

Understanding Urban Growth: Implications For Our Environment



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Abstract: *The research paper is about the impacts of urbanization on environmental degradation and it mainly focuses on how different factors contribute in urbanization and how different cultures influence environment. The research paper highlights the key factors of environmental degradation and what are the impacts of environmental degradation on human beings and other living beings. It also focuses on cultural aspects, how environment shape culture and how environment is influenced by culture. Importance of healthy environment and cons of degraded environment is also being discussed in this research paper. Through two different theories, modernization and ecological, environmental degradation is discussed with relation to urbanization. Conceptual framework is also done on various concepts that contributes in environmental degradation. Relationship between urbanization and environmental degradation is defined through theoretical and conceptual frameworks. Explanatory methodology is used in this research and different methods such as articles review, online surveys and personal observation are conducted to obtain desire results. Both primary and secondary data is use in this research paper. 80 respondents recorded their responses and viewpoints on urbanization and environmental degradation and more than 50% respondents think that Environmental degradation is the result of urbanization. Role of anthropologists is also discussed in this research paper and how anthropological theories play important role in environment protection and preservation.*

Keywords: Environmental degradation, urbanization, population, ecosystem, development, culture.

Introduction:

Urbanization is a process of making an area more develop. Urbanization is a process of making an area more develop. It is defined as the rapid increase in population growth and industrialization. Urbanization is done with an increase in the extent of citie. Rapid increase in the formation and development of cities because of the migration of people from rural areas to urban. People move from rural areas like villages and other far underdeveloping areas to more developed, advance urban areas and get settled there.

Urban areas are comprised of;

- Advance technology.
- Better job opportunities.
- Quality life style.
- More resources.
- Better growth opportunities.
- Quality education system.
- Improved healthcare facilities.

People are moving from rural areas to urban areas for better resources, life style and opportunities, causing an increase in the needs

of houses, water, food and other resources. Meeting the housing needs of increasing population forest lands are being used and deforestation is increasing day by day, causing environmental degradation.

Environment refers to all living and non-living things, ecosystem, atmosphere, landscapes, mountains, rivers, forests and climate. It is the study of complex relationships between human and natural factors and how they effect each other.

Environment plays a vital role in making life possible on earth.

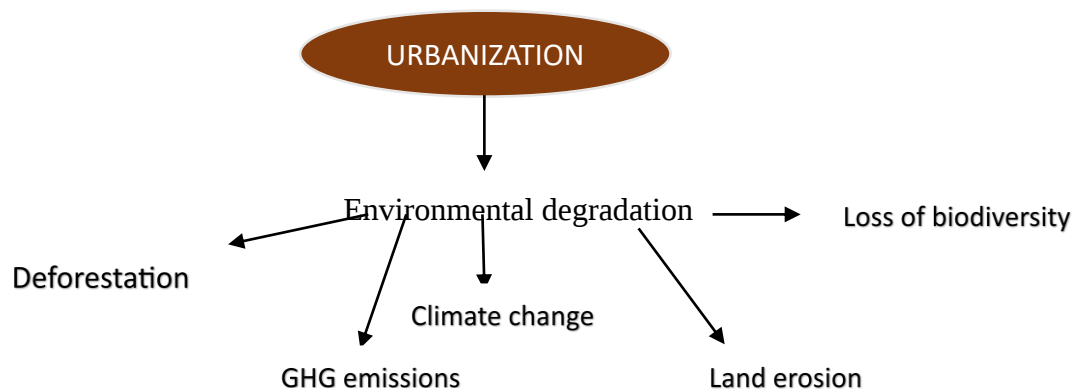
- Healthy environment supports multitude of plants and animals.
- Pollution free air contributes in healthy life on earth.
- Proper rainfall pattern increase food productivity.
- Contributes in economic development as many industries such as agriculture, fisheries depends on environment.

People perceive environment differently on the bases of their cultural beliefs and values. Some may see environment as sacred for example

hindus worship different trees and cows. Other may see it as a economic use such as mostly develop nations cut down trees and use the land for housing purposes and commercial use and some may see it as a source of food such as some african tribes eat wild fruits.

Urbanization is effecting environment in the form of deforestation, water pollution, air pollution, climatic change, change in rainfall patterns and melting of glaciers. Lack of urban management is resulting in many problems such as environmental degradation, extinction of many species, global warming and food insecurity.

While planning for any urbanization project keeping in view its effects on environment is very crucial aspect that's why its important to do development that is environmental friendly and has less negative impact on environment. Urbanization is contributing in environmental degradation at large scale. Environmental degradation refers to the disturbance in environment or weakening of natural environment because of human activities such as deforestation, soil erosion, over fishing, pollution and desertification.



- Deforestation: It refers to the cutting down of the trees at larger scale to use land for different purposes. Increase in population increases the demand for the use of land for housing purpose. Cutting down trees without any reforestation policies and measures can lead to soil erosion.
- Climate change: climate change refers to the change in weather and atmospheric

conditions over a long period of time in a large area. It refers to the shifts in the atmospheric temperature over a long period of time. Climate change is influence by human activities such as burning of fossils, release of harmful gases in air and other activities.

- GHG emissions: It refers to the green house gases such as methane, carbon dioxide

and nutritious gases, that release in the atmosphere and contribute in global warming and climate change.

Environmental degradation mostly effect underdevelop nations as compare to develop ones but develop nations contribute more in environmental degradation. Here we can see the concept of environmental injustice. Environmental injustice refer to the unequal contribution of harmful effects and benefits of environment.

Urbanization effects environment through different ways, such as;

- Burning of fossil fuels for energy.
- Industrial waste and smoke.
- Deforestation
- Use of excessive vehicals release harmful gases in air.
- Infrastructure can lead to habitate destruction.
- Over fishing can lead to loss of maraine life.
- Improper sanitation and hygeine system.

Population in urban areas increase due to two factors, increasing in fertility rates and increasing in migration rates. Fertility rates in urban areas is less than rural areas but migration rate in urban areas is very high. Urban population interacts with their environment through land use, food consumption, water resources and use of energy but in this process they damage environment, pollute it and effects quality of life in urban areas.

Environmental friendly development needs to be done in urban areas such as housing patterns should be in the form of buildings instead of large houses. It will use less forest area and encourage less deforestation.

The article mainly focus on the major environmental problems that have been faced due to the urbanization, role of urbanization in environmental degradation and how environment effect lives on earth, what are the consequences of environmental degradation and how to cope up with these issues, what are the

environmental friendly polices and measures of development.

Environmental degradation is a serious issue and it is important to take measures to protect environment and its habitate for the proper functioning of ecosystem.

Review of literature:

Many scholars, sociologists and researchers have done work on the impacts of rapid urbanization on environment. Among which are;

- **Sarah Chapman et Al.(2017),**

In her article “The impact of urbanization and climate change on urban temperatures: a systematic review” she conducted a research on how temperatures rises in Urban areas because of technology and other factors involve in urbanization. She mainly focused on urban heat islands. Urban heat islands means increase in the temperature of urban areas making the weather of Urban areas hot. For her research she reviewed scientific articles systemmetically from 2000 to 2016 to study the impact of urbanization on future urban temperatures.

The results shows that urbanization influence urban temperatures at large by increasing temperatures on some areas and decreasing temperatures at other areas, which means urbanization has a significant role in the fluctuatations of environment.

- **Martin Dallimer et Al.(2022),**

He talk about climate injustice. People are being affected by climate differently. Some are facing more consequences than others.

Martin Dallimer with 2 others write an article on “The impacts of urbanisation and climate change on the urban thermal environment in Africa”. In his research he focused on the future environmental changes and challenges emerging because of urbanization and how these changes influence urban people.

According to his research and study,by the end of 2050, 60% of continent’s population of Africa will be settled in urban areas which in result increase urbanization and it cause environmenal changes and destruction such as changes in urban thermal environment.

- **Mohamad I Hejazi and Momcilo Markus et Al.(2009),**

The article “Impacts of urbanization and climate variability on floods in Northeastern Illinois” explores the effects of urbanization and climate variability on floods in North-eastern Illinois.

The study is conducted in 12 develop urban areas about annual floods and it reveales an increase in the ratio and impact of flooding over recent decades , making more damage . The rise in floods frequency is a result of extensive urbanization and a growing occurrence of heavy rainfall. The average urbanization of the 12 watersheds surged from 10.6% in 1954 to 61.8% in 1996.

The study employs a design storm approach and the Hydrologic Engineering Center for Hydrologic Modeling System (HEC-HMS) model to calculate design flood peaks, using calibrated parameters from observed data.

Methodology:

This paper uses explanatory methodology to examine the relationship between urbanization and environmental degradation keeping in view the other factors discussed by researchers. The paper will explain how urbanization influence environment through the perspectives of earlier researches done by researchers and view points of people on it.

The purpose of explanatory methodology in research is to explain relationships or connection between different factors. It often employes quantitative methods to reveal geber connections or relationships between factors or variables. It dig deeper into why certain outcomes occur, through data analysis, conducting different experiments and using different statistical models to provide explanations and generate results of observed phenomena.

This report reveals why urbanization is happening and how it is effecting environment. This paper uncovers the undefined factors and variables that contributes in environmental degradation because of urbanization. This report is based on both secondary and primary data. Number of articles are reviewed on the causes of

environmental degradation, relationship between urbanization and environmental degradation and what factors contribute in urbanization.

The research paper also discusses the measures regarding environment protection and preservation. What is the role of government, public and anthropologists in it.

Conclusion:

Environmental degradation is the process of making an environment more damage and it is cause by urbanization and other various factors that result in the formation of urban areas. Environmental degradation can not be fully eliminated but it can be controled and it effects can be decreased. For the survival it is important to ensure healthy environment and for this purpose emergency measures need to be taken.

Urbanization is a part of development but while proposing urban development plans it is crucial for urban planners and developers to keep in mind the environment and urbanization impact on environment. Development is not a wrongful act but developing at the cost of destructing environment and ecosystem is not the right way to do progress.

More than 50% respondents think that urbanization is damaging environment and it's key contributors are increase in population, human activities, over consumption of natural resources and pollution. Collected data shows that according to 53.6% respondents environment preservation programs and planing should be made alongside with urban planning and development. It will bring positive change in environment and make environment safe and friendly for living beings.

Urbanization should be done including green development and nature protection. Urbanization has destroyed environment terribly and is still destroying it at alraming point. Collaborative efforts are required to save the world from environmental degradation and to ensure survival. Government, policymakers, anthropologists and communities should work together for environment protection and preservation. We all need to come on one page

and do efforts for environment protection. Responsible measures, sustainable practices and environmental favorism policies can protect environment.

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