

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: TYBA

Subject: Geography

Course Code: GED111

Course Title: Geography of Urban Settlements

Unit: Urban Places - Changing Scenario

Module Name: Patterns and trends of urbanisation in India: Case study
Mumbai

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Notes

Introduction

Urbanization represents the demographic transition or change from rural to urban areas. Demographically Mumbai is the largest city of India. It is also called as the economic and financial capital of India. It is one of the most powerful metropolises in the nation and has been witnessing a rapid growth of urbanization after the independence.

History of Mumbai

Mumbai was a fishing village until 16th century. It was developed as important port which was used by British. It started growing after the cotton growing areas were connected to Mumbai by railways. With the growth of cotton textile manufacturing units Mumbai emerged as the second largest commercial centre after Calcutta in 1888.

Geography of Mumbai

Mumbai has an area of 603 sq km. Mumbai is in the Deccan region of India and capital city of Maharashtra. It lies on the western coast of India by the Bank of Arabian Sea and is made from the group of seven islands referred as the Island city. The Islands are Isle of Bombay, Mazagaon, Colaba, Old Woman's Island, Parel, Worli, and Salsette Island.

What makes Mumbai a megacity?

Mumbai is the growing urban city of India and has gained a lot of importance due to various advantages and economic activities. Mumbai has India's biggest docks handling i.e. 25% of all India's international trade. It generates 1/6 of India's GDP and provides a 10% of India's industrial jobs. It produces 40% of India's exports and has 10 universities.

Population

Mumbai ranks 6th in the top 20 metropolitan cities of the world and has been witnessing a significant growth in its population over decades. The population of Mumbai is 20.7 million with a growth Rate of 4.7%. Population Density is 29,650 Km² and much of its population is comprised of migrants which move to Mumbai in search of a better employment and better facilities which is absent in the other areas. It has more of young population with 68% of the population falling under the age of 34. Mumbai had witnessed doubling of population since 1991.

Causes of Urban Growth

There are a lot of reasons for increase in the population of Mumbai as most of the people prefer to migrate to Mumbai in search of job opportunities and better facilities. Apart from this there is a high level of natural increase within Mumbai. The in-migration is principally from the surrounding district and states of Maharashtra. Job opportunities in the expanding industries, financial institutions and administration are the major attractions of Mumbai. Banking, finance and insurance services has made it a source of finance. It has world's largest film industry i.e. Bollywood which is providing large employment opportunities.

Characteristics of Urbanization in Mumbai

The Population of Mumbai in 2010 was over 20 million and according to some of the estimates population in 2015 has increased to over 26 million which shows a significant rise in population in just five years. Has a density of 1 million people per square mile. It is estimated that Mumbai receives 1000 new migrants per day and out of which around 9/10 are coming from rural background.

Urban Extent

The urban extent of Mumbai in 2001 was 43,000 hectares which has increasing at an average annual rate of 1.6% since 1991, when its urban extent was 36,681 hectares. The Urban Extent of Mumbai in 2014 was 70,533 hectares which has increasing at an average annual rate of 3.9% since 2001.

Consequences of Urbanization

Mumbai is one of the leading cities in India and is one of the most populated cities in India. The overcrowding of the city has led to a number of problems like

Development of slums it has Asia's second largest slum that is Dharavi where people are living in small and congested houses. This is because the standard of living is very high in Mumbai and people have to stay in the slum areas with the income they get. There is also a low tax rate.

The wage rates are also very low which is again affecting the standard of living and access to all the basic facilities.

Low quality of life for larger population in Mumbai is found due to overpopulated city and lack of resources to fulfil their needs. Overcrowding of buses and trains has caused a serious problem like 3500 people die on Mumbai suburban railway each year.

Problems of City Growth

With the growth of population there is a growth in level of pollution like the water, air, noise and lot many. There is widespread poverty and unemployment due to over population in the city. The land prices are also high resulting in development of illegal shanty towns around the city. Asia's second largest slum is Dharavi which occupies a large population of Mumbai. Poor transport links in the city also causes problem of traffic management and accidents. There are serious health problems due to pollution and lack of basic amenities in the urban areas specially the slum areas.

Conclusion

Mumbai represents one of the most diversified and vibrant economies in the country. It has witnessed a significant urban transformation after independence. Better employment, higher wages and other essential services are major attractions of Mumbai due to which it is overcrowded with limited space for expansion. The city growth has given a boost to the economy and has contributed towards the development of the nation but on the other hand the ever increase in population has caused a serious threat to the living conditions of the urban population. The competition for employment is increasing and there is a large in migration taking place in Mumbai.