The nature of the urbanization

Definition

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- Urbanization is the growth of towns and cities which leads to an increase in percentage of a country’s population in urban settlement.
- Or it is the shift of population from rural to urban lading to growth of towns and cities.

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- Urban settlements are differing from rural settlement in four ways:
- In economy : people make their living by manufacturing rather than agriculture
- In size, larger in population and extent.
- In density: both the densities of people and houses are higher
- In the way of life

Level of urbanization

- The level of urbanization means the percentage of the people living in urban settlement. It is higher in HICs and MICs than the LICs of Africa and Asia.
- During the last half of the twentieth century 1950- 2000, world's population doubled but the urban population more than trebled. i.e. just over half the world's population lives now in urban areas.

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- As areal example is that how the number of population some countries in Africa have dramatically increased since 1950 see the table below.

High rates of population increase of selected African countries since 1951.

No	COUNTRY	1950	2015	Increase
01	Nigeria	25,000,000	138882000	high
02	Gambia	19602	1501000	high
03	kenya	5700000	31640000	high
04	somaliland	890000	3500000	high

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- At present day the rate of urbanization and the speed of city growth are much higher in the LICs because:
- Most new economic development are concentrated in the big cities
- The push and pull factors are leading to high rural to urban migration.
- Their cities are experiencing high rates of natural increase in population.

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- The gradual spread of urban way of life into the rural settlement due to the modern transport and communication is called the **rural dilution.**

Stages of urbanization

- The urbanization pathway is a graph showing how the level of urbanization of a country changes over time.
- it passes through four stages as it develops economically:

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- Stage 1: the early urbanization is when a country starts at a very low level of urbanization because of low economy in as LICs.
- Stage 2: the accelerating urbanization is when the rate of economic development and urbanization of a country speeds up.

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- Stage 3: the mature urbanization is when pace of economic development and the rate of urbanization of a country slow as HICs
- Stage 4: the counter urbanization is when the level of urbanization begins to flatten and two thirds of the country’s population living urban settlement as HICs.

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- A counter urbanization is the movement of people away from cities into smaller towns and villages and the S- shaped curve of the pathway begins to drop.

Urbanization processes

- Urban settlements starts from agglomeration, is a group of houses or settlement which have spread and grown together to merge with others, because of the concentration of people and economic activities at favorable location like at river crossing point, estuary mouths or close to a mineral resources.

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- Suburbanization: begins as towns grow and this is process of outward expansion of the old town by adding to the built up area and the new suburbs consists of houses, shopping centers, places of employment and services

The creation of suburbs is encouraged by:

- The improvements in transport allowing people to move easily between the new suburb and old town center.
- The overcrowding, congestion and rising land prices in the older town.
- A generally decline in the quality of residential environment near the centers.
- The arrival of more people (mainly from rural) and new businesses.

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- Agglomeration and suburbanization processes result the formation of cities and when the towns and cities locating close to one another join together into a one vast continuous built up are is known as a **conurbation.**

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- Dormitory settlement is smaller urban area often in rural settlement in which people moved out of the cities to live and sleep while they are commuters because they continue to have links with the towns or city they have left by commuting to places of work and to make use of urban services, like shops, colleges and hospitals. The process in which people and employment move away from conurbations and cities to smaller towns or rural areas is called **counter urbanization.**

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- The urbanization processes can be put on timeline of sequence which can be married up with the urbanization pathway, and the speed of a country along the pathway, and the speed of a country along the pathway is largely controlled by its pace of economic development.
- In early stages agglomeration and suburbanization do take place but
- In the later stages decentralization and counter urbanization become more important

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- Another two new process begin to appear in HIC cities:
- Urban regeneration: is a process of improvement and renewal of old inner parts of cities abandoned by the people and businesses so as to allow the reimaging and re-using of it again. The regeneration of deserted docklands and warehouses of London is a good example
- Urbanization of suburb

The emergence of megacity

- Since 1900 London and Paris were the only two millionaire cities (a big city of more than one million people) but now there are about 400.
- A megacity is a big city with a population of over 10 million. In 1970 there were only four but 24 of megacities by 2010, UN estimated 30 of them by 2015.

The growth and emergence of megacities

- Reasons for the growth and emergence of megacities involve four main factors.
- Economic development
- Population growth
- Economic of scale
- Multiplier effect

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- Megacities become powerful cores that create large peripheries around them

Largest cities in 1970

- New york
- Tokyo
- London
- Shanghai

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- Mexico city
- Los Angels
- Buenos AIRES
- Paris
- Sao Paulo
- Calcutta

Largest cities in 2000

- Tokyo
- Mumbai
- Shanghai
- Lagos
- Sao Paulo
- Jakarta
- Mexico city
- Beijing
- Karachi
- New York.

continue

- There are 31 Global or World cities, of which 7 are megacities(Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, Mexico city, New York, Rio de janeiro, Sao paulo, Seoul), but global cities are distinguished from megacities because they are recognized worldwide as places of great prestige, status, power and influence.

Worlds Global Cities

- Three of the global cities are “Top dog” New York, London and Tokyo because they are the financial centers of the global economy and each is the hub of network of smaller global cities, though Rio de janeiro, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and Sydney do locate outside this network.

Causes and problems of Rapid urbanization

- The main causes of rapid urbanization include:
- The high volume of rural – urban migration
- High rates of natural population increase
- A quickening rate of economic developments

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- The pace of urbanization is greatest in LICs, example Sao Paulo, 2nd largest in America and 5th in the world its population grew from 7 to 20 million within 40 years from 1970.
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The rapid and unplanned growth has created a range of problems including:

- Housing : housing is expensive relative to peoples income because the demand for housing exceeds the supply. So millions live in temporary Shanty or squatter settlements, these areas are called favelas in Brazil, bustees in India, and Barriadas in Peru(what we call in Somaliland isku raran, Qunyar dega or is-wadhka).

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- Access to water and electricity: few of the newcomers have access to running water, sanitation or electricity and so many create a fire risk with shacks because they light a fire to cook on.
- Traffic congestion and transport: there is no proper roads and organized public transport in shanty areas. Also overloaded, overcrowded, and traffic congestion and the atmospheric pollution by the high number of vehicles are major problems.

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- Health: there are insufficient doctors, clinics or hospitals to deal with the rapid increasing population. Also diseases and infections, such as typhoid and cholera spread quickly due to little or no access to clean water and sanitation.

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- Employment: many people are either unemployed or became part of the massive informal employment such as selling goods on streets, working as cleaner or shoe shiners or cooking and selling food by the road side. Even those working factories are not paid properly or they are many kilometers away from the work place as they live in shanty areas.

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- Education: there is lack of schools, although most manage primary but few go to secondary education because of the cost or many children have to work to help support the family.
- Social problems: shanty towns are often inhabited by violent gangs and so the rates of crimes, drug trafficking and theft are higher Sao Paulo, Brazil, one of the worlds megacities and second largest in Americas but much suffered with problems created by the rapidly unplanned urbanization.