

**Urbanization is the increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities.**

**Urbanization occurs because people move from rural areas to urban areas. This usually occurs when a country is still developing.**

### **Causes of Urbanization**

- Rural to urban migration is happening on a massive scale due to population pressure and lack of resources in rural areas.
- People living in rural areas are “PULLED” to the city. Often, they believe that the standard of living in urban areas will be much better in urban areas.
- Natural increase caused by a decrease in death rates while birth rates remain high.

### **Effects of Urbanization**

- A range of economic, political, social, cultural and environmental factors affect urbanization.
- Urbanization is encouraged socially and culturally through the media.

### **Socio-cultural impacts**

- Cities have a strong socio-cultural impact on their surrounding rural areas. The mass media depicts city life as superior to rural life, the “STANDARD” language is deemed that of the national capital, and better services are received in the city due to its wealth.
- The fertility rate in cities is often lower than in rural areas due to the absence of agriculture, the cost of children, food and living space in cities, and family planning.

### **Socio-economic impacts**

- As a city grows, the cost of housing and infrastructure also grows, since there is less water, land and building material available, and greater congestion problems. As a city decays in this way, governments often do not meet the service needs of residents and urban development is dominated by private capital.
- Unemployment grows, as do drug abuse, crime and homelessness.

### **Environmental impacts**

- Waste are a major problem in large cities.
- Air pollution results from over- dependence on motorised transport and from burning of coal to supply energy.
- Water pollution results from poor sewage facilities and disposal of industrial heavy metals into waterways.
- Vast quantities of solid waste are produced in industries.
- Traffic congestion and noise pollution are major environmental impacts of large cities.

### **Benefits of Urbanisation**

- Improvement in economy
- Growth of commercial activities
- Social & cultural integration
- Efficient services
- Resources of utilization

**Advantages of Urbanization:** Growth in industrial productions: The production in various industrial sectors like cement, iron and steel, textile, fertilizers etc., are helping in the economic growth of the country. Export increase and this forest reserve increases. Growth in trade and commerce: Urbanization helps the nation's business sector. Rural people came to the urban places with their goods. Development in tourism industries: People from foreign countries are attracted to good cities and towns having better transport facilities. Tourism is a good source of foreign currency for a country. Improvement in Science, Culture etc.: Urban places are the meeting point of all good cultures of various localities. Education, science and technology developments take place in urban places improving the society as a whole.

**Disadvantages of Urbanization:** The rapid inflows of rural population to urban places give rise to housing problem and thus slums are developed in these places. The decrease in rural population effects the agricultural productions due to shortage of workers in rural areas. The increase in population in urban places pressurize water and sanitation facilities. It results in environmental pollution, health hazards etc.. The unemployment increases in urban areas. Due to the various criminal activities, corruption etc. increases affecting the law and order system.

**CONCLUSION:-** The challenge facing the world today is to Minimize the negative effects and build the benefits . Infrastructure needs to be improved. Opportunities should be created within rural areas to prevent migration to cities.