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ABSTRACT

Urbanisation can be said as the development in infrastructure, development of settlement areas, usually near river valleys, which support the growth of agriculture, innovations in the town planning, canal planning, Agricultural settlements emerged in many parts of the subcontinent, including north India, the Deccan Plateau, and parts of Karnataka. Besides, there is evidence of pastoral populations in the Deccan and further south. New modes of disposal of the dead, including the making of elaborate stone structures known as megaliths, emerged in central and south India from the first millennium BCE. In many cases, the dead were buried with a rich range of iron tools and weapons. From c. sixth century BCE, Results show that Karnataka exhibits a fluctuating trend of urbanisation with a high regional variation and a high urban primacy. Disparities exists in urban growth with Bangalore being the most urbanized district (90.94%) and Kodagu the least (14.61%). Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts were urbanizing faster than 2.5% in 2001-2011 while Uttara Kannada, Raichur and Gadad have registered very slow growth. Seventy percent of urban population lives in 10% of towns/urban agglomeration, with Bangalore being the primate city (11PI = 3.09). There is positive association between city-size and growth rate during 2001 to 2011. Thus, urbanization in Karnataka reflects lopsided economic developments across the state and needs special attention.

There is evidence that there were other trends as well. Perhaps the most visible was the emergence of early states, empires and kingdoms. Underlying these political processes were



other changes, evident in the ways in which agricultural production was organised. Simultaneously, new towns appeared almost throughout the subcontinent. Historians attempt to understand these developments by drawing on a range of sources – inscriptions, texts, coins and visual material. As we will see, this is a complex process. You will also notice that these sources do not tell the entire story; the research paper explains the situation of urbanisation in Karnataka from the past.

KEY WORDS:

Urban Growth, Polarisation, Karnataka, Spatial Pattern, Temporal Changes, Regional Disparity

INTRODUCTION

Karnataka is the seventh largest state in India with 38.67% of urban population as of 2011. With 1 out of every 7 people in Karnataka living in Bangalore, it addresses pertinent questions as to how much of this growth is contributed by various regional pockets. This paper aims to identify regional imbalances in urban growth in Karnataka from 1991 to 2011 at the regional, divisional and district level and to examine the distribution of urban population across cities during the same period. It uses secondary data from the Census of India to compute measures of percent urban population, urban rural growth differential (URGD), Gini coefficient/Lorenz curve and primacy index (PI).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Harvey, Castells (1977) argues that the state plays a critical and central role in the organization of the four spheres that define advanced capitalist society, i.e., production,



consumption, exchange and politics. The state mediates between the various elements that constitute the urban system and engages in dialectical relationships with capitalist interests, elite groups, its own employees and the „masses“. Since the city is the spatial location of capitalist development, it is the city, and hence space, that reflects the workings and outcomes of this relationship.

McGee (1969) and Armstrong (1985) critiqued the theory that urbanization starts with early industrialization when people migrate from rural to urban areas proceeding with industrial expansion and proportionate increase of urban population. He also critiqued those theorists that highlighted the decline in the process of urbanization by means of the model that uses demographic and economic aspects of understanding city growth.

Castells (1977, 1983) has entered into this debate by extending the dependency approach. He refers to social movements emerging as a result of „urban contradictions“, namely those related to the production, distribution and management of the collective consumption of goods and services and states that the urban crisis is directly linked to the phenomenon of marginality.

Causes for Urbanisation

- **Natural increase of population:** It occurs when the number of births exceeds the number of deaths.
- **Rural to urban migration:** It is driven by **pull factors** (that attract people to urban areas) and **push factors** (that drive people away from the rural areas).
- Employment opportunities, educational institutions and urban lifestyle are the main **pull factors**.



- Poor living conditions, lack of educational and economic opportunities and poor health care facilities are the main **push factors**

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the trends and patterns of urbanization in Karnataka.
- To highlight the factors influencing the process of urbanization in Karnataka
- To study the importance of urbanisation in Karnataka and its benefits.
- To understand the causes of urbanisation

FINDINGS

- Urbanization in Karnataka The urbanization in the country between 1901 till now proves that the level of urbanization in Karnataka has always been higher than the country level, except for slight decline in Karnataka during 1951-1961 (22.95% to 22.3%).
- Karnataka is the seventh largest state in 626 Karnataka Economic Survey 2021-22 India with 38.67% of urban population as of 2011. Bengaluru continues to have the primacy over other large cities of Karnataka with the urbanization rate of 90.94%.
- Bengaluru has established itself as a large primate city engulfing many urban villages, its erstwhile satellite towns and has its influence beyond the state's jurisdiction! The data released by the directorate of economics and statistics for 2018-19 stated that 84 villages have been erased from the map and got merged with due to rapid urbanization.



- During the decade starting from 2011 onwards, there have been efforts by the Government of Karnataka to mitigate the regional imbalances on the basis of Dr. Nanjundappa Report.
- The Central and the State Government's various initiatives, especially the Aatmanirbhar Bharath program, the digital India initiatives, the development of core road network across all regions, emphasis on Port development, the rejuvenation of 26 amrith cities, Karnataka Land Reforms, the Ayushman Bharath health schemes, and most importantly the initiatives by the Ministry of Jalshakthi has made the regions of Karnataka more vibrant than before.
- However, Karnataka is below the national average on the provision of affordable housing, and waste management (SDG-11), Drinking water and sanitation (SDG-6), Broad band ecosystem (SDG-9), higher percentage of ground water withdrawal (SDG-12), climate action initiatives (SDG-13), coastal water quality and increase of area under mangroves (SDG-14) and tree cover as a proportion to geographic area (SDG-15). However, Karnataka stands 4th place in overall index, as per SDG 2030-Strategies & action plan for Karnataka prepared during 2020.

CONCLUSION

Urbanization in Karnataka and India since 1901 was through different measures of urbanisation. It shows that level of urbanisation in Karnataka has always been higher than the country level. The proportion of population living in urban area has always been increasing since 1911 for India and the state, except for slight decline in Karnataka during 1951-1961 (22.95% to 22.3%). However, when the population of Karnataka is corrected for the declassification of towns as per new definition of urban adopted in 1961, the per cent



urban in 1951 declines to 20.78%. Similarly for India, the revised estimates (based on Puri, 1986) also indicate an overestimation of urban population in 1951. Regarding URGD, both Karnataka and India experienced more growth in urban population than the rural population since 1911. URGD was recorded highest during 1941-1951 followed by 1971-1981 when urban population was growing 2% faster than rural population. During the last decade, the population in urban and rural Karnataka increased by 5.6 million and 2.5 million respectively, with the URGD crossing 2% compared to 1.6 in India.

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