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## Urbanisation in Gurugram: The Horrific Pressure on Resources or a Boon for the Job seekers

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### Abstract

**Urbanization** is the process of population shift from rural areas to urban areas, the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas. It includes the system in which each society adapts to this change. It includes enormous demand of resources including water, land, infrastructure, energy, electricity and mobility. Gurugram has seen the rapid urbanization in the recent years, be in terms of Corporate Offices or infrastructure or increasing population seeking job opportunities here. Urbanization results in huge social, environmental and economic changes. This study is an attempt to review the effects of superfast urbanization in Gurugram through its multidimensional impact on the resources and the society.

**Keywords:** Civic authorities, Resources, Sustainable Development, Urbanization.

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### Introduction

According to ancient Hindu Scriptures, Gurgaon, the Millennium City, (now Gurugram) was the land, primarily owned by Pandavas and Kauravas. They gifted the land to their archery teacher Guru Dronacharya as an appreciation for his teachings. Gurgaon, the largest city of Haryana got its name changed to Gurugram in April 2018. Gurugram is said to be Gurgaon's historical name. Gurugram is spread over an area of 1253 Sq. Km with a population density of 1241 inhabitants per sq. km. (according to census 2011). The city's growth story started in 1982 when the leading Indian Manufacturer Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. established its first manufacturing plant. The boom in the city came with General Electric (GE) opening the office in 1997, followed by others. Gurugram is a part of National Capital Region (NCR) with a population of 1.7 million.

### Methodology of the study

The present Research paper is descriptive in nature. The study is based on secondary data, which has been collected through Newspapers, Magazines, Journals, Research Articles, Books and Govt. records. Various tables and charts have been used for the analysis of data.

### Urbanization in Gurugram

There are two ways of measuring the trend of urbanization i.e. Demographic Approach and Geographical Approach. The Demographic Approach of Urbanization is related with the growth in



the population in a particular area over a period of time and population density. The Geographical Approach of Urbanization is related with the increase in the number of towns or cities over a period of time.

**Demographic Approach:** Since the last Census was done in 2011 and the next Census will be in 2021, the projected and estimated population of Gurugram is approximately 23.06 Lakhs. The urbanization according to Demographic Approach is as follows:

Description	2011	2001
Population	1,514,432	870,539
Male	816,690	470,504
Female	697,742	400,035
Population Growth	73.96%	44.15%
Area Square Km	1,258	1,258
Density/Km <sup>2</sup>	1,204	716

Source: Gurgaon District Census 2011-2019 Data

**Geographical Approach:** Gurugram administers 1,258 Sq Km of areas. The urbanization according to Geographical approach is as follows:

Description	Population	Male	Female
Gurgaon ( Urban Agglomerations)	902,112	488,251	413,861
Cities inside Gurgaon District	Population	Male	Female
Gurgaon(Municipal Corporation)	876,969	475,032	401,937

Source: Gurgaon District Census 2011-2019 Data

Urban-Rural Migration is the core of Demographic Urbanization. Increase in population is higher in urban cities as compared to rural areas. Accessibility to health resources, level of education, standard of living, economic status, infrastructure facilities, accessibility to more sophisticated jobs; technical jobs etc. are the main reasons behind this.

### Salient Features of Gurugram's Urbanization

1. **Fast Industrial Growth due to SEZ (Special Economic Zone) in Gurugram:**The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of Gurugram lured hundreds of youngsters from various parts of Haryana by created various Job Opportunities. Even people from various parts of India also shifted here in search of better technical Know-how opportunities.
2. **IT & ESDM Policy 2017 of Haryana Govt.:** Gurugram becoming the global IT/ITES hub contributes 9.4% of Haryana State GDP. It also fulfills 54% of total export of the State. All IT/ITES enabled firms employing 3.5 Lakhs people approximately. Gurugram alone contributes 5% of worldwide total Business Process Management (BPM) employees.



3. **Better Infrastructure:** High rise Corporate Office buildings, various flyovers in the city, widen roads, 11 Underpasses, proximity to International Airport, sky rise hotels and bars etc. have motivated huge population to move to this city.
4. **High Social Status:** No. of cars per 1,000 people is four times higher in Gurugram as compared to Delhi, which is the National Capital of India (AnumitaRoychowdhury of Centre for Science and environment(CSE) 2017).
5. **Better Life style:** Gurugram has various malls also where the choice for the products seems endless. It has become a Cultural hub also. It has huge variety of working spaces where youths visit daily.
6. **Entertainment Options:** Gurugram is slowly turning into a Party Destination as it is packed with many bars and pubs. Panoramic views of the city, lightening, décor, dazzling vibes etc. are the main pull factors to attract the youngsters.

### Main Problems of Gurugram's Urbanization

With the Urbanization, the city grows both horizontally and vertically. Obviously in this long term process, many problems are being faced by the civilians as well as by the civic authorities. Main encountered constraints in the progress are as follows:

1. **Land Problem:** In the wake of Urbanization, more and more agricultural lands are being converted into Builder Housing Projects, which may be very dangerous for the upcoming generations. Rates for housing properties as well as rents for housing accommodation are sky-rocketed high in Gurugram.
2. **Water Problem:** Rampant groundwater extraction and erratic water supply from treatment plants have forced the Gurugram's people to face severe water crisis sometimes. In those days, they need to purchase water from private sources for personal use. Depletion of ground water and industrial-waste are the major two issues in water contamination.
3. **Slums related Problem:** People migrated to Gurugram (specially doing labour jobs) generally can't afford the costly rents in the colonies. Therefore, slum and related problems are being encountered by the residents. Small unauthorized colonies with multi-floor apartments have developed.
4. **Industrial-waste Problem:** Gurugram is struggling with garbage disposal issue from a long time. Municipal solid waste (MSW) and its disposal is one of the main problems to be handled by the civic authorities.
5. **Public Transport Problem:** Lack of effective public transport system for thousands of office-goers and residents, particularly for Women workforce is still one of the biggest issues Gurugram is facing since its inception.
6. **Traffic Jam Problem:** Among one of the fastest growing Corporate hubs, Gurugram is the home to more than 300 Fortune 500 Companies. Traffic Congestion is another issue for the daily commuters who visit the city every day for employment purposes.
7. **Environmental Problem:** National Green Tribunal (NGT) has fined Rs. 10 Crores in March 2019 on three builders for violation of environmental norms and damaging the environment. More and more such unseen instances (violation of environmental norms)



occurred every day in Gurugram which create a hazard for the well-being of the society and also for the coming future generations.

8. **Electricity Problem:** The demand for electricity for household as well as for commercial use is increasing at a rate of 10% increase per annum. Daily power demand from Gurugram has doubled in the last 5 years. Power cuts due to illegal connections, more load due to Air conditions, theft of electricity etc. are common. Gurugram's Giant shopping malls and office complexes also enhances the electricity crisis.
9. **Expensive Living Cost Problem:** Peak touching commodity prices, from schooling to housing, from shopping to travelling, from medical facilities to entertainment facilities, everything is costly in Gurugram as compared to a normal city.

### Conclusions

A Sustainable Development Model is necessarily has to be followed if the Gurugram wants to maintain its identity in the long run. Civic authorities need to conserve rainwater and increase the groundwater recharge. People should be motivated to use public transport and Car-pooling instead of using their personal vehicles. Zero landfill development policy must be promoted to minimize the industrial solid waste. Tree plantation Campaigns, Air quality standard maintain Campaigns etc. should be observed by the industries for a better future growth of the city. Gurugram Authorities should preserve the land, water, biodiversity, environment for the future generations and they need to handle the current problems in a systematic way otherwise no sooner or later, Gurugram will turn into "Living Hell".

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