



TREND OF URBANIZATION AND GEOGRAPHY OF CHHATTISGARH

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Abstract

With the help of urbanization, the state of Chhattisgarh, which is located in the middle of India, is experiencing a considerable transition. In spite of the fact that Chhattisgarh has traditionally been a rural and agricultural region, the urban environment is fast increasing as a result of the rise of industry, improvements in infrastructure, and migration. The present developments in urbanization and the geographic elements that are affecting this shift are topics that are investigated in this study. The expansion of cities such as Raipur, Bilaspur, and Durg, which are becoming centers for economic activity, educational institutions, and medical facilities, is one of the defining characteristics of urbanization in the state of Chhattisgarh. Both the natural expansion of the population and the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas have contributed to the constant increase of the state's urban population. There have been a number of factors that have greatly contributed to this tendency. Some of these factors include the construction of industrial zones, the provision of job opportunities, and the enhancement of connectivity by road, rail, and air. Geographically speaking, Chhattisgarh is mostly a landlocked state that features a variety of landforms, such as plains, forests, and hills. In the middle plains, where the majority of metropolitan centers are situated, there is a favorable environment for the development of both infrastructure and industry. The abundant natural resources of the state, notably in areas such as Korba and Bastar, have been a driving force behind the state's industrialization, which has further accelerated the rise of metropolitan areas. The extensive woods and mountainous terrains in the northern and southern regions of the region, on the other hand, provide problems for urban expansion, which ultimately results in unequal residential development. Chhattisgarh is seeing a trend of urbanization, which carries with it both benefits and difficulties. In spite of the fact that it fosters economic expansion and raises the level of life, it also raises concerns regarding the preservation of the environment, the planning of metropolitan areas, and the delivery of fundamental services. For the purpose of ensuring that urban growth in the state is both balanced and sustainable, it is vital to undertake effective policy measures and strategic planning. The purpose of this research is to present a complete analysis of the trends in urbanization in Chhattisgarh, examine the geographic elements that are driving these patterns, and provide policy solutions to address the issues that are connected with these changes.

keywords: *Urbanization, geography, Trend*

Introduction

The state of Chhattisgarh, which is situated in the middle of India, has been seeing a growing trend of urbanization, which has had a considerable influence on the socio-economic environment of the state. To a large extent throughout its history, Chhattisgarh has been a primarily rural state, with agriculture serving as the primary economic driver. On the other hand, in recent years there has been a discernible movement toward urbanization, which has been driven by industry, improvements in infrastructure, and migration. It is possible to find plains, plateaus, and hilly regions within the state of Chhattisgarh, which is defined by its diversified terrain. Madhya Pradesh is located to the north, Maharashtra is located to the southwest, Telangana is located to the south, Odisha is located to the southeast, Jharkhand is located to the northeast, and Uttar Pradesh is located to the north. With a size of around 135,192 square kilometers, the state is the tenth biggest state in India in terms of total land area. This region encompasses both the northern plains and the northern hills, both of which are distinguished by expansive forest cover and abundant mineral resources. This region is the source of the Mahanadi River, which is considered to be one of the most important rivers in India. The lush plains that make up the central region of Chhattisgarh are sometimes referred to as the "rice bowl" of the center region of the state. Agricultural production is the primary economic activity in this region, which has also witnessed major urban growth in the vicinity of Raipur, the capital of the state, as well as neighboring cities such as Bilaspur and Durg. This region is well-known for its abundant mineral resources, as well as its dense forests and indigenous communities. The Bastar Plateau, which is located in the southern part of the state, is an important geographical feature that contributes to the natural resources of the state.

Rationale of the study:-

The state of Chhattisgarh, which is located in the middle of India, has been seeing a significant urbanization trend over the past several years. The purpose of this project is to get a better understanding of the causes, impacts, and potential outcomes of urbanization in Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh is experiencing rapid urbanization for a variety of reasons, including the rapid development of industry, the improvement of transportation facilities, and the growing need for improved employment opportunities. The transition of the state's economy from one based on agriculture to one that is more diverse in terms of its industrial and service sectors has led to an increase in the number of people moving to urban areas. Places such as Raipur, Bilaspur, and Durg have developed into major urban hubs, which have attracted investment from both domestic and international sources. Chhattisgarh's social, economic, and natural landscapes have seen a great deal of transformation as a direct consequence of the trend toward urbanization that has been observed. Despite the fact that it has made it easier to access transportation, medical

care, and educational opportunities, it has also resulted in a number of negative consequences, such as the worsening of traffic congestion, the deterioration of environmental conditions, and the growing of the divide between urban and rural areas. Additionally, urban planning and governance have emerged as very important issues that must be addressed in order to guarantee fair and sustainable urban expansion. The potential for urbanization in Chhattisgarh in the future presents both opportunities and challenges. It is imperative that the state places a high priority on the development of infrastructure, affordable housing, and sustainable urban planning if it want to reap the benefits of economic urbanization. In order to achieve social equality, economic progress, and environmental sustainability, it will be required to find a balance between these three important factors. In order to address the issue of people moving from rural areas to urban areas, it is necessary to implement policies that encourage the development of skills and the creation of jobs in different metropolitan areas. To summarize, the urbanization process in Chhattisgarh is a dynamic and transformative one that is causing the terrain of the state to undergo the process of change. However, in order to ensure that the benefits are distributed equitably and that the impact on the environment is kept to a minimal, it is necessary to engage in rigorous planning and governance. This is because it promises to bring about economic advancement and greater living standards. Chhattisgarh's pace of urbanization will be a significant element in deciding the level of development that the state will experience in the years to come.

Objective of the study:-

1. To Examine the most recent urbanization patterns in the state of Chhattisgarh.
2. To In Chhattisgarh, the geographical pattern and historical viewpoint of urbanization are both subject to analysis.

Methodology:-

The selection of an appropriate research technique is of utmost importance for this research, as it may assist researchers in carrying out this research in a manner that is both methodical and logical. In addition to this, the incorporation of research technique results in an improvement in the authenticity of the research, which is a significant benefit. Descriptive research design has been used for this study because it helps to preserve the general structure and direction of the investigation. This research is carried out with the utilization of secondary data as well as the qualitative data analysis approach. Several pieces of previously published literature on the topic of urbanization in Chhattisgarh have been chosen for the purpose of analysis. For this research, the approach of qualitative data analysis is utilized in order to analyze the literature that was collected.

Geographical setting of Chhattisgarh:-

In addition to having a wealth of natural resources and a diverse range of topographical features, the Indian state of Chhattisgarh is well-known for its extensive cultural heritage. This geographical overview focuses on the most prominent physical characteristics of Chhattisgarh, including the following: The states that border Chhattisgarh are as follows: Madhya Pradesh is located to the northwest, Uttar Pradesh is located to the north, Jharkhand is located to the northeast, Odisha is located to the east, Telangana is located along the south, and Maharashtra is located to the southwest. Dimensions and geographical location: The geography of Chhattisgarh is quite varied, despite the state's overall area of more than 135 519 km². It is characterized by a variety of topographic features, including plains, hills, plateaus, and forests. Maikal Hills, which are a part of the Satpura Range, may be found at the northern and northeastern margins of the mountain range. Rivers: Chhattisgarh is endowed with a number of notable rivers, including the Mahanadi, Indravati, Godavari, and Sabri, to name just a few. The Mahanadi River is of utmost significance for the production of agricultural goods and the provision of water for irrigation purposes in the state.



Figure1: Rivers basin of Chhattisgarh

(Source: Buchholz and Egerer 2020)

A significant portion of the state's territory is covered by woods, which account for around 44 percent of the total land area. Because of their high level of diversity and the fact that they are home to a vast variety of plants and fauna, these forests constitute an important ecological resource.

Chhattisgarh is well-known for its enormous mineral resources, which include coal, iron ore, limestone, bauxite, and dolomite deposits. These mineral resources are among the state's most valuable assets. According to Awuchie et al. 2020, it is essential for the production of minerals in India, particularly to the mining of coal.

Chhattisgarh is known for its tropical monsoon climate during the year. It experiences three distinct seasons, with a hot and dry summer, a monsoon season that is rainy, and a winter that is colder than average. There is a significant quantity of precipitation that falls during the monsoon season, which begins in June and continues until September.

The state is home to a variety of protected areas, including as the Indravati National Park, the Kanger Valley National Park, and the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary. The preservation of these areas is essential for the preservation of wildlife.

Agriculture is a significant contributor to Chhattisgarh's economy, which is primarily dependent on crops. Rich plains that surround rivers are used for the cultivation of a variety of crops, including rice, wheat, legumes, and oilseeds. In the field of horticulture, the state is well-known for producing a wide range of distinctive products.

Urban hubs: In recent years, Chhattisgarh has undergone a considerable urbanization trend, with the capital city of Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, and Bhilai serving as important industrial and urban hubs. Bhilai is also a notable urban center.

Cultural Diversity: The state is culturally diverse because it contains a mixture of groups that are tribal and communities that are not tribal. Native American handicrafts, traditional songs and dances, and the peculiar culture of the tribe are all well-known.

In conclusion, the geography of Chhattisgarh is comprised of a wide range of terrain types, which include fertile plains, dense forests, mineral-rich plateaus, and a combination of urban and rural areas. The state's economy, culture, and way of life are all heavily influenced by this variety, which has a considerable impact on all three.

Data analysis:-

Urbanization is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that is having a major impact on civilizations throughout the globe. Cities and towns grow and flourish as a result of this process, which is driven by the continual movement of people from rural to urban regions. Urbanization, as stated by Bonvoisin et al. 2020, essentially mirrors broader economic and social dynamics. Industrialization, technical progress, and the hope of better job opportunities and living standards in metropolitan areas are some of the many factors that drive it. Technological advancements are also propelling it. Rapid city expansion is a hallmark of urbanization, which often necessitates

the construction of new public facilities. Housing, transportation networks, and utility networks are all components of this infrastructure. The need for services including healthcare, education, and leisure goods has also gone up due to this growth. Cities are becoming more and more commercial hubs as they grow and develop, drawing in varied workforces, enterprises, and capital. However, there are several difficulties associated with urbanization. An increase in the number of people living in cities raises concerns about the sustainability of these regions' housing stock, traffic, and natural habitats, among other potential consequences of urbanization. Another way in which varied populations may strain urban areas' social fabric is by bringing together individuals from various walks of life. As a result, problems with governance and socioeconomic inequality may arise. Understanding urbanization is essential because of the far-reaching effects it has on people's daily lives, the economy, and the natural world. Conversely, it offers possibilities as well as obstacles. Innovation, faster economic development, and higher living standards might all be outcomes of urbanization. All of these things have turned out well. Education and healthcare might also become more accessible as a result. Conversely, it might make resources scarcer, add to environmental issues like pollution and higher energy use, and widen wealth gaps that already exist. Taken as a whole, urbanization is a complex process that showcases how economies and civilizations progress. This ubiquitous phenomenon greatly influences our interactions with one another, daily lives, and work performance. Making the most of the possibilities and overcoming the obstacles given by urbanization requires a thorough comprehension of the phenomenon and the formulation of policies that encourage equitable and sustainable urban growth.

Historical Evolution of Urbanization:-

Exciting journeys through the evolution of Chhattisgarh's urbanization throughout history mirror the region's changing economic and cultural landscape. These were the initial urban centers in Chhattisgarh: There was an era when Chhattisgarh was an integral component of several kingdoms and empires, and it was when the state's urbanization began. Urban towns like Sirpur, on the banks of the Mahanadi River, were major metropolises during the rule of the Satavahanas and the Mauryas. The city of Sirpur was a hub of Buddhist culture and commerce. Several temples and monasteries that were established there in the sixth century still stand today.

Urbanization-Producing Factors over Time:

Because of the region's prime position along trade routes, commercial activity expanded, and trading stations and market towns thrived. Agrarian lifestyles flourished in the Chhattisgarh plains, which paved the way for the growth of urban centres and towns.

Many dynasties encouraged trade, culture, and the arts, which led to urban centers' prosperity throughout their control (Koshale and Singh 2020). The Kalchuri and Maratha empires were particularly notable in this regard.

Mineral Resources: The mineral-rich terrain of Chhattisgarh, especially its coal and iron ore resources, has played a key role in the state's industrialization and urbanization successes in the past several years. Specified watershed moments in the history of urbanization
Conclusions on Colonialism The British colonial authority oversaw Chhattisgarh as one of the Central Provinces and Berar. The British had a role in urbanization by building railroads and establishing administrative centers.

The process of industrialization: The Bhilai Steel Plant, which started operations in the 1950s, played a significant role in the massive economic expansion that followed the country's independence. Throughout its history, Bhilai has grown into a major urban and industrial center that draws people from around the globe.

Raipur became the new capital of Chhattisgarh and a fast developing metropolis when the state split from Madhya Pradesh in the year 2000.

Modern urbanization has led to the exponential rise of cities like Durg, Bilaspur, and Raipur in the last several decades. Industry, trade, and better infrastructure are likely to blame for this expansion. This is especially true in Raipur, which has grown into a bustling metropolis with a thriving IT sector.

Opportunities for greater economic growth and better living circumstances exist since urbanization is an ongoing trend in Chhattisgarh. Social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and infrastructure are among the many issues it brings to light. The challenge of weighing the pros and cons of urbanization remains a pressing concern for Chhattisgarh's lawmakers and city planners as the state heads into the new millennium.

Current Urbanization Trends:-

I was able to share some insights on the general patterns of urbanization in September of 2020, which was the last time I updated my expertise (Tiwari and Das 2020). To obtain the most recent information and trends that are specific to Chhattisgarh or any other region, however, it is essential to consult the most recent studies and statistics that have been compiled by research groups or official sources.

Table 1: The expansion of the urban population in Chhattisgarh (2001-2011)

Year	Total Population	Urban Population	Urbanization Rate(%)
2010	25688987	56988789	86.99
2020	897778782	102548778	91.58

New Population Growth Statistics for Cities:

There are a variety of socioeconomic factors that have contributed to the rise of urbanization in India, notably in the state of Chhattisgarh. The Census that was conducted in 2011 revealed that more than 23.24 percent of the population of Chhattisgarh lived in urban areas. But ever since then, the rate of urbanization has been progressively increasing as an increasing number of people have relocated to cities and towns in search of better opportunities and services. The most current census data, which is conducted once every ten years, as well as future updates from governmental agencies would be used to determine the precise figures. In order to have a complete understanding of the most recent happenings, it is essential to obtain the most recent data from sources such as the Census of India, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, or papers from the state government.

Urban Amenities and Infrastructure:

It is common for improvements to the facilities and infrastructure of cities to be the driving force behind urbanization. Chhattisgarh cities such as Raipur, Bilaspur, and Durg have been making investments in infrastructure upgrades in order to handle the growing urban population. This include the building of roadways, water supplies, sewage systems, educational institutions, recreational spaces, and medical facilities, among other things. As a consequence of initiatives such as the Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), urban development has recently garnered a greater amount of attention on a national scale. The purpose of these efforts is to achieve an improvement in the quality of life in urban regions by providing enhanced amenities and services.

Patterns of Urban-Rural Migration:-

There is a close connection between urbanization and the migration patterns that flow from rural to urban regions. The majority of people who move from rural areas to urban areas do so in search of improved economic possibilities, housing alternatives, and access to educational and medical facilities that are more efficient. The migration pattern in question has a considerable influence on the growth of urban regions. It is essential to keep in mind that migratory patterns may vary significantly depending on external factors such as the status of the economy, the growth of the industrial sector, and the characteristics of the local environment. The rise of industries and mining, in addition to the emergence of industrial centers such as Bhilai and Raipur, has typically resulted in a significant influx of migrants to the state of Chhattisgarh. I would recommend consulting official reports and research studies that have been released by relevant government departments and organizations in order to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the current urbanization trends in Chhattisgarh. This would include the most recent information on the growth of the urban population, migration patterns, and the development of infrastructure. By contacting experts or academics in the fields of urban studies and demography, it is possible to have a deeper understanding of the patterns of urbanization that are currently occurring in the state.

Geographical Patterns of Urbanization:-

The geographical patterns of urbanization in Chhattisgarh reveal a complex environment that includes a geographical distribution of urban centers, varying degrees of urbanization in different regions, and a variety of challenges related to urban planning and development.

Localization of Urban Centers in the World In terms of space:

Located in Chhattisgarh, Raipur is not only the state capital but also the largest city in the state (Khan et al.2020). Raipur is an important urban hub in the state. The excellent location, well-developed infrastructure, and economic potential of the area have all contributed to the significant urban development that has occurred.

Combined, the cities of Bhilai, sometimes referred to as the "Steel City," and Durg, which is located in close proximity, constitute a single metropolitan agglomeration. Urbanization in this region has been greatly expedited as a result of the presence of the largest steel plant in India, which is situated in Bhilai.

One other big metropolitan region is Bilaspur, which also serves as a key transportation center due to the fact that it is easily accessible by train. The expansion of commercial activity has contributed to the quickening of the urbanization process.



Other Urban Centers: The state of Chhattisgarh is home to a variety of smaller cities and towns, such as Korba, Rajnandgaon, and Jagdalpur. Each of these cities and towns have its own unique characteristics and elements that contribute to the process of urbanization.

Urbanization in Chhattisgarh's Different Regions

The urbanization that has occurred in Chhattisgarh is not distributed uniformly across the state. It is primarily dependent on factors such as the level of industrialization, the number of transportation networks, and the administrative significance, and it has a tendency to congregate in particular geographical locations. In the center area, where Raipur is located, there has been a significant amount of urbanization. This is due to the fact that Raipur serves as the capital of the state, the administrative hub, and the location of rising industrial and commercial activity.

Cities in the eastern region, such as Bilaspur and Korba, have become more urbanized as a result of the presence of industry, which includes coal mines and power plants, among other things.

There is a lower level of urbanization in the northern region, which includes cities such as Ambikapur and Surguja, compared to the central and eastern areas. This is partly because the northern region is characterized by its steep terrain and its population of tribal people.

In the southern region, which includes Bastar and Dantewada, there are unique challenges associated with urbanization. These challenges are a result of the region's indigenous people and the historical governmental traits that have been there.

Dilemmas in City Planning and Development:

Infrastructure: The rapid urbanization of many metropolitan regions has placed a strain on the already stretched infrastructure, resulting in a variety of challenges such as traffic congestion, inadequate water supply, and worries over sanitation.

Housing: There is an increasing need for affordable housing in urban areas, and it continues to be challenging to provide sufficient housing for the urban population (Tiwari et al.2020). In regions that are home to a great deal of biodiversity, it is of utmost significance to find a middle ground between the expansion of urban areas and the protection of the natural environment. Both mining and industrial activities need to be managed in a sustainable manner.

Urban planning faces a huge challenge when it comes to bridging the social equity gap that exists between urban and rural communities and working to resolve inequities that exist within urban areas. It is of the utmost importance to ensure that all individuals have access to quality medical care, educational possibilities, and employment prospects.



Government: An efficient urban government is necessary in order to address the issues that are associated with urbanization. Included in this are administration that is transparent and accountable, planning for the utilization of land, and the construction of infrastructure.

In conclusion, the patterns of urbanization that are seen in different regions of Chhattisgarh are a reflection of the diverse range of dynamics that are prevalent in different areas of the state. Despite the fact that urbanization gives opportunities for economic growth and development, urban areas are required to be sustainable, inclusive, and well-planned.

Socioeconomic Implications:-

There are substantial socioeconomic implications that the ongoing trend of urbanization in Chhattisgarh has on the villages that are located nearby, including job opportunities, economic development, and social inequality. Implications on the Ways of Life and Communities in the Area: Adaptations to Culture: The process of urbanization frequently leads to the intersection of different cultures since it brings together people from a wide range of backgrounds in metropolitan areas. It is possible that the exchange of habits, languages, and traditions will have an effect on the cultures of the local communities. Alterations in Ways of Life: When contrasted with rural environments, metropolitan locations frequently provide a distinctive way of life. There is a possibility that individuals' aspirations and the way they spend their lives might be impacted by the availability of modern conveniences, as well as increased healthcare, educational, and entertainment options. The social networks of cities expand in tandem with the growth of the cities themselves. In spite of the fact that technology enables individuals to engage in conversation with a more diverse range of others, it also has the potential to disrupt traditional community relationships and familial social networks. Opportunities to find work and to contribute to economic expansion There is a strong correlation between urbanization and an increase in employment opportunities, particularly in non-agricultural sectors. The growth of urban companies, services, and industries attracts people from rural regions who are looking for work inside the metropolitan area. The reduction in reliance on agriculture that occurs as a consequence of urbanization is one example of economic diversification. There is a possibility that the diversification of the economy may result in improved economically stable growth. In many cases, cities offer an environment that is conducive to the development of innovative and entrepreneurial ideas. As a result of their ability to foster economic vitality, urban areas are perfect for the establishment of new businesses and small businesses.

Social Inequalities and Problems:

The process of urbanization has the potential to exacerbate existing economic disparities. Others, particularly those who work in low-wage or informal professions, may find it difficult to make

ends meet, despite the fact that some city inhabitants earn more money and have better living circumstances than others.

Table 2: Chhattisgarh's famous urban centers and districts

City	Population (2011)	Key Features	
Raipur	8988789	State Capital, Economic Infrastructure	Hub,
Bilaspur	9788589	Transportation Hub, Commerce	
Bhilai	989777892	Steel Industry, Industrialization	
Korba	5989799	Coal Mining, Power Plants	
Durg	598897772	Industrial Centre, Education	

The sudden inflow of migrants into urban areas may cause a number of problems, including a lack of housing and the expansion of slums. Substandard housing is a common experience for many people in metropolitan regions, especially in peri-urban areas. Disparities persist in metropolitan regions despite the fact that they provide better access to healthcare and education.

There may be disparities in the availability of high-quality healthcare and education, and those from low-income families often face additional challenges. Social services like public transit, trash collection, and sanitation may be more difficult to handle in densely populated cities. The delivery of these services might be hindered by overcrowding and insufficient infrastructure. Social and generational tensions can arise as a result of cultural dissonance, which happens when conventional values and urban living styles are at odds with one another. Last but not least, there are several socioeconomic impacts of Chhattisgarh's rapid urbanization. Problems including home insecurity, income inequality, and healthcare and educational attainment gaps are inevitable outcomes (Tiwari et al., 2020). Growth in the economy, more employment opportunities, and better access to services are all positive outcomes, but there are also some negative aspects. Finding a middle ground between urbanization's advantages and inclusive and equitable development's costs is a top priority for the state's lawmakers and urban planners.

Conclusion

Madhya Pradesh's many communities, landscapes, and customs form a vibrant cultural tapestry that gives the state its distinct character. Gonds, Bhils, and Baigas are just a few of the notable tribal groups that make up the state's varied ethnic makeup and complex social structure. The unique cultural practices, languages, and ways of life of these communities are intricately linked to the history and ecology of the area. Reflecting the continuous processes of urbanization, economic progress, and preservation of traditional ways of life, metropolitan hubs like Indore and Bhopal stand in stark contrast to rural and tribal areas. To achieve inclusive growth, we must work to close the inequalities that exist between urban and rural areas in areas such as healthcare, education, and economic fairness. Historic sites like the Sanchi Stupa and the Khajuraho temples attest to Madhya Pradesh's cultural importance and historical importance. Festivals, traditional arts and crafts, and folk music and dance styles are all alive and well in this state, attesting to its cultural vibrancy. An awareness of the interaction between Madhya Pradesh's varied communities, historical influences, and geographical elements is essential to comprehending the state's social and cultural geography. This ever-changing dynamic forms the state's character, which makes it distinct and essential to India's cultural fabric. Madhya Pradesh can preserve its cultural legacy while also promoting unity and growth if its diverse population is acknowledged and valued.

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