

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

Introduction:

One phenomenon which is common world wide, irrespective of whether a country is rich or poor, is the process of urbanisation, (Kindleberger, 1977). Mutlu traces back the interest in urbanisation to Plato, Aristotle and their contemporaries during which the question of city size was a prime concern, (Mutlu, 1989, p. 611). In recent times the interest in urbanisation process is a result of the renewed interest in the spatial distribution of population since the 1970s, consequent upon the tendency of population to concentrate in bigger and bigger cities, (Renout, 1979. p.1). Since every phenomenon, howsoever common it may be, has certain region specificity, the importance of studying the phenomenon of urbanisation in a particular regional context cannot be over emphasised.

Urbanisation:

Here it would be in place to explain what do we understand by urbanisation. There is not much disagreement in so far as explaining the concept of urbanisation is concerned.

According to Thomson, urbanisation is "the movement of people from communities concerned chiefly with agriculture to other communities, generally larger, whose activities are primarily centred in government, trade, manufacture and allied interest. (Thomson, 1965.p.123).

Urbanisation is featured by the concentration of the more dynamic part of the population and the more progressive kinds of human activity. Specialisation and change based on markets, growth of important towns and cities in the life of a country or a region conditioned by social and economic progress give the first impetus to increase production. Markets in turn, require cities since exchange occurs mostly in places where population are concentrated. (*Kindleberger, 1977.*). Concentration of population and its diverse activities in limited areas give birth to a new socio-economic phenomenon which becomes the basic and inherent attribute of urbanisation. Thus urbanisation involves increasing concentration and intensification of human interaction and the integration of the forms of man's activity which are becoming evermore varied. It is understood as a stage, as a result and at the same time a pre-requisite of the progress of human interaction, all socially vital activities, and society's creative potential. (*Alam, 1976, p. 1*)

As Cherunilam puts it, "urbanisation is a process which reveals itself through temporal, spatial and sectoral changes in the demographic, economic, technological and environmental aspects of life in a given society. These changes manifest themselves in the increasing concentration of population, in human settlement of the people in secondary and tertiary production function, and in the progressive adoption of certain social traits which are typical of traditional rural society." (*Cherunilam, 1984, p. 20*).

Urbanisation is thus a complex social progress accompanied by the emergence of a prevalent form of organisation of social activity. But as urbanisation implies changes in the nature of people's activities, in the

ratio between the population engaged in agricultural activities and the rest of the population and ultimately leads to a special concentration of activity in relatively few areas and centres where labour efficiency is the highest, the process is rather complex and many sided and is connected with the operation of numerous factors. (*Alam, op, cit, p. 4*).

These factors also combine differently in different parts of the world with different social systems. Moreover, with different levels of development and different types of urbanisation the urbanisation process also assumes different forms under different socio-economic systems. (*Ibid. p. 5.*)

Demographic:

According to Khorev, the term urbanisation is taken as the first approximation to mean the growing number of towns specially large and superlarge cities. Thus the process of agglomeration of people into large and heterogeneous settlements serves as the special manifestation of the urban process. Actually a city is a visible result of two processes which combine and interact to form the composite urban process. The first of these processes leads to the evolution of the social and cultural organisation which is initially a subsystem but eventually becomes the dominant system in the given society. This process incorporates a growing population of the total population into the urban social structure while changing life-style continuously modify and transform this urban social structure. (*Ibid, pp. 2-4*). In other words, it simply means the process

whereby people acquire material and non-material elements of culture, behaviour patterns and ideas that originate in or are distinctive to the city.

Industrial:

One striking feature of modern urbanisation is that it is closely linked with the scientific and technical revolution. It has as its basis the growing concentration of industry and the related functions of research. The special forms of concentration give way to the rapid growth of the infrastructure. With the infrastructure in the place, more intensive ties arise between the growth of the infrastructure and development of urbanisation in space.

Generally urbanisation in newly developing countries are associated with industrialisation, though the degree of association has varied greatly or non-existent in some cases. In some cases rather large urban areas have developed which were not industrial in character but more colonial, administrative or marketing centres developed by the initiative of foreigners. In other words, these areas were characterised by a kind of urbanisation that was extremely non-endigeneous in origin. (Breese, 1969, p. 3).

Economic:

"Urbanisation is a natural and inevitable consequence of economic development. Urbanisation accompanies economic development because economic development entails a massive shift of labour and other inputs from sectors that are predominantly rural to sectors that are predominantly urban." (Mills, 1986, p.17).

However, present urbanisation process in the developing countries has got a distinctive character in the super growth of the tertiary sector of employment and this too in the context of rapid population growth and inadequate economic growth. Further, the share of population engaged in non-productive activities (activities with little value-addition like small retail traders) is rather high in these new urban areas.

Urban Area:

The basic definition of an urban area is "a set of contiguous places where population densities are much greater than elsewhere." Since workers tend to live near their place of work, most workers who reside in urban areas also work there and most workers who are employed in urban areas also live there. (Mills, 1986, p.18). But until the early period of this century the principal habitat was rural and the so called ancient cities were very few and small by the present day standard. Today the world scene is largely dominated by the presence of large cities. The importance of the urban system in today's world is heightened by the accelerated trend of irreversible urbanisation. Although it is an age-old phenomenon the stylish urban dominance is relatively recent, coming as it is in the wake of technological change, economic development, socio-cultural development, scientific discoveries, rapid communication system and growth of commerce and industry.

But all urban areas are not the same type. Due to lack of uniformly acceptable or applied criteria for delimiting urban areas or for measuring urbanisation, strict and accurate comparison of urbanisation across

countries is rather tricky. In most countries towns are defined by law as urban administrative areas, although there has been no strict application either population or functional criteria to designate new or revoke old town status. However, one criterion or the other has been employed to determine urban areas.

Thus the definition used for treating a place as urban in some countries of the world in the 1980s are as follows (*Nanda, 1994. pp. 10-13*).

In some countries of the world the definition of an urban area is fulfilled with a minimum of 100 or 200 inhabitants. In Peru a place with 100 or more inhabitants is defined as urban. In Denmark (1970 definition) and Norway, any place with a population of 200 or more is defined as urban.

In some of the Commonwealth countries like the Australia, Canada, New-Zealand and the United Kingdom, the definition of urban area is more or less the same. In these countries, agglomerations of 1000 or more inhabitants (with 400 per sq. km. in the case of Canada) are defined as urban areas.

In countries like Argentina, Cuba, France and Zaire agglomerations of 2,000 or more inhabitants are under the urban category. But in France another condition that "not more than 200 metres between houses" is also mentioned. In the case of Zaire the predominant economic activities in such agglomerations should be of non-agricultural type (*Idem*).

In the United States of America places of 2500 or more inhabitants are under the urban category (*Idem*).

In countries like Botswana, Ghana and Iran, localities of 5,000 or more inhabitants are defined as urban areas. But in Botswana the definition further mentions that 75 percent of the economic activity should be of non-agricultural type (*Idem*).

There are also other countries where thicker population is needed to fulfil the definition. In Nepal an urban area is defined to be a locality of 9,000 or more inhabitants (*Idem*).

In countries like Malaysia, Portugal and Switzerland it is still higher. In these countries, agglomerations of 10,000 or more inhabitants are defined as urban areas (*Idem*).

In Japan, areas having 50,000 or more inhabitants with 60 percent or more of the houses located in the main built-up areas and 60 percent or more of the population engaged in manufacturing and other urban type of business or cities with urban facilities and conditions are considered as urban (*Idem*).

There are also other countries where the definition of an urban area is given without reference to the number of inhabitants. In such countries settlements under a Municipal Board or Town Committee or Cantonment Board or Suburban Zones of administrative centres with urban character or services are considered as urban. Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Egypt,

Hungary, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Romania and Srilanka are the countries where such settlements are considered as urban

Unlike many of the countries, the definition of an urban area adopted by the Indian Census tries to be more precise. In the earlier census the definition of an urban area did not refer to the economic characters. It may, however, be mentioned that whatever may be the definitions, they were never strictly adhered to at least upto 1951. The detailed definition adopted in the census of India is as follows:

- a. All places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified area committee etc.
- b. All other places which satisfy the following criteria.
 - i. a minimum population of 5,000 persons;
 - ii. at least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
 - iii. a density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometre.

Besides, the directors of census operations in states/union territories were allowed to include in consultation with the concerned state government/union territory administrations and the census commissioner of India, some places having distinct urban characteristics as urban even if such places did not strictly satisfy all the criteria mentioned under category (b) of the definition. Such marginal cases include major project

colonies, areas of intensive industrial development, railway colonies, important tourist centres etc. (*Ibid.* p.2).

However, the 1951 census, in dealing with the questions pertaining to the classification of selected places, that is, the non-statutory as the census towns, the provincial census superintendents (now designated as the Directors of census operation) gave due regard to the size and character of population, relative density of dwellings and importance of the place as a centre of trade and commerce. But due to heterogeneous administrative set up and other conditions prevailing in the provinces and princely states, the tests prescribed for distinguishing towns from villages were not identical nor had they been applied with meticulous uniformity (*Idem*).

Apart from treating a place as town, the concept of 'out growth' was introduced for the first time in 1971 so as to account for the rapid growth of town. These outgrowths included "fairly large well recognised railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, military establishments, etc. which might have come up around a core city or a statutory town". (*Census of India, 1971*)

This concept was introduced with a view to have a true measure of extent of urbanisation because such areas were already urbanised and it could not be altogether realistic to treat them as rural just because they were lying outside the statutory limits of a town and because each individual area by itself might not have satisfied the minimum population limit to qualify it to be treated as an independent urban unit. Since these

areas formed an integrated urban area, these were treated as the urban agglomerations .

The concept of urban agglomeration was introduced in 1971. This concept was a replacement of yet another concept that is, "town group" which was introduced in 1961. A town group comprised independent urban units which was contiguous and interdependent on each other. It was, however, later on found that in most cases there was no contiguity between the constituent urban units and the spill over areas of a town were left out of recognition. To overcome this deficiency the idea of urban agglomeration came into existence. An 'urban agglomeration' as per the definition "is comprised of continuous urban spread and normally consists of a town and its adjoining urban outgrowths or two or more physically contiguous towns together with contiguous well recognised outgrowths, if any, of such towns," (*Census of India, 1971*).

Lastly, in 1971 census another concept of "Standard urban Areas" was also introduced in order to meet the requirements of the urban planners relating to the data on contiguous urban units, on the one hand, and partially urbanisable rural areas around cities and large towns which are potentially urban on the other. This was defined as the "definite stable and projected growth areas of a city" or town having 50,000 or more population in 1971 as it would be in 1991, taking into account not only the towns and villages which will get merged into it but also the intervening areas which are potentially urban." (*Nanda, 1994 p.4*).

The characteristic features of standard urban area are that it should have

- I. a core town of maximum population of 50,000;
- II. contiguous areas made up of other urban as well as rural administrative units should have close mutual socio-economic linkages with the core town; and
- III. the probability that the entire area will get urbanised within a span of 2-3 decades.

In identifying the constituent units of standard urban areas the following yardsticks are conventionally used in Indian censuses.

- a) a core town generally with a population of 50,000;
- b) predominant urban land use;
- c) intensive inter-action with the urban centres as reflected in commutation for the purpose of work and secondary education facilities, extension of city bus services, sale of commodities like milk, dairy products, vegetables and purchase of food grains, cloth and general provisions etc. by the consumers directly;
- d) anticipated urban growth as a result of locational decisions relating to industry, market, transport and

communication, administrative and servicing functions;
and

e) existence of big villages with a large proportion of working force engaged in non-agricultural pursuits. (*Idem*).

Further, in 1961 town groups were again demarcated or classified into six size classes with reference to the size of their population. This distinction was limited to an aggregate population of 100,000 and above. The classification of urban areas in relation to population is as follows:

Size class Towns	Population
I	1 lakh and above.
II	50,000 to 99,999
III	20,000 to 49,999
IV	10,000 to 19,999
V	5,000 to 9,999
VI	Less than 5,000

The urban places having one lakh and more population are usually referred to as "cities", those population between 20,000 to 99,999 are treated as "medium towns" and the remaining urban places having less than 20,000 population as "small towns". Further cities having one lakh and more population have been classified into the following sub-categories:

Category	Population
M-1	100,000 to 199,999
M-2	200,000 to 299,999
M-3	300,000 to 499,999
M-4	500,000 to 999,999
M-5	1,000,000 and above.

Urban areas vary enormously in size, organisation and functions. A large metropolis differs in many important ways from a crossroad town. Yet all result from the same basic set of economic considerations and the same economic considerations cause their sizes and numbers to grow as a country develops. (*Ibid*, p.5).

Urban Growth:

Economic history of every country reveals a close relationship between industrialisation and urbanisation. Modern large scale industries cannot develop unless there are adequate economic and social overheads. (*Bose, 1978*).

Food is the prime requirement for life, and in the poorest countries most of the production efforts are devoted to agriculture. With the development of the economy inputs and outputs shifts from agriculture to industry, especially manufacturing and services. It is due to the demand shift and the supply shift resulting from capital accumulation and technological change. (*Mills, 1986, p.17*).

On the demand side, a large share of income is spent on food at low level of income, but that the share falls as income increases. (Engel's Law). They reflect low income elasticities of food demand and high income elasticities of industrial goods and service demands. The effect of these demand shifts is to raise returns to labour and other inputs in industry and services relative to those in agriculture and so to induce workers and other inputs to move from agriculture to another. (*Ibid* , p.18) .

On the supply side, the costs and prices of industrial products may fall relative to those of agricultural products. Technical progress may be faster in industry than in agriculture, in part because industrial technology is often more directly transferable than agricultural technology. In addition capital accumulation and scale economies may reduce industrial prices relative to agricultural prices. Moreover, a more highly educated labour force may be of more benefit in industry and services than in agriculture. (*Idem*).

Because of this association of urbanisation with industrialisation and the development process in affluent countries, urbanisation and development are sometimes incorrectly equated. It is, however, not impossible that rapid urban growth on a massive scale can exist without development.

But the evolution patterns of urban growth on the landscape is of fundamental importance in location theory as the centripetal forces have played a dominant role in all historical phases of urban growth. Throughout each period of town development in the western world, towns have emerged by the coagulation of structures as institutions, together with the dwelling places of their independents. It is due to the tendency for people and their activities to cluster in cities to overcome the friction of space which has been described as the essence of the process of urban growth. The services demanded can most efficiently be carried out at central locations within clustered communications, specially in industry, commerce and administration.

Further urban growth in the demographic sense refers to an increase in total urban population to total population. In other words, urban growth is the increase in urban population in absolute terms. In this sense, urban growth has three basic sources:

- a) natural population increase,
- b) the net urban migration, and
- c) boundary change.

In most rapidly growing cities, about half or less of the growth can usually be attributed to natural increase while the rest is accounted for by urban migration. The phenomenon has a history in the developed countries extending at least from the growth of commercial towns. While we emphasise that urban migration has not been the sole source of urban growth, it has captured considerable attention because of its size and pattern.

Nevertheless, the first two sources of natural population increase and net urban migration are generally considered as the systemic sources of urban growth. The extension of boundaries thus not occur continuously, nor is it universal among cities. (*Kindleberger, 1977.*)