

6. **Education:** Literacy is increasing among the inhabitants of the villages. Basic education and social education are increasing as many of the states are making efforts to provide educational institutions in the villages. Many of the young men and girls from the villages are going to the towns to receive education. In the bigger villages, high schools and even intermediate colleges can be seen. In the rural areas, many institutes, agricultural colleges and degree colleges have been established.
7. **Economic System:** The standard of living is rising in the villages creating a demand for new things, for which shops are being opened in the villages. The educated young men from the villages prefer white collar jobs. The use of new tools is increasing in agriculture. The production has increased as a result of the new tools, new seeds and modern methods of farming. The condition of financial capital has improved with the opening of co-operative credit societies, grain banks and co-operative banks, and the indebtedness has decreased. The cottage industries have been encouraged by government aid. The per capita incomes have increased but so have the prices of the commodities. The condition of the farmers and people engaged in minor occupations has improved with the removal of intermediaries.
8. **Political System:** With the establishment of panchayats in the villages, political consciousness has increased. The villagers have started criticising the actions of the government through the right to vote. In villages newspapers are available which, along with the radio and television, help to increase the political knowledge of the villagers. But the political parties have also created disunity and factionalism within the villages. The villagers are not much in awe of the government officials as they used to be. Even though there are panchayats, litigation has increased in the villages. The community feeling has declined though national consciousness has been aroused. Selfishness and individualism have increased.

## Conclusion

In this chapter we concentrated on the rural society. We have discussed the institutions of family, marriage, political system, as well as, problems of rural community such as indebtedness and the adverse impact of the Green Revolution. In the section on indebtedness, we discussed its causes and consequences. Similarly, discussion on Green Revolution focused on its causes and the impacts. Further, the above noted changes clearly indicate that the Indian village community of today is not the same as it was in old times. A new pattern of life and social relationships has emerged in Rural Society.

## Glossary

- **Endogamy:** Endogamy is the rule of marriage that prescribes that the mate selection should be from within the group. Marriage with out-group members is prohibited.
- **Exogamy:** Marriage outside one's own group is called exogamy. Exogamy is a rule of marriage, which prohibits marriage within one's group.
- **Green Revolution:** It refers to a set of research, development, and technology transfer programmes undertaken between the 1930s and the late 1960s that increased agricultural production worldwide, particularly in the developing world, beginning most markedly in the late 1960s.
- **HYVs:** High-Yielding Variety Seeds (HYVs) of wheat, rice, and other food crops. The HYVs revolutionised the agricultural production in the programme called the Green Revolution.
- **Indebtedness:** Taking or incurring debt for the purpose of agricultural production is indeed necessary as it contributes to production. However, the rural people incur debts for non-productive purposes such as, to meet the family needs, perform social functions (related to marriage, birth, and death), litigation, etc. Since money taken does not contribute to production but instead to consumption, it drags the rural people into indebtedness.
- **Joint Family:** A joint family consists of a minimum of three generations – grandparents, parents and children living together under the same roof, sharing common kitchen and purse or economic expenses.
- **Rural Society:** A rural society is a separate entity with essential characteristics, such as the size of community is smaller, density of population is low, agriculture is the main occupation, homogeneity of population, stratification based on caste, joint family system, etc.



### I. Objective type questions

#### Multiple choice questions

1. Rural society can be divided into two classes;  
(a) Master and Slaves (b) The exploiting class and the exploited class  
(c) Upper class and Lower class (d) Capitalistics and workers
2. The introduction of new techniques leading to greater crop yield is called;  
(a) White Revolution (b) Blue Revolution  
(c) Yellow Revolution (d) Green Revolution

3. The mate selection within the group is called ;  
 (a) Exogamy (b) Endogamy  
 (c) Group Marriage (d) Monogamy
4. Jajmani system is based upon the relationship of ;  
 (a) Jajmanis (b) Kammens  
 (c) Jajman and Kammen (d) None of the above
5. The reason for indebtedness in rural society is ;  
 (a) Development (b) Poverty and deficit economy  
 (c) Self-sufficiency (d) Subsistence economy
6. The new agricultural technology has made the farmers;  
 (a) Market-Oriented (b) Labour class  
 (c) Self-sufficient (d) None of the above

#### B. Fill in the blanks

1. The head of village was known as \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Rural society is \_\_\_\_\_ in size.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ System was based on the exploitation of the Kammen.
4. Social control in rural community is \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are used to look into the instances of social disobedience in rural society

#### C. True/False

1. The village is the unit of social and political organization of India. ☐
2. Rural indebtedness is an indicator of the weak financial infrastructure. ☐
3. In agriculture resources like fertilisers, pesticides, agricultural machinery etc., are used. ☐
4. With the establishment of panchayats in the villages, political consciousness has increased. ☐
5. The adoption of new technology has also given a boost to agricultural employment. ☐

#### D. Match the Columns

##### Column A

Face to face relations  
 Head of the household  
 Marriage without group number  
 Litigation  
 Wheat, rice, & other crops

##### Column B

Indebtedness  
 High yielding variety of seeds  
 Intimate relations  
 Karta  
 Endogamous

## II. Very short answer type questions

1. Who quoted "Real India lives in its villages?"
2. Which revolution helped the growth of capitalistic farming in India?
3. The HYVPs revolutionised agricultural production is called?
4. Marriage outside one's own group is called?
5. During ancient times the head of village was known as ?
6. Which kind of family system exists in rural society- Joint or Nuclear family?
7. Jajmani system is based on the relationship between whom?
8. What is the full form of HYVS.
9. Is poverty one of the major reasons for Indebtedness?

## III. Short answer type questions

1. What is Joint family?
2. What is Indebtedness?
3. Write down two causes of rural Indebtedness.
4. What do you mean by Litigation?
5. What is Green Revolution?
6. Write down two changes in rural society.

## IV. Long answer type questions

1. Discuss rural society.
2. Write three features of rural society.
3. Write the three causes responsible for the Indebtedness.
4. Write a short note on Green Revolution in Punjab.
5. Write two positive as well as two negative impacts of Green Revolution.

## V. Very long answer type questions

1. What do you mean by rural society? Discuss its characteristics in detail.
2. What is Indebtedness? What are the causes responsible for Indebtedness?
3. Define Green Revolution. Write down its components in detail.
4. What is Green Revolution? Discuss in detail about its impact.
5. Define rural society? Discuss various changes taking place in rural society.
6. Write an essay on rural society.

## PROJECT

Make a Project Report on seeds and technological innovations adopted by the farmers of Punjab.



# Urban Society

## 3 Chapter

### Highlights

- 3.1 Meaning
- 3.2 Features
- 3.3 Issues
  - 3.3.1 Housing
  - 3.3.2 Slums

### Introduction

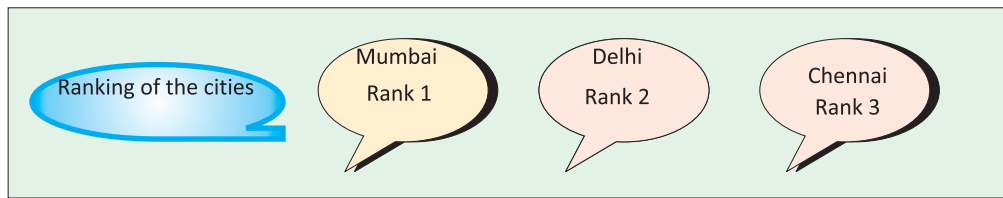
Urban society is a society typical of modern industrial civilisation, which is heterogeneous in cultural tradition, emphasises secular values, and is individualised rather than integrated. It is usually contrasted with folk society. Urban society was created due to fast industrial development. Everything in urban society is dynamic in nature. The rate of social change is faster due to education, technology, industry and urbanisation. A complex social life is found in which the people of different races, professions, castes and religions live together. In the urban setting social interaction is formal and anonymity is another important trait.

The term urban is used demographically and socially. In the former sense, it lays emphasis on the size of the population, density of the population and nature of the occupations of dwellers, while in the latter sense it focuses on heterogeneity, impersonality, interdependence and quality of life.

Urban areas have been recognised as “engines of inclusive economic growth”. Of the 121 crore Indians, 83.3 crore live in rural areas while 37.7 crore, approximately 32% of the total population, stay in urban areas.

The Census of India, 2011 defines urban settlement as: All the places, which have municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee. All the other points which satisfy the criteria are mentioned alongside:

- A minimum population of 5000 persons
- At least 75% of working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits
- A density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometre.



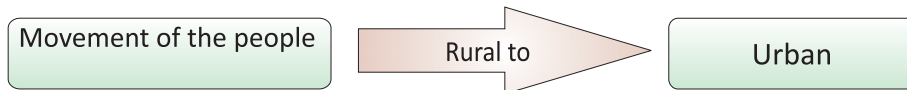
## Urban Sociology

Urban Sociology is the study of the life of human interaction in metropolitan areas. It attempts to study the structures, processes, changes and problems of urban areas and subsequently tries to provide the input for planning and policymaking. In other words, it is the sociological study of cities, their role in the development of society, etc. Urban sociologists use statistical analysis, observation, ethnography, social theory, interviews, and other methods to study migration, economic and demographic trends, as well as, various social problems such as poverty, slums, race relations, drug addiction, prostitution, crime, sexuality, and many other phenomena that appear in vibrant cities.

After the industrial revolution Sociologists like Max Weber and Georg Simmel began to focus on the accelerating process of urbanisation and the effects it had on feelings of social alienation and anonymity. Notably, Georg Simmel is widely considered to be the father of Urban Sociology for his contributions to the field in works such as *The Metropolis and Mental Life*, published in 1903.

The area of Urban Studies was further popularised by different sociologists and researchers who worked at the University of Chicago in the early twentieth century. This group constituted the Chicago School of Sociology. The works of Robert Park, Louis Wirth and Ernest Burgess institutionalised the urban research in Sociology. They developed Human Geography by using the quantitative and the ethnographic research methods. The Chicago School combined sociological and anthropological theories to understand the interrelation of urban structures and micro-interactions in cities. The Chicago School sought to provide subjective meaning to how humans interact under structural, cultural and social conditions.

## Urbanisation



Urbanisation plays a vital role in the development of the urban communities. It is the movement of the people from rural area to urban areas, and the result is the growth of cities. It is a two way process because it involves not only movements from village to cities and change from agricultural occupation to business, trade, service and profession but it also involves change in the migrants' attitudes, beliefs, values and behaviour patterns. The urbanisation process is rapid all over the world. Facilities like modern education system, technological changes, healthcare system, employment avenues, civic facilities and social welfare are reasons attracting people to the urban areas. As per the Census of India, criteria for urbanisation are:

- Population is more than 5000.
- The density is over 400 persons per sq. km.
- 75% of the population engages in non-agricultural occupations.
- Cities are urban areas with population more than one lakh. Metropolises are cities with population of more than one million.

### Urbanism

#### Urban way of living

Urbanism is an important element of the urban society which separates the identity or personality of the people from rural society and tribal society. It represents a way of living. It also denotes the diffusion of urban culture and the evolution of urban society. It reflects an organisation of society in terms of complex division of labour, high level of technology, high mobility, interdependence of its members in fulfilling economic functions and impersonality in social relations. Louis Wirth has mentioned four characteristics of urbanism: Transiency, Superficiality, Anonymity and Individualism.



- **Transiency:** An urban inhabitant's relation with others last only for a short time and one tends to forget one's old acquaintances and develop relations with new people. Since one is not much attached to one's neighbours or other members of the social groups, one does not mind leaving them.
- **Superficiality:** A person has limited number of persons with whom one interacts and one's relations with them are impersonal and formal. People meet each other in highly segmental roles. They are dependent on more people for the satisfaction of their life's needs. Their relationships are only on the surface and do not go very deep.

#### Urbanism

- Transiency
- Superficiality
- Anonymity
- Individualism

- **Anonymity:** Urbanities do not know each other intimately. Personal mutual acquaintance between the inhabitants which ordinarily is found in a neighbourhood is lacking. Life is marked by impersonality.
- **Individualism:** It implies a doctrine that the interests of the individual take precedence over the interests of the social group. In other words, people give more importance to their own vested interests.

Thus, urban community is:

- Heterogeneous, dominated by secondary relations, artificial, more mobile and non-agricultural based.
- Big in size and the peoples are progressive.
- A 'way of life' that is distinct from rural or small town lifestyles.
- A centre known for its political, economic or cultural power, i.e., government centre.
- The hub of change where innovation and creativity abound, i.e., employment.
- A population centre that spawns and fosters alternate value system i.e., diversity over uniformity; freedom over security and anonymity over familiarity.

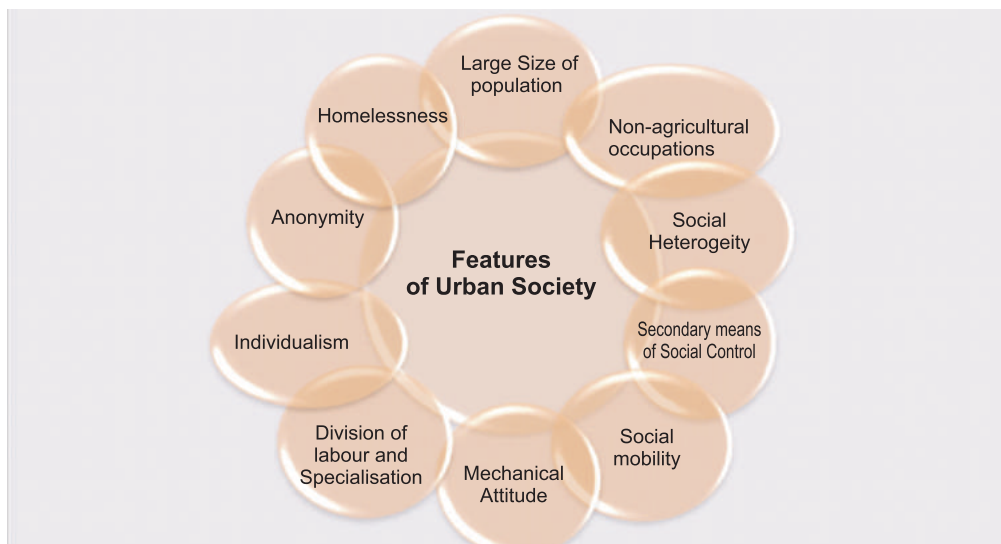
### Features of Urban Society

The main characteristics of the urban society are discussed below:

**1. Large size of Population:** Urban society is much bigger in size than rural society. Urban societies are identified as large, dense and heterogeneous as people from various parts of a nation come and settle down there in search of a better life.

**2. Non-agricultural Occupation:** Employment in the industry and the service sector of the economy is the major occupation in these areas. In addition, the occupations are diverse. There are many occupations through which the people can earn their living.

**3. Social heterogeneity:** In urban areas there is an intermixture of people from diverse backgrounds and people from different castes, classes, races, religions and cultural backgrounds live in close proximity. Their social interaction produces new cultural varieties. Hence, urban area constitutes its own culture drawing inspiration from different cultures having diverse life styles.



**4. Secondary means of Social Control:** Control of social behaviour is more difficult in the urban society. Formal means of social control such as police, law and courts are more powerful and are essential in regulating the behaviour of the people rather than the informal agencies of social control, such as, family, community and neighbourhood.

**5. Social Mobility:** The urban society is more open and the chances for social mobility are higher. The achieved status of an individual is more prevalent than the ascribed, determined by one's own work and economic status.

**6. Mechanical Attitude:** The inhabitants of urban society interact with each other in a very mechanical or formal way which lacks genuine friendliness as they show superficial politeness. They deal with strangers as animated machines rather than as human beings. Besides, social heterogeneity augments the feeling of segregation and loneliness and there do not exist any real neighbourhood relationships.

**7. Division of Labour and Specialisation:** In urban societies specialisation is visible in every walk of life. Hence, we find different people engaging themselves in different kinds of activities commercial, educational, political, recreational, artistic, literary, scientific, and so on. There are skilled, unskilled and semi skilled workers, artisans, technicians, employees, financiers, businessmen, administrators, politicians, artists and others in society specialising in some particular kind of activity or the other.

**8. Individualism:** People are individualistic in their attitudes. The city dweller gives great importance to one's own welfare and happiness instead of thinking or acting for the good of others. Also an individual takes independent decisions on matters such as education, marriage, occupation, enterprise, adventure, and so on and is guided by one's own whims and fancies.

**9. Anonymity:** The city is marked by namelessness. Due to its large size and dense population people may interact with each other even without knowing each other. The people are unaware of the existence of many institutional organisations and of people around them. They do not feel a sense of belonging to any group. Social contacts are impersonal and segmented.

#### **Activity 3.1**

Make a list of reasons why the rural people are migrating to urban areas. Discuss it in your class.

**10. Homelessness:** Housing problem is a common feature in a big city. The poor people stay on pavements and in slums. The middle class people have insufficient accommodation.

### Family System of Urban Society

The family is regarded as a basic social institution. Nuclear families are more popular in urban areas. Also, in the urban setting greater importance is attached to the individual than to the family.

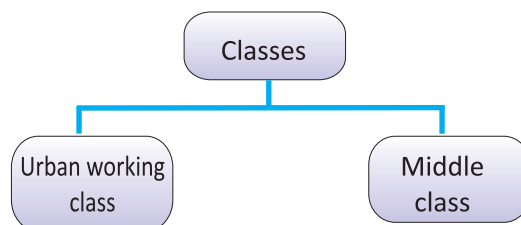
The urban family is undergoing transition. It is changing into companionship. The size of urban joint family is shrinking and kinship relationships are just getting confined to two or three generations. Several studies on urban families have been conducted in India by I. P. Desai, K. M. Kapadia and A. D. Ross which have concluded that:

- Joint family has been replaced by nuclear family.
- It is less authoritarian and less co-operative.
- It is called a family of minimal functions.
- There is very less time available to develop close ties between parents and children.

### Economic System of Urban Society

- Urban economy is prominently based on non-agricultural occupations.
- Diversity of occupations is one of its important attributes.
- It is marked by occupational mobility.
- Almost all the occupations require specialised training and skills.
- There is high degree of inter-dependence among various occupational groups.
- It is characterised by achieved status.

### Economic Classes in Urban Society





### Urban Working Class:

- They have migrated to the cities from the rural areas. These migrants still maintain their kinship ties back home.
- A significant section of the urban working class is literate.
- They are diversified on the basis of class, religion, language, etc.



IT Professional



Trader



Clerical Staff

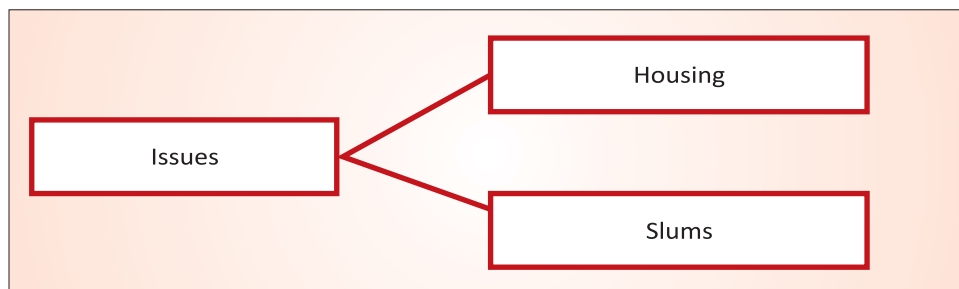
### Middle Class

B. B. Mishra states that the Indian middle class consists of the following groups:

- Merchants, agents and active proprietors of modern trading firms
- Salaried executives such as managers, inspectors, supervisors, technical staff, etc.
- Professionals such as lawyers, doctors, professors, journalists, artists, priests, etc.
- Clerks, assistants and other non-manual workers

### Urban Issues

It is extremely difficult to accommodate the increasing inflow of migrants in the contemporary society. A large number of these migrants are the rural poor, seeking employment in the formal or informal sectors. Many urban problems arise from the heavy inflow of population. Urban poverty and problem of housing and slums have drawn the attention of sociologists, anthropologists, economists, political scientists, geographers and urban planners. They observed that these problems are the result of intolerable living conditions in urban areas.





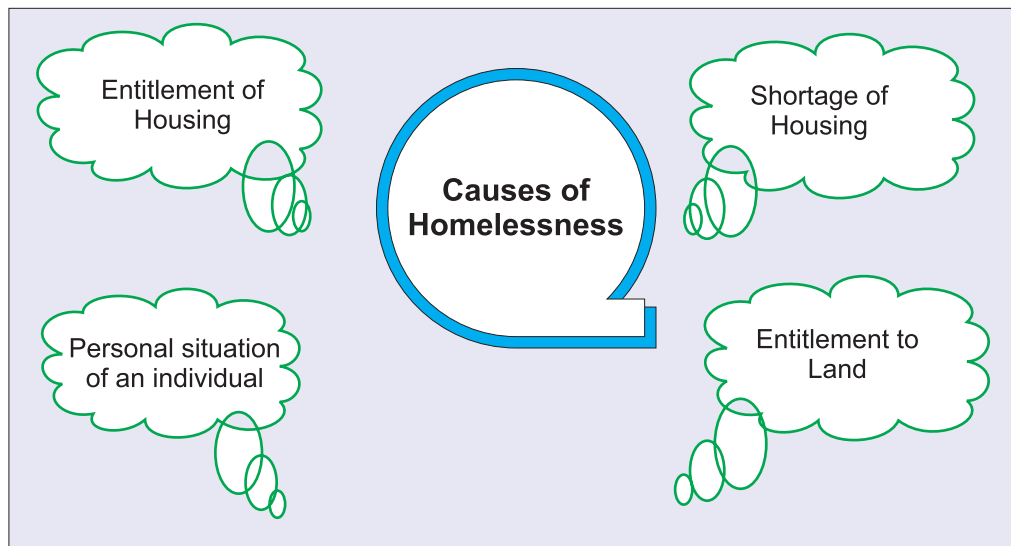
## Housing

Housing means a building where people live. It means the physical structure that provides protection to human being. Housing standards depend upon certain factors such as income, size, living standards and education of the family. India is still faced with the problem of basic housing needs of thousands of its citizens. Shelter is the basic human requirement. Yet even after more than six decades of independence, the country is still grappling with the ever-growing shelter problem, especially of the poor. The problem has further been compounded by the rapid increase in urban population. Constant migration of rural population to cities in search of jobs is causing unbearable strain on urban housing and basic services. There is a severe housing shortage in the urban areas as the demand-supply gap is increasing day-by-day.



### Population Explosion in Urban India

Growth of population in cities is so fast that it has become impossible to provide adequate residential accommodation to all. Hence, housing problem or what is known as 'houselessness' has become one of the serious problems of the urban setting. The pressure on space in cities is so tremendous that large numbers of people are forced to live on roads, bus stands, railway stations, and in poorly equipped houses. It is said that around half of the city population in India is either ill-housed or has to pay more than twenty percent of their income on rent. Mega cities like Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi and Chennai are suffering from acute housing problem.



### **Congestion**

Many households in urban areas have to cope with increasingly crowded conditions, although this is certainly not true for everyone. The housing conditions improve when people build high buildings, those which are more than five storeys tall, to increase the number of houses. Many urban centres have very high population densities. The house owners therefore rent out numerous rooms to migrants. Poor migrants live under the most crowded conditions. They depend on the rented accommodation, which they often share with many others to save money.

Some poor households of the original population also live in very crowded dwellings because firstly, many families expand and split up into multiple households as the land available for construction becomes unaffordable and they are forced to fit more people into the same space or house or to split up the existing plots and dwellings to accommodate a new household and secondly, in the absence of sufficient income from other sources, some households are inclined to rent out a portion of their living space to tenants.

The Government of India adopted a formal programme to provide shelter for the low income sectors of population such as subsidised housing scheme. Low income group housing scheme was started during Sixth Five Year Plan for low income sectors. Following interventions were taken under the National Housing Policy:

1. Providing savings and investment in housing
2. Creating an environment conducive to investment in housing for rental purpose
3. Making available standardised building materials and components on reasonable prices
4. Improving and upgrading construction skills.

## Slums

Slum constitutes another most important and persistent problem of urban society. Slums are colonies that are formed by the migrant labourers, who are economically weak to have houses to live in. The slum dwellers do not practice hygienic living conditions because of shortage of resources, which affect the overall development of the nation. There are number of terms by which slums are known.

**In India, they are known as '*Katras, Gallis, Juggi-Jhopadpatti, Chawls, Bustees, Zopadpatti*' etc.**

Slums are a part of urban life. The population distribution is uneven in the various metro cities with cities like Delhi and Mumbai being more densely populated than the rest of the cities in India. The rapid increase in India's city population has resulted in the growth of slums and squatter settlements resulting in serious social, economic, and environmental problems. It is an overcrowded and squalid district of a city or a town usually inhabited by very poor people. Slums are usually characterised by high rates of poverty and unemployment.



**Housing structure of Slums**



**Water Problem in Slums**

They are the hub of many social problems such as drugs, alcoholism and crime etc. They are also the breeding centre for disease due to unsanitary conditions.

### Definitions

Slums are areas where houses are unfit for human habitation in any respect and are by reason of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement, narrowness or faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation, light, sanitation facilities or any combination of these factors detrimental to safety, health and morals.

**-Section 3 of the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956**

A slum is a building, group of buildings or area characterised by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions or absence of facilities or amenities which because of these conditions or any of them endanger the health, safety or morals of its inhabitants or the community.

**-United Nation Urban Land Policies**

### Characteristics of a Slum

The basic characteristics of slums are as follows:

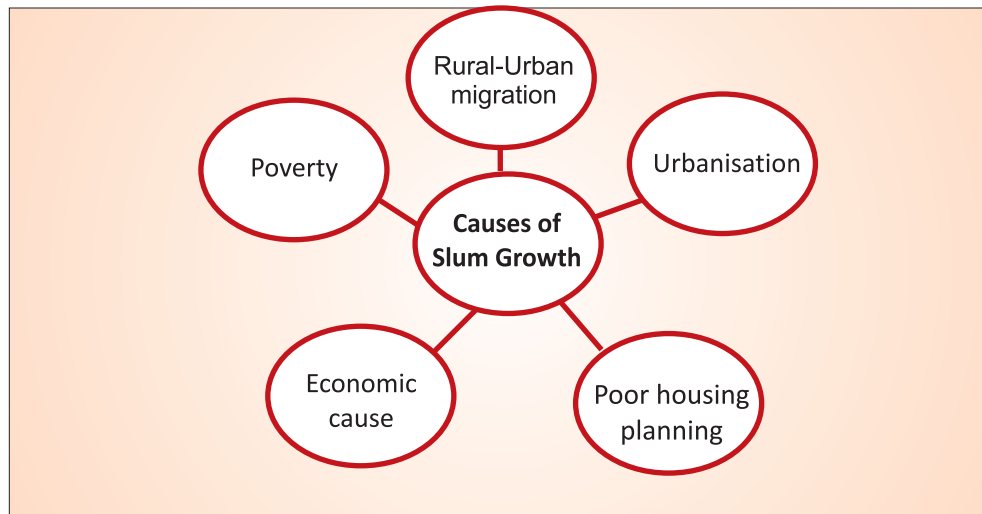
- Dilapidated and infirm housing structure
- Poor ventilation
- Acute overcrowding
- Faulty alignment of streets
- Inadequate lighting
- Paucity of safe drinking water
- Water logging during rains
- Absence of a properly maintained sanitation system
- Absence of toilet facilities
- Non-availability of basic physical and social services
- High rate of disease and mortality
- Law and order problems
- Deviant behaviour such as crime, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, drug addiction, suicide, alcoholism and family maladjustment

#### Activity 3.2

Collect some information about why slums are growing and where these areas are found in majority.

### Causes of the Growth of Slums

1. **Rural-Urban Migration:** A slum develops as a result of the squatting of poor migrants. Many people move to urban areas primarily because cities promise more jobs, better school for children and diverse income opportunities than subsistence farming in rural areas. However, some rural migrants may not find jobs immediately because of their lack of skills and the increasingly competitive job markets, which lead to financial problems for them due to which they cannot afford housing in cities and eventually settle down in only affordable slums.



2. **Urbanisation:** Rapid urbanisation drives economic growth and causes people to seek work and investment opportunities in the urban areas. Local governments managing urbanisation encourage migrant workers to shift to the cities without arranging for them an affordable place to live in, which forces them to dwell in slums. The UN-Habitat reports that 43 per cent of urban population in developing countries and 78 per cent of those in the least developed countries are slum dwellers.
3. **Poor Housing Planning:** Lack of affordable low cost housing and poor planning encourages the growth of slums. Insufficient financial resources and lack of coordination in government bureaucracy are the two main causes of poor housing planning. Highlighting this issue the Millennium Development Goals initiative has proposed that member nations should make a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
4. **Poverty:** Urban poverty encourages the formation and demand for slums. In a rich country, the number of slums is less and, on the contrary, the higher the magnitude of slums in the country the lower is the gross income of that country.
5. **Economic cause:** Poverty is the most fundamental cause of slums. The poor people who flock to the cities in search of jobs are employed in the factories on low wages. Better housing remains a dream for them because of high land values, exorbitant costs of land and housing material and high rental values of the dwellings. Their economic incapacity forces them to live in the areas where housing conditions are poor.