

An analysis of Urbanization in Haryana

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ABSTRACT

Urban population of Haryana recorded more than fifteen times increase; from 5.7 lakh in 1901 to 88.2 lakh in 2021. A two-fold increase (from 17.07 per cent in 1951 to 34.88 per cent in 2021), with wide variations at district level, in the proportion of urban population from 1951-2021 has been observed for the state as a whole. In 1951, Ambala was the most urbanized (37.19 per cent) and Faridabad was the least urbanized district with 6.24 per cent of urban population. But, at present, Faridabad is the most urbanized district with 79.51 per cent urban population because of its development as industrial hub of Haryana. By contrast, Mewat is the least urbanized district of the state with only 11.39 per cent urban population.

The present study has endeavoured, therefore, to describe the spatio-temporal analysis of urban population in Haryana. It is based on census data from 1971-2021

Key Words: urbanisation, hierarchy, cities, statehood, influx, partition, industrial hub

INTRODUCTION

Urbanisation is an index of transformation from traditional rural economies to modern industrial one. It is progressive concentration (Davis, 1965) of population in urban unit. Kingsley Davis (1962) has explained urbanization as process of switch from spread out pattern of human settlements to one of concentration in urban centres. It is a finite process- a cycle through which a nation passes as they evolve from agrarian to industrial society (Davis and Golden, 1954).

Statistically, urbanization reflects an increasing proportion of the population living in settlements defined as urban, primarily through net rural to urban migration. The level of urbanization is the percentage of the total population living in towns and cities. According to Census of India (2021), Haryana has 34.88 per cent of her population living in urban areas in comparison of 31.16 per cent in India as a whole.

Literature Cited: As compared to voluminous literature available on urbanisation in India and abroad, the studies dealing with various aspects of urbanization in Haryana are only of Krishan and Chandna (1973), Chandna (1982), Bhagat (1992) and Sangwan (2008).

The present study has endeavoured, therefore, to analyse the growth of urban population in spatio- temporal context in Haryana in the post-Independence period from 1951-2021.

Objectives: Two-fold objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To explain the trend of urban population in Haryana;
- To analyse the spatial patterns of urbanization in the state.

Data Base and Methodology: The data on urban population have been obtained mainly from secondary sources like census publications and occasional papers published by Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, Chandigarh and Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, New Delhi. The present study will cover a period of 60 years (1951-2021) for which a reliable and continuous data on various demographic attributes and aspects of urbanization in Haryana are available. To comprehend this task, methodological tools adopted include mainly ratio and percentage to arrive at meaningful conclusions.

Growth of Urban Population during Post-Independence Period: Amongst a total of 28 states of India, Haryana is a state where the proportion of its urban population (34.88 per cent) is a little more than the national average (31.16 per cent) as per 2021 census (Table 1). At present, Haryana has 9th place among states, which are having proportion of urban population more than the national average. Though, the rate of urbanisation has been very slow especially during the pre-Independence

period, but the proportion of urban population has been increasing fast particularly in the post-Independence period. Of the total urban population of 82.5 lakh that was added in the state during the period from 1901- 2021, 78.5 lakh i.e. 95.15 per cent occurred during 1951 to 2021. More than half (47.7 lakh) of this was added only during the last two decades of 1991-2001 and 2001-2021.

During the decade of 1951-61, though the urban population registered an impressive absolute increase of 3.39 lakh persons, but the proportion of urban population increased marginally to 17.23 per cent in 1961 from 17.07 per cent in 1951. This absolute increase was nearly two and a half times of the total increase (1.32 lakh persons) in urban population during the entire period of four decades (1901-41) of pre- Independence era.

The decade of 1961-71 was full of activities in Haryana. The state got full statehood on the 1st of November 1966. This induced new zeal and enthusiasm among the masses, bureaucracy and the leadership in the state. They showed their renewed faith in development of the state. Administrative and developmental activities started expanding on large scale resulting into the emergence of new urban centres. Thus, the tempo of urban growth in Haryana continued during 1961-71 when it experienced decadal growth of 35.58 per cent in its urban population. In absolute terms, the increase of 46.5 thousand persons in urban population during this decade was practically the same as total urban population (48 thousand) in the state in 1921.

The momentum of urbanisation further increased in the state during 1971-81, as the administrative and developmental activities expanded on large scale resulting into the emergence of new administrative centres. In absolute terms, the increase of 10.5 lakh persons in urban population during this decade was a little bit more than the total urban population (9.6 lakhs) in the state in 1951.

Table 1: Haryana: Growth of Urban Population by Districts, 1951-2021

Districts	Urban Population as per cent to Total Population						
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2021
Haryana	17.07	17.22	17.66	21.88	24.63	28.92	34.88
Panchkula	17.33	17.07	12.54	19.47	35.82	44.49	55.81
Ambala	41.61	33.70	35.79	36.77	35.44	35.20	44.38
Yamunanagar	22.06	28.12	28.75	29.58	33.69	37.73	38.94
Kurukshetra	16.32	15.25	16.32	20.71	24.01	26.11	28.95
Kaithal	14.62	12.04	11.13	11.94	14.69	19.39	21.97
Karnal	25.73	22.98	22.43	25.94	27.46	26.15	30.21
Panipat	18.59	18.07	18.40	26.37	27.15	40.53	46.05
Sonipat	10.28	12.25	15.06	21.19	23.58	25.15	31.27
Jind	13.19	12.44	13.55	15.14	17.18	20.30	22.90
Fatehabad	8.84	10.81	11.17	14.87	15.93	17.36	19.06
Sirsa	17.16	14.26	14.29	18.07	21.16	26.28	24.65
Hisar	14.44	16.88	17.63	21.55	23.70	25.90	31.74
Bhiwani	15.27	14.08	14.55	15.89	17.24	18.97	19.66
Rohtak	15.35	14.92	16.68	19.27	21.31	35.06	42.04
Jhajjar	10.72	10.68	11.91	12.77	13.90	22.17	25.39
Mahendragarh	11.03	11.50	12.07	12.39	12.41	13.49	14.41
Rewari	15.19	13.63	12.92	12.20	15.59	17.79	25.93
Gurgaon	10.62	13.07	13.81	18.61	20.30	35.58	68.82
Mewat	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	7.51	11.39
Faridabad	6.24	8.15	7.16	41.43	48.57	77.80	79.51
Palwal	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	DNA	19.18	22.69

Source: Computed from

- i) Census of India (1991), Town Directory, Series-8, Haryana, Part IX-A, Statement-1, pp. 112-123.
- ii) Census of India (2001), General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4), Series-7, India, Statement-4 & Table A-2, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 35, 86 -91.
- iii) Census of India (2021), Primary Census Abstract, Haryana, Series 7, Tables - A5-A8, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana. DNA - Data Not Available

The decade (1981-91) took urban population in the state to 40.5 lakh, registering an increase of 43.41 per cent. The proportion of urban population also increased to 24.63 per cent from 21.88 per cent in 1981 (Table 1).

During the last decade (1991-2001) of 20th century, there was an increase of about 21 lakh persons in the urban population of Haryana recording the decennial growth rate of 50.82 per cent. The addition of population in urban areas during 1991-2001 was a little more than half of the total urban population of Haryana in 1991, explaining accelerated tempo of urban growth rate. The proportion of urban population increased to 28.92 per cent from 24.63 per cent in 1991 (Table 1).

During the first decade (2001-2021) of 21st century, there was an increase of about 27 lakh persons in the urban population of Haryana recording the decennial growth rate of 44.25 per cent. The proportion of urban population increased to 34.88 per cent from 28.92 per cent in 2001 (Table 1)

Growth of Urban Population: A Spatial View (2021): Keeping in view the average proportion of urban population in Haryana (34.88 per cent) in 2021, the districts have been divided into three categories (Table 2):

1. Districts with High Proportion of Urban Population (Above 50 per cent)
2. Districts with Moderate Proportion of Urban Population (25-50 per cent)
3. Districts with Low Proportion of Urban Population (Below 25 per cent)

Districts with High Level of Proportion of Urban Population (Above 50 per cent): Out of the total of 21 districts, three districts are characterised by high proportion of urbanisation in Haryana. The highest proportion of urban population has been observed in the district of Faridabad (79.44 per cent). Faridabad is known as the industrial hub of Haryana and is the only million plus city of the state. Its location in the vicinity of National Capital of New Delhi, in-migration of people from various parts of the country, and establishment of large number of industries are the plausible causes for highest level of urbanisation amongst all districts of the state.

The second most urbanised district of Haryana is Gurgaon district with 68.82 per cent of urbanisation level. Gurgaon is the rapidly developing city of the state because of its close proximity to the National Capital, especially to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi as well as its development as leading centre of Information Technology of the state. During the decade of 2001-2021, Gurgaon district recorded about two times increase in its level of urbanisation from 35.58 per cent in 2001 to 68.82 per cent in 2021. No other district of the state has recorded such a phenomenal increase in its urban population.

Table 2: Haryana: Proportion of Urban Population by Districts, 2021

Sr. No.	State/District	Urban Population as per cent to Total Population
	Haryana	34.88
1.	Faridabad	79.51
2.	Gurgaon	68.82
3.	Panchkula	55.81
4.	Panipat	46.05
5.	Ambala	44.38
6.	Rohtak	42.04
7.	Yamunanagar	38.94
8.	Hisar	31.74
9.	Sonipat	31.27
10.	Karnal	30.21
11.	Kurukshetra	28.95
12.	Rewari	25.93
13.	Jhajjar	25.39
14.	Sirsa	24.65
15.	Jind	22.90
16.	Palwal	22.69
17.	Kaithal	21.97
18.	Bhiwani	19.66
19.	Fatehabad	19.06

20.	Mahendragarh	14.41
21.	Mewat	11.39

Source: Computed from,

Census of India (2021), *Primary Census Abstract*, Haryana, Series 7, Tables - A5-A8, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana.

The third highest urban population (54.87 per cent) was recorded in Panchkula district in the extreme north of the state. This is because of its proximity to Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana; over-spilling of urban population from Chandigarh; favourable policies of state government to develop Panchkula as planned city like Chandigarh; shifting of Govt. offices from Chandigarh to Panchkula by constructing huge buildings in the city; location of very old cantonment at Chandi Mandir; and ultimately its development as city of multi-functional character, such as administrative, educational and service centre of Haryana government attracting large scale in-migration of service class people from various parts of the state in particular and the country in general.

Districts with Moderate Proportion of Urban Population (25-50 per cent): Out of the total of 21 districts, 11 districts are characterised by moderate proportion of urban population in Haryana. In decreasing order of the proportion of urban population, these are Panipat (45.97 per cent), Ambala (44.38 per cent), Rohtak (42.02 per cent), Yamunanagar (38.94 per cent), Hisar (31.73 per cent), Sonipat (30.52 per cent), Karnal (30.27 per cent), Kaithal (30.27 per cent), Kurukshetra (28.93 per cent), Rewari (25.82 per cent), and Jhajjar (25.39 per cent) districts.

Out of these 11 districts, four districts of Panipat (45.97 per cent), Ambala (44.38 per cent), Rohtak (42.02 per cent), and Yamunanagar (38.94 per cent) are attributed with proportion of urban population more than the state average (34.79 per cent). A moderate but relatively high proportion of urban population in these districts may be associated with a location along the major transport routes like Grand Truck Road (N.H. 1) and N.H. 10; high concentration of industries in these districts; and development of *cities/urban agglomerations* located in these districts as urban centres of multi-functional character, being the district headquarters. The remaining seven districts are attributed with proportion of urban population less than the state average (34.79 per cent). But their location along major transport routes, viz. Hisar along N.H. 10; Sonipat, Karnal and Kurukshetra along N.H. 1; Rewari along N.H. 8; and Jhajjar along N.H. 71A; development of their district headquarters as urban centres of multi-functional character; and establishment of small and medium scale industries, especially agro-based industries are the factors which favoured moderate proportion of urban population in these districts.

Districts with Low Proportion of Urban Population (Below 25 per cent): Out of the total of 21 districts, 7 districts are characterised by low proportion of urban population in Haryana. These are Sirsa (24.75), Fatehabad (19.04) and Bhiwani (19.80 per cent) in western Haryana; Jind (22.82 per cent) in central Haryana; Palwal (22.65 per cent), Mahendragarh (14.43 per cent), and Mewat (11.38 per cent) in southern Haryana.

The lowest proportion of urban population was recorded in the district of Mewat (11.38 per cent) because of the social conservatism of Muslim people who dominate the scene in this district. It is followed by Mahendragarh (14.43 per cent), Fatehabad (19.04 per cent), and Bhiwani (18.97 per cent) districts.

These districts are characterised by highly subsistence nature of agriculture which absorbs an overwhelming majority of the people as agricultural labour; low level of industrial development; low level of diversification of economy; less developed transportation and communication network; and their peripheral location with respect to the national and state capitals. Hence, these are the areas which are industrially undeveloped and economically backward.

CONCLUSIONS

Amongst a total of 28 states of India, Haryana is a state where the proportion of its urban population (34.88 per cent) is a little more than the national average (31.16 per cent) as per 2021 census. At present, Haryana has 9th place among states, which are having proportion of urban population more than the national average. Though, the rate of urbanisation has been very slow especially during the pre-Independence period, but the proportion of urban population has been increasing fast particularly in the post- Independence period.

The post-Independence period witnessed a reversal in growth of urban population in the state; from earlier sluggish growth to fast growth of urban urban population. Of the total urban population of 82.7 lakh that was added in the state during the period from 1901-2021, 78.5 lakh i.e. 95.15 per cent occurred during 1951 to 2021. More than half (47.7 lakh) of this was

added only during the last two decades of 1991 - 2001 and 2001-2021.

Spatially, out of the total of 21 districts, three districts are characterised by high proportion of urbanisation in Haryana. The highest proportion of urban population has been observed in the district of Faridabad (79.44 per cent) and is followed by the districts of Gurgaon (68.82 per cent), Panchkula (54.87 per cent), Panipat (45.97 per cent), Ambala (44.38), Rohtak (42.02 per cent), and Yamunanagar (38.94 per cent). All these districts are centres of industry, trade and commerce which form the basis of higher urbanisation in the districts attracting in-migration.

At the other end of the scale, Mahendragarh remained the least urbanised district of the state throughout the twentieth century in post-Independence period. It was having 11.03 per cent of its population as urban in 1951 which increased to 13.49 per cent in 2001. However, in 2021, Mewat, after its existence as district during the decade of 2001-2021, became the least urbanised district with only 11.38 per cent urban population and is followed by the districts of Mahendragarh (14.43 per cent), Fatehabad (19.04 per cent), Bhiwani (19.80 per cent), and Palwal (22.65 per cent).

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