Urban Sociology

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Date: 18 July, 2023

Forewords

I am glad to know that our esteemed faculty member Dr. Anand Prasad Subedi, Associate Professor of Mid-West University, has prepared a textbook entitled "Urban Sociology" based on the syllabus of Sociology for Bachelor's Level Seventh Semester. I have gone through the manuscript of the very textbook, in which each and every subject matter is discussed very well and are comprehensive. This profound work sheds light on the dynamics of urban societies and provides invaluable insights into the study of urbanization and its societal implications basically, with reference to Nepal.

The scarcity of textbooks in the university has created significant challenges for both students and faculty members. There is no doubt that outdated or insufficient textbooks hinder the learning process, limit the students' ability to explore current concepts and engage with the latest research in their respective fields. I hope, this accessible and up-to-date textbook will serve as essential resources for our students, empowering them to excel academically and expand their knowledge on urban sociology.

At last, I appreciate to Dr. Subedi for his academic effort and extend my heartfelt congratulations to him on the publication of the book. I hope he will continue such academic excellence in the days to come.

Assoc. Prof. Liladhar Tiwari, *PhD*

Dean

Words from the author

I, with great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment, have presented this textbook entitled "Urban Sociology", written specially for the seventh semester students pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the Mid-West University, Nepal. The paper of seventh semester having subject code SOCIO. 475-3 is an elective subject. It, being a faculty member of sociology, is my strive to provide students with a comprehensive and detailed resource based on the syllabus. It is designed to equip students with necessary knowledge to analyze and comprehend urban societies and its dynamics.

I hope this textbook will be supportive material to the students studying urban sociology and concerning individuals in the field of urban sociology. I have strived to discuss each and every topics of the syllabus.

Preparing a textbook is itself challenging job, nevertheless I was always passionate to do something in the field where I work. Thus, I have produced this textbook before concerning all of you expecting your feedbacks and supports. I, always, will appreciate your feedbacks and suggestions regarding the contents of the textbook and try to make it perfect in its next editions.

I would like to express my gratitude to the faculties and students who have supported me to materialize this task. I, specially, would like to remember here Dr. Sharad Chandra Kashyap, Associate Professor in English, Mid-West University, for his contribution in making my text book grammatically flawless because he has spent for long time in proof reading the entire manuscript of the textbook.

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Date: 2023 July

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Introduction

1.1   Urban life – meaning and characteristics

Meaning of urban life:

When the urban life has to be defined, it is necessary to be clear first of all what is urban? And later on, one can discuss the life of the people living in urban. That's why we have to have a vivid concept about the urban.

"An urban means a place having comparatively large size of population which is equipped with physical facilities such as education, health, employment, transportation, communication, etc. in which people do different kinds of professions, almost of them are involved in non-agricultural professions". The life of people living in such urban areas is not only different but also quite distinct as well with comparison to rural one. Hence, the urban life is observed with more importance because without understanding urban life there is no hope of scientific, just full, and sustainable human settlements in urban. The more understanding of the urban life is the more possibility of avoiding urban problems, and the more chance of exploring the rural-urban continuum.

The urban life of the people may not be the same between the different urban areas even though they are called by the same word – "urbanites". The urban life of the people of advanced society may differ from their counterparts of newly introduced urban society. It depends on the level of technology people use, social institutions in practices, population size and density, and last but not least the standard of the infrastructural development.

Urban life is a different type of life where people's livelihood is distinct. It is often regarded as melting pots of diverse cultures, ethnicities, and social groups, where increased opportunities for social interaction, exchange of ideas, and the blending of different perspectives are experienced. We may find the dark side of urban life which means the challenges and inequalities associated with urban living. Issues such as poverty, homelessness, crime, environmental degradation, and unequal access to resources and services are often being encounter in the urban life. When we look at a person's life or life of collective group living in urban area we will find the people's behavior like impersonal social relationships, a high degree

of division of labor, and a weak sense of community. Urban life denotes to the way of living style adopted in densely populated human settlements. Urbanites' everyday life is simply known as the urban life where we may find the features of active and busy lifestyle, luxurious and glamorous lifestyle, consumerist and self-centered lifestyle, resourceful and privileged lifestyle with comparison to the people away from urban. Traditional social ties which have been guiding people for the last many years being weak and being replaced by formal social institutions. In this situation, urban life is felt very different.

It's important to note that urban life can vary significantly between different cities and regions, influenced by factors such as geographical location, cultural context, socio-economic disparities, and urban planning policies.

Characteristics of urban life:

The characteristics of urban life is contextual because the urban life has been charactered on the basis of the nature of the city, its historical identity, and the level of development. So the characteristics what we have discussed below may not be wholly relevant for each and every city. Nevertheless, the following features, generally, associated with urban life. As a student of urban sociology we need to find out to what extent we observe these features in given urban area.

1. **Non-agricultural economy.**

    Economy of urban sustains and being developed only because of non-agricultural economic activities like service sector businesses i.e. banks, insurances, hotels, travel and tourism, information technologies, hospital, different kinds of service providing private companies, etc. The people from urban have to have knowledge and skill on those areas in order to get job. In this sense, almost people have been engaged in non-agricultural field. Urbanites tend to earn knowledge which is more likely to applicable in non-agricultural domain. People's lives depend upon the income from non-agricultural jobs.

2. **Division of labor:**

    Division of labor is a fundamental characteristic of urban life. It refers to the specialization of tasks and occupations that occurs within a society or community. In urban, individuals and groups tend to focus on specific tasks or occupations that suit their skills and interests. People having specialized knowledge of his/her field of work get hefty sum of money and

their lives are more easy in city. So, the people are interested to go for specialization that makes division of labor in urban. In urban areas, there is a wide range of economic activities and a greater complexity of social interactions compared to rural areas. As a result, because of the high level of division of labor there is inter- dependents between concerning parties.

3. **Urban seems as a place of destination for every person:**

   Urban always attracts the people. Consequently, the trend of migration from rural to urban is high. People are being migrated to the urban in search for decent job, education, and in a nutshell a happy livelihood. In urban, people achieve a decent life standard and may live with happy family. We could see the life of big-house businessmen to the street venders in urban locations.

   People agglomerate into urban and in case of urban fails to manage the flow of people into urban we see very painful lives of the people which becomes a part of urban life. People are compelled to beg just in order to survive. Homeless people are compelled to stay on the street, slum area and peoples' risky daily livelihood in polluted site, such picture comes as an integral part of urban life. Similarly, in some cases peoples' livelihood runs around the pollution, and fear from insecurity.

4. **Size of family and its characteristics:**

   Family, in urban, is nuclear. The size of family is quite small and no inequality is found between son and daughter and men and women. This indicates that every able individual may involve in money earning jobs. Thus, the life of urban is very busy.

5. **Consumeristic life:**

   New goods and services are being available in urban area. People always tend to use new goods and services whatever are available in the market, so the life of urban people is very easy and luxurious. The consumption of the varieties of the goods and services has been the parameter of identifying the level of people's standard where building with highly furnished, cars, motorbikes, jewelries, etc. are being integral parts of urban lives. All kind of monetary facilities providing by modern financial institutional supports to consume varieties of the goods and services available.

1.2   Meaning and characteristics of urban community.

Meaning of urban community:

Urban community refers to an area having high density of population, the availability of basic requirements, an area of good resources, an area of opportunity of employment. An urban community refers to a social group or population that resides in an urban area and such an area which is often associated with cities or towns and are shaped by the unique features and challenges of urban living.

It's important to note that urban communities can vary greatly in size, demographics, and characteristics depending on the specific city or town. Each urban community has its own distinct features and dynamics that contribute to its identity and the experiences of its residents.

Characteristics of urban community:

A sociological analysis of urban community contains several salient features. Those are as follows:

1.   **High population size:**

The number of population is high in the urban areas. There are several factors which attract people to the urban area to live. One of the features of urban community is its high population.

According to 2021 census report we can see the characteristics of Nepali urban community in terms of population size. In the below table, the six municipalities having the highest population and the five municipalities having the lowest population is shown. It shows the characteristic of urban centers in terms of population size.

Table 1

Population of municipalities

S.N.	Municipality	District	Population	S.N.	Municipality	District	Population
1	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	862400	1	Thuli Bhery	Dolpa	4914
2	Pokhara	Pokhara	513504	2	Tripurasundari	Dolpa	6153
3	Bharatpur	Chitawan	369268	3	Madi	Sankhuwasabha	6785
4	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	294098	4	Laligurans	Terhathum	7916
5	Birung	Parsa	272382	5	Dharmadevi	Sankhuwasabha	8228
6	Biratnagar	Morang	243927				

Source: NSO, 2022

2.   **High population density:**

The high number of people within the given area of the urban sites which shows high population density. Urban area lacks the availability of open lands and the flow of people

toward urban site is increasing which ultimately intensify the population density.

According to 2021 census report we can see the characteristics of Nepali urban community in terms of population density. In the below table, the population density of the six metropolitan cities and the five municipalities having the lowest population is shown. It shows the characteristic of urban centers in terms of population density. The figures show that the urban centers are characterized by the high population density.

Table 2
Population density of urban centers

S.N.	Municipality	District	Density	S.N.	Municipality	District	Density
1.	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	17440	1.	Thuli Bhery	Dolpa	23
2.	Pokhara	Pokhara	1106	2.	Tripurasundari	Dolpa	31
3.	Bharatpur	Chitawan	853	3.	Madi	Sankhuwasabha	121
4.	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	8142	4.	Laligurans	Terhathum	170
5.	Birung	Parsa	2062	5.	Dharmadevi	Sankhuwasabha	121
6.	Biratnagar	Morang	3168				

Source: NSO, 2022

3.   **Small family size:**

Urbanites prefer individualistic lifestyle. Hence, most of the families are nuclear in nature and the size of the family is small. Peoples' busy lifestyle, and expensive livelihood in the urban lead the people limiting to the small family size.

Let's have a look on the data which have been revealed by national statistics office of Nepal in 2022, commonly known as national population and housing census report 2021 the characteristics of Nepali urban community in terms of family size is as following. The figures show that the urban centers are preferring the small family size.

Table 3
Family size in the urban centers

S.N.	Municipality	District	Family Size	S.N.	Municipality	District	Family size
1	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	3.36	1	Thuli Bhery	Dolpa	4.24
2	Pokhara	Pokhara	3.66	2	Tripurasundari	Dolpa	4.67
3	Bharatpur	Chitawan	3.82	3	Madi	Sankhuwasabha	4.05
4	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	3.81	4	Laligurans	Terhathum	4.08
5	Birung	Parsa	5.78	5	Dharmadevi	Sankhuwasabha	3.95
6	Biratnagar	Morang	4.29				

Source: NSO, 2022

4.   **Marriage:**

In urban communities' love marriage and inter-caste marriage is in prevalence. Sons and daughters, in urban community, are free to select their life mates so these kinds of marriage are found in urban communities. Similarly, the rate of divorce is greater than rural community because of the weak social ties.

Table 4

Population by marital status

Area and sex	Total	Marital Status			
		Never married	Married	Divorced	Separated
Nepal					
Total	23958868	7935998	14809294	37139	95282
Male	11519621	4402962	6810042	15852	35757
Female	12439247	3533036	7999252	21287	59525
Urban Municipalities					
Total	15975610	5344372	9841352	26474	64989
Male	7695786	2978357	4530128	10496	22424
Female	8279824	2366015	5311224	15978	42565
Rural Municipalities					
Total	7983258	2591626	4967942	10665	30293
Male	3823835	1424605	2279914	5356	13333
Female	4159423	1167021	2688028	5309	16960

Source: NSO, 2022

In Nepali context, the data of national statistics office, Nepal, the number of divorcee in urban municipalities (26474) is higher than the rural municipalities (10665). Similarly, the number of separated people in urban municipalities (64989) is more than double than the rural municipalities (30293). It indicates that the knot of marriage is weakening and personal freedom has been the peoples' choice.

5.   **Occupation:**

In urban community major occupations are industrial, administrative, professional in nature. Service sector job is another feature of occupation in urban. Division of labor and occupational specialization is the basic requirement of urban communities to get job.

6.   **Class extremes:**

In the words of Bogardus, "class extremes characterize the city". In urban community, two extremes economic classes- the riches and the poorest are found. In a city, the slums of the poor exist alongside the Luxurious bungalows of the rich, amides the apartments of the middle class family.

7. **Socio-cultural heterogeneity:**

   The urban community symbolizes socio-cultural heterogeneity because it is characterized by divers' peoples, race, and culture with great varieties. In addition to this we find social heterogeneity in urban in regard to food habits, dress habits, living conditions, religious beliefs, cultural outlook, customs and traditions.

8. **Social distance:**

   Peoples' daily routine is impersonal in character because community social response is incomplete and halfhearted. In urban community social distance is high because there is the lack of personal involvement in the affairs of others. The urban people give supreme importance to their own welfare and happiness. They hesitate to think or act for the good of others.

9. **Mobility:**

   Peoples' mobility in urban area is high than rural. In urban community the status of individual is understood not by heredity or birth but by his merit, intelligence, and skill. People are always in search of high inner quality and education thus the peoples' high mobility is found in the urban.

10. **Materialism:**

    In the urban community the social existence of an individual revolves around wealth and material possessions. The social status of and individual in urban community is being judged not only by what he/she is but by what he/she has possessed so the status of the individual symbols in the form of financial assets, salaries, costly home and other properties etc.

11. **Anonymity:**

    The urban community cannot be a primary group because of the big size of population. In urban community nobody knows anybody and nobody cares for anybody socially. It happens because urban people do not care for their neighbors and have nothing to do with their miseries and pleasures.

12. **Rapid social and cultural change:**

    Traditional values or sacred cultural elements have been relegated in urban community and development of the use of technology leads to the rapid social and cultural change.

13. **Formal social control:**

Social control in urban community is essentially formal in nature because individual's behavior is regulated by such agencies like police, jails, courts, and other kind of formal social institutions. Formal institutions work as the agents of the socialization. The role of family, peer group, neighbor, kinship, and such types of informal and primary institutions of human society becomes weak.

14. **Secularization:**

In urban communities, ritual and kinship obligations are weak and people start believing on what the natural science says. In urban community caste, religion, spatial belongingness does not matter and people seem interested for their ease life and freedom. Caste and community considerations are viewed through economic logic where the people do not find themselves economically benefited which results secularization outlook.

1.3 Concept of urban, urbanism, and urbanization.

Meaning of Urban:

In common sense, there are lots different ways of explaining the meaning of "urban". We can understand the meaning of urban in terms of basic three aspects which are: landscape aspect, population and density aspect, and functional aspect.

In landscape aspect, urban is understood and defined as the area where infrastructural development is accessible, dense settlements with bricks and concrete dwellings are found, and location for industries, public offices, market area, residential area etc. are allocated.

In population and density aspect, urban is understood as the area having high population size with high population density. Urban has the peoples' settlements with population above a certain size.

Similarly, in functional aspect, urban is that place where peoples' way of living life, doing economic activities, developing social institutions, being involved in acquiring different knowledge and skills with specialization are urban characteristics. It is called the functional aspect of the definition of urban because we talk about how things work or function in the urban. In short, the meaning of the urban is the summation of all of the above three aspects of views. However, being the students of sociology we need to pay our more attention to functional aspects while defining urban.

Defining the urban from the different academic disciplines, professional practices, and emerging approaches to offer a truly comprehensive overview makes it very complex. In the "academic disciplines" approach it includes the different perspective of sociology, geography, anthropology, history, economics, ecology, and psychology. In the practice-based professions approach public policy, architecture and urban design, civil engineering, planning, governance, social work, public health, and law are viewed the urban differently.

The term "urban" refers to the characteristics, activities, and structures associated with cities or densely populated areas. It encompasses the physical, social, economic, and cultural aspects of urban areas.

Definitions:

Urban areas are defined by national statistical offices and are classified according to several criteria: population size, population density, and administrative boundaries. Urban areas are characterized by high population density, residential and non-residential buildings, and economic activities that are typically non-agricultural." - (United Nations, 2018)

"Urban" refers to areas characterized by high population density, a significant concentration of buildings and infrastructure, and a prevalence of non-agricultural economic activities. - (Smith & Timberlake, 1995)

Meaning of urbanism:

Urbanism is a way of living or characteristics of life of people living in urban areas. Urbanization and urbanism used as synonym but they are different terms.

Urbanization is a process of development of urban area while urbanism is the way of living of the inhabitants of urban area. Urbanism is influenced by not only sociological and psychological dimensions but also from educational, technological, historic, philosophical, legal, military, political, scientific, and other dimensions.

Definition:

"Urbanism is a way of life, is characterized by extensive conflicts of norms and values, by rapid social change, by increase social differentiation, greater social mobility, by higher levels of education

and income, by emphasis on material possessions and individualism, by impersonality of relationships and decline in intimate communication, and by increase in formal social control"

- Louis Wirth

"Urbanism is a way of life which is characterized by certain elements such as transiency (short-term relations), superficiality (impersonal and formal relation with limited number of people), anonymity (not knowing names and lacking intimacy), and individualism (people giving more importance to one's vested interests)".

- Prof. Ram Ahuja.

Meaning of urbanization:

Urbanization is one of the common characteristics of the economic development. With the gradual growth of economy, the population from rural areas starts to shift to urban centers which is called urbanization. The pace of urbanization is fast if the industrial growth is fast. In simple word, we can understand the meaning of urbanization as follows:

It is the process of human settlement which consists of increment in the volume of the total population in the given area, infrastructural development and service accessibility becomes advance, the transformation of society whereby rural economy is being transferred to advanced industrial economy. A process whereby cities grows and societies become more urban.

In addition to this, the concept of urbanization can be defined either demographically, or culturally, or in terms of physical development. Demographically, the concept of urbanization is defined in terms of spatial concentration, that is, the agglomeration of population in cities with large size or high density. Culturally, urbanization is defined as the transformation of the traditional value systems of the people into new one, and in other words it refers to the transformation in traditional social institutions. At last, in terms of physical development, urbanization refers to the infrastructural development in cities whereby goods and service sector business are increasing along with use of modern technology.

Definitions:

"Urbanization refers to the process by which the urban values get diffused, behavior patterns are transformed and movement from village to cities occur"

C. B. Mamoria

"Urbanization refers to a shift in a population form one that is

dispersed across small rural settlements, in which agriculture is dominant economic activity, towards one that is concentrated in larger and denser urban settlements characterized by a dominance of industrial and service activities"

- UN, 2018

Differentiation between urbanism and urbanization.

Urbanism

➢ Way of life of the urban centers or cities.

➢ It is a state of mind that characterizes urban dwellers.

➢ Urbanism is abstract in nature.

➢ It is behavioral studies of urbanites.

Urbanization:

➢ Process of being transformed from rural to urban.

➢ It is infrastructural growth and development in an area.

➢ It is concrete in nature because it is quantified.

➢ It is behavioral and structural studies.

Cause of urbanization:

Various causes of urbanization are witnessed across the globe. It's worth noting that the drivers or causes of migration can vary across different countries, regions, and socioeconomic contexts. Specific studies and research conducted in various countries can provide more detailed insights into the causes of urbanization few of them common factors that are driving the urbanization process are as follows:

i) **Industrial revolution:**

The industrial revolution creates a shift from agrarian economies to industrialized economies. The transformation of industries and the demand for labor led to the migration of people from rural to urban areas, fueling the process of urbanization. The industrial revolution creates a shift from agrarian economies to industrialized urban centers. The transformation of industries and the demand for labor led to the migration of people from rural to urban areas which ultimately results urbanization. However, significant impacts of the industrial revolution on urbanization in Nepal is not found because the industrial development has not seen as the revolution in Nepal. Nevertheless, industrial areas of Nepal are developed as urban centers.

ii)   Emergence of large manufacturing centers:

Large manufacturing centers has been one of the significant causes of urbanization. The concentration of manufacturing activities in specific areas attracts workers and leads to population growth in those urban centers. Manufacturing centers typically offer a variety of jobs, ranging from factory work to administrative roles, marketing role to business promotional role, semi-skilled to highly skilled professional. Such flow of workers contributes to the growth and urbanization of those areas.

iii)   Availability of transportation:

Efficient transportation systems facilitate the movement of people, goods, and services, making urban areas more accessible and attractive. Hence, the availability of transportation system contributes to the development of urbanization. Transportation networks, such as roads, highways, railways, and airports, enhance connectivity between different regions and facilitates to urbanization.

Improved transportation infrastructure reduces travel time and increases mobility, making it easier for people to commute to urban areas for work, education, and other opportunities. So, we easily comprehend the transportation as one of the agents of urbanization.

iv)   Migration:

The movement of people from rural or countryside areas to urban areas in search of better opportunities and improved living conditions contribute to the urbanization. Economic factors, such as the availability of employment, higher wages, and access to services and amenities, often motivate individuals to migrate to urban centers. Consequently, urbanization takes place.

v)   Government policies and urban planning:

Government policies and urban planning strategies have a significant impact on urbanization. Effective governance, urban development plans, land use regulations, and investment in infrastructure can shape the growth and development of cities.

1.4 Provisions for declaring urban with its categories in Nepal:

The provisions for declaring urbans vary from nation to nation and same nation may have set different benchmarks for its urban with respect to its level of development and the size of population. At present some basic criteria has been set in "Local Government Operation Act 2074" by the Nepal government in order to identify as urban and its different categories. Nepal government could declare municipality, sub-metropolitan city, or metropolitan city to the given area in coordination to the respective local government with respect to the facilities available and terms and conditions set for it. Those terms and conditions are mentioned is point no. 8 of the "Local Government Operation Act 2074" which are as follows (LGOA,2074):

1) **Municipality:**

   i) Permanent residents must be at least 10,000 for Himali areas from Himali districts, at least 40,000 for Hilly Districts and Hilly region from Himali area, at least 50,000 for Inner Madhesh (Bhitri Madhesh), at least 75,000 for Terai district, and at least 100,000 for the districts from Kathmandu Valley.

   ii) Average annual gross income for the last five years has to be at least one crore rupees for Himali region and three crores for the rest of the areas.

   iii) Having roads, pavements, electricity, drinking water, communication and other minimum urban facilities.

   iv) Having waste management and landfill side.

   v) Having, as specified, open area and park garden.

   vi) Having hospital with at least 25 beds.

   vii) Having a bus park with passenger rest area and public toilet.

   viii) Having facilities of drinking water and sanitation.

   ix) Having banking and financial service.

   x) Having community building and meeting hall.

   xi) Having market area.

   xii) Having animal slaughterhouse.

   xiii) Having cremation site.

xiv) Having playground.

xv) Having prepared city master plan.

xvi) To have fulfilled other criteria set by the government.

2) **Sub-Metropolitan city:**

   i) Having at least 2 lakhs permanent residents.

   ii) Annual average domestic income for the last five years has to be of at least twenty-five crores rupees.

   iii) Having a meeting hall.

   iv) Having a national level stadium, gymnasium and covered hall.

   v) Having the availability of electricity, drinking water and communication services.

   vi) Having main roads across the city are paved.

   vii) Having facilities of higher education and technical education.

   viii) Having public parks and city hall.

   ix) Having modern animal slaughter house and cremation ground.

   x) Having the places and buildings for public uses disable friendly and physically accessible.

   xi) Having the hotels, motels and resorts with tourists' standard.

   xii) To have fulfilled other criteria set by the government.

3) **Metropolitan city:**

   i) Having at least five lakhs of permanent residents.

   ii) Annual average domestic income for the last five years has to be of at least one arb (one billion) rupees,

   iii) Having bus park with terminal, adequate facilities for parking, subway and foot path,

   iv) Having urban transport facility and disability friendly public vehicle service,

   v) Having at least seventy-five percent of the total road length of the city is paved,

   vi) Having teaching institution up to masters' level,

   vii) Having a hospital with specialist services, and a general hospital with one hundred beds,

viii) Having Organized vegetable and fruit sales center, shopping malls,
ix) Having the stadium suitable for conducting international level sports,
x) Having ease of transportation with international airport,
xi) Having international level meeting hall and international level trade exhibition venue,
xii) Having museum,
xiii) Having technical education institution,
xiv) Having hotel service with international standard,
xv) Having Protection of valuable heritage within its premises,
xvi) Having adequate recreational facilities,
xvii) Having children's garden and senior citizen's recreation center,
xviii) Having dance hall and art galleries,
xix) Having urban greenery and beauty,
xx) To have fulfilled other criteria set by the government.

1.5 Statistical Features of Metropolitan Cities and Sub-Metropolitan Cities of Nepal

As the Nepal restructured in 2015 it has in total 753 local level units which is categorized as the 6 (*mahanagarpalika)* metropolitan cities,11 (*upa-mahanagarpalika*) sub-metropolitan cities, 276 (*nagarpalika*) municipalities and 460 (*gaunpalika*) rural municipality. The basic features of following local level body is as follows.

1.1.1 Metropolitan cities.

Nepal has six metropolitan cities which have been shown in the table No. 5 with their basic features.

Table 5
List of metropolitan cities of Nepal

S.N.	Metropolitan City	District	Province	Population (2021 census)	Area (km²)	Density (/km²)
1	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	Bagmati	845,767	49.45	17,103
2	Pokhara	Pokhara	Gandaki	518,452	464.28	1,117
3	Bharatpur	Chitawan	Bagmati	369,377	432.95	853
4	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	Bagmati	299,843	36.12	8,301
5	Birung	Parsa	Madesh	268,273	132.07	2,031
6	Biratnagar	Morang	Koshi	244,750	77.00	3,179

Source: NSO, 2022

1.1.2 Sub-metropolitan Cities

Nepal has eleven sub-metropolitan cities which have been shown in the table No. 6 with their basic features.

Table 6

List of sub-metropolitan cities of Nepal

S.N	Name	District	Province	Population	Declare Date	Area (Sq. KM)
1	Itahari	Sunsari	Koshi	1,40,517	2071-08-16	
2	Dhangadhi	Kailali	Sudurpaschim	1,47,741	2072-06-01	261.75
3	Janakpur	Dhanusha	Madhesh	1,62,172	2071	91.97
	Ghorahi	Dang	Lumbini	1,56,164	2073-11-22	522.21
5	Nepalgunj	Banke	Lumbini	1,46,424	2071-08-16	85.94
6	Tulsipur	Dang	Lumbini	1,49,647	2073-11-27	384.63
7	Hetauda	Makawanpur	Gandaki	1,16,741	2071-08-16	261
8	Dharan	Sunsari	Koshi	1,37,705	-	192.61
9	Kalaiya	Bara	Madhesh	86,318	-	-
10	Butawal	Rupandehi	Lumbini	1,70,970	2071-08-16	103.77
11	Jitpur-Simara	Bara	Madhesh	1,17,950	-	314

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, National Census Report, 2068; Profiles of respective local bodies.

1.1.3 Distribution of Metropolitan cities and Sub-Metropolitan cities by the provinces of Nepal:

The number of metropolitan cities and sub-metropolitan cities are varying in different provinces of the Nepal. The causes of such variation might be the matter of further enquary. The distribution of the cities is shown in the table No. 7.

Table 7

Distribution of metropolitan and sub-metropolitan cities by the provinces

Cities	Provinces and numbers of cities							
	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Lumbini	Gandaki	Karnali	Sudur-paschim	Total
Metropolitan	1	1	3	-	1	-	-	6
Sub-Metropolitan	2	3	1	4	-	-	1	11

According to the administrative division of Nepal there are 7 provinces and 753 local level governing bodies. Out of 753, local level bodies are comprised by 6 metropolitan cites, 11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 municipalities, and 460 village municipalities.

Three provinces – Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim has no metropolitan cities and two provinces – Gandaki and Karnali have no sub- metropolitan cities. In adition to this,

Karnali is that province which has neither metropolitan city nor sub-metropolitan city.

In Koshi province, there is one metropolitan city named Biratnagar metropolitan city and are two sub-metropolitan cities called Itahari sub-metropolitan city and Dharan sub-metropolitan city.

In Madhesh province, there in one metropolitan city named Birgunj metropolitan city and are three sub-metropolitan cities named Janakpur sub-metropolitan city, Kalaiya sub-metropolitan city, and Jitpur-Simara sub-metropolitan city.

In Bagmati province, there are three metropolitan cities named Kathmandu metropolitan city, Lalitpur metropolitan city, and Bharatpur metropolitan city; and one sub-metropolitan city named Hetauda sub-metropolitan city.

In Lumbini province, there is no metropolitan city and are four sub-metropolitan cities named Butwal sub-metropolitan city, Ghorahi sub-metropolitan city, Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city, and Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city.

In Gandaki province, there is one metropolitan city named pokhara metropolitan city and no sub-metropolitan city.

Likewise, in Sudrupaschim province, there is no metropolitan city and one sub-metropolitan city named Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city.

### 1.1.4 Distribution of metropolitan cities and sub-metropolitan cities by ecological of Nepal:

Table 8

Distribution of metropolitan cities and sub-metropolitan cities by ecological zone

Cities	Ecological Zone				Total
	Himali	Hilly	Inner Madhes	Terai	
Metropolitan	-	3	1	2	6
Sub-metropolitan	-	-	3	8	11

While distributing the Nepal into four ecological zone we found the metropolitan cities and sub- metropolitan cities as follows: There is no one metropolitan and sub-metropolitan city in Himali zone. Three metropolitan cities (Kathmandu metropolitan city, Lalitpur metropolitan city, and Pokhara metropolitan city) are in hilly zone. One metropolitan city (Bharatpur metropolitan city) and three sub-metropolitan cities (Hetauda sub-metropolitan city, Tulsipur sub-metropolitan

city, and Gorahi sub-metropolitan city) are in inner madhesh. And finally, two metropolitan cities (Biratnagar metropolitan city and Birjung metropolitan city) and eight sub-metropolitan cities (Dharan sub-metropolitan city, Itahari sub-metropolitan city, Jitpur-Simara sub-metropolitan city, Kalaiya sub-metropolitan city, Janakpur sub-metropolitan city, Butwal sub-metropolitan city, Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city, and Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city) are in Terai zone.
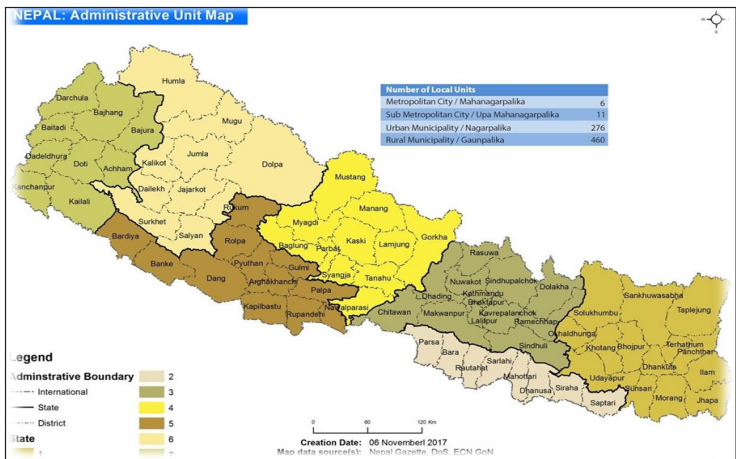

1.6 Urbanization: a global trend

There is an evidence that cities emerged in the world as early as 5,500 years ago, the first of which were in Mesopotamia, the Nile Valley, the Indus Valley and the Hoang-ho Valley. There were several organizational factors that may have precipitated the formation of these early cities, including commercial and trade, religious and political factors (Frey, W. H. & Zimmer, Z.,2001). the proportion of people living in urban areas fluctuated between 4 per cent and 7 per cent throughout history, until about 1850 (Lowry, 1991).

The real change in population distributions and urban living patterns occurred with the industrial revolution in the nineteenth century. The period of industrial revolution is supposed to be from around 1760 to around 1830 AD. Since the inception of almost industrial revolution most urbanized part of the world was western Europe only and rest of the world was rural. When we look in 1900 AD we found few transformations towards urbanizations in Asia and America with Europe. With the change in the world, we observe the density of urban places, urbanizations, high percentage of the people living in urban area.

At the beginning of the 20th century, just 16 cities in the world contained at least a million (ten lakhs) people, the vast majority of which were in industrially advanced economies. Today, at the end of the first decade of the 21st century, there are more than 400 cities around the world that contained a over a million residents, and about three quarters of these are in low-and middle –income countries (Cohen,2004).
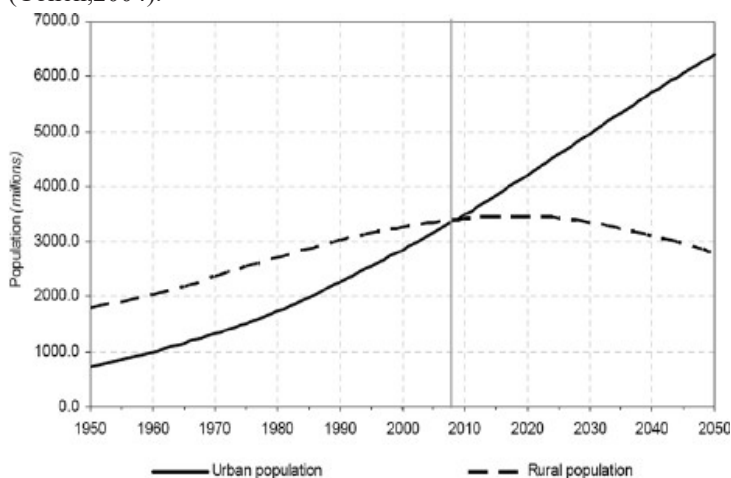
The above mentioned figure emphasizes the prospects of population pressure in urban areas in proportion to the expected decline of population living in rural areas. The urban rural population of the world trend from 1950 to 2050, a hundred years of period, will give us an insight that from the year of 2015 the rural population is dropping down and urban population is picking up.

According to the latest United Nations' projections, virtually all of the world's population growth over the next 30 years will be absorbed by urban areas. During 2007, for the first time in history of the world, the proportion of the population living in urban areas exceeded 50 percent. The world population is expected nearly to double by 2050, increasing from 3.3 billion in 2007 to 6.4 billion in 2050 (UN, 2007). In 1960, the global urban population was 34% of the total, by 2014 the urban population accounted for 54% of the total and continues grow. By 2050, the proportion of living in urban area will expected to reach 66% (UNDESA, 2014).

Urbanization level is measured by the percentage of the population living in urban areas which is increasing in both less developed countries (LDCs) and more developed countries (MDCs). In 1950,

less than 30 per cent of the world's total population were living in urban areas. There was, however, great variation between MDCs and LDCs. In 1950, less than 20 per cent of LDC inhabitants lived in urban areas, compared to almost 55 per cent of their MDC counterparts. To give examples using some of the world's most populous countries, in 1950 about 11 per cent of the population in China, 17 per cent in India, 12 per cent in Indonesia, and 36 per cent in Brazil were living in urban areas. This compares to 64 per cent in the United States, 50 per cent in Japan, 72 per cent in Germany and 84 per cent in the United Kingdom. But, the growth in the urban population has been occurring, and will continue to occur, much faster in LDCs than in MDCs. The result is that although a higher proportion of the MDC population will live in urban areas in comparison to the total LDC population, the gap has been closing and will continue to close into the future. By the year 2025, it is expected that about 84 per cent of those in MDCs will be living in urban areas, as will 57 per cent of those in LDCs. There will continue to be variation between nations in LDCs as it is expected that the proportion who live in urban areas will be, for example, about 55 per cent in China, 45 per cent in India, 61 per cent in Indonesia and 89 per cent in Brazil. There will be less variation in MDCs with, for example, 85 per cent in the USA and Japan, 86 per cent in Germany and 93 per cent in the United Kingdom living in urban areas (Frey, W. H. & Zimmer, Z., 2001; PP 16- 18).

1.7   Importance of the study of the urbanization

There may be a big question regarding the need of the knowledge on urbanization. One may say why we should have knowledge regarding urbanization despite having several other fields of knowledge. But the knowledge on urbanization is inevitable because urbanization is that process of social change and development which is associated to politics, business, arts and culture, economics, law, education, social problems and issues, environment, criminal justice, real estate, or planning etc. which means urbanization is considered as the crucial aspect of human civilization. So the study of the urbanization has its distinct importance. Study of urbanization examines social, cultural, economic, and demographic processes. It looks at the structures of urbanization and urban life associated with modern and postmodern cities around the world and its historical background as well. Importance of the study of the urbanization can be enlisted as follows:

a)   **Population management:**

Urbanization, primarily, concerns to the composition of urbanites' population in which the trends of population growth, the features of population in terms of their productivity, trends of migration to the cities, population density are looked. It means the study of urbanization provides us knowledge regarding the situation of population at present and the trend of past of it which is useful to manage population in order to live a decent livelihood in the given city.

In the many cities of the globe human lives have been very terrible because of unmanaged population. Slum areas are deteriorating the beauty of the city. In this context the knowledge on urbanization will be helpful to overcome the problems related to the human settlements and the problems occurred due to high density.

b)   **Urban Planning:**

Different cities have different size of land i.e. area, natural resources, various prospectus for economic prosperity, cultural capital, and geographical situations. The study of urbanization helps make a good master plan considering the factors mentioned above. Single strategy of urban planning won't be applicable for all urbans. The knowledge on urbanization will give us expertise to make objective urban planning strategy as per the need of the given cities.

In this context, one who has knowledge regarding urbanization will know how the physical infrastructure are identified and prioritized? how the industrial sites, market area, residential area, greenery, public service delivery sites etc. are chosen? Knowledge on urban planning itself is very challenging job which is only possible from the study of urbanization.

c)   **Environmental preservation:**

At present environmental preservation and physical development are juxtaposing factors. Unless environmental preservation any endeavor of development is meaningless. The study of urbanization will give us knowledge how the environment with respect to air quality, productivity of the soil, peace, and entire ecosystem is being deteriorated day by day. In addition to this, we will be aware of direct relationship between environment and human existence. In

the contemporary world people are highly engaged to the study of urbanization because it is the source of knowledge to preserve the environment which is the boon for mankind.

d) **Public policy analysis and its reform:**

Each and every society has public policies to govern the society. By nature society is changeable and with respect to it different public policies are being formed and deactivated. In this context only the study of urbanization will guide us what types of new public polices need to be introduced and which one need to be deactivated. Sometime government makes few necessary reforms on existing public polices. The effectiveness of existing public policies are reviewed perfectly only when we have knowledge on the urbanization otherwise our decision and action on sustainable urban development will be futile. So we require to study urbanization and it various dimensions.

e) **Sustainable development:**

The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In this philosophy of development people think for long future while identifying the current projects of development. The knowledge of urbanization enlightens us what kind of human crisis has become the factor of tantalizing in the history of big urban center where the proper attention is not paid in the course of forming new urban centers. What kind of new factors will be challenging to the entire humans' species to come because of physical development. In this way politicians, policy makers, development experts, donors, and social workers think prior to take any development related action. The knowledge of urbanization will be helpful to ensure sustainable development.

f) **Preservation of social diversity:**

Social diversity is a characteristic of an urban society in which a community has the individuals of different races, ethnicities, religious beliefs, socioeconomic statuses, languages, geographical origins, genders and/or sexual orientation bring their different knowledge, background, experience and interest for the benefit of their diverse community. The urban

community symbolizes socio-cultural heterogeneity because it is characterized by divers people, race, and culture with great varieties. In addition to this we find social heterogeneity in urban in regard to food habits, dress habits, living conditions, religious beliefs, cultural outlook, customs and traditions.

The study of urbanization is applied to preserve the social diversity. The people having the knowledge on urbanization could respect the social diversity through development activities and public policies.

g) **Understanding urban livelihood:**

In the urban area there are various types of livelihood prevalent, those are, street workers, factory workers, self-employed businessmen, and workers in organized sectors. The peoples' livelihood from different sectors may differ. We need to have the knowledge on urbanization to make society developed and civilized. The peoples' livelihood of the same city may differ from time to time and it may differ from place to place. In such context the study on urbanization will give us a clear way to analyze the peoples' livelihood and understand the actual situation. At present, when we talk about in the context of vast urbanized area regarding urban livelihood, the basic perception is that the city never sleeps.

This means that the economic activities that go on in the city are faster and more continuous as compared to the rural area. Although the situation of every city is not the same, so only the study of the urbanization could make objective visualization with reference to the particular urban area which is most essential before analyzing the urban livelihood.

h) **New social control mechanism:**

Social control is maintained by two types of mechanisms. First is informal mechanism such as customs, traditions, folkways, mores and religion. These are adopted means of informal groups. Informal means of social control include established and accepted institutions relating to socialization, education, family, marriage, religion, etc. Second is formal mechanism which is imposed   by the government and organizations in the form of laws to reward or punish behavior. In urban area informal mechanism of social control is weak in comparison to formal mechanism. So every government introduces new law and policies in order to solve social problems and deviances as well. The body of government must be aware of the nature

of the urban, new issues arrived at urban area, contemporary psychological state of the urbanites, changing lifestyle of the urban people in terms of the economic change and development, new philosophical ideas regarding humanities and human rights, etc. which is gained just from the study of urbanization. Consequently, one can introduce new formal mechanism of social control or make necessary revision on existing one.

Thus, it is a very important branch of knowledge for this era where the societies are being more complex day after day, the interests of the people are very vague, the level of human thought is too complex.

■■

Urbanization in Nepal

2.1 Historical Outline and trends in urbanization in Nepal:

Nepal is considered as one of the least urbanized countries generally in the world and particularly in South Asia. The pace of urbanization in Nepal in terms of economic development and infrastructural development is very low because a large section of population lives in remote settlements. In order to make sound urbanization first of all concerning country must define the basic parameter to declare urban to the given settlements. In the context of Nepal, there is inconsistency in the definition of urban because Nepal has defined and redefined the meaning of urban time and again which make us confused. In other hand, the definition has not been strictly followed even at present before declaring the urban and the number of human settlements are declared as urban even without adequate infrastructure, facilities and services. The pace of urbanization is accelerating so rapidly in developing world. It is witnessed that the people are being pushed from the rural and pulled toward urban. Every year thousands of people tend to urban centers in search of a better life and secure future.

In the context of Nepal, the first population count was undertaken in Nepal in 1911. Since then, the process has been continuing in every ten-year. The earlier censuses of Nepal were not that precise as compared to the modern censuses. Four censuses taken before the 1952/54 census are known as "head counts". The 1952/54 census was taken in two parts of the country in two different years. A systematic census was taken in 1961. After 1961, a census has been taken in every ten years. In terms of population growth in Nepal the process of urbanization has been discussed with its historical background below:

a) The trends of parameters of declaring cities:

The 1952/54 census provides data on 10 "prominent" settlements with a population of over 5,000 but refrained from defining an urban area. Those settlements are given in the table below.

Table 9

Settlements having 5000 population

Region	settlements with population	Total population
Hill/Mountain	-	0
Kathmandu Valley	Kathmandu (Kathmandu) – 1,06,579	1, 96, 777
	Kirtipur (Kathmandu) – 7,038	
	Lalitpur (Lalitpur) – 42,183	
	Madhyapur Thimi (Bhaktapur) – 8,657	
	Bhaktapur (Bhakatapur) – 32,320	
Inner Terai	-	0
Terai	Nepalgunj (Banke) – 10,813	41,498
	Birgunj (Parsa) – 10,037	
	Malangawa (Sarlahi)- 5,551	
	Janakpur (Dhanusha) – 7,037	
	Biratnagar (Morang) – 8,060	
Total		2,38,275

Source: Sharma, 2003

According to the table mentioned above, there was no settlement in hill, mountain and inner tarai having population 5000 and more.

1961 census for the first time defined an urban area or a 'sahar' as "an area with a population cluster of 5,000 and over and having an urban environment such as high school, college, judicial and administrative offices, bazaar, communication facilities, mills, factories etc." but also indicated that the definition was not strictly followed [Bastola in CBS, 1995].

The Nagar Panchayat Act 1962 kept the name of "Nagar panchayat" as the local level urban administrative unit which is distinct from a local level rural administrative unit in which local level rural administrative unit is called as "Gaun panchayat". It stipulated the population size criteria of "not less than 10,000" as a generally necessary, but not a sufficient condition, for providing the municipal (Nagar) status.

The fact that the population size criteria was not consistently followed in the designation of Nagar Panchayat is revealed from the fact that at least four of the newly classified Nagar Panchayats in 1971 had a population of less than 10,000 while 12 other 'localities' in the country had a population of over 10,000 but were not classified as Nagar Panchayats (Sharma, 1989).

The scenario has been changed after 1990 when the democracy has been restored in Nepal. For the first time cities are classified on the basis of population and the facilities provided.

Along with regime change Nagar panchayat is renamed by Nagarpalika and Gaunpanchayt is renamed by Gaun Bikash Samiti. These two local level bodies used to govern by the Municipality Act of 1992, and the Local Self Governance Act of 1999. According to the Local Self-Governance Act 1999 municipalities are classified into *three categories: mahanagarpalika (Metropolitan city), upa-mahanagarpalika (Sub-Metropolitan city), and nagarpalika (Municipality).*

Mahanagarpalika is a municipality with a "minimum population size of 300,000, annual revenue of at least Rs. 400 million, facilities of electricity, drinking water, communication, paved main and subsidiary roads, provision of specialized health services, essential infrastructure for international sports events, adequate opportunities for higher education in different fields, at least one established university, adequate urban facilities, and an area that has already received the status of a *upamahanagarpalika*". Similarly, a *upamahanagarpalika* is a municipality with a "minimum population size of 100,000, annual revenue of at least Rs. 100 million, facilities of electricity, drinking water, communication, paved main roads, education and health services of a high standard, general infrastructure for national and international sports events, provision of public parks and a city hall and similar urban facilities, and an area that has already received the status of a nagarpalika". The Act lays down (a) minimum population size of 20,000 in the Tarai and 10,000 in the hill/mountains, (b) annual revenue of 5 million in the Tarai and 500,000 in the hill/mountains and "minimum urban facilities such as electricity, road, drinking water, communication and other similar urban facilities" as necessary conditions for the designation of municipal status or a *nagarpalika*.

While the double standard in designating municipal area between the Tarai and the hills remains incomprehensible, Article 88 (2) C of the Act considers a *nagarpalika* as only a "semi urban area". When the Act was promulgated there were one *mahanagarpalika* (Kathmandu), four *upamahanagarpalikas* (Biratnagar, Lalitpur, Pokhara and Birganj) and 53 *nagarpalikas*. According to the spirit of the Act the 53 *nagarpalikas* are semi-urban areas.

As we know the provisions for declaring urbans vary from nation to nation and same nation may have set different benchmarks for its urban with respect to its level of development and the size of population. At present some basic criteria have been set in "Local Government Operation Act 2074" by the Nepal government in order

to identify as urban and its different categories. Nepal government could declare municipality, sub-metropolitan city, or metropolitan city to the given area in coordination to the respective local government with respect to the facilities available and terms and conditions set for it.

Those terms and conditions are mentioned is point no. 8 of the "Local Government Operation Act 2074" (LGOA,2074). As the Nepal restructured in 2015 it has in total 753 local level units which is categorized as the 6 metropolitan cities,11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 Municipalities and 460 *gaunpalika* also known as rural municipality.

In 1971, there were 16 municipalities in Nepal, and 7 more municipalities were added in 1981 and reached 23 municipalities. In 1991, the number of cities reached to 33 which is increased by 10 than 1981 census report. Municipalities in 2001 were 58. Same number of municipalities (58) has remained up to 2011. Similarly, in 2014, additional 72 municipalities were declared and the total number of urban places reached to 130 (58+72). Likewise, government of Nepal, again declared 163 additional municipalities by 2017 onwards and now the total number of municipalities reached 130 to 293 including 6 metropolitan city, 11 sub-metropolitan cities and 276 municipalities.

ii) Trend of urban population:

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics 2012, the urban population (population residing in 58 municipalities) constitutes 17% (45,23,820) of the total

Table 10
Trends of urban population

Census Year	Number of Urban Areas	Urban Population in millions	Urban Population (%)
1952/54	10	0.238	2.9
1961	16	0.336	2.9
1971	16	0.462	4.1
1981	23	0.957	6.3
1991	33	1.696	9.2
2001	58	3.28	13.9
2011	58	4.23	17.07
2021	293	19.29	66.17

Source: CBS, 2011, 2019 and NSO,2022

population. Based on the recorded urban population, Kathmanku Metropolitan City is the most crowded city with the population of 24.3% (10,03,285) of the total population. Dhulikhel Municipality has the least proportion (0.31%) of the total urban population.

The urban population as a percentage of the total population of the country was 2.9 in since 1950s to 1961 and then after reached 4.1% by 1971, 6.3% by 1981, 9.2% by 1991, 13.9% by 2001, 17.07% by 2011, 27.2% by 2014 and 66.17% by 2021.

From 2011 to 2017 the number of municipalities are declared so rapidly by the political decision and due to this, the population residing in rural area limited by 37.3 percent in 2014 and 33.92 after 2017 it shows vividly that the people residing in rural area is decreasing remarkably.

A progress report (FY 2076/077) of the Ministry of Urban Development, Nepal government says after the census of 2068 when the total number of municipalities has reached 293 the urban population is 62.2%.

The above table No. 10 revels that Nepal's urbanization tendency has increased dramatically, especially after 2015. Data Until, 2011 only 58 urban areas were designated but after the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal in 2015, the size of municipalities voluminously increased and reached 293.

2.2   Brief assessment of urban life in Nepal:

Urbanization and urban development are substantially influenced and guided by key policies of the government in sectors such as education, transport, communication, agriculture, tourism, industry, energy, environment etc. in addition to the policy followed in the urban sector. Currently, municipalities are de facto urban areas in Nepal. In terms of existing physical, natural, socio- economic and cultural environment, the interpretation of urban environmental condition is critical. Available social overhead capital such as water supply, sewage, drainage, health and sanitation, housing, road and transportation shows the urban deficiency (NUDS, 2017).

It is important to note that urban life experiences can vary across different cities and regions in Nepal. People from urban area face several infrastructure challenges, including inadequate road networks, insufficient public transportation systems, and limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Rapid urbanization has led to overcrowding and a shortage of affordable housing options.

Many urban dwellers, particularly low-income families, live in informal settlements with inadequate living conditions. People are not experiencing difficulties and challenges as above mentioned. We can see the opportunities that people are receiving in the urban centers of Nepal. Peoples from different location of Nepal have agglomerated in the urban and even in urban centers they continuing their festivals and customs.

Electricity, internet, cooking gas, vehicles are being the integral part of the urban people. Service sector job like hotel, travel and tourism, private transportation, air lines, media, entertainment field, bank, insurance, communication etc. are growing rapidly and peoples' trend of job selection is shifted from traditional agro-based occupation to these areas.

Peoples' life style tends toward consumeristic technology friendly activities. People are free while selecting their mates and businesses. Social stratification based on caste and other social characteristics are decreasing.

2.3   Causes of Urbanization in Nepal:

The process of population growth and the concentration of people in urban areas, is influenced by various factors. It's important to note that the causes and drivers of urbanization can vary across countries and regions, and their interplay can be complex. Here are some of the key causes of urbanization specially in Nepal.

1.   Political Cause:

It is witnessed that during times of political unrest, families are forced to leave their rural farming villages, and they migrate to the urban areas in search of shelter, food and employment. When large numbers of people are driven from their rural villages, especially in war-ravaged countries, the cities become saturated, and slums start to grow on the outskirts of the cities.

2.   Economic Cause:

Poverty in rural areas forces people to move to the urban areas in search of better employment opportunity. The rise of industry has provided more job opportunities in urban areas, and cities have increased significantly in size due to this. People prefer to reside at those areas which offer a wider range of employment options, including industries, services, and trade, seeking better job prospects and higher incomes. This phenomenon has led to urbanization.

3. **Education:**

   Opportunities for education at universities and technical colleges draw young people to the urban centers of Nepal, where they hope to provide better prospects for the future for themselves and their families.

4. **Migration:**

   Rural to urban migration has been a significant driver of urbanization in Nepal. It is estimated that around 1500 people migrate from rural to urban centers in Nepal every day, primarily in search of better economic opportunity (UNFPA, 2018).

5. **Natural population increase:**

   There has been a natural increase of population in many urban centers of Nepal due to improved medical care, immunization programs, better sanitation and more widespread education. Death rates have decreased, and there are fewer infant deaths, resulting in population growth. As the cities become overcrowded with not enough employment to go around, more and more people live in substandard housing.

6. **Environmental degradation and natural calamities:**

   When the natural habitat of farming families is destroyed due to deforestation, mining or industrial expansion, they are forced to find somewhere else to live in. Natural calamities force people to leave their settlements without any secure livelihood. Such type of people often goes to the shelter of nearby cities. Although, there is no guarantee of work in the cities, and many families move there and are forced into poverty because they cannot find enough work.

2.4   Classification of cities:

1.1.1 The trends of the parameters of classifying cities in Nepal:

The first population count was undertaken in Nepal in 1911. Since then, the process has been perpetual in every ten-year. The earlier censuses of Nepal were not that precise as compared to the modern censuses. The four censuses taken before the 1952/54 census are known as "head counts". The 1952/54 census was taken in two parts of the country in two different years. It is supposed that a systematic census was taken in 1961. After 1961, a census has been taken in every ten years.

The 1952/54 census provides data on 10 "prominent" settlements

with a population of over 5,000 but refrained from defining an urban area.

Table 11

Settlements having 5000 and over populations (1952/54 census)

Region	settlements with population	Total population
Hill/Mountain	-	0
Kathmandu Valley	Kathmandu (Kathmandu) – 106579	196777
	Kirtipur (Kathmandu) – 7038	
	Lalitpur (Lalitpur) – 42,183	
	Madhyapur Thimi (Bhaktapur) – 8657	
	Bhaktapur (Bhakatapur) – 32320	
Inner Tarai	-	0
Tarai	Nepalgunj (Banke) – 10813	41498
	Birgunj (Parsa) – 10037	
	Malangawa (Sarlahi)- 5551	
	Janakpur (Dhanusha) – 7037	
	Biratnagar (Morang) – 8060	
Total		238275

Source: Sharma, 2003

According to the table no. 11, there was no settlement in hill, mountain and inner Tarai region having population 5000 and more.

The 1961 census for the first time defined an urban area or a *'sahar'* as "an area with a population cluster of 5,000 and over and having an urban environment such as high school, college, judicial and administrative offices, bazaar, communication facilities, mills, factories etc." but also indicated that the definition was not strictly followed (Bastola, 1995).

The Nagar Panchayat Act 1962 kept the name of *"nagar panchayat"* as the local level urban administrative unit which is distinct from a local level rural administrative unit in which local level rural administrative unit is called as *"Gaun panchayat"*. It stipulated the population size criteria of "not less than 10,000" as a generally necessary, but not a sufficient condition, for providing the municipal (*nagar*) status.

The fact that the population size criteria was not consistently followed in the designation of Nagar Panchayat is revealed from the fact that at least four of the newly classified Nagar Panchayats in 1971 had a population of less than 10,000 while 12 other 'localities' in the country had a population of over 10,000 but were not classified as Nagar Panchayats (Sharma, 1989).

The scenario has been changed after 1990 when the democracy has been restored in Nepal. For the first time cities are classified on the basis of population and the facilities provided. Along with regime change *Nagar panchayat* is renamed by *Nagarpalika* and *Gaunpanchayt* is renamed by *gaunbikash samiti*. These two local level bodies used to govern by the Municipality Act of 1992, and the Local Self Governance Act of 1999.

According to the Local Self-Governance Act (1999) municipalities are classified into three categories: *Mahanagarpalika* (metropolitan city), *upa-mahanagarpalika* (sub-metropolitan city), and *nagarpalika* (municipality). *Mahanagarpalika* is a municipality with a "minimum population size of 300,000, annual revenue of at least Rs. 400 million, facilities of electricity, drinking water, communication, paved main and subsidiary roads, provision of specialized health services, essential infrastructure for international sports events, adequate opportunities for higher education in different fields, at least one established university, adequate urban facilities, and an area that has already received the status of a *upa-mahanagarpalika*".

Similarly, a *upa-mahanagarpalika* is a municipality with a "minimum population size of 100,000, annual revenue of at least Rs. 100 million, facilities of electricity, drinking water, communication, paved main roads, education and health services of a high standard, general infrastructure for national and international sports events, provision of public parks and a city hall and similar urban facilities, and an area that has already received the status of a *nagarpalika*". The Act lays down (a) minimum population size of 20,000 in the Tarai and 10,000 in the hill/mountains, (b) annual revenue of 5 million in the Tarai and 500,000 in the hill/mountains and "minimum urban facilities such as electricity, road, drinking water, communication and other similar urban facilities" as necessary conditions for the designation of municipal status or a *nagarpalika*. While the double standard in designating municipal area between the Tarai and the hills remains incomprehensible, Article 88 (2) C of the Act considers a *nagarpalika* as only a "semi urban area". When the Act was promulgated there were one *mahanagarpalika* (Kathmandu), four *upa-mahanagarpalikas* (Biratnagar, Lalitpur, Pokhara and Birganj) and 53 *nagarpalikas*. According to the spirit of the Act the 53 *nagarpalikas* are semi-urban areas.

As we know the provisions for declaring urbans vary from nation to nation and in the same nation it may have set different benchmarks

for its urban in different periods of time with respect to its level of development and the size of population. At present some basic criteria has been set in "Local Government Operation Act 2017" by the Nepal government in order to identify as urban and its different categories. Nepal government could declare Municipality, Sub-Metropolitan city, or Metropolitan city to the given area in coordination to the respective local government with respect to the facilities available and terms and conditions set for it which are mentioned below:

Table 12
Criteria for Municipalities

Requirements	Municipality	Sub-metropolitan city	Metropolitan city
Permanent residents	Himali area from himali districts – 10000	200000 (two lakh)	500000 (five lakh)
	Hilly area from himali districts and hilly districts – 40000		
	Inner tarai – 50000		
	Tarai – 75000		
	Kathmandu valley – 100000		
Average annual gross income for the last five years	Himali area – 10 million (one crore)	250 million (25 crore)	1 billion (1arab)
	Rest of area – 30 million (three crore)		
Facilities	Roads, pavements	Paved main roads across the city	75% of the total road length of city is paved
	Electricity	Electricity	
	Drinking water	Drinking water	
	Communication	Communication	
	Waste management and landfill side	Waste recycle and management system	
	Specified open area and park, garden	Public parks and city hall	Having children garden and senior citizens' recreational centers
	Busk park with passenger rest area and public toilet.		Bus park with terminal, parking facilities, subway, and footpath
	Hospital with 25 beds	Hospital with at least 100 beds, Hospital facilities with 200 beds	Hospitals with specialized services, general hospital with 100 beds

Requirements	Municipality	Sub-metropolitan city	Metropolitan city
	Facility of drinking water and sanitation		
	Banking and financial services		
	Meeting hall	Meeting hall	International level meeting hall and trade exhibition venue
	Market area		
	Animal slaughterhouse	Modern animal slaughterhouse	
	Cremation site	Cremation ground	
	Play ground	National level stadium, gymnasium, and covered hall	Stadium suitable for conducting international level sport competition
	City master plan		
		Facilities for higher education and technical education	Teaching institutions up to masters level, having technical education institutions
		Disable friendly and common accessible public building and places	Urban transport facilities and disable friendly public vehicle services
		Hotels, motels, and resorts with tourist standard.	Hotel service with international standard
			Managed vegetable and fruits sales center, shopping Malls
			Ease of transportation to international airport
			Having museum
			Conservation of valuable heritage within its premises
			Having adequate recreational facilities
			Having dance hall and art gallery
			Having urban greenery and beauty
	To have fulfilled other criteria set by the government.	To have fulfilled other criteria set by the government.	To have fulfilled other criteria set by the government.

Source: LGOA, 2017

As Nepal restructured in 2015, it has in total 753 local level units which is categorized as the 6 metropolitan cities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 municipalities and 460 *gaunpalika* also known as rural municipalities.

2.4.2 Classification of cities in Nepal:

As the Nepal restructured in 2015, it has in total 753 local level units categorized as the 6 Metropolitan Cities,11 Sub-Metropolitan Cities, 276 Municipalities and 460 *gaunpalik* also known as Rural Municipality. Which are as follows:

Table 13
Metropolitan cities.

S.N.	Name	District	Province	S.N.	Name	District	Province
1	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	Bagmati	4	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	Bagmati
2	Pokhara	Pokhara	Gandaki	5	Birung	Parsa	Madesh
3	Bharatpur	Chitawan	Bagmati	6	Biratnagar	Morang	Koshi

Source: NSO, 2022

Table 14
Sub-metropolitan cities

S.N.	Name	District	Province	S.N.	Name	District	Province
1	Dhangadhi	Kailali	Sudurpaschim	7	Tulsipur	Dang	Lumbini
2	Ghorahi	Dang	Lumbini	8	Dharan	Sunsari	Koshi
3	Itahari	Sunsari	Koshi	9	Nepalgunj	Banke	Lumbini
4	Hetauda	Makawanpur	Gandaki	10	Kalaiya	Bara	Madhesh
5	Janakpurdham	Dhanusha	Madhesh	11	Jitpur-Simara	Bara	Madhesh
6	Butawal	Rupandehi	Lumbini				

Source: NSO, 2022

2.5   Advantages and disadvantages of urban life:

Urban life offers various advantages and disadvantages. It's noteworthy to say that the advantages and disadvantages of urban life can vary depending on the specific city or region and individual perspectives and circumstances. Some people may thrive in the urban environment, while others may prefer a more rural or suburban lifestyle. Nevertheless, following are the common features of the advantages and disadvantages of urban life.

1.4.1 Advantages of urban life:

These are the advantages of urban life which contribute to attract people for city livings. People living in urban area enjoy various

facilities and opportunities which are not easily available in rural area. The level of advantages that people consume may vary between the urban centers. It depends on the level of the development of the country in general and the city in particular. The advantages of urban life are mentioned below.

1. **Safe infrastructure:**

   There are often roads of a better quality and well-built houses in urban area. Urban areas often have well-planned and engineered infrastructure, including roads, bridges, buildings, and utilities. These structures are designed to meet safety standards and withstand natural disasters or other emergencies. Urban planning and building codes are usually more stringent, ensuring the safety and stability of infrastructure.

   Urban areas, generally, have safer infrastructure including safe public transportation, street lighting and surveillance, emergency services and response, dedicated health facilities etc. which makes the urbanites' life easier.

2. **Low transportation cost:**

   Due to the better public transport service, one can save money by not using private cars and vehicles. It can be faster to get from place to place in a city. Urban areas often have well-developed and extensive public transportation systems, such as buses, trains, trams, metros, and subways. These systems provide affordable and convenient options for travelling within the city, reducing the need for private vehicle ownership and associated expenses like fuel, maintenance, and parking fees.

3. **Entertainment facilities:**

   Most amenities and entertainments are easy to reach. Clubs, restaurants, and cinemas are more prolific in the business areas. Urban areas provide a diverse and extensive range of entertainment options to address to the different interests and preferences. This includes theaters, cinemas, music venues, art galleries, museums, sports stadiums, amusement parks, and more. The abundance of choices ensures that residents to have ample opportunities to engage in cultural, artistic, and recreational activities.

4. **Good health facilities:**

   Hospitals and clinics are close by for easy access to healthcare or aid in an emergency. Urban areas generally have a higher concentration of healthcare facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and medical

centers. These facilities often offer a wide range of specialized services and medical expertise, including advanced diagnostics, specialized treatments. The availability of such facilities increases the chances of receiving high-quality healthcare when needed. In urban, no one will die in absence of needy health care services which makes peoples' lives more secure.

5. Greater mixture of culture:

Urban areas are often characterized by a rich blend of cultures, ethnicities, languages, and traditions. Living in such an environment exposes individuals to a diverse range of perspectives, beliefs, and customs. Such urban environment tends to have a greater mix of cultures and ethnicities which can help while making new friends. This exposure fosters cultural understanding, appreciation, and tolerance, promoting a more inclusive and accepting society.

6. Easy employability:

There is greater number of the availability of jobs in urban areas. Starting a new career could be far easier for one to move to the urban. Urban areas, generally, offer a broader range of job opportunities compared to rural areas. The concentration of businesses, industries, and organizations in urban centers creates a higher demand for a diverse range of skills and professions. This abundance of job opportunities increases the chances of finding suitable employment and career advancement.

Urban areas often foster an entrepreneurial spirit and innovation ecosystem. They provide access to resources, funding, mentorship, and a supportive network for individuals looking to start their own businesses or ventures.

2.5.2 Disadvantages of urban life:

There are several disadvantages associated to urban life which are discussed below.

1. Busy urban life and crowed:

The urban life is busy which lead to a sense of disconnection and isolation. Due to such sense of disconnectedness between the individuals it can be difficult to build meaningful relationships or foster a sense of community. In the urban, people may feel a sense of anonymity, making it harder to connect with others on a deeper level. Urban areas are often densely populated, resulting in limited living space. Urban areas are known for their constant activities and high population density. Streets are often busy with traffic, pedestrians,

and various commercial activities. The constant noise, movement, and bottleneck can be vast and create a sense of chaos. This can lead to increased stress levels and a feeling of being constantly rushed or hurried.

2. **Expensive life:**

    Urban life tends to be more expensive to live in. The prices of properties are higher and so are goods and services. The high cost of urban living can create financial stress and limit opportunities for those having lower income. It may also contribute to wealth disparities, as the cost of living in desirable urban areas often excludes certain socio-economic groups.

    The high cost of living for daily expenses, housing costs, transportation expenses, property taxes, education and child bearing costs in urban areas can put financial tension on individuals and families. In urban area it is more challenging to save money for the future to meet other financial goals due to expensive life.

3. **Compact housing:**

    Compact housing typically means smaller living spaces. Houses are more compact in urban locations. To maximize spaces, flats, and smaller apartments are built instead of houses with larger gardens.

    Compact housing can pose challenges for families with children. Limited space can make it difficult to provide a suitable environment for the member of family. Lack of dedicated play areas or outdoor spaces within close proximity can limit opportunities for children's physical and social development.

4. **Open land scarcity:**

    There are often fewer garden spaces in a town or city. People may not always be able to enjoy natural spaces. The concrete jungle of buildings and infrastructure leaves limited room for natural landscapes. This scarcity of green spaces can deprive residents of opportunities for outdoor activities, relaxation, and connecting with nature. The absence of green spaces can negatively impact physical health, mental well-being, and overall quality of life.

5. **Traffic problems:**

    Public transport might not always be as reliable as people would like, and many towns or cities are restrictive with parking cites. With a high volume of vehicles on the roads, especially during peak travelling hours, traffic jams can be a common occurrence in cities.

Traffic jam leads to longer travel times, increased fuel consumption, and frustration among travelers.

Urban areas often face a shortage of parking spaces due to the high population density and limited available land. Finding a parking spot can be challenging and expensive in cities.

6. Environmental degradation:

Environmental degradation is a significant disadvantage associated with urban life because of larger population and destruction of natural resources for the sake of infrastructural development. The concentration of industries, vehicles, and human activities in cities leads to increased environmental degradation which includes air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution, and loss of bio diversity at large. Such types of environmental degradation could be damaging people's health in the long term.

7. Price hiking of land and housing:

The high demand for land and housing in urban areas leads to prices hiking of land and housing. As a result, many people, particularly those with limited financial resources, could not afford suitable housing and compelled to stay in unhealthy/insecure settlements.

■■

Urban Life

3.1 Rural-urban contrast

Today it has been the matter of discussion on the advantage of living in village or cities. In any comparison of rural versus urban living, one of the most important factors to consider is quality of life. While either location can be argued to be the best place to live in. It's worth thinking about how the two options, rural versus urban life are. Based on the following comparison chart we can understand the contrast between rural and urban life. Rural-urban contrast is also known as rural-urban dichotomy.

The term "rural-urban contrast" refers to the distinct differences or disparities between rural and urban areas. It highlights the contrasting characteristics, lifestyles, and socioeconomic factors that exist between these two types of areas.

In rural-urban contrast, rural areas are typically characterized by lower population density, agricultural activities, natural landscapes, and a slower pace of life. These areas often have limited infrastructure, fewer amenities, and a smaller range of economic opportunities compared to urban areas. Rural communities may also exhibit a stronger connection to nature and traditional ways of life. On the other hand, urban area is marked by higher population density, extensive infrastructure, a diverse range of economic activities, and a greater availability of amenities and services. Urban areas tend to have more job opportunities, advanced educational institutions, cultural institutions, and entertainment options.

The rural-urban contrast is not meant to imply that one is inherently superior or inferior to the other, but rather it recognizes the distinct characteristics and challenges associated with each type of area. Understanding the rural-urban contrast can help inform policies and initiatives aimed at addressing the unique needs and promoting sustainable development in both rural and urban contexts.

Table 15
Rural urban contrast

Basis	Urban	Rural
Meaning	A settlement where the population is very high and has the features of a built environment, is known as urban.	An area located in the periphery, is known as rural.

Basis	Urban	Rural
Relations	Dominated by primary relations, more cohesive and united,face to face relation.	Dominated by secondary relation, not united.
Life	Fast and complicated.	Simple and relaxed.
Environment	Greater isolation from nature.	Direct contact with nature.
Occupation	Non-agricultural work, i.e. trade, commerce or provision of services, manufacturing are the major area of occupation ofurban society.	The main occupation of the people in rural society is agriculture and livestock. Agricultureand livestock is the back bone of the rural economy.
Population size	Densely populated.	Thinly populated.
Development	Planned settlement exists in urban areas, that are developedaccording to the process of urbanization and industrialization.	Developed randomly, based on availability ofnatural vegetation and fauna in the area.
	Urban societies are stratified more on the basis of class. Sharp cleavages do exist between rich and poor.	Rural societies are stratified more on the basis of caste and traditional belief systems and less on class basis. Cleavages between the strata are not sharp in the rural society.
Social mobility	Highly intensive social mobility is in urban society because it is an open society and more chances for social mobility.	Rural society is less mobile because opportunities for social mobility are comparatively limited.
Division of labor	People tends toward more specialization on labor and there is wide spread of divisions of works.	No such division of labor is found in rural society and occupations are mostly less specialized.
Social control	In urban society formal means of social control such as court, law, police, etc. are active to regulate peoples behaviors and relations.	In rural society informal means of social control such as customs, folkways, beliefs, conventions etc. are sufficient to regulate interpersonal behavior.
Social status	In urban society social status is achieved.	In rural society social status is ascribed.
family	In urban society family is said to be unstable. More than the family, individual is given importance. Nuclear family is in practice rather than joint family.	Rural society is built of family units. Family is avery influential and dominant unit. Joint familysystem is found in rural area.

3.2   Rural Urban Continuum

The term "rural-urban continuum" was coined by geographer Chauncy D. Harris in his book "*The Nature of Cities*" published in 1945. He made an important contribution to develop the concept of folk, rural and urban continuum.

In urban sociology, it is believed that there is a gradual transition between rural and urban areas rather than a sharp divide. The word continuum that represents the various stages of urbanization,

ranging from purely rural areas with low population density and agricultural activities to densely populated urban areas with extensive infrastructure and economic specialization. This concept of a rural-urban continuum was a departure from the traditional dichotomy between rural and urban, which often portrayed them as separate and distinct entities. Rural urban continuum emphasizes the interdependencies and interconnectedness between rural and urban areas, highlighting the social, economic, and spatial linkages that exist along the continuum.

Rural-urban continuum observes how the rural areas are connected to the urban areas and services are extended from urban to rural areas. The rural-urban continuum may be defined as a dynamic equilibrium where in the development process involves the people in both rural and urban area and the fruits of the development are distributed to the people whose settlement pattern is distributed spatially. This concept is basically used to understand the interaction between rural urban societies.

Definitions:

"Rural-urban continuum refers to the spectrum of landscapes and land uses that exists from the most sparsely populated, agriculturally oriented rural areas to the most densely populated, highly urbanized areas"

- (Brown, Schafft, & Bierly, 2009).

" The rural-urban continuum refers to the idea that rural and urban areas are not distinct entities, but rather exist on a continuum with varying levels of urbanization and rural characteristics. It recognizes the gradations between rural and urban areas, encompassing a range of landscapes, population densities, economic activities, and social structures"

- (Kasarda & Janowitz, 1974).

3.3   Urban influence on rural community:

Urban influences rural communities refer to the effects and impacts that urban areas have on surrounding rural areas. These influences can manifest in various ways and have both positive and negative consequences and they can vary depending on the proximity of rural area, governance structure, geographical context and dynamics of the region etc. Therefore, the specific impacts and responses to urban influence can differ across the different rural communities.

Urban, significantly, can influence rural community among them positive and negative influences are discussed below:

3.3.1 Urban's positive influences on rural community:

i) **Economic influence:**

Urban areas often serve as economic hubs, providing job opportunities and markets for rural communities. Urban influence can lead to increased trade, investment, and business activities in rural areas. This can result in income generation, employment opportunities, and economic diversification in rural communities.

The economic influence of urban areas on rural communities can be significant and can manifest in several ways consisting of a wider range of job opportunities, support to rural market ecosystem, diffusion of knowledge, expertise, and technological advancements etc.

Economic activities in urban areas can generate income for rural communities through various channels. Urban centers typically have larger consumer bases, which can create demand for agricultural products, handicrafts, and other goods produced in rural areas. This can result in increased sales, higher prices, and improved market opportunities for rural producers. Rural communities located near urban areas often have the potential to attract tourists seeking rural or nature-based experiences. Urban influence can lead to the development of tourism infrastructure, accommodation facilities, and recreational activities in rural areas. There are such types of enumerable positive influences of urban centers that we could see in nearby rural areas.

ii) **Migration and its impact on rural community:**

Short term migrants who move back to rural areas may bring new skills, knowledge, and entrepreneurial spirit, which can lead to the establishment of new businesses, increased employment opportunities, and economic diversification.

Migrant remittances, money sent back to the rural community by migrants, can also provide an important source of income and contribute to local economic growth. Migrants may bring new ideas and initiatives to establish the modern community projects, social enterprises, or cultural events that enhance the overall well-being of the rural community.

iii) **Influence on culture:**

As rural residents interact with urban populations, they may be exposed to new ideas, lifestyles, and cultural practices. This can lead to the adoption of urban-influenced behaviors, values, and preferences in rural communities. As rural communities are exposed to urban trends, technological advancements, and consumer culture, there may be a gradual shift away from traditional ways of life. The influence of urban areas can bring new forms of arts, entertainment, and media to rural communities.

iv) **Influence on infrastructural development:**

Urban areas often have well-developed transportation networks, communication and information technology, energy and utility infrastructure, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, tourism and recreational facilities etc. Urban cannot remain in isolation, it comes out to interact to outer societies. To make the interaction to outer societies that lead to the expansion and improvement of transportation infrastructure in rural communities. This can involve the construction of new roads, the upgrading of existing infrastructure, or the integration of rural areas into regional transportation networks. Improved transportation infrastructure enhances connectivity, facilitates the movement of goods and people, and promotes economic development in rural areas.

v) **Environmental influences:**

Urban areas are often the centers of technological innovation and sustainable practices. Through urban influence, rural communities can benefit from the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies and practices. This can include the adoption of renewable energy systems, energy-efficient technologies, sustainable agriculture techniques, and waste management strategies.

Urban areas are facing many types of environmental problems and the rate of the increment of such problems is growing day by day. Unless we take precaution to reduce the environmental problems living beings' existence will face unexpected problems. Urban area lacks the free places for greenery and biodiversity preservation which is essential for the sustainable ecosystem. So, the government and the development practitioners facilitate the allocation of funding, grants, and resources for rural environmental conservation projects,

such as protected areas management, habitat restoration, forestation, water resource management, and sustainable agriculture initiatives. This financial support can contribute to the long-term sustainability of rural communities and their environmental efforts which ultimately supports to the entire mankind.

3.3.2 Urban's negative influences on rural community:

i) Increases urban dependency:

Basically, rural communities rely on traditional methods of occupation like agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc. and their division of labor is simple in nature. Once the people of rural society come to the contact of city that disrupt those tradition methods of occupation and tends toward the specialized job occupation which leads a decline in the local economy and loss of cultural heritage. Ultimately, such economic pattern makes independent rural economy dependent to the urban centers.

ii) Increases cost of living:

Urban influences lead to the rising property prices. The land price of rural areas nearby cities increases significantly. Same situation happens in the house rents. This situation hikes the overall cost of living in rural areas which can make more challenging for local residents to afford for basic necessities.

iii) Possibilities of natural resources depletion:

Urban area always demands large scale of natural resources like water, energy, forest product, different kinds of minerals, river based items like sand and stone etc. The rural sites are the possible supplier of those resources. This can lead to overexploitation of the resources, environmental degradation. This types of activities hinders to the local ecosystem of rural sites which effects to the entire productivity and prospectus of the site.

iv) Conflict over resources:

When the rural site comes to the direct contact of urban site and resources of the rural sites are taken away for urban sites conflict may take place. In some cases, conflict may arise in resource allocation.

v) Social ties becomes futile:

The influx of urban influences can bring about social changes

in rural communities. Traditional social structures and values may be distorted, and community dynamics can shift as new residents with different cultural backgrounds and values settle in. This can lead to tensions, conflicts, and a sense of disconnection within the community. Such new belief system and different way of living may weaken the social ties in which people have been attached since last many years.

vi) Loss of natural beauty:

Most of the rural areas are introduced by their natural beauties and their unique landscapes. The urban influences such as large scale development activities, process of industrialization, and the high rate of population growth rate can lead to the destruction of natural habitat of the diverse biological beings. In another hand, air pollution, water pollution, and improper disposal of waste found in nearby urban centers brings the negative impacts on rural areas. This can have negative impact on tourism, which may be an important source of income for rural communities.

4.4 Conflict between rural and urban sectors:

i. Conflict on resource distribution:

Urban areas may demand more resources due to their larger populations and higher consumption levels, which can put a pressure on rural resources and create tension between the two sectors.

Rural areas often lack adequate infrastructure and basic services compared to urban areas. Disparities in access to healthcare, education, transportation, and technology can contribute to a sense of inequality and frustration in rural communities.

ii. Economic disparities and genesis of conflict:

Rural and urban areas often have significant economic differences. Government is compelled to allocate hefty sum of money in order to improve in infrastructure because of high population in urban areas, but in rural areas comparatively low rate of investment is found which leads to widen the gap between urban and rural society. Urban areas, generally, have better infrastructure, job opportunities, and access to services, leading to higher standards of living. This economic disparity

can create resentment and feelings of neglect among rural populations.

iii. Social cultural differences:

Rural and urban areas often have distinct cultural identities and ways of life. The differences in values, traditions, and attitudes can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts between the two sectors. Sometimes the feeling of inferiority and superiority complexes brings cleavage between the urbanites and rural people.

iv. Conflict on natural resources

The distribution and allocation of resources such as water, land, and energy can be a source of conflict. Disputes over land use and natural resources can arise between rural and urban sectors. Urban expansion and industrialization may encroach upon agricultural land, forests, or ecologically sensitive areas, leading to conflicts over land rights, and sustainable development.

v. Conflict based on environmental problems:

Urban area has produced more waste things like industrial waste, hospital waste, household waste, drainage, e-waste etc. if such things are not managed scientifically that will produce significant problems related to human health, loss of soil productivity, loss of biodiversity and many more unspeculative things. The negative externalities caused by the disposal of urban people equally affects the rural people. Even they have no contribution to produce such human waste. The rural people equally face to environmental problem, in this case conflict based on environmental issue may take place.

vi. Conflict on policy priorities:

Urban and rural areas require to have different priorities when it comes to discussion in policy level. Urban area might focus on issues like urban planning, infrastructural development, and economic growth, whereas in rural area policy maker might focus on agricultural policies, rural development, conserving traditional practices and heritages, preserving natural beauty to keep it intact. These divergent priorities can lead to conflicts over policy identification and implementation.

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Urban problem

Urban problems refer to the various challenges and constraints that arise in urban areas, typically due to factors such as population growth, inadequate infrastructure, social inequality, environmental degradation, economic disparities, and governance issues. The common urban problems are as follows:

4.1 Problems of urbanizations:

i) Rapid increment of population:

The rapid increment of population is found in urban areas which indeed brings several challenges and problems like Strain on infrastructure, housing affordability, traffic congestion, pressure on public services, urban slum and land use challenges etc.

In 1950, less than 30 per cent of the world's total population were living in urban areas. There was, however, great variation between more developed countries (MDCs) and less developed countries (LDCs), with levels typically much higher in the former. In 1950, less than 20 per cent of LDC inhabitants lived in urban areas, compared to almost 55 per cent of their MDC counterparts (Frey & Zimmer, 2001). Urbanization levels, measured by the percentage of the population living in urban areas, is increasing in both LDCs and MDCs, and the increase is clearly more dramatic in the former which will be the major problem of the mankind.

ii) Not enough houses for living and growth of slum areas:

Urban areas often lead to a shortage of housing units. The demand for housing surpasses the available supply, resulting in high rental costs and housing unaffordability for many individuals and families. In the absence of formal housing options, informal settlements and slums tend to emerge. These areas are characterized by substandard housing conditions, inadequate access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation, and healthcare, and a lack of property rights. Insufficient housing availability can lead to overcrowding where multiple families compel to share small living spaces.

iii) Illegal encroachment of public land and property:

One of the major problems of the urban is the public property encroachment of public property. Illegal encroachment occurs when individuals or groups occupy and use public land or property without

proper authorization from the relevant authorities. This can include occupying on vacant land, unauthorized construction on public property, or encroachment onto roads, parks, or other public spaces.

When public land or property is, illegally, occupied, it deprives the community of access to essential resources and amenities. It limits the availability of land for public infrastructure, parks, schools, hospitals, and other necessary facilities. Almost urban cites have faced such problems.

iv)   Raise the price of housing and land:

Rising housing and land prices are indeed significant problems in many urban areas. As housing and land prices increase, it becomes increasingly difficult for individuals and families to afford decent and adequate housing in the urban. The high cost of housing leads to housing insecurity, homelessness, and the displacement of lower-income residents in the urban centers.

High land prices have discouraged businesses, especially, small and medium-sized enterprises, from establishing or expanding their operations in urban areas. This can limit job opportunities and economic growth potential.

v)   Problems related to industrial and human waste:

The problems related to industrial and human waste are indeed significant challenges in urban areas. Industrial waste, including toxic chemicals and pollutants, can contaminate air, water, and soil, leading to environmental degradation. Improper disposal of human waste, such as untreated sewage, can also pollute water bodies and contribute to waterborne diseases. The problems caused by the human waste has been the big issue in the urban locations. The eco-system in the urban area is being affected by such wastes that has led to lead to the loss of biodiversity.

vi)   Scarcity of natural resources like water, land, forest:

As cities continue to grow and expand, they place increased demands on these finite resources like water, land and forest leading to the various challenges and environmental concerns. Consequently, government has to face its proper supplies.

vii)   Incidence of crime:

Urban areas often experience higher crime rates compared to rural areas due to the various factors. The close proximity of people, along with the anonymity provided by the urban environment, can make it easier for criminals to operate. lack of economic stability can lead

individuals to engage in criminal activities out of desperation or as a way to earn a living.

viii) Informal sector businesses:

While the informal sector business plays a vital role in many economies by providing employment and meeting the needs of the population, it can also contribute to ruin the beauty of a city. Informal sector business like street vendors often operate without permits or designated areas, leading to problems on sidewalks, streets, or public spaces. In some places, such type of informal sector business is very hard to manage and remains as one of the challenges of urban centers.

ix) Inflation on goods and services:

Inflation on goods and services is, indeed, an urban problem that can have significant impacts on urban residents' daily life. Essential items such as food, housing, healthcare, and transportation become costlier that puts a strain on household budgets. This can disproportionately affect low-income individuals and families who may struggle to afford the increased prices. In some cases, people, due to high inflation, fall into depression. The urban life becomes more expensive in which people feel very uneasy and deprived of getting basic facilities.

4.2 Solution of urban problems:

Urban problems require comprehensive and multi-faceted solutions that address to various aspects of urban life. It's important to note that solutions should be according to the specific context and needs of each city, considering its unique challenges and opportunities.

Urban problems are complex and multifaceted in nature which requires distinct solutions that involve various stakeholders, including government bodies, communities, businesses, and urban planners. While the specific solutions depend on the nature of the problem and the context of the city, here are some broad solutions that can be applied to address urban problems:

i) Rurbanization:

Rurbanization means provide like urban facilities in rural areas or make rural areas smart as urban in terms of diversification of facilities. Rurbanization aims to create a balance between urban and rural areas by providing urban-like facilities and services in rural regions. Government, by means of rurbanization, can halt the people in rural area and stop cities from becoming overcrowded and unmanaged. To minimize the urban problems, government can take

the policies of decentralization, assurance of quality of life in rural area, economic mobility in rural area, and the plan for agricultural development as the rural site demands where the rural area may be the choice of the people.

ii) Sustainable development of urban planning:

Unmanaged development activities have hindered the urban settlements. Sustainable development of urban planning is indeed a solution to address various urban problems. Sustainable urban planning focuses on creating cities that are environmentally friendly, socially equitable, and economically viable. Sustainable urban planning prioritizes environmental sustainability by promoting green infrastructure, energy efficiency, waste management, and reducing pollution. It encourages the use of renewable energy, sustainable transportation options, and the preservation of natural areas and green spaces. By minimizing environmental impacts, sustainable urban planning helps mitigate issues such as air and water pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change which ultimately makes the urban centers good for living.

iii) Migration policy:

The issue of migration in urban areas is complex, and while regulation can play a role in managing its impacts. Implementing comprehensive migration policies can help regulate and manage migration in urban areas. These policies can include clear guidelines for legal migration, procedures for documentation, and pathways for integration into the urban society. Addressing the root causes of migration can help reduce the influx of migrants into urban areas. This can involve implementing social and economic development initiatives in rural areas or regions facing instability or conflicts, to provide people with viable opportunities to stay in their home communities.

Developing policies based on accurate data and evidence can inform decision-making and facilitate effective migration management. Collecting and analyzing data on migration patterns, population growth, and socio-economic impacts can help policymakers understand the specific dynamics of urban areas and develop targeted interventions.

iv) Scientific town planning:

Scientific town planning, also known as urban planning or city planning, is indeed considered one of the solutions to urban problems. It involves the systematic design and organization of

urban areas to ensure efficient land use, infrastructure development, and the preservation of natural beauty.

Scientific town planning helps allocate land for the various purposes such as residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational areas which reduces the deficiencies of food and other necessary things. Scientific town planning can address traffic congestion and promote sustainable modes of transportation. It offers a holistic approach to urban development, considering social, economic, and environmental factors.

v) **Population control policy:**

Population control is a potential solution to address certain urban problems, particularly, those related to overcrowding, strain on resources, and the provision of basic services. It's important to note that population control measures should be implemented through voluntary and ethical means, respecting individual reproductive rights and choices. Promoting access to education, healthcare, family planning services, and empowering women can also contribute to achieving population stabilization in a humane and sustainable manner.

vi) **Proper pollution control and waste handling mechanism:**

Proper pollution control and waste handling mechanisms are crucial solutions to address urban problems. Urban areas often face significant challenges related to pollution and waste management due to population density and industrial activities.

By implementing and enforcing pollution control measures and adopting sustainable waste management practices, urban areas can create cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable living environments for their residents while reducing the burden on ecosystems and natural resources.

4.3 Urban problems in Nepal with special reference to Kathmandu valley:

The Kathmandu valley refers to an agglomeration of Nepal's prominent and busiest cities - Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur. Everyone imagines the cities of 21st century as of rich history and heritage, open spaces, clean air and water, dependable public infrastructure like transportation, uplifting climate, vibrant schools, colleges and universities, museums and libraries, ample recreational activities, booming formal economy and ample opportunities to afford better quality of life. Expectations multiply when it is about

the capital region of a country with history and heritage as that of Kathmandu Valley.

Unfortunately, the Kathmandu Valley, faces the various urban problems that arise due to rapid urbanization, population growth, inadequate infrastructure, migration, and unsustainable development practices. Unplanned urban development in the Kathmandu Valley has led to rapid and uncontrolled slum; irregular, substandard, and inaccessible housing development; loss of open space, and decreased livability. Some key urban problems faced by Kathmandu valley are as follows:

i) **Problem of waste management:**

Every day the Kathmandu Valley generates around 1200 metric tonnes of solid waste, of which 50 percent comes from the Kathmandu Metropolitan City alone. The landfill site at Sisdole, around 27km southwest of Kathmandu is spread over 740 ropanis (37.65 hectares), formerly a gorge, is being used although it has already reached its capacity (Ojha, 2023).

In 2005, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City started dumping garbage collected from the Valley at the Sisdole site with an agreement that the site would be used for three years, but 15 years later garbage continues to be dumped here. The site has become a foul-smelling hill and the nearby settlements have complained of the hazards other than to human health: drop in quality of their agriculture produce and diseases in their livestock due to the leachate from the landfills.

Over 200 families with 1,200 family members who reside near the Sisdole dumping site have been categorized as highly affected households. All the villagers living nearby the area are living with respiratory diseases.

ii) **Problem of air pollution:**

Vehicle emissions and road dust contribute to the pollution in Kathmandu. Other factors are open waste burning, emissions from brick kilns or factories, and households. All of these are the drawbacks of the urbanization in the Kathmandu valley.

Kathmandu is topping the list of the most polluted cities in the world is a matter of great alarm for all Nepalese citizens. With an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 202, Kathmandu has surpassed New Delhi, Chiang Mai, Hanoi, Bangkok and Dhaka in terms of pollution, making it the most toxic city in the world ("Combating air pollution", 2023). The result of this is that Kathmandu is now categorized as having an

unhealthy level of pollution, which poses a significant risk to public health.

iii) **Problem on traffic pressure:**

Traffic jams have become a headache for everyone from the Kathmandu valley. Failure to reach the destination on time is the main problem caused by traffic jams. Due to the traffic jam, passengers are also suffering from great mental stress. The problem is there, but there are solutions to it. Why is the traffic jam in Kathmandu valley a major urban problem? The number of vehicles plying on the roads of the Kathmandu Valley is continuously increasing while the length of the roads has remained the same.

According to a report of the Metropolitan Traffic Police, the total length of the roads is 4.5 million feet while a single queue of all the vehicles in the Kathmandu Valley would reach 7.2 million feet. It is clear that public and private vehicles are plying on the roads beyond their carrying capacity. There are 921,917 registered motorcycles in Bagmati zone, 12,616 buses, 1,343 microbuses, 22,322 trucks and tippers, 10,654 cranes and excavators, 154,443 cars and jeeps, and 2,525 tempos (Singh, 2022). This scenario has shown the sever condition of traffic problems in the Kathmandu valley.

iv) **Problem of unsafe residence of the people in slum area:**

Kathmandu has had slums, it is not as prevalent as in other large cities in Nepal. The slums are located on the outskirts of Kathmandu and are home to many of the city's poorest residents. Despite the poverty and poor living conditions in the slums, they are still an integral part of the city and provide a vital source of labor for many businesses.

v) **Encroachment of public land, property:**

The encroachment of public land and property is a significant issue of the Kathmandu Metropolitan City in Nepal. Encroachment refers to the unauthorized occupation or use of public land or property by individuals or entities. It often involves the construction of structures, such as buildings, houses, or commercial establishments, without legal permission or proper land ownership.

In Kathmandu Metropolitan City, encroachment has been a longstanding problem, primarily driven by rapid urbanization, population growth, weak law enforcement, and inadequate urban planning and governance. The encroachment of public land and property poses several challenges and negative impacts along with

the state of lawlessness. At present, Kathmandu metropolitan city is working remarkably in order to take back its public land and property. Mayor of Kathmandu metropolitan city Balendra Shah, better known Balen, has been working hard to get rid of the issues of public land encroachment. In Kathmandu metropolitan city, it is found that people are residing in public places in the pretext of landless citizen. When the Kathmandu metropolitan city took decision to evacuate such public places it faced challenge like public strike and demonstration against the metropolitan city including to the death threat to the mayor Balen. It shows the intensity of the issues of urban problem faced by Kathmandu metropolitan city.

vi) **Unmanaged and illegal street business:**

Unmanaged and illegal businesses operating on the streets of Kathmandu Metropolitan City pose significant challenges to urban management and governance. These businesses often operate without proper permits, licenses, or adherence to regulations, leading to various issues. Unmanaged and illegal street business has deteriorating the beauty of the city. It hampers to the people walking on pavements. It seems the scene of uncivilized environment in the city which is being faced by the Kathmandu metropolitan city. But, at present, Kathmandu metropolitan city has banned to run such businesses in the street and tried its best to manage such footpath based business.

vii) **Inflation on the goods and services of daily use:**

Inflation refers to the increment in the prices of goods and services over time. It results the decrease in the purchasing power of money. In Kathmandu metropolitan city people are facing inflation significantly.

In Kathmandu metropolitan city, the impact of inflation on daily goods and services is particularly felt by low-income individuals and families who may struggle to afford basic necessities. Rising prices for food, housing, healthcare, transportation, and utilities can make it challenging for people to meet their daily needs.

viii) **Deficiency of open area:**

The deficiency of open areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City is indeed a significant issue. Kathmandu, being the capital city of Nepal, is a densely populated metropolitan area with a rapidly growing population. The rapid urbanization and population growth have led to increased demand for residential and commercial spaces, resulting in a scarcity of open areas.

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