

Impacts of unplanned urbanization on the socio-economic conditions and environment

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Abstract

Urbanization plays a significant role to progress and develop the human civilization because it radically changes the basic foundation of the ingredients of social, economic, political and cultural structures of a society and the country as well. Sustainable development can be acquired with the implementation of successful urban planning but a city or town even a country can be gradually unsuitable for living if the urbanization process is unplanned and haphazard. This study was based on the process of unplanned urbanization in Srinagar municipality of Jammu & Kashmir and also dealt its effects on the current socio – economic conditions. The study showed that Srinagar municipality is gradually developed owing to the unplanned urbanization yet many solemn and highly risky problems are perceiving and detecting for both human and environment such as overpopulation, haphazard housing service, health burdens, urban poverty, crime, child labor, erratic education system, mismanagement of waste, air, water, sound and soil pollutions, carbon emission, environmental hazards, traffic jam, unemployment, improper drainage system, inadequate entertainment facilities, drug abuse, vulnerable ecosystem, medley lifestyle and culture etc. Finally, the study made some highly effective suggestions and policy recommendations for escaping from these conditions by which Srinagar municipality would be familiar as a model urban region in Jammu & Kashmir.

Keywords: impacts, urbanization, socio-economic conditions

1. Introduction

The role and contribution of urbanization is undeniable to build up the present human civilization from the ancient period of time. Urbanization changes the social and economic aspects and also effects on population migration towards urban areas which are seemed to be real development centers of numerous fascinated opportunities for highly qualified civic life because the urban areas are considered to be true coordinator of both economic and demographic growth (Dociu & Dunarintu, 2012) [3]. A powerful and irreversible process is the urbanization which takes so many time to build up the today's modern civilized world. Only 3% area of the world had been urbanized for 10,000 years from the starting point of human settlement to 1,800 AD and it was 14% after a century (Annez & Buckley, 2010). The United Nations announced in 2007 that people have passed a long transition period of urbanization where 50% of the world population has been living at the first time in cities from rural areas and it is predicted that only 66% of the world population will be urbanized in 2050 (UN, 2011) [6]. Developed and standard urbanization is the center point of human expectations in the twenty-first century because it is treated by many economists as a center and bearer of economic development and poverty reduction. For this reason, researchers, experts and urban and development planners are providing various effective suggestions for making environment friendly, hygienic and balanced urbanization. Therefore, making the city life toward development, cosiness, environment friendly and viable is now the demand of time.

2. Literature Review

Uttara *et al.*, (2012) showed the impacts of urbanization on the various components of environment in the perspective of India and its metropolitan cities in which it is explained that the uncontrolled urbanization hampers the ecosystem, atmosphere

and climate, lithosphere and land resources, hydrosphere and water resources and biosphere of the metropolitan cities in India. Miao & Wu (2015) [5] showed a positive association between socioeconomic status and health is well documented and how this relationship varies with urbanization level is less clear in the context of China. Rouf & Jahan (2013) attempted to understand the complex process of urbanization as spatial and temporal patterns in Bangladesh.

3. Methodology

The objectives of this study was to focus the socio – economic consequences of the current urbanization process in Srinagar municipality. To identify the factors that are more responsible for unplanned urbanization over the study area and to make some highly effective policy recommendations which can improve the current haphazard situation of the study area. Secondary data was used to analyze the study that have been collected from different published materials and relevant writings of some scholars. After collecting the data, it was processed manually and then analyzed for making a perfect study to the readers and researchers.

4. Findings

The study revealed that due to the unplanned urbanization, human lifestyle and environment are severely neglected in implementing the unequal distribution of civic facilities and step – motherly policies of infrastructure oriented development planning and resulting that the current socio – economic and environmental conditions are being affected seriously.

4.1 Health encumbrances

Numerous new diseases such as communicable diseases namely syphilis, leprosy, dengue haemorrhagic fever, gonococcol infection, malaria, measles, typhoid, whooping

cough and typhus and non – communicable diseases are cancer, road accident, high blood pressure, cardiovascular, respiratory and injury have been arisen due to the unplanned urbanization. Non – communicable diseases are becoming a concern and these are associated with the rising dietary consumption of fats, smoking and other behavior that accompany the affluent lifestyle (Armstrong, 1993) [2]. Gastric and cervix have been reduced but coronary heart disease, lings, breast, colon, rectum, pancreas, obstruction to lungs and injury caused by accident have been increased due to the rapid modernization without maintaining proper planning.

4.2 Poverty and inequalities

Poverty is a state of individuals where they have inability of choices and preferences and to meet their basic needs. It is one of the major problems of urban areas. Many people often live in the streets or parks, beg for food and do any sorts of works to support themselves. Due to the unplanned urbanization some people are gathering huge property while in the same time there increases in the vulnerable groups in the city.

4.3 Migration and Population growth

At the primary stage of urbanization, population increases due to the rural to urban migration then the urbanization improves the medical and health care services that decreases the maternity and infant mortality rates which contribute to increase population. Despite this, if the urbanization process takes place in proper way then people become busy with their respective works and for this population rate starts decreasing in greater extend that is learned from the developed countries in the world. But if this urbanization develops without proper planning, it must increase in population and at a time it becomes impossible to control this trend

4.4 Traffic jam

Traffic jam is one of the major problems almost all the cities, there are various sizes of cars move in city that is increasing acute traffic jam and bringing human sufferings as the roads are not well spacious to manage the situation although the authorities are trying hard and soul to reduce these sufferings for the city dwellers. To deal business occupying footpath, no special car parking system, more vehicles and do not maintaining traffic rules and regulations are mainly responsible for creating traffic jam. Air pollution, noise pollution, waste of time, emitting carbon and greenhouse gas are the vital effects of traffic jam that causes respiratory disease to the city habitants. The lack of proper legal and administrative framework, inadequate technical skills, and financial resources are also responsible for traffic congestion (HABITAT, 1996).

4.5 Mismanagement of waste

The existing conditions for waste management and pollution free environment are not enough for building a planned urbanization in Srinagar municipality. Here is no proper waste management system which ultimately pollutes the air and environment. Due to various reasons the city is now afflicted with the organic and inorganic wastes, dirt and garbage There is no enough waste management systems in the municipality and for this the domestic wastes, wastes of mills and factories, various shops are reposed on the road sides. The drainage systems are also very poor and the waste are reposed on its sides

while cleaning and even in many festivals the wastes are reposed here and there.

4.6 Noisy environment

Another important problem of the unplanned urbanization is sound pollution. The main sources of sound pollution are aircrafts, industrial operations, highway, traffic, and construction activities. All sources are available in the city and these are becoming more acute and dangerous and bringing various physical and mental problems of the inhabitants like high blood pressure, sleep disturbances, loss of hearing, stress, poorer work performance, headache, indigestion, ulcer and increases anxiety etc.

4.7 Climate and temperature

In Srinagar municipality, high hot weather travels over the summer season and very cold situation is seen during the winter season. The temperature increases day by day. Finally it can said that the overall climate situation in city is intolerable for the residents.

4.8 Carbon emission

The most harmful phenomenon of the unplanned urbanization is the emission of carbon and carbon oriented substances from the different sources of the urban area. In the case of Srinagar municipality, many transports namely, buses, mini buses, cars, motor vehicles, motor bike, truck, and industries are emitting carbon di oxide, carbon monoxide, oxide of nitrogen, oxide of sulphur, hydrocarbons and their derivatives, lead and particulate matter that are contributing to various diseases like irritation and infection of eye, nose, throat and lungs. All these things are very risky for both human and environment.

4.9 Impact on occupation and income opportunities

A great combination of various occupations is seen in the planned city where the income level of the people is enough to maintain their family and themselves. But, in the case of unplanned urbanization, this combination of occupations is relatively low which increases the income inequality over time. The medium and low income people are living in such an area where they face seriously the price rising problem of necessary goods.

4.10 Improper drainage system

The existing drainage system of this municipality is not well-developed. During the rainy season dirty water from the drain flows out on the road which bears various germs and diseases. Besides, service holders, school and college going students, rickshaw pullers, auto, and bus drivers face a great problem. At this time, the roads look like a canal and men and children catch fishes on the road. It happens because the drains are not so deep, wide and clean and resulting that lots of rubbish and messy things are amassed in the drain which fill the drain and create odor pollution.

4.11 Inadequate entertainment facilities

Entertainment is the basic right of human being. Man can't live without entertainment and is the effective means of mental development. People gather to the entertaining places is the effective ideograph of developing socialization as they get enhance to learn lessons from the nature of people come to visit and establish brotherhood among them. Here, in Srinagar

municipality, is not available sources of entertaining spots for people without a few numbers of parks and play grounds which are really insufficient than actual required. Besides, there occurs various occasional fairs and even more most of these spots have already gone under the grab of the influential and puissant people that tremendously decreased the entertaining facilities for the city dwellers. Due to these limitations of parks and play grounds children become greatly deprived of this facilities of outdoor games and started passing their leisure seeing TV, playing games in computers and using social networks that undoubtedly frustrating their mental development and this turn them into monotonous.

5. Policy Recommendations

Srinagar municipality can be turned into a planned, happy, affluent, habitable and festive city through maintaining proper planning such as:

1. Reformation of the overall infrastructures especially the institutional and administrative frameworks.
2. Implementing planned afforestation by pointing trees, making gardens and also planting trees alongside the pavements, site of the roads, or even on the roofs of houses and in this regard, fast – growing trees have to be pointed in order to supply fresh oxygen; safe life of human being, animals and creatures, absorb carbon dioxide; control the intensity of climate; prevent soil erosion and protect the environment from natural calamities and greenhouse effect;
3. Ensuring new developments of residential buildings and shopping malls to take under consideration of the preservation of biodiversity, wetlands, valuable lands, watersheds and other resources viz. antiquities, reservoirs and forests.
4. Developing the efficient and effective governance based on the organizational unity.
5. Expansion of pavements for pedestrians, widening sidewalk and making rest place of the two sides of the road after some distances.
6. Implementing strict laws for protecting car parking, signboards, billboards etc.
7. Making integrated, congestion free, environmental friendly and cost effective transportation planning.
8. Giving priority on walking on foot within the city and recovering pavements which still under the grab of influential people.
9. Forming mixed area from which residents can get all available amenities close in hand to reduce unendurable sufferings.
10. Decentralization of powers and responsibilities and ensuring effectiveness of the Srinagar municipality.
11. Guaranteeing recreational facilities by building enough entertaining spots, play grounds and repairing old spots.
12. Ensuring waste management and pollution free environment by launching vehicle service for collecting waste and garbage from door to door and through these away from the town and establishing new dustbin in a row on the road sides for 1 km.
13. Reforming existing drainage system and establishing new drains and retention pond to solve the water logging problem in the municipal area.
14. Implementation of the national poverty reduction policies for the urban poverty.

15. Introducing strict laws against child labour, social crimes and drug abuse to the city dwellers.
16. Increasing public awareness by arranging various seminars, workshops, training programs and celebrate several days on the occasions about the gruesomeness of environmental effects of unplanned urbanization.
17. Stimulating recycling process and ceiling carbon emissions and energy use and finally
18. Generating diversity, beauty and health by sanctioning natural processes, taking steps for the biologically sterile environemnts and arranging the learning processes to use the enormous water, energy and nutrient resources that are the by-products of urban drainage, sewage disposal and other functions of processes of the Srinagar municipality.

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