

Population Growth and Urbanization: Impact on Sustainable Development of Society

Manju Shivran

Department of English, University of Rajasthan,
Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Abstract

Population growth and urbanization is an important issue in the discussion on the sustainable growth of society. This paper is to explore the impacts of population growth and urbanization that stems from industrialization on the sustainable development of society. Population growth that is directly related to this concept of growth or development of society is undertaken the discussion. The concept of urbanization is not new. It came into being with the beginning of establishment of industries and society. Industrialization is also a concept that directly associated with urbanization and development of society. Urbanization attracts people because it has enhanced the economic growth and quality of life remarkably. However, as we know, it has also caused many problems for human life. Demand for more economic goods gave rise to market and marketization of societies. The urbanization leads a large emigration from rural areas to towns, consequently sometimes industrial areas become dense populated areas and degrade the quality of human life, and in this way this migration from rural to urban transforms society in many ways. Overgrowing population in urban areas leads difficulty of providing and maintaining public infrastructure and services, worsening environmental conditions.

Keywords: *Population growth, urbanization, society, industrialization, and society*

1. Introduction

Sustainable development is the target for human development. Economy and society depend upon sustaining ability of natural resources and ecosystem services. Sustainable development of society depends on this sustaining ability of natural system. The sustainable development of human society can be defined as a state of society in which living conditions fulfill needs of human being without reducing the integrity and continuity of the natural resources. In other words we can also define the sustainable development or growth as the development that fulfills the requirements

without compromising the ability of future generations. The modern concept of sustainable development is an outcome of the 1987 Brundtland report. This report has focused on economic development, social development, and environmental protection for coming generations. Brundtland argues:

the “environment” is where we live; and “development” is what we all do in attempting to our lot within that abode. The two are inseparable. (125)

2. Subject Material

The present study on the sustainable development of society undertakes the population growth and urbanization and its impact on the development. The phenomenon of population growth and urbanization affect sustaining ability of natural resources and ecosystem.

Urbanization is not a new phenomenon. The migration from rural areas to urban had started with industrialization and establishment of factories. Today towns are becoming increasingly bigger and bigger. Although there are many family welfare schemes, natural population growth continues. Growing population rapidly leads deteriorating in quality of life. The effect of migration and urbanization need not be negative, but in excess it causes many difficulties. Unplanned migration and urbanization gives rise to unemployment and social problems in towns. Environmental and health conditions are deteriorating. It affects human society to the great extent. The village has traditionally been the coalescing social unit. There are strong effects on these customary traditions. The increasing population and urbanization cause many other social problems related with unemployment and underemployment. Increasing demand for economic goods brings about exploitation of natural resources in excess and it causes negative effects on environment and ecosystem.

There are some key factors that bring about urbanization and spots for dense populated areas;

that can be recounted as industrialization, economic development, and social development. Industries, factories attract people as employment providing points. In search of earnings man leaves nature behind and moves and makes himself busy in pursuing wealth. The departure of man in such a way has been condemned often in literature also for centuries. We can find many works in literature with this movement as a theme, for example, Oliver Goldsmith an English poet wrote an elegy on such departure *The Deserted Village; The Village* by George Crabbe; William Blake also condemns the factories and industries as dark Satanic mills In his poem "And did those feet in Ancient Times". This poem by Blake often interpreted as referring to the destructive influence of industrial revolution on nature and human relationships.

3.Future Prospects

Education needs to be revisited for the renewed vision of sustainable human and social development. The vision for sustainability should be undertaken the consideration of social, environmental and economic dimension for the development of human society. Education can be an effective way for this vision:

An empowering education is one that builds the human resources, we need to be productive, to continue to learn, to solve the problems, to be creative, and to live together and with nature in peace and harmony. When nations ensure that such as education is accessible to all throughout their lines, a quiet revolution is set in motion: education becomes the engine of sustainable development and the key to a better world. (Rethinking Education 31-32)

4. Methodology

The study has included all standard methods employed in modern studies. Such as, exploring the material on the topic which has been undertaken; cyber study to keep the flow updated; utilizing all the research media i.e. books, periodicals articles, journals, critical works, interviews, videos, and internet storehouses.

Conclusion

The paper has tried to present the systematic study of the problems regarding sustainable development of the society. Out of numerous growth affecting factors I have discussed this pivotal factor i. e. population growth and urbanization in the present paper. Paper has tried to introduce causes and aftermaths of the problem. Awareness for saving natural resources for coming generation is also implicit in the paper. The paper will contribute in the practicing for sustainable development of

society so that man can live peacefully in the harmony of the nature.

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