out the people, urge them to migrate to the cities in search of employment and livelihood (Bhat, L.S. and Deshpande, C.D. 1976).

Significance of the Study:

There is a tremendous increase in population particularly, in urban population. The world’s urban population has reached 2.9 billion in 2000 and is expected to rise to 5 billion by 2030. Whereas, 30 per cent of the world population lived in urban areas in 1950, the proportion of urban dwellers rose to 47 per cent by 2000 and is projected, to go up to 60 per cent by 2030. At current rates of change, the number of urban dwellers will equal the number of rural dwellers in the world in 2007.

Virtually all the 'world level' population growth as expected will, during 2000-2030 be concentrated in urban areas. During that period the urban population is expected to increase by 2.1 billion persons, just slightly below the 2.2 billion persons that will be added to the world population.

Almost all of the population increase expected during 2000-2030, will be absorbed by the urban areas of the less developed regions whose population is likely to rise from approximately 2 billion in 2000 to just under 4 billion in 2030.
Urbanization has become a universal phenomenon as a consequence of rapid industrialization and technological advancement. Though, from time immemorial, cities have been the core of socio-economic functions, today, the role of urban centers is pertinent enough for the development of the region in which the centers are located. Now urban growth is not only an essential part of regional development but, also essential for generating economic growth specially in developing nations like India. Thus the level of urbanization is being taken as an important index of material progress and prosperity in human ecology. The study attempts to identify the disparities in urbanization and suggests remedial measures.

Selection of the Problem:

Gulbarga Division economically less developed region in Karnataka state is relatively less urbanized with 26.50 percent urban population. Since, the early historical period, it was the politico-cultural seat of rulers of various dynasties. The process of urbanization in Gulbarga division has given a stimulus after the Independence of India with the introduction of a railway network and the expansion of roads. But the growth of urban population and urban centers is comparatively less than the other divisions of the Karnataka state (see Tables 1.1). To reduce this disparity in urbanization, it is necessary to increase the number of towns and also upgradation of the existing ones. Hence, a study of disparities of urbanization is expected to help in understanding various issues involves. The level of urbanization of the region is thus the mainstay for the present study.
Table No.1.1 : Area and Population of Different Divisions in Karnataka (2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Division</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>No. of Urban Centres</th>
<th>No. of Centres per 1000 Sq. Km.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Belgaum</td>
<td>54513</td>
<td>13035267</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bengalore</td>
<td>48231</td>
<td>18072923</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gulbarga</td>
<td>45574</td>
<td>9493182</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>43473</td>
<td>12132586</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table No. 1.2 : Urban Population and Class Wise Towns of Different Division in Karnataka (2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Division</th>
<th>Class-I</th>
<th>Class-II</th>
<th>Class-III</th>
<th>Class-IV</th>
<th>Class-V</th>
<th>Class-VI</th>
<th>All Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Belgaum</td>
<td>1700409(4)</td>
<td>736061(11)</td>
<td>987825(34)</td>
<td>331571(20)</td>
<td>13002(2)</td>
<td>4848(1)</td>
<td>3773716(72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21.31(30-63)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bengalore</td>
<td>7129033(8)</td>
<td>496427(8)</td>
<td>709000(22)</td>
<td>175521(12)</td>
<td>40483(6)</td>
<td>4236(1)</td>
<td>8554700(57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>48.32(24-25)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gulbarga</td>
<td>1396624(6)</td>
<td>301021(6)</td>
<td>624739(22)</td>
<td>165234(10)</td>
<td>23252(3)</td>
<td>4791(1)</td>
<td>2515661(48)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14.20(20-42)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>1816970(6)</td>
<td>113260(2)</td>
<td>638708(21)</td>
<td>166695(11)</td>
<td>115740(16)</td>
<td>8790(2)</td>
<td>2860163(58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16.15(24-68)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The figures in bracket show the number of urban centers of different class size.

Objectives of the Study:

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To know the general geographical background of the area under study.

2. To study the process of urbanization in the area of research.

3. To analyse the growth of urban population and changes in the number of urban centers.

4. To classify towns and their share of population.
5. To examine the rank-size relationship of towns and spatial distribution patterns of urban centers.

6. To study special trends of urbanization in the area of the study.

7. To identify and analyse the regional disparities in the level of urbanization.

8. To find out if there are regional variations in urbanization and if so, indicate their nature and analyse the causes for such variations.

Hypothesis:

1. Areas where the physical conditions are adverse, the process of urbanization is low.

2. The process of urbanization is controlled by political factors.

3. The larger the size of urban center greater is the rate of urbanization (Class I and II).

4. Small urban centers have high fluctuation of ranks.

5. Where there is scarcity of facilities there is random distribution pattern of urban centers.

6. The level of urbanization reflects on the economic development of the region.

Methodology:

In order to arrive at the aforesaid hypotheses, the following approaches and methods have been adopted.
1. The trend of characteristic of urbanization has been analysed in terms of percentage indices.

2. The decadal changes in the number of urban centers is done through transition matrices.

3. The size regularity and spatial distribution of urban centers have been analysed with the help of rank-size rule and nearest neighbour techniques.

4. The measurement of the level of urbanization is done with the help of ranking method on the basis of nine indicators of urbanization and also a composite index.

Besides these statistical methods which are mentioned above cartographic devices like double log graph, line graph, choropleth maps have been used in the various chapters of the thesis wherever essential for visual expression and analysis of phenomena.

Data Aspects and Study Period:

For the present study, a major part of secondary data is obtained from the census volumes of various census years, District Statistics at a glance, Gazetteer of the Karnataka state and of different districts in the study region.

The present study is based on secondary data and span of study is taken for 10 decades of the 20th century (1901 to 2001).
Organisation of the Thesis:

The entire study is divided into seven chapters; they are organised in such a manner that a logical consistency is maintained.

The first chapter deals with an introduction of the study, which includes, process of urbanization, significance of the study, objectives, hypotheses, methodology, and also review of literature, which has helped the researchers to appreciate latest developments in the field of urbanization.

In the second chapter an endeavour is made to analyse the geographical setting of the study region. In this chapter details are given about physiography, geology, water resources, soil, climatic condition, natural vegetation, mineral resources.

Chapter three, deals with the origin, growth and evolution of urban centers in the study area, during many historical periods (from the ancient to the recent) which includes a great deal of information about urban centers.

In the fourth chapter an attempt is made to analyse the spatial distribution of urban centers, with the help of size regularity to know the stability of their position in select census years (1901, 1921, 1941, 1961, 1981, 2001), and also spacing of urban centers with the help of nearest neighbour techniques.

Chapter five, deals with the trends of urbanization at the regional level, district level, and taluka level, which includes the decennial growth rate of
urban population, decade-wise and class-wise. It also gives the details about the changes in the number of towns and their share of population in the study region between 1901-2001.

Chapter six is devoted to a study of the level of urbanization based on nine indicators, among them five indicators are concerned with urban accretion which are ratio of urban population to the total (U/T), Urban-rural population ratio (U/R), growth rate of urban population, average size of urban centers and density of urban population. Remaining four indicators are concerned to spatial organisation, which are average number of urban centers, connectivity, accessibility and concentration of urban centers.

Chapter seven gives the summary and findings.
References


2. Ibid


