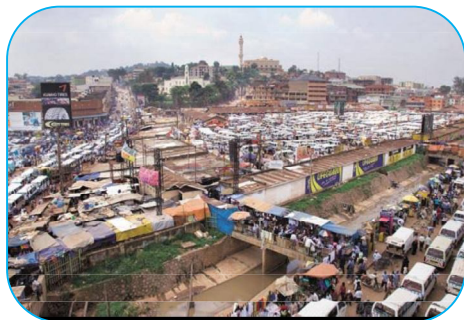




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MIGRATION EFFECT ON URBANIZATION

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ABSTRACT:

In the last 50 years the India has seen an exogenous decline in mortality that generated a decline in fertility and an increase in urbanization that has had profound economic, social and political consequences. However, historically, declines in mortality and fertility, and escape from the Malthusian trap, have required country to have already undergone considerable economic and political development. We therefore argue for two way causality between the demographic transition and economic and political outcomes.

KEYWORDS: urbanization , fertility, and escape.

INTRODUCTION:-

The last 300 years have seen three remarkable changes in human society. One is the demographic transition, substantial reductions in mortality rates set off a population explosion, followed by reductions in fertility that are leading to stable, and in some cases declining, population numbers. A second is economic growth, the emergence for the first time in history of sustained increases in income per capita. The third is an increasing social and political equality, particularly between men and women, with the adoption of democracy and universal adult franchise.

The 21st Century can be said to be the century of cities. More than quarter half the India's population already lives in cities – in 2050 it will most likely be more than half of the population. Cities and metropolitan areas have meanwhile become the main habitat of the human race. Cities are the dynamic growth centers of our time, places where the opportunities and challenges of sustainable development all come together.

MEASURING URBANIZATION IN INDIA

Before we examine recent trends in India's urbanisation, it is important to set out how India defines urban areas and the consequences of this for empirical analysis. India has a stringent definition of "urban", which was first set out during the 1961 census. Three measures are used to define an urban area: (1) a population of 5,000 or more; (2) a

density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile; and (3) at least 75% of workers engaged in nonagricultural employment. Criticism of this demanding criterion gravitates around the oversimplification of this classification, with a particular focus on the complexity associated with suburban or peri-urban areas. A second criticism relates to the bureaucratic procedures associated with redrawing municipal boundaries as cities and towns expand. Local officials have to report such changes through the office of the deputy commissioner or district magistrate and then open up the proposed changes to a period of public consideration that invariably results in delays and can even halt adjustments. Local politicians may be averse to the prospect of urban classification if they face reductions in intergovernmental transfers and public transfers. These delays can

be observed during the expansion of urban status between the 2001 and 2011 census. According to a recent World Bank report, while 2,774 settlements exhibited urban characteristics between the two census rounds, only 147 were granted official urban status (World Bank, 2013). The remaining settlements are urban in character only. Together, these rigidities are likely to downward bias India's urban statistics and result in a number of measurement challenges. This is especially problematic given that peri-urbanisation – the expansion of India's metropolitan areas – stands out as one of the most striking features associated with India's spatial development. One way in which we can address rural-urban classifications is to construct a continuous measure of "urbanisation" based on population density. Gollin, Kirchberger and Lagakos (2014) construct such a measure to look at rural-urban differences in well-being using sub-national data from the DHS. Another approach is to consider the use of night lights data, which can be used to reclassify and track the development of urban areas, thereby addressing the rigidities associated with urban classification, in India and around the world. Harari (2014) combines night lights with historical city maps to examine the geometry of cities and the consequences of city shape for commuting costs. Additionally, one could use remote-sensing data to directly map urban areas. This approach would likely provide a more precise measure of urbanisation but compared to the use of night lights, seems more rigid in the tracking of urban development over time. The optimal measure (in the face of present data constraints) is likely the combination of these measures, which is similar to the approach taken by Harari (2014).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND URBANIZATION IN INDIA

In the last decade the number of towns has increased by over 50%, driven by a substantial increase in the number of census towns classified according to the conditions set out in the 1961 census, as described in the previous section. In addition, there was a 25% increase in urban agglomerations, defined as a continuous urban spread comprising a town and its adjoining outgrowths, or two or more physically contiguous towns together, with or without outgrowths of such towns. This significant increase in towns and agglomerations has resulted in a 14.3% reduction in the average population size of towns (including cities), with rural settlements increasing in size by around 12%. Together, these observations are indicative of substantial urban expansion in the last decade, well above the trend observed since independence.

By 2039, 50 per cent of India's population would begin to live in urban areas (projections based on UN World Urbanization Prospects). The challenge over the next 30 years is to take advantage of the potential benefits of urbanization and agglomeration in an inclusive way. The actual urban population registered in 2011 has left all projections way behind.

Population (in Millions)			
Year	Total	Urban	Rural
1961	439.2	360.3	78.9
1971	548.2	439.1	109.1
1981	683.3	523.8	159.5
1991	846.3	628.7	217.6
2001	1028.6	742.5	286.1
2011	1210.2	833.1	377.1

India is making a slow but steady shift from 'rural' to 'urban'.

Level of Urbanisation	
Year	Urban
1961	17.96
1971	19.90
1981	23.34
1991	25.71
2001	27.81
2011	31.16

Population growth during 2001-2011 was evenly divided between rural and urban settlements, with a marginal edge for urban settlements. From now on, population growth is expected to be largely an urban phenomenon. The number of towns has jumped from 5,161 to 7,935 between 2001 & 2011 - a net addition of 2,774 towns. The bulk of the increase is due to the addition of 2,532 census towns, which are 'urban' by definition, but 'rural' in governance.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have argued that in many cases when urban governments try to reduce or control rural-urban migration, this also affects low-income residents and not just migrants. Blaming urban poverty on migrants is not realistic, as not all migrants are poor. In many cities, however, migrants form a large proportion of the urban poor with whom they share income and non-income disadvantages, including difficulties in finding adequate housing and in accessing services. At the same time, like the majority of the urban poor, they work long hours in low-paid, insecure and unsafe jobs and are exposed to a wide range of environmental hazards because of the lack of basic infrastructure in most low-income and informal settlements.

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