



**AN ANALYSIS OF URBANISATION TRENDS IN MAHARASHTRA: ISSUES
AND PERSPECTIVES**

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ABSTRACT

Urbanization is the physical growth of urban areas as a result of rural migration and is closely related to modernization, industrialization and the social process of rationalization. Urbanization occurs when individual, commercial, and government efforts reduce time and expense in commuting and improve opportunities for jobs, education, housing, and transportation. Maharashtra has experienced rapid urban growth. Maharashtra has the highest level of urbanization in India at 45.23 percent compared to 29.5 percent as the all-India average in 2011. During the first decade of the 20th century, the decadal growth rate was 0.35 percent in India and Maharashtra was 0.99 percent as per Census 1901 Many rural residents come to town for reasons of wealth and social mobility. Urbanization is a problem that has taken huge proportions in some technologically advanced and industrialized countries of the world. It means the concentration of population in industrial and economically advanced centres and other major cities. This leads to a lot of crowding and many social and economic problems. This study is descriptive research. Data is collected through secondary sources such as government records, books, articles, and online journals. Records of urban residents as obtained from census reports have been tabulated to describe their trend. This paper seeks to review the rapidly growing urbanization trends in Maharashtra and attempt to analyse the issues and challenges of urbanization in Maharashtra.

Keywords: Urban, Urbanisation, Trend of Urbanization, Maharashtra, Growth of population, Transformation, Issues and Perspectives.

A) Introduction:

The term "urban" refers to towns or cities. Urbanization refers to the population increase in urban areas, the growth of secondary and tertiary activities. According to Hauser and Duncan, "Urbanization as a change in the pattern of population distribution. It involves an increase in the size of the urban population and a growth in the number and size of urban places with the increase in the population of these places." According to G. T. Trewartha, "The movement of population from village to city and the process



of turning villages into a city is called urbanization.” The settlement has a suitable street pattern, continuous compatible buildings, utility services such as electricity, water supply, sewage system, police station, school, health centre, post office etc., and can be classified as an urban settlement. Urbanization is the process by which villages turn into a town and the city develops into cities. It is a cyclical process through which a nation usually goes through as it develops from an agricultural to an industrial society. It is rapidly growing as an industrial nucleus, a commercial complex, an educational centre, and a focal point for the state's economic, cultural, social and administrative activities.

B) Objectives of Study:

- 1) To understand concept of urbanisation.
- 2) To analysis the trend of urbanization in Maharashtra state.
- 3) To find out growth of urban population in Maharashtra state.
- 4) To study issues and challenges raised with urbanisation process.

C) Hypothesis of Study:

In Maharashtra state urbanisation process rapidly taken place with issues and challenges.

D) Research Methodology:

In this paper, “researcher has adopted descriptive study methods and secondary data. The data and information which is used in the paper is drawn from reliable and creditable resources such as related books by various authors, related research papers, various journals and articles on the Urbanisation Trends in Maharashtra state and its challenges, issues and perspectives etc. which are available on online and offline” mode.

E) The Concept of Urbanization:

Urbanization involves a psycho-cultural and social process in which people acquire material and immaterial culture, including behavioural patterns, forms of organization and ideas that have arisen in or characterize the city. Urbanization occurs without industrialization and a strong economic base. Urbanization is mainly a product of the demographic explosion and rural-urban migration caused by poverty.



Rapid urbanization leads to massive growth of slums followed by misery, poverty, unemployment, exploitation, inequality and a deterioration in the quality of urban life. We can well understand about urbanization from the following some definitions.

- “Urbanization” results from the movement of population to towns and cities, away from the land, when cities grow in population, perhaps partly through natural increase but principally through migration from rural areas by people in search of economic opportunities associated with urban life. (Giddens: 2018).
- “Urbanization is the process by which an increasingly larger portion of the world’s population lives in urban areas” (Shepherd: 2010).
- “Urbanization is the concentration of population in cities. Urbanization redistributes the population within a society and transforms many patterns of social life” (Macionis: 2012)

F) Urbanization in Maharashtra:

Since the adoption of the new economic policies in the country, Maharashtra has experienced rapid urban growth. Maharashtra has the highest level of urbanization in India at 42 percent compared to 25.7 percent as India's average. In the context of the issue of land and special economic zones, writing about the experience of urbanization in Maharashtra is important because this urbanization was not in the normal organic way as in the advanced capitalist countries of the West. The urbanization of Maharashtra was an artificial urbanization. People have been driven from their lands due to the destruction of agriculture. Thus, Maharashtra has the highest level of urbanization in India and has one of the highest per capita incomes in the country. Census data has been used to study the nature and pattern of urbanization in India with special reference to Maharashtra.

The population of Maharashtra increased at a faster rate than the Indian population in total. During 1941-51 and 1961-71, the urban population of Maharashtra increased relatively faster. From 1951 to 1971, the average number of cities in the state increased at a decadal rate of about 9 percent. In other demographic aspects, Maharashtra is shown to represent a more advanced stage of development. Data illustrating these points has been tabulated. When the scale, degree and pace of urbanization are considered, Maharashtra is seen as the most urbanized state in India.



As a function of economic development within a country, migration from rural areas to large cities was taking place. This has caused large cities to grow at a faster rate than small cities. Future growth projections indicate that the urbanization of Maharashtra will increase further by the 1981 census. Therefore, there is a need for proper policy on urbanization and growth of cities.

Maharashtra has the largest economy in the country. Its GDP at current prices was Rs 3,71,877 crore in the year 2004-05. The state accounted for nearly 13 percent of the national income. It has the fifth highest per capita income in the country at Rs. 36423. However, GDP at constant prices recorded a compound annual growth rate (CARG) of 3.77 per cent during the period 1994-2005, which is lower than India's total freight cost of 6.24 per cent. Maharashtra is very urban with 42 per cent of the population living in cities and it is highly literate as 77 per cent of the population above seven years is literate. With a total population of 9.7 crore making Maharashtra, it has a large proportion of civilized and educated population. Seven cities in Maharashtra have a population of over one million. Even the slums of Maharashtra have a literacy rate of 81 per cent. The state is largely driven by growth in the service sector. Mumbai, the state capital is the financial and commercial capital of the country. Most of the big business houses in India are headquartered in Mumbai. Mumbai has the Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the National Stock Exchange and other major financial institutions and regulators. Maharashtra is also a major industrial centre. It is among the top countries in terms of new investments. The major industries in Maharashtra are textiles, automobiles and chemicals.

G) Urbanisation Trends in Maharashtra:

Maharashtra is the third most urbanized state in the country. It has 45.23 percent of its total urban population, ranking after Tamil Nadu (48.45 percent) and Kerala (47.72 percent) and above the national percentage (31.16 percent). But Maharashtra has the highest number of people living in urban areas (5.08 crores). The state's total population is 11,23,72,972 as per the 2011 census of India, with a population of 6,15,45,441 in rural areas and 5,08,27,531 in urban areas. During the decade from 2001 to 2011, the growth rate of the urban population was 23.67 percent and the rate of the rural population was 10.34 percent. Their respective national figures were 31.8 per cent and 12.2 per cent. 100 per cent of the population of Mumbai and Mumbai (suburbs) are

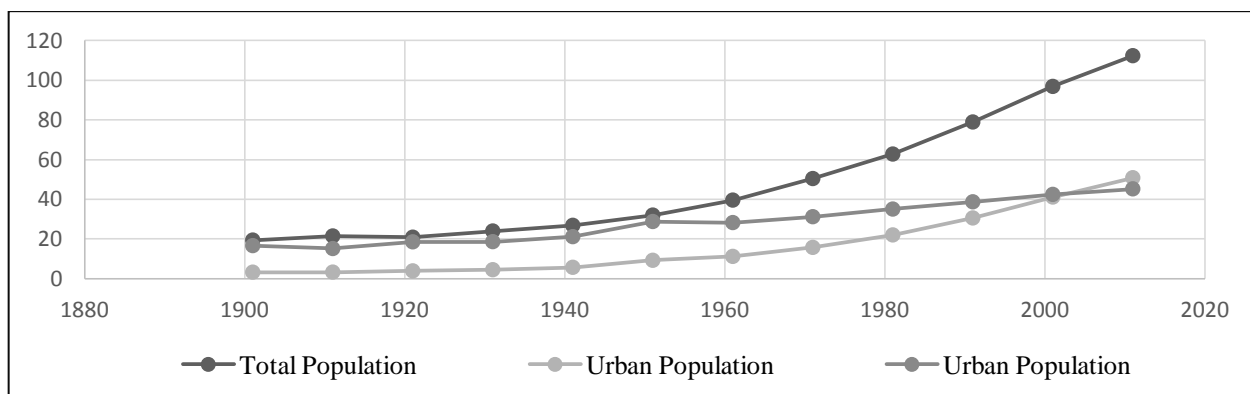
in urban areas while less than 15 per cent of the population of two other districts, Gadchiroli and Sindudurg, live in urban areas. With a population of 18.41 million, the metropolitan agglomeration of Greater Mumbai (UA) is the largest urban agglomeration (UA) in the country by population. Maharashtra has six metropolitan agglomerations/cities (UA), Greater Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Vasai Virar and Aurangabad, with a population of 1 million and above in the state. People from different parts of India have migrated over the years to Maharashtra in general and Mumbai in particular in search of livelihood.

Table No. 1: Trend of Urbanization in Maharashtra from 1901-2011

Year	Total Population in Millions	Urban Population in Millions	Urban Population in %
1901	19.39	3.22	16.59
1911	21.47	3.25	15.13
1921	20.85	3.86	18.50
1931	23.96	4.46	18.60
1941	26.83	5.67	21.11
1951	32.00	9.20	28.75
1961	39.55	11.16	28.22
1971	50.41	15.71	31.17
1981	62.78	21.99	35.03
1991	78.94	30.54	38.69
2001	96.88	41.10	42.43
2011	112.37	50.83	45.23

Source: Census of India, 1901 to 2011

Chart No. 1: Trend of Urbanization in Maharashtra from 1901-2011



Source: Census of India, 1901 to 2011

Table No. 2: Decadal Growth rate of Population in Maharashtra

Year	Total Population in %	Urban Population in %	Rural Population in %
1991- 2001	22.73	34.57	15.25
2001- 2011	15.99	23.67	10.34

Source: Census of India, 1991 to 2011

H) The Proportion of Rural and Urban Population in Maharashtra:

The proportion of rural and urban residents of the total population was 61.31 percent and 38.69 percent respectively in 1991, the special figures in 2001 were 57.57 percent and 42.43 percent and in 2011 they were 54.77 percent and 45.23 percent (Table 3).

Table No.3 The proportion of Total Population by Residence in Maharashtra (1991-2011)

Year	Rural Population in %	Urban Population in %
1991	61.31	38.69
2001	57.57	42.43
2011	54.77	45.23

Source: Census of India, 1991 to 2011

At the district level during the period 2001-2011, Nandurbar district recorded the highest growth rate of 23.62 per cent in rural areas. Warda (-3.99 percent), Raigad (-0.63 percent), Ratnagiri (-10.34 percent) and Sindudurg (-5.68 percent) showed a negative growth rate. Raigarh showed the highest growth rate in urban areas of 81.89 per cent, next to this is Gadchiroli (75.34 per cent) followed by Gondia (57.36 per cent) and Aurangabad (48.70 per cent). Only the Mumbai city area showed a negative growth rate of -5.75 per cent. Except for this region, all regions showed more than 8 percent growth rate for the urban area.

I) Large Cities in Maharashtra:

The highest population growth among more than one million cities was recorded for Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (94.60 per cent) in Maharashtra (2001 census), which is part of the Pune Metropolitan District. Pune, which is also included in the same metropolitan area, is experiencing a very high rate of urbanization. This is mainly due to the rapid growth of the IT sector. Although the IT industry in India has more than three decades of history, its take-off in major software industries is a recent phenomenon. The list of most populous cities in Maharashtra is given below (Table 4).

Table No. 4: Large Population Cities (Municipal Corporation) in Maharashtra

Cities	Total Population		Population Growth Rate (%)
	2001	2011	
Mumbai	1,19,76,439	12,478,447	4.19
Pune	25,38,473	3,115,431	22.73
Nagpur	20,52,066	2,405,421	17.22
Thane	12,62,551	1,818,872	44.06
Nashik	10,77,236	1,486,973	38.04
Kalyan and Dombivali	11,93,512	1,246,381	4.43
Aurangabad	8,73,311	1,171,330	34.13
Navi Mumbai	7,04,002	1,119,477	59.02

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

Until 1981, there were 26 districts in Maharashtra. This number increased to 30 in 1991 and then to 35 in 2011. The levels of urbanization in these 35 regions in 1991, 2001 and 2011 are shown in (Chart No. 2.)

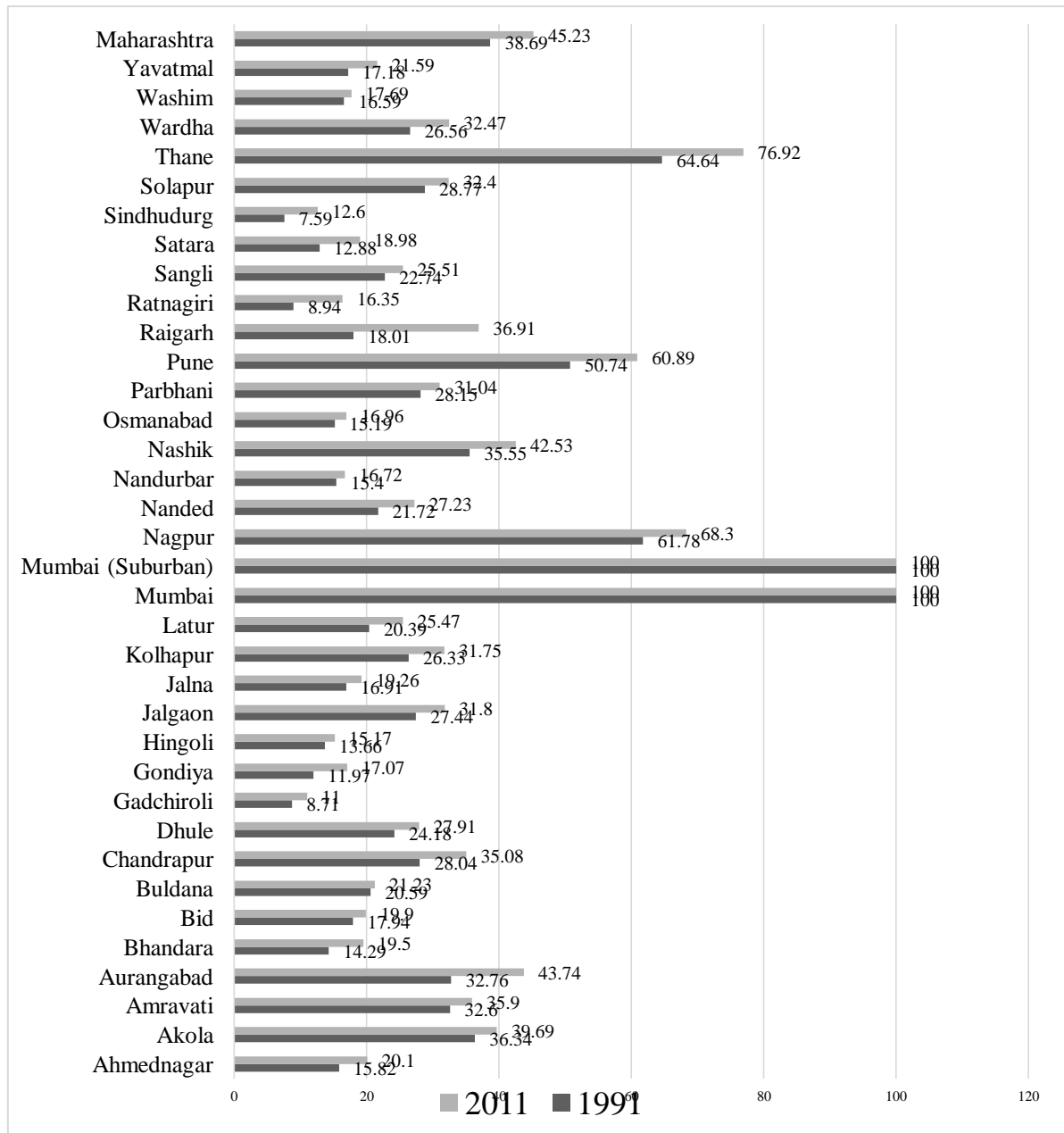


Chart No. 2: Level of Urbanization (%) by district, Maharashtra (1991-2011)

Source: Director of Census Operations, Maharashtra 1991, 2001 & 2011

Of the 35 districts, five counties showed a higher level of urbanization than the state average. These included the districts of Mumbai, Mumbai (suburbs), Thane, Nagpur and Pune (Table 8). The relatively high degree of urbanization in these areas may be associated with the high concentration of information technology industries, transportation facilities and available utility services (educational, health, service and manufacturing activities) in the cities. The remaining 30 regions showed a degree of urbanization below the state average. Mumbai and the Mumbai suburbs were entirely urban areas in all three decades. Gadchiroli was the least urban area in 1981 with only 2.43 percent of the population living in urban areas. In 1991, Sindhudurg became the least urbanized area in the state with 7.59 per cent of its population living in urban areas. In 2011, Gadchiroli, again with 11.00 percent of its population living in urban areas, was the least urban in the state.

J) The Issues and Challenges of Urbanization in Maharashtra State:

Due to unplanned urbanization, Maharashtra faces a lot of problems like unemployment, electricity problem, pollution, social problems, improper sanitation facilities etc. Rapid rise in urban population in India leads to many problems such as increase in slums and declining standard of living in urban areas, which has also caused environmental damage. The following problems should be highlighted.

- 1) **Overpopulation:** Overpopulation is a condition in which many people live in a very small space. Overcrowding is a logical consequence of urban overpopulation. Cities with large populations are, of course, expected to be confined to a small area of overcrowding. This is well displayed by almost all major cities in India.
- 2) **Urban Expansion:** The urban spread or real expansion of cities, both in terms of population and in geographical area, of rapidly growing cities is the root cause of urban problems. In most cities, the economic base is unable to deal with the problems arising from its excessive size. Mass migration from rural areas as well as from small towns to major cities occurred almost uniformly; Which increases the size of cities.
- 3) **Housing Problems:** Providing housing for the growing urban population will be the biggest challenge for the government. The increasing cost of homes



compared to the income of the urban middle class has made it impossible for the majority of the lower income groups as they reside in crowded housing, many without proper ventilation, lighting, water supply, sewage system, etc. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) introduced the concept of “housing poverty” which includes “individuals and families who lack safe, secure and sanitary shelter, with basic infrastructure such as piped water and adequate provision of sanitation, sanitation and removal of household waste”.

- 4) **Illegal Settlements:** Slums cannot be clearly distinguished from illegal settlements in practice except that slums are relatively more stable and are located in the old inner parts of cities compared to illegal settlements which are relatively temporary and often scattered throughout the city, especially the outer regions where urban areas merge with remote rural areas. Usually, illegal settlements contain temporary housing built without official permission (i.e. on unauthorized land).
- 5) **Vulnerability in Sanitation Condition:** The poor state of sanitation is another grim feature in urban areas especially in slums and unauthorized settlements in urban areas. The sewage system in many unorganized colonies and slums is either non-existent and if present in poor condition and in small portions which leads to clogging of the sewage. These unsanitary conditions lead to many sanitation related diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria. Unsafe garbage disposal is one of the critical problems in urban areas, and garbage management has always been a major challenge.
- 6) **Garbage Dumping Problem:** As Indian cities grow in number and size; the problem of garbage disposal is assuming alarming proportions. The huge amounts of garbage our cities produce poses a serious health problem. Most cities do not have proper garbage disposal arrangements and current landfills are full to the brim. These landfills are hotbeds of countless diseases and toxins that seep into their surroundings.
- 7) **Environmental Issues:** Exposure to risks posed by increased man-made and natural disasters. The risk is greater in urban areas due to density and overcrowding. Urban areas are turning into heat islands, groundwater is not



being recharged, and the water crisis continues. Here, mandatory water harvesting will be useful.

8) Pressure on the Water Supply: What is one of the most important elements of nature for the sustainability of life. Since the beginning of urban civilization, settlement sites have always been chosen taking into account the availability of water for the inhabitants of the settlement. However, the supply of water began to fall short of the demand as cities grew in size and number.

9) Urban Poverty and Unemployment: Almost one third of the urban population today lives below the poverty line. There are stark disparities between haves and have-nots in urban areas. The challenge of poverty is undoubtedly the most pressing urban challenge; The challenge of reducing exploitation, alleviating misery and creating more humane conditions for the urban poor. The unemployment problem is no less serious than the housing problem mentioned above. Urban unemployment in India is estimated at 15 to 25 percent of the labour force. This percentage is higher among the educated.

10) The stress on the Transportation System and Infrastructure: As high-income individuals buy more private vehicles and use less public transportation. This huge number of vehicles in cities causes more traffic congestion, which in turn reduces the efficiency of public transportation. The penetration of public transportation is also less, which makes people use private vehicles. Public transportation is less suitable for people with disabilities. There is also a lack of infrastructure and poor maintenance of the existing public transport infrastructure.

K) Conclusion:

Maharashtra has experienced rapid urban growth. Maharashtra has the highest level of urbanization in India at 45.23 per cent compared to 29.5 per cent as the all India average in 2011. During the first decade of the 20th century, the decadal growth rate was 0.35 per cent in India and Maharashtra was 0.99 per cent to the census. 1901. It is noted that the population of India is on a continuous increase from 1901 to 2011 minimum urbanization was observed in 1911 i.e. 10.29 per cent. This percentage of the urban population across India averaged 31.16 per cent in 2011. This percentage of the



urban population of Maharashtra averaged 45.23 per cent in 2011. The road as a growth engine for the nation's economy through the centres Urban calls for more focus on urban development. The sheer importance of urban centres for population well-being, poverty reduction, inclusive growth and support for the nation's economy, makes the time to consider India's urban challenges separately, and strategize anew, focusing on urban issues and not simply expanding existing development strategies, with less emphasis on urban issues. India's new urban development program needs to be implemented in parallel with rural development programs for the overall development of the nation.

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