

A Study of Urbanisation in Pune City

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ABSTRACT: Pune is called as “*Queen of the Deccan*”. The city is the cultural capital of Maharashtra state. It is a multi-layered civilisation unit – a hub of economic activities and a driver of the political machine’s social revolution. Good environment desire and search for better lives have accelerated the lifestyle in Pune city. The least developed and developing cities are increasing the prime growth in Pune.

KEYWORDS: Industry, Pollution, Urbanisation, Urban area

INTRODUCTION:

The World Urbanization Prospects 2018 report produced by the UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs projected that India will have added 416 million urban dwellers by 2050. Maharashtra’s 50.8 million population lives in an urban area. The Sustainable Development Goals promote urban planning as one way to achieve sustainable development. Many authorised and planned settlements have provided the inhabitants with necessary civic facilities. Power supply, groundwater quality, and level are improving in Pune city.

Pune, India’s fastest-growing metropolis, is the second-largest city in the Maharashtra State Capital region. The Center, State, and Local Self-governments must provide sound planning and effective administration for the ideal urbanised metropolis. It requires a well-developed think tank of legislators and bureaucrats. The judiciary has an important role in city development like stopping encroachment, illegal construction, planting trees if a tree is cut etc. Planning authority means a local authority & includes a Special Planning authority constituted, appointed, or deemed to have been appointed under Sec 40 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act. The Urban Local Body plans and governs the local governance of the City of Pune, making it a metropolitan city. According to Maharashtra Municipal Corporation Act Sec 63, social & economic development, urban forestry, cleaning public streets, sewage disposal, maintenance of public lavatories, cleaning drains, installing fire-brigade appliances, construction of public hospitals, lighting of public streets, municipal markets & construction of public buildings, etc. are the duties performed efficiently by the local bodies.

The population density in the city’s core areas is very high. Many authorised and planned settlements have provided the inhabitants with necessary civic facilities. The city of Pune has a 28% green cover. Therefore, the city generates 60-70 metric tons of garden waste daily. Pune generates 1600-1700 tons of solid waste per day. Partnership projects are run by Urban Local Body for zero garbage ward model and also offer a solution for eco-friendly Ganesh immersion.

Frequent complaints about the long journey to work are being addressed as the Pune Metro project is ongoing throughout the city. The goal of Maha Metro is to create an energy-efficient metro rail system by utilising green energy. The Pune Metro aims to reduce traffic congestion, pollution, and road accidents, as well as travel time and costs.

Pune’s Sustainable Transport initiatives- Pedestrian-friendly streets, Pune bicycle plan, public bicycle sharing system, road ambulance. Urban Local Body has planned to adopt ‘Trenchless Technology’ so that digging of the roads for laying utilities can be reduced. Kothrud region of Pune city has achieved a place in the Guinness book of world records for having the fastest urban growth rate. The ‘Pune’s Walk And Cycle Analysis’ – a report by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) and the Urban Local Body was published on Pedestrians Day (11th December).

URBANISATION IN PUNE – HISTORICAL PROSPECTIVES:

Beyond the region’s natural growth, the citizens play an essential role in a town’s social and cultural growth. We are provided with innovative thinking and the ability to imagine by establishing new apartments and large commercial and industrial premises. Pune city has become home to many people and the centre of trade, business, education, and places where many economic, commercial and administrative decisions are made. Urban centres have relatively better infrastructure availability which impacts the urban centre’s ‘pull’ factor. Economic growth and civil satisfaction in every society depend primarily on how well their cities are managed. Today’s urban areas deal with massive changes inside and outside the city limits. The process of urban growth from a historical perspective is imperative.

The recorded history of human civilisations is the history of human settlements, which functioned in all ancient and modern civilisations as a nucleus and focused on paintings of human activities. Cities are centred on weaving human destiny and reflect all revolutionary, scientific, and technological innovations and achievements. They are the sign of the ongoing flow of life. People made plans, inventions, and discoveries by combining various talents during their evolution and development.

These plans and discoveries are more subtle and insightful when we learn to combine talents to make the best use of technology and institutions in an idealistic living environment in a more complex and intimate way. These complexities can be observed even in the remnants of prehistoric civil monuments. The different forms of cities and civilisations are the most striking manifestations of culturally different elements because human activities are highly overlaid. The transformations in the original landscape are notable.

Pune has many of the ancient and earliest urban civilisations. Many foreign and Indian scholars wrote about Pune city’s structures. Although they were built at different times and under different geographical conditions, all towns have striking similarities. Most

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urban settlements were developed according to a typical ideal design pattern. The main factors determining the design plans were natural and geographical forces.

ANCIENT PUNE CITY:

The term Pune comes from the word *Punya* or holy. Copper plates dating as early as 768 and 758 AD bear the first reference to the city now known as Pune. The Rashtrakuta ruler, Krishna I, made these copper plates, and the region is referred to as 'Punaka Vishaya' and 'Puny Vishaya,' respectively. It was around this time that the famous and beautiful Pataleshwar rock-cut temple was built.

MEDIVAL PUNE CITY:

In Pune, Peshwa Nana Saheb built Katraj lake and the underground aqueduct, which brings water from the lake to Shaniwar Wada, also an underground sewage system. The famous Khadakwasala Dam was built around 1857. Skyscrapers now replace the Wada culture that existed in the city. Lal Mahal, Sarasbaug-Peshwe park, Shivneri fort, Shanivarwada, Aga Khan palace, Sinhagad etc., are a few heritage sites in Pune.

On the trade routes, many cities and capital cities have developed. The significant city among them was Pune. During the Medieval era, Pune experienced different kinds of political situations. However, this took on the Pune ethos, leading to new urban development. Strategic considerations are the main factor in establishing and developing a new urban centre.

Educationists and revolutionaries V.K. Chiplunkar, Lokmanya Tilak, and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar aimed to make education accessible to students by establishing schools and colleges run by Indians. Social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Periyar EV Ramaswamy, B.R. Ambedkar, etc., contributed to women's education in India. Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule were women's education pioneers and started the first school for women and Dalits. It is the foundation laid by these socialists because of whom Pune is today known as the "*Oxford of the East*".

During this period, many walled towns were developed, and it was tough for traffic diversion through the narrow and congested streets of these walled towns in changing times. These were essentially Bazar Streets, and they still work alike. The British followed the philosophy of people's segregation and their work. They developed new harbour towns, cantonments, railway colonies, civil lines, etc., which always distinguished themselves from the familiar cities of India. The spread of urban areas in industrial form occurred during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The urban scene dominated large-scale industrial, trade, and transportation activities. Independence opened new perspectives for developing the national economy, culture, and urban growth potential. With the introduction of a planned mixed economy, Pune's regional and economic structure began to change.

Together with the new compulsion of industrialisation and urbanisation, it changed the pace and content of Pune³. The spread of the constructed zones because of population explosion and rapid urbanisation has contributed much more complexly than the physical reorganisation of urban areas. The acceleration of the urbanisation process saw the emergence of many palaces above the threshold of the townhood. Thus, the expansion of the larger towns in Pune was established.

Pune is known as the cultural capital of Maharashtra state in India. Pune has a unique position in Maharashtra due to its cultural heritage, educational advancement, and industrial improvements. It has been well-known for its developments as it focuses on initiatives and a reform-oriented approach. Intelligent city developments have brought physical, economic, and social development to Pune city as the challenges are integral to urbanisation. Pune is thus known as the finest city in Maharashtra and has witnessed rapid growth over the last few decades.

It has been observed that the urban population of Pune has doubled in the last two decades. The rate of urban development and significant changes in urban areas are putting enormous pressure on urban infrastructure and essential services⁴. Pune's population has changed drastically from 19th to 20th, the population in 1951 was 4.88 Lakhs, and in the year 2021, it has increased to 38.91 Lakhs. The city has also had a significant effect on population because of the Panshet Floods in 1961, which brought many changes to the city's development. However, the increase in the population led to rapid urban growth and expansion of the city limits, although a complex task.

The city's significant development was impacted in 1998 due to IT industry growth. Major industries started booming, bringing good economic and financial growth to the city. Now it is well known as an Auto-Hub and IT Hub for people worldwide. The significant increase in the population has brought many changes in the city and affected the sustainable growth of Pune.

Therefore, it is required to have a sustainability concept and new policies for the city's betterment. Accordingly, there is a need for people's insolvent to bring the transformation into the city, making it a green, equitable, and livable city for every resident.

COSMOPOLITAN PUNE CITY:

Pune ranks second in the Ease of Living Index, bagged fifth in Municipal Performance Index and first in health infrastructure in India's most urbanised cities. As per the Ease of Living Index 2018 released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Pune tops the list.

Pune has also developed into a significant IT and automotive centre, providing qualified professionals from all over India with a wide range of employment prospects. Today, Pune is home to rapidly expanding companies in various industries, including housing, automotive, retail, pharma, media, software, and biotech.

But most importantly, the Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park in Hinjewadi, EON IT park in Kharadi, and Magarpatta Cyber City have made Pune the cosmopolitan city it is today. Many countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Urban Local Body to expand its networks with key local government partners across India. The partnership focused on identifying projects

³ Sutapa Maiti and Praween K. Agrawal - J. Hum. Ecol., 17(4): 277-287 (2005) Environmental Degradation in the Context of Growing Urbanization: A Focus on the Metropolitan Cities of India

⁴ Ambasad, R.S. (1990) Environment & Pollution, An Ecological Approach, Varanasi.

and helping companies access opportunities in Pune. Under the MOU, companies sought to work closely with the Urban Local Body to enable more companies to participate in Pune's smart city projects.

Specific areas of collaboration include upgrading Pune's transport infrastructure and traffic monitoring systems, treatment and management of water and wastewater, and e-Governance and citizen engagement services. The private enterprises and the Urban Local Body aim to facilitate public-private sector participation in these projects by bringing together foreign companies and relevant companies from India and other countries.⁵

According to an Assocham report on 'The 7th emerging metro city in India', it owes its upgradation to a fast development pace in the area of infrastructural facilities, a friendly business environment, education avenues and employment opportunities.

Pune has a literacy rate of 80.73% and a skilled population, and the city is a place of high-grade institutes, including NIBM, NIC etc. The Queen of Deccan, Pune, with the maximum number of malls and multiplexes (26) and star category hotels (25), notched the top position.

The Urban Local Body is citizen-friendly as its digital platform invites applications from citizens, takes polls/survey, share & discuss ideas, and grievances are accepted and take suggestions. It also has developed PMC Care App for citizens.

New villages are merged recently in Urban Local Body. Their merger into a ULB cuts the umbilical cord between the state and the village, and the entire responsibility is passed on to the ULB. Once a city exceeds a certain size, it is difficult to ensure delivery of municipal services such as drinking water supply, sewage and solid waste management, roads, electricity, housing, and most importantly, transport facilities. The Urban Local Body needs a lot of revenue generation and funding to develop these newly added villages.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The unique urbanisation quality of Pune city is also entirely different from the other regional/area/city urbanisation.

I. This study helps us understand how the city has evolved over so many years and how the local governing body addresses the problems arising from urbanisation.

II. This research paper provides us with the solutions implemented by Urban Local Body.

III. This analysis aids us with information on the current urbanisation status in the city and how it impacts the daily quality of urban citizens' lives.

IV. It also covertly implies that we need to find new sources to generate revenue to cater to all the facilities in the newly urbanised Pune city.

CONCLUSION:

Rights and duties are two wheels on which the chariot of life moves forward smoothly. Life can become smoother if rights and duties complement each other. Article 51A under Part-IV A of the Indian Constitution are Fundamental Duties that talk about forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife protection, safeguarding public property and abjuring violence etc.

The positive role of urbanisation is shadowed by the apparent deterioration of the physical environment and quality of life in urban areas due to the increasing disparity between demand and essential services and infrastructure in India. Dr A.K. Sen noted that "industrialisation has led to a sharp rise in urban population, creating a deficit in housing, utilities, and community facilities." The speed with which the urban population is growing in Pune and many other cities in India, crossing borders, and creating extensive building agglomerations, has created difficulties for cities. The urban desire and the search for better lives have accelerated urbanisation, and municipal institutions find it hard to meet urbanisation challenges.

Rural people do not always migrate to urban areas searching for jobs and economic status. Still, agriculture has also made a substantial contribution to urbanisation. Wealthy farmers moved from rural to semi-urban or urban areas. After the Green Revolution, Pune's urbanisation accelerated compared to many cities.

Accordingly, Pune's urbanisation has two inseparable terms. Over 100 years (1801-1900), intense industrialisation transformed Pune into an urbanised society. An adequate workforce in rural areas is needed to run the vast industrial workforce.

Overall, Pune's infrastructural developments, such as communication, transport, road construction, bridge, and connection between remote areas by rail, road, and air, were essential for the urbanisation and development of Pune city. Thus, urbanisation has increased, making Pune a developed and metropolitan city.

⁵ <https://www.eyeonasia.gov.sg/india/know/selected-india-states/pu.ne-profile/>