

URBANISATION AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN HUMAN AFFAIRS

- The process of urbanisation is reflected in:
 - A shift in the economy away from primary activities and towards manufacturing and services
 - More people living in built-up areas
 - The physical spread of built up areas
- The importance of this process in human affairs involves:
 - By 2050 = expected that 66% of the global population live in urban areas and most will be concentrated in Asia and Africa
 - The challenge = providing these growing urban areas with the basic resources that people need to manage the strain on the environment
 - Urban areas are absorbing the pressure of global migration patterns and also the movement of people from rural to urban areas within a country as agricultural practices are transformed
 - Major challenge for the 21st century = sustainable growth of cities

POPULATION GROWTH IN URBAN AREAS

- Globally, the number and proportion of people living in urban areas has increased
- In the developed world, the majority of people live in cities, but the urban population has only increased slightly since 1945
- This is because urbanisation began much earlier in the developed world than in the developing world - during the Industrial Revolution many moved to cities in search for work
- Many people are still moving to cities such as London and New York but similar numbers are leaving these cities
- In the developing world most people currently live in rural areas but this is changing
- In developing countries and emerging economies old cities are growing and new cities are forming

URBANISATION

- This is the growth in proportion of people living in urban areas
- Usually occurs because of population growth coming from migration (especially rural- urban migration) and natural increase (birth rate is higher than death rate)
- There is a wide range of living conditions, together with social and spatial sorting
- There's easier access to schools, healthcare and jobs
- Many migrants are young adults - If they have children then population increases
- In developing countries, urbanisation can result in shanty towns - unplanned and often illegal, made out of any material available

MUMBAI - URBANISATION AND ITS IMPACTS

- Mumbai has urbanised over the past 60 years and urbanised rapidly from its origins as a fishing village.
- The site of the fishing village soon became a port region as the site favoured development.
- Protected from the Arabian Sea it had access to sea on two sides - a major port.
- The British viewed the port as the "Gateway to India"
- The port became industrialised – processing goods for export and handling imports.
- The city grew during British rule as variety of services grew up around the port and continued to grow
- The original urbanisation phase of Mumbai focussed upon the southern tip of Salsette Island, and outside of this the city suburbanised in a Northern direction.
- The causes of urbanisation involve a high level of natural increase within Mumbai itself and in-migration principally from the surrounding district of Maharashtra but also from neighbouring states.
- Mumbai booming economy means that migrants come for job opportunities in the expanding industries, financial institutions and administration.
- Mumbai has grown in a Northern direction limited by physical geography - It is limited in where it can grow with creek systems to the North and East, the Arabian Sea to the West and its harbour to the south East.

SUBURBANISATION

- This is the migration of people from city centres to the outskirts of cities
- As urbanisation increases, city centres become overcrowded and people desire more space.
- Improvement to transport links means people can live further away and commute to work.
- Many people chose to move to the suburbs when they have children or retire.
- A complex pattern of wealthy and poorer areas develops. Wealthier middle class people may move to the suburbs where there is a better quality of life.
- Those left behind are poorer and may include foreign immigrants – can lead to economic and ethnic segregation

SUBURBANISATION IN MUMBAI

- Suburbanisation occurred in a Northwards direction along major transport routes and now in an Eastward direction.
- Suburbanisation has involved the growth of residential areas and the relocation and growth of new industrial areas.
 - 1930s to 1940s - The rise of Shivaji Park area, Matunga and Mahim as the outlying suburbs
 - 1960s (post independence) - Inner suburbs in southern Salsette and Chembur-Trombay had emerged
 - 1970s - Assimilation of the extended suburbs beyond Vile-Parle and Ghatkopar.
- The northwards movement along rail and road corridors comes first. Next, the areas around these communication links are developed. Third, these areas extend outwards and can involve reclaiming land next to mangroves, and slopes in the hills of Salsette can be colonised too.
- The railway stations have areas around them that have become shopping fronts. The reclaimed areas house the wealthier middle and upper classes, but poorer people will build huts and full shanties can grow on the poorest quality land
- This suburbanisation has had consequences:
 - Less than a third of the population of Mumbai lives in the 'island' city.
 - The centre of density of population has shifted from the island city well into suburban Salsette.
 - The commuter traffic has changed. Rather than being just one way into the Central Business District (CBD) in the south of the city in the mornings there is an increasing movement of people in the opposite direction. Increasing industrialisation of the suburbs is increasing this movement.

COUNTER-URBANISATION

- This is the movement of people out of the city in surrounding villages and rural areas
- Improvements in transport mean people can commute to work better communications (internet access) allow people to work from home
- People leave cities because of high property prices and overcrowding. Some people may just prefer quieter rural areas.
- Counter-urbanisation can lead to new housing estates being built in rural areas.
- House prices may increase, meaning that some local people (e.g. young people) can't afford to live there.
- It can change the age structure of the area, e.g. average age may increase.