

**REVIEW ARTICLE**

## **An Assessment of Urbanization in Rajasthan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Rapid urbanization is being experienced in the country and Rajasthan. Certain cities are growing faster than others. The urban population has been growing at a rate of 30-40 percent per decade since 1961, which is well above the rural population rate of 20 percent. The level of urban population has also been increasing from a stable level of 10 percent of total population at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century to a current level of around 30 percent. This increasing urbanization is putting lot of pressure on urban civic infrastructure services as the demand for such services is multiplying many folds. Municipal finances hold an important key to the production and delivery of these civic infrastructure services. Urban areas are administered by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of different size, structure and jurisdiction. They are categorized into municipal corporations, municipal councils and municipalities of various classes, based on parameters like population, revenue generation and any other historical or special features.*

**Keywords :** Urbanization, urban local bodies, populations, census, urban agglomerations (UAs)

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Rajasthan is the largest state of India accounting for 10% of its geographical area. Rajasthan is considered as one of the moderately urbanized state of the Indian Union. The urban population of Rajasthan has increased to 17.08 million in 2011 from 10.06 million in 1991, showing an increase of 7.02 million in absolute terms. The number of towns having a population more than 1 lakh has increased from 4 in 1951 to 30 in 2011. These towns and cities together accommodate more than half of the state's urban population. In Rajasthan there are seven Divisional Headquarters, at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Kota, Ajmer and Bharatpur. These cities and towns accommodate about 40 percent of urban population of Rajasthan.

### **TRENDS OF URBANIZATION IN RAJASTHAN DURING 1901-2011 :**

The urban part of the total population of Rajasthan during 1901 to 1951 was more than the India's urban population, later that it consistently decreases as compare to Indian urban population.

The urban population of state was 15.06% of total population of state in 1901. Then there was negative decennial growth in urban population compared to total population of state in 1911 and 1921, compared to 1901. Since 1931 to 1951 positive decennial growth was observed and in 1961 it shown dipping. Since 1961, the urban population as proportion of total population has increased continuously from 16.28% in 1961 to 24.91 percent in 2011 (Table 1). The growth in urban population was maximum during 1971-1981. However, across the decades, the growth of urban population has been higher than the population growth, though the gap in growth has narrowed down over the decades. The growth in urbanization is due to natural growth of population, net migration and changes in definition and designation of new location as urban settlements.

**Table - 1: Ratio of Urban Population in India and Rajasthan**

Year	Ratio of percentage Urban Population	
	India	Rajasthan
1901	10.84	15.06
1911	10.29	13.44
1921	11.18	14.33
1931	11.99	14.72
1941	13.86	15.27
1951	17.29	18.50
1961	17.97	16.28
1971	19.91	17.63
1981	23.31	21.05
1991	25.73	22.88
2001	27.78	23.38
2011	31.96	24.91

**Source : Census of India and Rajasthan**

As shown vide Table-2 the number of Urban Agglomerations (UAs)/i.e. cities/towns has increased from 135 in 1901 to 297 in 2011 in the state. The urban population of the state registered a negative decennial growth of 4.83 and 0.03% in 1911 and 1921 respectively. Thereafter, it has shown an increasing trend by registering a growth of 39.59 per cent in 1951. After dipping to 11.04 per cent in 1961, it recorded the highest decennial growth of 58.69% in 1981. Since then it has shown a declining trend by recording 39.62, 31.26, and 29.20 percent in 1991, 2001, and 2011 respectively, as depicted in Table-2.

**Table -2: Trends of Urbanization in Rajasthan, 1901-2011**

Census Year	Total number of UAs/Towns	Total Population of the State	Total Urban Population	Percent Urban Population	Decennial Growth	
					Absolute	Percent
1901	135	10294090	1550656	15.06	-	-
1911	138	10983509	1475829	13.44	-74827	-4.83
1921	147	10292648	1475335	14.33	-494	-0.03
1931	150	11747974	1729205	14.72	+253870	+17.21
1941	157	13863859	2117101	15.27	+387896	+22.43
1951	227	15970774	2955275	18.50	+838174	+39.59
1961	145	20155602	3281478	16.28	+326203	+11.04
1971	157	25765806	4543761	17.63	+1262283	+38.47
1981	201	34261862	7210508	21.05	+2666747	+58.69
1991	215	44005990	10067113	22.88	+2856605	+39.62
2001	222	56507188	13214375	23.39	+3147262	+31.26
2011	297	68548437	17080776	24.91	+3866401	+29.26

**Source : Census of Rajasthan - 1901 to 2011**

**Percentage of Population in Each Size/Class :**

**Table - 3: Population in Rajasthan by Size/Class**

	All Classes of UAs	Class One	Class Two	Class Three	Class Four	Class Five	Class Six
Total urban population in 2001	13214375	7556650	1842458	2747602	915442	132911	19312
% Urban Population	100	57.18	13.95	20.79	6.93	1.00	0.15
Total urban population in 2011	17080776	10480755	1787872	3291478	1125177	353718	41776
% Urban Population	100	61.36	10.47	19.27	6.59	2.07	0.24

**Source : Census of India - 2001 and 2011**

Table-3 shows that majority of the urban population i.e. 61.36 percent lives in Class One UAs/cities of the State. Most of the urban population resides in Class One UAs/cities and there has been a growing tendency to concentrate in such bigger towns. It is followed by Class Three and Class Two UAs/towns where 19.27 percent and 10.47 percent respectively of the state's census.

It can be observed that proportion of urban population living in Class I UAs/cities has shot up from 46.82% in 1981 to 61.36% in 2011. Similar trend has also been seen for Class II UAs/towns. The proportion of Urban population in Class III, Class IV and Class V UAs/towns have shown a declining trend from 1981 to 1991, 1991 to 2001 & 2001 to 2011. The simple reason for the increase or decrease in the proportion of urban population in the Class/size of UAs/cities/towns can be attributed to the increase or decrease in the number of UAs/Cities/towns in that class/size.

#### Percentage decadal growth in Rajasthan :

The percentage decadal growth of the urban population of the Rajasthan state has shown a declining trend from 39.62% recorded during the decade 1981-91 to 29.26 percent in 2001-2011. The same trend has been observed in Class I,II & III of UAs/Cities/towns of the state. Class IV,V and VI UAs/Cities/towns of state are showing increasing percentage decadal growth rate in 2001 to 2011 in comparison of decade 1981 to 1991 due to increase in number of such UAs/Cities/towns as shown in Table 4.

**Table - 4: Growth of Population in Rajasthan : 1981-2011**

Total Urban Population					Percentage of Urban Population in each size/class				Percentage Decadal growth		
Year	1981	1991	2001	2011	1981	1991	2001	2011	1981-91	1991-01	2001-2011
All Classes	7210508	10067113	13214375	17080776	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	39.62	31.26	29.26
Class I	3375995	5053988	7556650	10480755	46.82	50.20	57.18	61.36	49.70	49.52	38.70
Class II	721047	1372844	1842458	1787872	10.00	13.64	13.95	10.47	90.40	34.21	-2.96
Class III	1582075	2160916	2747602	3291478	21.94	21.47	20.79	19.27	36.59	27.15	19.79
Class IV	1341394	1290274	915442	1125177	18.60	12.86	6.93	6.59	-3.81	-29.05	22.91
Class V	185840	182623	132911	353718	2.58	1.81	1.00	2.07	-1.73	-27.22	166.13
Class VI	4157	6468	19312	41776	0.06	0.02	0.15	0.24	55.59	198.58	116.32

Source : Census of India - 2011

#### FACTORS INFLUENCING URBANIZATION IN RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan is a developing state and after independence a lot of economic development programmes have been initiated in different parts of the State which have brought the real pace in urbanization process in the state.

The major factors influencing the pattern of urbanization in Rajasthan are as follows :

1. The major irrigation projects like Indira Gandhi Canal, Chambal Project, Mahi Project, Jawai Project etc.
2. Rajasthan has rich potential mineral resources like lime stone, gypsum, feldspar, rock phosphate, marble, building stones etc.
3. Urban Infrastructure Development Programs has been launched in the Rajasthan with the support of Asian Development Bank particularly in six cities - Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota, Ajmer etc.
4. With the better prospects of industrial development, RIICO has developed planned industrial areas in different towns. New industrial Policy of state is much liberalized.
5. Rajasthan Agricultural Marketing Board has taken up the development of Mandi Yards, all over the state.
6. The on-going programme for conversion of gauge railway line into Broad gauge is very effective element in urban growth.
7. State Government has also done infrastructural development in towns like colleges, hospitals, parks and other public facilities. After independence substantial work has been done for construction of roads in the state which has increased the mobility of the people and opened up the remote areas for development.

Rajasthan has rich heritage and historical monuments to attract tourist. State Government is making effort to enhance to tourist potentiality of the state.

#### CONCLUSION

Urbanization is a natural consequence of socio-economic change. Urban centres have long been considered as engines of economic growth and key centres for employment generation. As an economy moves from being primarily agriculture driven to an industrial or service driven economy, it experiences high rate of urbanization. The urban sector is expected to contribute 60 percent of the GDP, while

accounting for less than 30 percent of the population. This translates to an urban rural productivity of about 7:2. Urbanization is a natural consequence of socioeconomic change.

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