
**ESTABLISHING THE IMPACT OF URBANISATION ON THE CULTURE
OF CITIES, WITH CONTRIBUTING IMPACTS OF
INDUSTRIALISATION AND MODERNISATION**

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DOI: 10.46609/IJSSER.2021.v06i10.029 URL: <https://doi.org/10.46609/IJSSER.2021.v06i10.029>

ABSTRACT

This Paper covers the discourse surrounding the emergence of modern society as we know it today and the contribution of forces of industrialisation and urbanisation in its creation. It explores the trends of industrialisation as they emerged in western Europe and how they further transformed the rural setup to produce a unique combination of social, cultural and economic forces that culminated into the creation and sustenance of the first urban centers - marked by unique 'modern' features. The paper finally concludes to establish that the three phenomena are deeply intertwined and contribute to each other's progress and sustenance - one incomplete without the other.

Keywords: Industrialisation, Urbanization, Modernization, Rural-Agrarian Society, Industrial-Modern Society, Transformation.

Introduction

Urbanisation is a term coined to specifically describe the study of social, political and economic relationships that emerge in cities or urban centres. A person specialising in Urban Sociology studies these relationships specifically. A study of cities can prove to be fruitful as they provide microcosms of universal human behaviour or alternatively a unique environment that defines its own brand of human behaviour.

Various factors have, over the years, led to the spread of urbanisation. The primary among them has been the phenomenon of industrialisation. Industrialization is often defined as the rapid and radical period of transformation in which society shifts from an agrarian to industrial form of society, and refurbishes its economic activities to largely circulate around manufacturing. Industrialisation is often accompanied by large scale migration of populations from agrarian-

rural setups to emerging centres of manufacturing, in search of more lucrative employment opportunities. Modernisation is a salient feature of this transformation from rural to urban. **consumerism.** Thus one notes the creation of a codependent network between industrialisation, urbanisation and modernisation where the simultaneous implementation of these forces encourage the furthering of either, whilst also being impacted by them. In this paper, we will be exploring the exact nature of this codependency.

Background

The transformation of society into its urbanised format is quite evident by how the surviving rural elements are also adapting the qualities of urban culture. Rural centres have also been transformed, particularly in their correlation with material culture. They are fast emerging as mini centres of transformation, aping the urban centres in their lifestyle and mannerisms. At this point, the shift to an urban way of life is absolute in terms of those who are living it and those who are aspiring to live it. In particular, the spread of urbanisation has taken place and impacted the society in the following ways:

- through the dissemination of a new and modernised education system
- a remarked change in dressing sense - liberal and modernised clothing, particularly for women
- adoption and dissemination of modern technology
- transformation in the status of women
- modern transportation that connects mainland with earlier disconnected places, allowing people to travel and be aware of diverse cultures with greater ease and speed
- the telecommunications revolution has made the world smaller and reduced distance between people sitting in two corners of the world
- growth in infrastructure has impacted the world in profound ways - increasingly we have a uniform aesthetic emerge across metropolitan areas in the world
- change in lifestyles to bring about a cosmopolitan culture that is increasingly uniform across the globe - these processes have led to the greater process of globalisation that refers to the increasing interconnectedness of the world.

Impact of Urbanisation

With a high rate of urbanization, significant changes have taken place in society. Urbanisation has resulted in far reaching repercussions. Positive effects include migration of rural people to urban areas, rising employment opportunities in urban centres and thereby the quality of life and aforementioned points. However, excessive urbanization is a growing concern. It may and is leading to the overpopulation of cities, an increase in population density, accommodation issues and growth of urban slum dwellings. In India, the disintegration of the joint family systems has taken place and a simultaneous transformation into single living and the nuclear family system. Even within this, people are increasingly beginning to have one to know children to accommodate the higher costs of living and ensure their living standards. While at the moment, this does not pose a problem for India but in the long run, it will add to the population difference as the way it has in developed countries, where they are now faced with an increasing number of dependents living off of a much smaller number of earning members. This problem of an ageing population is very common in urban areas with high costs of living that do not allow for large family systems to exist. Simultaneously, urbanisation has led to an increase in poor living standards. Not everyone moving into the urban centre has amassed enough wealth to maintain a decent standard of living and are therefore at a distinct disadvantage that they were in the rural setup, where the idea of common living allowed them to maintain a better lifestyle.

Another negative result of urbanisation has been the increase in crime rates in urban centres. This is due to the increased inequalities and lack of access to employment opportunities. This has driven the people, of frustration and lack of resources to petty crimes like theft, pickpocketing, cheating and heinous crimes like murder, dacoity and rape.

The nature of relationships has also seen a drastic transformation in urban centres. Impersonal relations are seen in metropolitan cities, while urban centres are characterised by highly secondary relations. The concept of neighbourhood, community life are almost absent in cities. Urban life is highly monotonous. This usually has had an adverse psychological effect on individuals residing in cities. People are often self centred and they have no concern for fellow human beings which in the long run gets to them and creates feelings of loneliness. A special stress is noted in family relations as the changing role of women clashes with traditional ideas of how they should behave.

Environmental concerns like pollution, depleting water table, poor air quality are also becoming major limitations of city life. Vehicular emissions, industrial waste into rivers, etc. are all leading causes of pollution. Sustainability is the need of the hour in urban centres.

The process of urbanisation thus has its own merits and demerits. However, we must remember,

it is a historical process that cannot be avoided, however we can endeavour to minimise the negative impact of the process.

Discussion

Modernization in sociological terms is defined as the transformation from a traditional, rural, agrarian society to a secular, urban, industrial society. Modern society is primarily an industrial society. The typical understanding is that first and foremost to modernize a society is to industrialize it. Historically, the rise of modern society has been inextricably linked with the emergence of industrial society. All the features that are associated with modernity can be shown to be related to the set of changes that, some 250 years ago, brought into being the industrial type of society.

The most overwhelming and the most permeating features of the contemporary scene are modernization and aspirations to modernity. The majority of nations today are caught in its web—becoming modernized or continuing their own traditions of modernity. Historically, modernization is the process of change towards those types of social, economic and political systems that have developed in western Europe and North America from the seventeenth century to the nineteenth and have then spread to other European countries and in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to the South American, Asian, and African continents. Modern or modernizing societies have developed from a great variety of different traditional, premodern societies. In western Europe, they developed from feudal or absolutist states with strong urban centers, in eastern Europe from more autocratic states and less urbanized societies. In the United States and the first Dominions (Canada, Australia, etc.) they have developed through processes of colonization and immigration, some of which were rooted in strong religious motivations and organized in groups of religious settlers, while others were based mostly on large-scale immigration oriented mostly to economic opportunity and greater equality of status. In Latin America, more fragmentarily modern structures developed from oligarchic conquest-colonial societies, in which there existed strong division between the white conquering oligarchy and the indigenous subject population. In Japan, the modernization process developed from a centralized feudal state of somewhat unique characteristics and in China, from the breakdown of the most continuous Imperial system in the history of mankind, a system based on special types of “literati-bureaucratic” institutions.

In most Asian and African societies, the process of modernization begun from within colonial frameworks, some (especially in Asia) based on preceding more centralized monarchical societies and elaborate literary-religious traditions, others (especially in Africa) mostly on tribal structures and traditions.

The different starting points of the processes of modernization of these societies have greatly influenced the specific contours of their development and the problems encountered in the course of it. And yet beyond these variations there are also many common characteristics which constitute the major core of “modernization” of a modern society.

Features Of Modernisation

The common characteristics of modernization refer both to what may be called socio-demographic aspects of societies and to structural aspects of social organization. Karl Deutsch has coined the term “social mobilization” to denote most of the socio-demographic aspects of modernization. He has defined social mobilization as “the process in which major clusters of old social, economic and psychological commitments are eroded and broken and people become available for new patterns of socialization and behavior,” and has indicated that some of its main indices are exposure to aspects of modern life through demonstrations of machinery, buildings, consumers' goods, etc.; response to mass media; change of residence; urbanization; change from agricultural occupations; literacy; growth of per capita income, etc. An important aspect is the separation of roles held by an individual that takes place in all institutional spheres. The culmination of all these developments has been the development of a new cultural outlook. This can be said to be the most pervasive aspect of modernisation. This outlook emphasises progress and improvement, on happiness, on individuality as a moral value, on the dignity of an individual and on efficiency.

The movement to modernity has passed through stages. At different stages of modernisation, the problem of suffrage, the definition of the new political community, of attainment of independence, assumed central importance. In other stages, economic and social problems were most pertinent. New types of political organisations have been developing. In the economic sphere, relatively small units of production have transformed into more centralized, bureaucratized, and larger units of production. The process of production has become more complex with different categories of occupational manpower like technical, professional and administrative.

The characteristic features of the associational structure of modern society are, first, the large number of functionally specific organizations; second, the division of labor between functionally specific and more solidary or culturally oriented associations; and third, the weakening of the importance of the kinship and narrow territorial bases of specialized associations on the one hand, and of various “specialized” associations and broad ascriptive-solidary groups on the other.

The process of modernization has been characterized not only by continuous structural differentiation in the major institutional spheres of society. Side by side with this process there

also occurred the breakdown of the self-sufficiency and closeness of different groups and strata, as they were drawn towards a more unified, common institutional and societal center, and began to impinge on the central institutional and symbolic sphere of the society. The consensual or mass aspect of modern society is rooted in the growing impingement of broader strata on the center, in their demands to participate in the sacred symbols of society and their formulation, and in the displacement of the traditional symbols by new ones that stress these participatory and social dimensions. This tendency towards broad, mass consensuality does not, of course, find its fullest institutionalized expression in all different types of modern societies. In many regimes in the first stages of modernization it may be weak or intermittent, while totalitarian regimes of course tend to suppress its fullest expression. But even totalitarian regimes attempt to legitimize themselves in terms of such values, and it is impossible to understand their policies, their attempts to create symbols of mass consensus, without assuming the existence of such consensual tendencies among the major strata within them and its acknowledgement by the rulers. The culmination of all these developments has been the crystallization of the nation and nation-state as the most important socio-political unit of modern societies, and of the possibility of a civil order as the major type of socio-political order within it.

Impact Of Industrialisation On Society

The Industrial Revolution is the name for a period in history when major innovation led to huge worldwide change. This era created changes in business, the work that people did, and society. These shifts continue to affect the world today. Before the Industrial Revolution, most people in Europe worked either as farmers or artisans making hand-crafted goods. The ways in which people lived had not changed significantly since the Middle Ages. Once industrialization began, however, work and family life was transformed forever.

Previously, villages had common land that all villagers could use. Most rural farmers worked as subsistence farmers. But as prosperous farmers acquired wealth and started buying land, these lands began to be used as private farms. Due to these changes, an increasing number of rural people began to move to cities and towns to find new means of livelihoods. The growth of cities in Britain was accelerated by the setting up of factories. Industrial cities such as Manchester and Leeds grew by leaps and bounds in a few decades.

Rise in factory jobs often meant family separations. This was because most men no longer worked at home. They left their homes to work in cities. Occasionally, entire families moved together. Even when men stayed with their families, they did not get time to relax with their families since factory jobs were extremely taxing and stressful.

Another detrimental consequence of Industrialisation was women and children taking up

dangerous factory work. Child labour saw a surge because factory owners wanted workers whose fingers were small enough to weave thin threads. Towards the late 1800s and early 1900s, factories did pass laws to help workers. However, harsh conditions continued to persist. Today, we continue to live with the Industrial Revolution's after effects.

Conclusion

Industrialization is the transformation of a society from an agrarian to a manufacturing or industrial economy. Industrialization does have positive consequences, for instance, rise in employment, but it also contributes to negative externalities such as environmental pollution. Separation of capital and labor creates a disparity in incomes between laborers and those who control capital resources. Industrialization also contributes to the deterioration of health among workers, crime and other societal problems.

One negative byproduct of industrialization is environmental pollution that can adversely impact human health. When companies do not pay for the environmental damage they cause, and do not dispose of industrial waste properly after treating it, this is considered a negative externality. The cost burden is placed on human society in the form of deforestation, extinction of species, widespread pollution, excessive waste and other forms of environmental degradation. Industrialization results in a wider gap between the rich and poor due to a division of labor and capital. Those who own capital tend to accumulate excessive wealth and profits which are derived from their economic activities, resulting in a higher disparity of income and wealth. So economic inequality is multiplied. Industrialization typically leads to the migration of workers to cities, automation and repetitive tasks. They lose their social identity in the process. Due to these factors, factory workers tend to lose their individuality, have limited job satisfaction and feel alienated. There can also be health issues brought on by dangerous working conditions or factors inherent to the working conditions, such as noise and dirt.

Rapid urbanization brought on by industrialization typically leads to the general deterioration of workers' quality of life and many other problems for society, such as crime, stress and psychological disorders. Long working hours usually lead to poor nutrition and consumption of quick and low-quality foods, resulting in increased incidences of diseases such as diabetes, heart attacks and stroke. Urbanisation impacts the physical environment due to an ever growing strain on resources. Overcrowded living conditions are the most salient byproduct. Sustainable urbanism is the practice of building cities in a manner which focuses on promoting their long-term viability, by reducing consumption, waste and harmful impacts, while enhancing the overall wellbeing. This is the need of the hour in the contemporary metropolitan environment. Sustainable urban development is the way forward for cities to mitigate climate change, as well

as enhance the all-round well-being of the people and the place.

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