



Impact of globalization, urbanization and economic changes on construction and experience of children in childhood and adolescent age.

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Introduction : Over the past two decades the world has seen urbanisation reach a scale that has permanently changed the physical, social and economic landscape of many low- and middle-income countries. In 2011 an estimated 3.63 billion people lived in cities, compared to 3.34 billion in rural areas. Of the 3.63 billion people in cities, 2.67 billion were in cities in less-developed regions. Urbanisation proceeded fastest in the developing world, growing by 3.3 per cent a year from 1970 to 2011, compared to 0.89 per cent in more developed areas.¹ Over the 20 years from 1990 to 2010, in 139 low- and middle-income countries, the population of small urban areas (less than one million people) grew by 65.7 per cent, large urban areas (one million or more) by 71.8 per cent, and rural areas by just 14.0 per cent.

Any consideration of the impact of urbanism must take into account many variables. The behaviour and values of persons who may be affected by urban influence the geo-graphical location of the persons, whether residing in cities or the hinterlands the effects on the political, economic and occupational organization of the cities or the hinterlands, the health, education and general welfare of individuals involved. It must also be kept in mind that the social and cultural systems of societies differ and that these differences invariably have a bearing on the interaction between a city and its hinterland

The impact of urbanization can be seen as societies become increasingly urbanized, social emphasis is placed on achievement rather than on ascription. Urbanization has brought about many changes in various spheres of urban life, namely physical, social, psychological and cultural aspects.

These aspects are elaborated here.

i. Physical Aspects

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Industrialization has resulted in an increase in urban population, which creates further pressure on urban land. As a result, there is a dearth of space, and consequently congestion and overcrowding occur. The municipal authorities are now finding it difficult to even provide the basic amenities to the migrated and the existing population of the city. The basic amenities include consumer goods (food and water), shelter and protection from infectious diseases. Another major consequence of an increase in population is the imbalance created between demand and supply of goods and commodities. The prices rise exorbitantly due to inflation and lack of adequate supply.

ii. Social Aspects

Increasing number of inhabitants in a settlement beyond a certain limit affect the relationship between them and the character of the city. The greater the number of individuals participating in a process of interaction, the greater is the potential of differentiation between them whereby the personal traits, the occupations, the cultural life and the ideas, and beliefs and values get widely separated.

These variations give rise to the spatial segregation of individuals. The bonds of kinship, neighborliness and sentiments of living together for generations are absent among these people due to such diverse origin and backgrounds. In such circumstances, competition and formal control mechanisms substitute for the bonds of solidarity that hold a folk or a village society together.

The high mobility in the urban life enables an individual to assume diverse roles. This, in turn, leads to instability and insecurity in the world at large. The city dweller thus is in a transitory habitat, does not generate binding traditions and sentiments and only rarely is found to be neighborly. All these have led to the growth of a number of social problems.

- Family
- Crime
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Prostitution
- Gambling



- Beggary
- Conflicts

iii. Psychological

The level of assimilation in the urban areas is concerned with the psychological aspects of adjustment acquiring the values, meanings, sentiments, prejudices or ideologies of that particular community. The problem of assimilation is more for migrants as they usually come from different backgrounds and struggle to settle down in the migrated cities. The rapid changes in the economical sphere with globalization and liberalization are the change in the economical sphere, with globalization and liberalization in bring-ing about many changes influencing the life of people residing in urban areas also. Take for instance, India only after 1991; many business processing outsourcing (BPO) companies have started functioning in almost all the major urban centres. The result is that many young people have shifted to these organizations because they pay better and also the working conditions in these organizations are better, but the problem here is these organizations expect their employees to work for longer hours and sometimes in night shifts. Such changes are affecting the individual's social life, including his/her family life.

- Alcoholism
- Stress

iv. Cultural

Urban impact may occur at different parts of a region or sub-region, and in many different ways, as urban culture becomes diffused beyond a city's political boundary. The cultural content may be disseminated by human carriers, who transmit their ideas, techniques, skills and modes of behaviour through interpersonal contacts or by mass transportation and communication. A villager, who has lived or worked in a city and returns to his/her village, is a carrier capable of transmitting to his village kin or friends some of the culture he/she has acquired through urban residence.

- Impersonality of Social Relations
- Mechanical Way of Life
- Urban Outlook



v. Economical

Economic impact of urbanization on villages can be seen in two ways economic impact caused due to industrialization and economic impact due to migration of inhabitants in search of livelihood.

- Industrialization
- Migration

vi. Political

In urban areas, one can find many new immigrants. These new comers do not have the same social connections as the original inhabitants, so they increasingly resort to developing informal social networks for their survival. In the process, some rural traditional forms of organizations are formed. Various forces try to exploit these organizations for personal or political gain. Once the members of the organizations start understanding their importance, they start exercising authority collectively. In course of time, these organizations may take the form of political parties. Sometimes, the urban people may only influence the existing political party's future in a democratic country.

vii. Environment

Today's urban environment is not a natural environment. It is an artificial environment created by man. The high density of population and rapid industrialization have polluted the urban environment to a great extent. The problem of environmental pollution has become a serious threat to the urban environment. The unhygienic conditions in which majority of the urban people are living because of the high cost of installing pollution control devices are expected to bring the paradoxical trap of poverty and pollution in the long run.

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