



## TOP HEAVY CHARACTERS OF URBANISATION: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF INDIA AND GUJARAT

Ritika Prasad

Junior Research Scholar , Department of Geography, Lucknow University , Lucknow.

### ABSTRACT

*An urban area is characterized by higher population density and vast human features in comparison to areas surrounding it. There is a strong positive link between national levels of human development and urbanization levels. Cities play a major role not only as providers of employment, shelter and services but also as centres of culture, learning and technological development, and portals to the rest of the world, industrial centres for the processing of agricultural produce and manufacturing, and places to generate income. Gujarat is one of the developed states in India. Urbanisation is one area where Gujarat is ahead of other states. Here, in this paper we analyse the top heavy characters which attribute to the growth of urban population in class I cities and also the factors that are responsible for higher rate of urbanisation in the state than the country from 1981 to 2011. Census of India and Town Directory of Census of India has been used from 1981 and 2011. The analysis of the trends and patterns of urbanisation in the state is in the context of changing urban governance and commercialisation of basic services.*

**KEY WORD:** urbanisation, class-wise growth, growth rate, population, development and urban governance.

### INTRODUCTION

Urban areas may be cities, towns or conurbations, but the term is not commonly extended to rural settlements such as villages and hamlets. Urban areas are created and further developed by the process of urbanization. Measuring the extent of an urban area helps in analysing population density and urban sprawl, and in determining urban and rural populations.

In the Census of India 2011, the definition of urban area adopted is as follows:

- All statutory places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee etc.
- A place satisfying the following three criteria simultaneously
  - A minimum population of 5,000
  - At least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits
  - A density of population of at least 400 per sq. km. (1,000 per sq. mile).

The accumulation of people, their consumption patterns, travel behaviour and their urban economic activities have a large impact on the environment in terms of resource consumption and waste discharges. However, cities also offer opportunities to manage a growing population in a sustainable way. Increasing levels of urbanization are caused by natural growth of the urban population and migration of the rural population towards cities.

Over the past half century, a great rural-to-urban population shift has occurred and the process of urbanization (the concentration of people and activities into areas classified as urban) is set to continue well into the 21st century. Driving forces include the opportunities and



services offered in urban areas especially jobs and education while in some parts of the world, notably Africa, conflict, land degradation and exhaustion of natural resources are also important (UNEP 2000).

Cities play a major role not only as providers of employment, shelter and services but also as centres of culture, learning and technological development and portals to the rest of the world, industrial centres for the processing of agricultural produce and manufacturing, and places to generate income. However, the implications of rapid urban growth include increasing unemployment, environmental degradation, lack of urban services, overburdening of existing infrastructure and lack of access to land, finance and adequate shelter. Managing the urban environment sustainable will therefore become one of the major challenges for the future.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

To study the top heavy characters of Gujarat and its comparison with India, by using following data analysis

- To analyse the trends of urban population to the total population in India from 1981 to 2011.
- To study the class-wise growth of urban population in Gujarat in 1981 to 2011.
- To compare the percentage and growth rate of urban population in India and Gujarat in 1981 to 2011.
- To study the comparison between class-wise growth of percent urban population in India and Gujarat from 1981 to 2011.

**DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY**

Census of India and Town Directory of Census of India has been used from 1981 and 2011, this is referred as the data provided is authentic and each and every person is enumerated in the census.

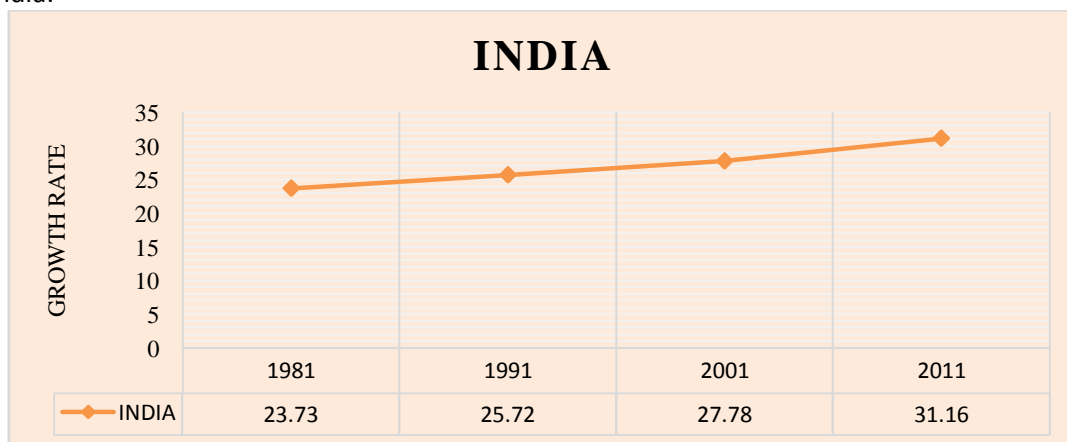
To calculate the percentage of urban population in India and Gujarat and also the class-wise percent of urban population in India and Gujarat the following formula has been used

$$\frac{\text{Number of Urban Population}}{\text{Total Population}} \times 100$$

Various statistical techniques have been used. To show growth rate of urbanisation in India and Gujarat line graph has been used and it is the appropriate method to represent trends such as urbanisation. To show the proportion of population in each class in Gujarat from 1981 to 2011 simple bar diagram has been used.

**TRENDS OF URBANISATION IN INDIA**

Fig 1: Growth Rate of Urban Population to the Total Population in the Year 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 in India.



Source: Census of India (1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011)

The regional variations in the distribution of urban population are significant. A large proportion is concentrated in six most developed states, namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab, and West Bengal, accounting for about half of the country's urban population. By the 2011 Census, they report percentage of urban population much above the national average of 31.16, whereas the less developed states report significantly low figures. Indeed, the levels of urbanization are high in the states with high per capita income and vice versa.

Since independence, from 1981-1991, the developed states that have high percentage of people in urban areas have shown medium or low growth of urban population. High urban growth has however been registered in relatively underdeveloped states, that is Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, the states that have low percentages of urban population. This implies that the relationship between urban growth and economic development is generally negative. However, some of the developed states like Maharashtra and Haryana are exceptions, as they record urban growth rates higher than the country average.

Urban scenario in the post-independence period has, thus, been characterized by dualism. The developed states attracted population in urban areas due to industrialization and infrastructure investment. Interestingly, the less developed states too, particularly their rural districts that is, districts having predominantly rural population earlier and small and medium towns, experienced rapid urban growth. This can partly be attributed to government sponsored infrastructural investment in the district and *taluka* headquarters, programmes of urban industrial dispersal, and transfer of funds from the states to local bodies through a need based or what is popularly known as 'a gap filling' approach. A part of RU migration into smaller towns from their rural hinterland in less developed states could, however, be explained in terms of push factors, owing to lack of diversification in agrarian economy.

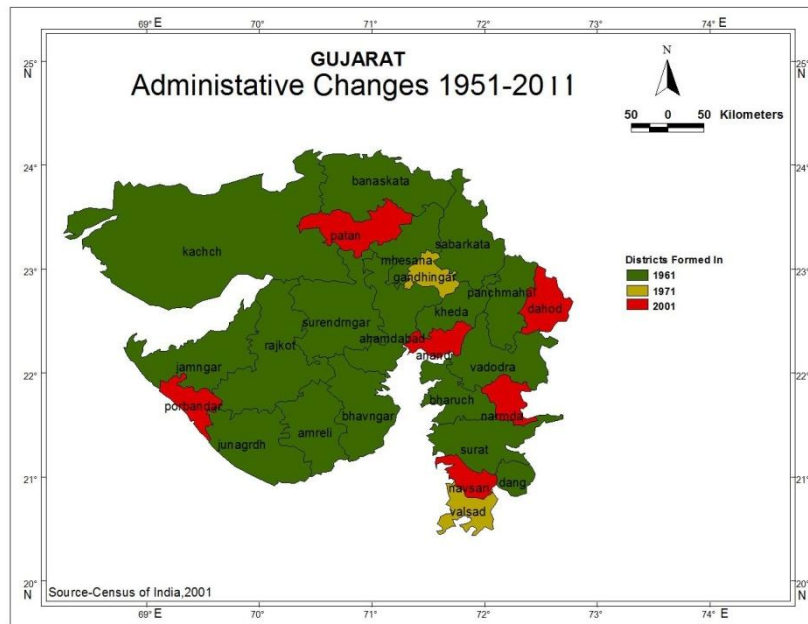
The 1990s, however, make a significant departure from the earlier decades, since many of the developed states like Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra and Gujarat have registered urban growth above the national average. Karnataka has remained slightly below the national average and West Bengal is an exception whose growth rate is low due to specific policies followed by the state government.

The backward states, on the other hand, have experienced growth either below that of the country or, at the most, equal to that. Making a comparison the growth rates for developed states have either gone up or remained the same in the 1990s. The backward states, however, have recorded either a decline or stability in their urban growth. The urbanization process has, thus, become more concentrated in developed regions with the exclusion of backward areas in recent years.

This is also reflected in the larger cities recording relatively higher growth when compared to smaller towns. This could, at least partly, and rather paradoxically, be attributed to the measures of decentralization whereby the responsibilities of resource mobilization and launching infrastructural projects have been given to local bodies, as noted below. Large municipal bodies that have a strong economic base, particularly those located in developed states, have an advantage that has clearly been manifested in their high economic and demographic growth.

### **GUJARAT CASE STUDY: TOP HEAVY CHARACTERS**

Gujarat is a state in western India. It has an area of 75,686 sq. mi (196,030 km<sup>2</sup>) with a coastline of 1,600 km, most of which lies on the Kathiawar peninsula, and a population in excess of 60 million. The state is bordered by Rajasthan to the north, Maharashtra to the south, Madhya Pradesh to the east and the Arabian Sea as well as the Pakistani province of Sindh on the west. Its capital is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad.

**Fig.2. Map of Gujarat: Administrative Division**

Source: Made by the author.

Gujarat has the highest rate of urbanisation among all other states in the country. The fast pace of urbanisation in Gujarat is mainly due to intra-state migration with large sections of rural people migrating to urban areas within the state instead of going out. The census report has found that 6.5% of all urban households in Gujarat are of migrants from within the state, which is the highest in the country.

The proportion of population living in cities (100,000+) has increased as against either stagnant or declining proportion in the medium (20000) towns. The growth rates of population by size classes bring out the higher growth rates of large cities as compared to small towns. The increasing tendency of concentration of urban population in big cities is not unique to India but a worldwide phenomenon.

The concept of settlement hierarchy subsumes within it the pyramidal arrangement of the settlement system. The efficiency and efficacy of the pyramidal settlement structure and associated settlement hierarchies are now generally less controversial. When we reflect on the attempts to match the top-heavy, inverted pyramidal structure of Indian urban centres against the normative arrangement we find that there is a tacit assumption that the various urban size-classes hierarchy is identified on discrete classes that define step-like distributions. We must delink the size class distribution from the concept of settlement hierarchy and therefore from a normative pyramidal arrangement.

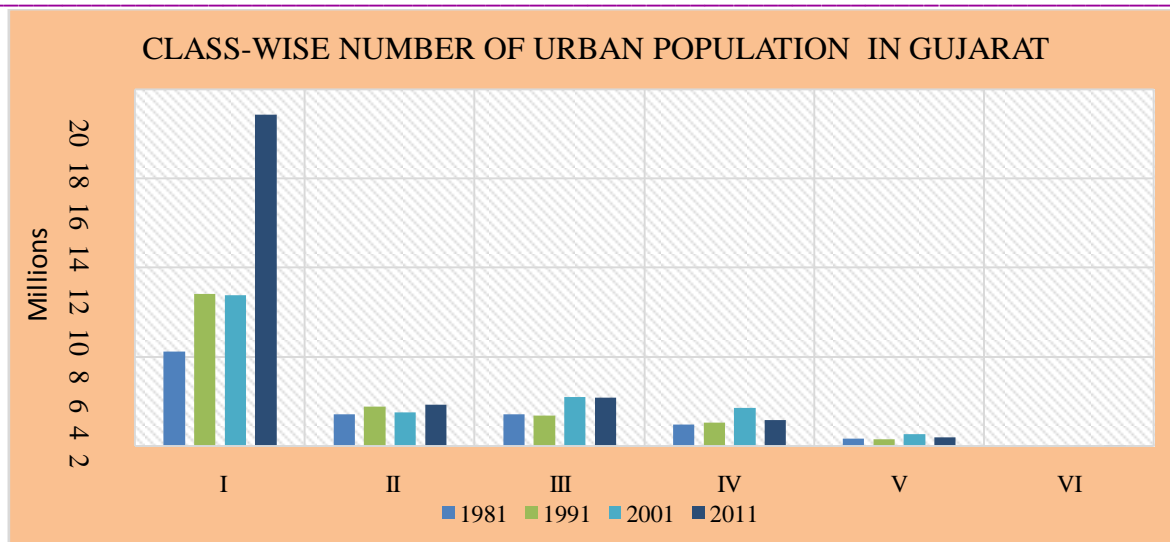


Fig 3: Class-wise number of urban population in 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 in Gujarat.

TABLE 1: CLASS-WISE NUMBER OF URBAN POPULATION IN GUJARAT

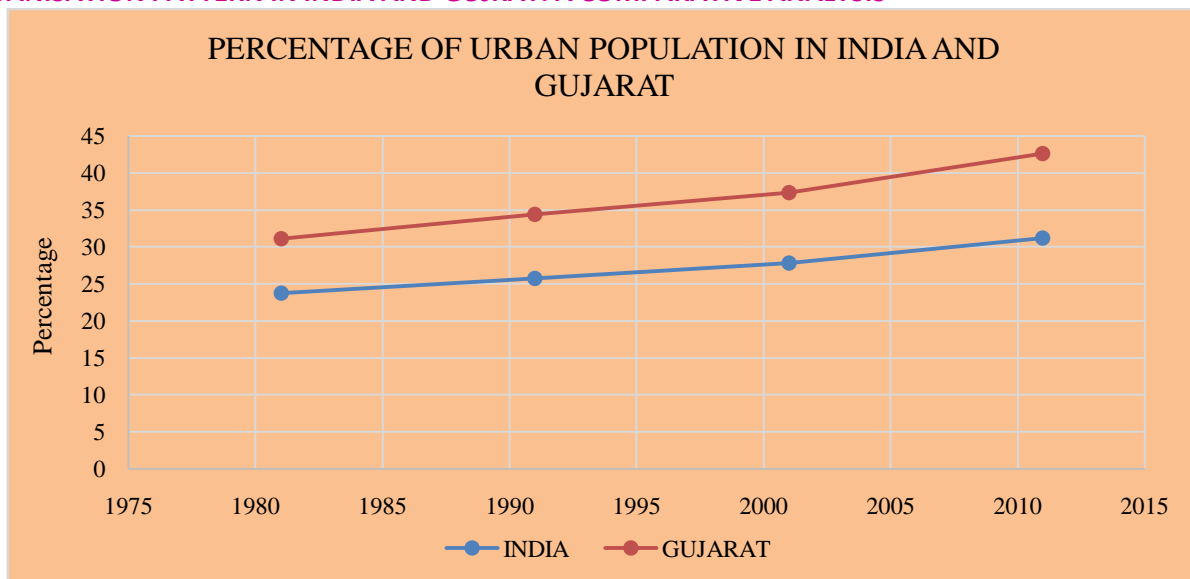
CLASS OF TOWNS	1981	1991	2001	2011
CLASS I	5316142	8539515	8466818	18580506
CLASS II	1801840	2206874	1893954	2325689
CLASS III	1782548	1723974	2748187	2707695
CLASS IV	1215757	1339892	2132441	1485735
CLASS V	415092	401032	686170	484436
CLASS VI	34274	34774	33757	71222

Source: Census of India (1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011)

Fig 3 shows the growth rates in class I cities turn out to be higher than that in the lower order towns in Gujarat. It can be analysed that the growth rate urban of population is greater in class I in 1981-2011. This reason to this is development in industry and infrastructure and services like roads, railways connectivity, increase in the hospitals and educational institutions, betterment of recreational centres( cinemas and stadiums), these are the characters which has made the class I cities top heavy. For example, Ahmedabad city which is the largest city of the state falls under class I town size, its growth is strongly related to the rise of the indigenous industrial sector of cotton industry. Driven by the growth of textile industry the city attracted migration from areas around Gujarat. Due to these reasons there is a shift of population from lower order towns to class I towns in Gujarat.

There is deceleration of population in each class size during 1981 and 1991. This however is a national phenomenon since the decline is observed in all the states. But in 2001 and 2011 there is an increase in the population from class II to class III town. This can be attributed to the migration of people. This is because many of these towns have been established through some public or private sector projects, administrative or military decisions and some other special consideration.

**URBANISATION PATTERN IN INDIA AND GUJRAT: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**



**Fig 4: Percentage and growth rate of urban population in India and Gujarat in 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011.**

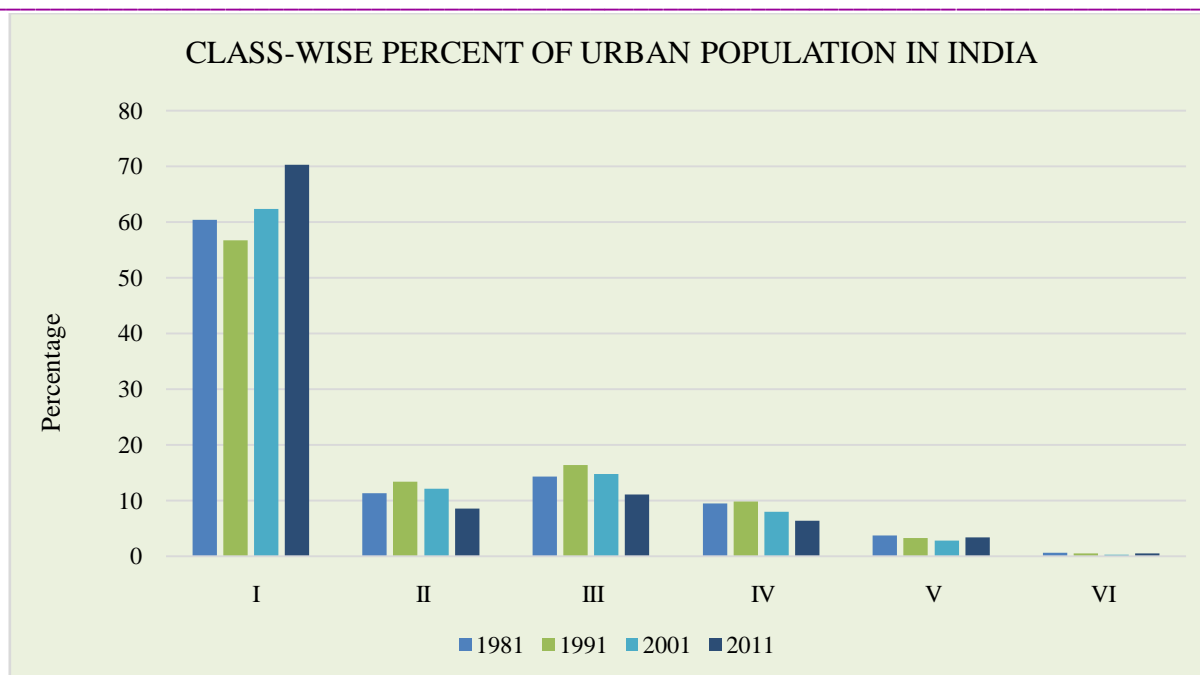
**TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE OF URBAN POPULATION IN INDIA AND GUJARAT**

YEARS	INDIA	GUJARAT
1981	23.73	31.08
1991	25.72	34.40
2001	27.78	37.35
2011	31.16	42.6

*Source: Census of India (1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011)*

The state of Gujarat has experienced a rapid growth of population, much above that of the country since 1981. This could be attributed, besides a lower death rate particularly of children, to high rate of immigration. The reports show an increase in population growth rate during eighties, bringing it above the national level. The pace of urbanisation in the state, has apparently been more than that in the country. The urban population in the state during 1981-91, for example, has grown at 3.32 per cent which is less than that of the country, which is 1.99 per cent. One may infer from this that the present rate of urbanisation in Gujarat is high and accelerating over time.

Gujarat has registered a reasonably high rate of interstate (male) immigration both in rural as well as urban areas during 1981-91, 1991- 2001 and 2001- 2011. It is next only to Maharashtra. More importantly, Gujarat is the only state where the rate of immigration from outside the state has gone up significantly during the eighties, both in rural as well as urban areas. It is, thus, evident that arrival of workers from outside the state is an important factor responsible for the pace of urbanisation in the state.

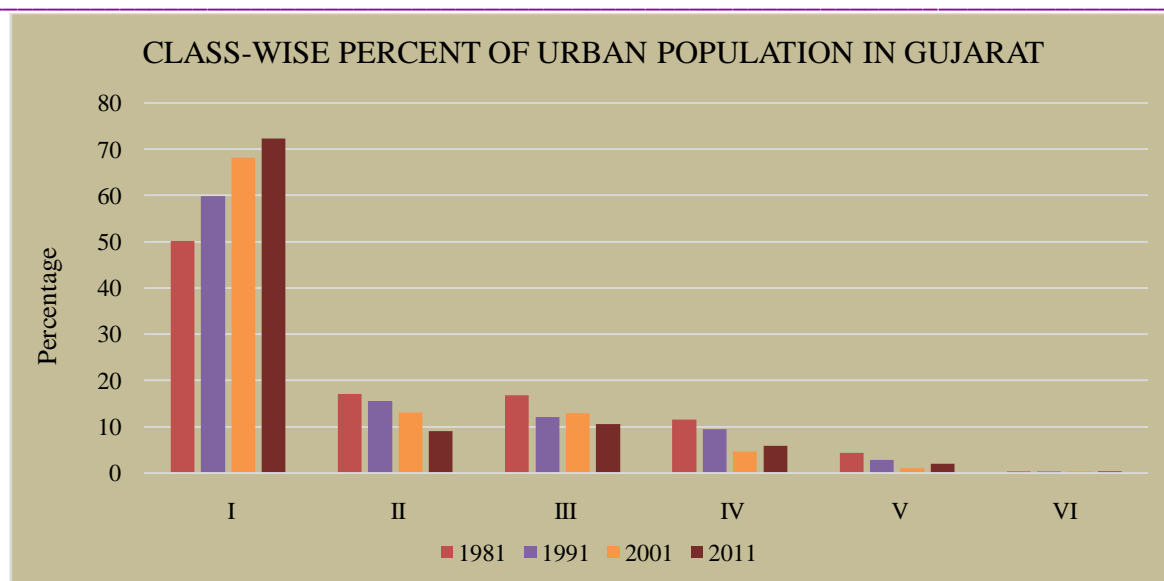


**Fig 5: Class-wise growth of percent urban population in India.**

**TABLE 3: CLASS-WISE PERCENT OF URBAN POPULATION IN INDIA**

CLASSES	1981	1991	2001	2011
CLASS I	60.32	56.67	62.29	70.20
CLASS II	11.32	13.33	12.04	8.5
CLASS III	14.30	16.34	14.72	11.05
CLASS IV	9.43	9.76	7.90	6.36
CLASS V	3.66	3.24	2.75	3.35
CLASS VI	0.62	0.45	0.2	0.44

*Source: Census of India (1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011)*



**Fig. 6: Class-wise growth of percent urban population in Gujarat**

**TABLE 4: CLASS-WISE PERCENT OF URBAN POPULATION IN GUJARAT**

CLASSES	1981	1991	2001	2011
CLASS I	50.14	59.94	68.24	72.42
CLASS II	16.99	15.49	13.00	9.06
CLASS III	16.81	12.10	12.91	10.55
CLASS IV	11.46	9.40	4.60	5.79
CLASS V	4.25	2.81	0.99	1.88
CLASSVI	0.32	0.24	0.22	0.27

*Source: Census of India (1981, 199, 2001 and 2011)*

The distribution of population in different size classes of urban centres in the state is similar to that of the country. About 72 per cent of the total urban population is in class I-cities having populations of one lakh or more. Another 20 per cent live in class II and III towns in the size class between 20,000 and 1, 00,000. A similar pattern is observed in other developed states like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, as also at the national level. Some of the other developed states like Maharashtra and West Bengal have much higher share of population in Class I cities. The less developed states like Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, on the other hand, have a lower share of population in this size class. One would, therefore argue that the structure of urban population in the state of Gujarat is similar to that of the developed states in the country.

The demographic growth profile for different size classes of urban centres, computed by considering only those towns that belonged to a class in the base year, reveals an interesting pattern. The growth rates in class I cities turn out to be higher than that in the lower order towns in the country. This was the case not only in the nineties but also in the eighties.

Importantly, class I cities in Gujarat exhibit a higher growth rates than the smaller towns, as noted at the national level. A similar pattern emerges in the case of other developed states like Karnataka,



Maharashtra, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu. In most of the less developed states, however, the class I cities do not have an edge over other categories in terms of demographic growth. The class VI towns in the state have not grown at a faster rate than the class I cities, as is the case for several other states. This is because there are not many special purpose towns among them in Gujarat.

Another significant point is the deceleration of urban growth in Gujarat in all size categories during 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. This, however, is a national phenomenon since the decline is observed in all the states. Importantly, the ratio of the growth rate for class I cities to that of overall urban growth rate is higher in Gujarat than that in the country in 1981 as well as 1991 2001 and 2011. This highlights the primacy of these cities, not merely in terms of their share in urban population but also a relatively higher growth rate.

## CONCLUSION

Gujarat is one of the developed states in India. Urbanisation is one area where Gujarat is ahead of other states. The large cities of Gujarat today emerged initially as small towns and for various reasons climbed more rapidly than other in the size class ladder. The emergence of these large cities has continually narrowed spatial urban gaps. The rapid growth of large cities are based on the comparison of population under specified size classes are different, what really accounts for the decline in population of class II, V and VI towns have entered class I category. The economic policies that gave a fillip to heavy industries from the first five plan and industrial location policies is to a large extent responsible for the rapid growth of population in large urban concentrations. It is not the so much that the size that attracts growth but the functions that the cities perform. At the local level factors like town-hinterland relationships, transport network accessibility and the ability of the towns to organise its surrounding space contribute to the growth of urban space.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Data on population growth and classwise growth in urban population: Town Directory census of India, 1981 to 2001.
2. S.P. Kashyap (2002); Dynamics of Development in Gujarat; centre for development alternatives, Ahmedabad.
3. Amitabh Kundu(1999); trends and patterns of urbanisation in India.
4. Rully Damayanti (2009); urban shape of Ahmedabad city.
5. Gopal Krishan (1993), The slowing down of Indian urbanisation: Geography, Vol. 78, No. 1 , pp. 80-84: Geographical Association Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40572232>
6. Reza Ali (2002) : Underestimating Urbanisation: Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 37, No. 44/45, pp. 4554-4555Published by: Economic and Political Weekly Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4412815> .
7. Prabir C. Bhattacharya (2002): Urbanisation in Developing Countries: Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 37, No. 41, pp. 4219-4221+4223-4228 : Economic and Political Weekly Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4412720>
8. V. Nath (1986): Urbanisation in India: Review and Prospects: Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 21, No. 8, pp. 339-352: Economic and Political Weekly Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4375369>



**Ritika Prasad**

**Junior Research Scholar , Department of Geography, Lucknow University , Lucknow.**