

A study of urbanization in Nagpur district



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Abstract

Maharashtra has the highest level of urbanization in India and has one of the highest per capita incomes in the country. Urbanization is an indicator of the level of development of any region. Nagpur the 'Orange City' is currently emerging as the largest trading center of certain goods and services. The city however suffers an economic setback when merged with Vidharbha. In the recent decades, state and central government offices have become the principal sources of employment. But attracting an investment of 5,000 crore the city has managed to come out of its losses. A project named Multimodal International Hub Airport (MIHAN) at Nagpur now houses heavy cargo ships from South East and Middle East Asia.

1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of urbanization has its roots in the resource base of a region. In 1947 there were only 3 cities above 1 million population in India i.e. Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai. Total population of the country was 348 million with 56.5 million that is 16.3 percent as urban population. The number of million cities is growing rapidly (Table 1) and so are the complexities.

During the last 62 years India has developed as the largest urban system in the world. Massive urban population of 1,028.7 million in 2001 census is spread over a large number of urban areas across the country. The 2001 census has recorded a total number of 5,161 towns and 384 urban agglomerations with increasing

Table 1 Distribution of Urban Population-by-Population Size Class of Towns 1951-01 in India

Year	Total no. of towns U.A.'s	Million plus cities No		100000 to 1 million		50000-100000		Less than 50000	
		U.A.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1951	2795	5	18.8	71	25.8	91	10	2628	45.4
1961	2270	7	22.9	95	28.5	129	11.2	2039	37.4
1971	2476	9	25.5	139	31.7	173	10.9	2155	31.9
1981	3245	12	26.4	204	34	270	11.6	2759	28.0
1991	3697	23	32.5	277	32.4	345	10.9	3052	24.2
2001	5161	35	37.7	406	24.6	496	12	4224	25.7

Source - Census of India -2001

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Table - 2 Cities with Population above one Million.

1 Greater Mumbai	16,368,084	13 Nagpur	2,122,965	25 Meerut	1,167,399
2 Kolkata	13,216,546	14 Patna	1,707,429	26 Nashik	1,152,048
3 Delhi	12,791,458	15 Indore	1,639,044	27 Jabalpur	1,117,200
4 Chennai	6,424,624	16 Vadodara	1,492,398	28 Jamshedpur	1,101,804
5 Bangalore	5,686,844	17 Bhopal	1,454,830	29 Asansol	1,090,171
6 Hyderabad	5,533,640	18 Coimbatore	1,446,034	30 Dhanbad	1,064,357
7 Ahmadabad	4,519,278	19 Ludhiana	1,395,053	31 Faridabad	1,054,981
8 Pune	3,755,525	20 Kochi	1,355,406	32 Allahabad	1,049,579
9 Surat	2,811,466	21 Visakhapatnam	1,329,472	33 Amritsar	1,011,327
10 Kanpur	2,690,486	22 Agra	1,321,410	34 Vijayawada	1,011,152
11 Jaipur	2,324,319	23 Varanasi	1,211,749	35 Rajkot	1,002,160
12 Lucknow	2,266,933	24 Madurai	1,194,665	Total	107,881,836

population in million plus cities. There was 18.8 percent of urban population in 1951 which has risen to 27.8 percent in 2001. India ranks second among the countries of the world in terms of population, which as per the 2001 census has been recorded at 1,028.7 million.

Urban population in 1997 was about 280 million, which was 5 times the urban population at the time of independence. One specific feature of India's urbanization is its increasing metropolitan growth leading to increase in the number and size of cities with more than a million population. Urbanization in India is not rapid but massive. It releases constructive forces for development and the aim has to be planned urbanization to create a settlement pattern of desirable hierarchy. Thus, there is a need to develop potential urban centers by aiming at poly-nodal settlement structures by adopting strategies for their development at local and regional scales.

2. URBANIZATION IN MAHARASHTRA

Since the new economic policies were adopted in the country, Maharashtra has seen fast urban growth. Maharashtra has the highest level of urbanization in India at 42 percent compared to 25.7 percent as the all India average. In the context of land question and SEZs writing about the urbanization experience in Maharashtra is important because this urbanization has not been in the normal organic fashion as in the advanced capitalist countries in the west. Urbanization of Maharashtra has been artificially engrafted urbanization. People have been driven out of their land by devastation of agriculture. Maharashtra thus has the highest level of urbanization (Table 3) in India and has one of the highest per capita incomes in the country.

Census data were used to study the nature and pattern of urbanization in India with special reference to the state of Maharashtra. Throughout the last 3 decades,



Table-3 Urbanization of Maharashtra over Years as Compared to India and Some Important States (In Percentage)

Census Years	Maharashtra	India	A.P.	M.P.	Gujarat	Tamilnadu
1961	28.2	17.8	17.4	14.3	25.8	26.7
1971	31.2	19.7	19.3	16.3	28.1	30.3
1981	35.0	23.2	23.3	20.3	31.1	33.0
1991	38.7	25.5	26.9	23.2	34.5	34.2
2001	42.4	27.8	27.1	26.7	37.4	43.9

population of Maharashtra increased at a faster rate than the Indian population in total. During 1941-1951 and 1961-1971, urban population of Maharashtra also increased comparatively faster. From 1951 to 1971, average number of towns in the State increased at a decadal rate of about 9 percent. In other demographic aspects, Maharashtra is shown to represent a more advanced stage of development. Data illustrating these points are tabulated. When the scale, the degree, and the pace of urbanization are considered, Maharashtra is seen to be the most urbanized state in India. As a function of economic development within the state, immigration from rural areas to large towns has been taking place. This has caused the large towns to grow at a faster rate than the smaller towns. Projections for future growth indicate that urbanization in Maharashtra will have increased even more by 1981 Census. Therefore, a suitable policy on urbanization and city growth is needed.

Maharashtra has the largest economy in the country. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices stood at Rs.3,71,877 crore in the year 2004-2005. The State roughly accounted for 13 percent of the national income. It has the fifth highest per capita income in the country at Rs.36,423. However, the GDP at constant prices posted a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CARG) of 3.77 percent during 1994-2005, lower than all-India CARG of 6.24 percent.

Maharashtra is highly urbanized as 42 percent population lives in cities and it is high on literacy with 77 percent population above seven years being literate. With a total population of 9.7 crore that makes Maharashtra, it has a large portion of urbanized and literate population. Seven cities in Maharashtra have population of more than a million. Even the slums of Maharashtra have a literacy rate of 81 percent.

The State is largely fuelled by growth in the services sector. Mumbai, the State's capital is the country's financial and business capital. Most large business houses of India are headquartered in Mumbai. Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Stock Exchange and other major financial institutions and regulators are located in Mumbai. Maharashtra is also a major industrial hub. It is among the top states in terms of fresh investments. Major industries of Maharashtra are textiles, automobiles and chemicals.



3. FOCUSING ON THE NAGPUR DISTRICT

Nagpur, the Orange City, is currently emerging as the largest trading center of certain goods and services. The city, however, suffers from an economic setback when merged with Vidharbha due to some political sentiment. In the recent period, state and central government offices have become the principal sources of employment. But attracting an investment of 5,000 crore, the city has managed to come out of its losses. A project named Multimodal International Hub Airport (MIHAN) at Nagpur now houses heavy cargo ships from South East and Middle East Asia. Nagpur is a renowned educational center in central India. Nagpur University, founded in 1923, is the oldest University having its affiliation over hundreds of colleges. The city is the abode of three principal medical colleges - the Government Medical College, Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and privately run NKP Salve Institution of Medical College. The famous Animal Sciences Research University has also been established in Nagpur.

Nagpur district is the most urbanized district of Vidharbha and has derived its name from the orange city of Nagpur, which is its headquarters; the capital of Vidharbha and the second capital of the state.

3.1 Main Considerations for Highlighting the District

- Prior to the separation of Maharashtra on 1 May 1960 Nagpur district was a part of Central Provinces and Berar province with Nagpur city enjoying the status of capital city from 1947 to 1956. After the separation of Maharashtra, Nagpur district along with Vidharbha merged in the state of Maharashtra.
- Nagpur district has rich heritage sites and has contributed in wide ranging fields from literature to engineering and medical sciences, research, etc. Nagpur can attract talented, well educated trained and skilled workers as the literacy level of the district from the 2001 census is 84.18 percent, which is above the state average of 77.3 percent.
- Nagpur district has 42 percent of workers engaged in agricultural activities as cultivators or agricultural laborers and the rest 58 percent in non-agricultural activities as per 1991 census. The percent of agricultural labour to total workers population is 15.7 percent as per 2001 census.
- Nagpur district is rich in natural resources. Apart from agriculture, the district is known for its soya bean, jowar, forest and mineral resources. Teakwood and grass are the main forest products in the district. Nagpur district has manganese ore deposits, a crucial input for steel industry and 32 million tones of dolomite.
- The highlights of Nagpur District are given in Table 4.

4. URBANIZATION IN NAGPUR

Urbanization is an indicator of the level of development of any region. Looking at urbanization in the Nagpur region it is comparatively low as the level of development is low although the population of the region is increasing at the same rate. In 1991 39 percent of total population of Maharashtra was living in urban places but in



Table-4 Nagpur District at a Glance

Geographical Area	9897 Sq. Km.	Primary Health Centers	46
Population (1991 Census)	34,36,000	Family Planning Centers	73
Males	17,49,000	Education	
Females	16,87,000	Universities	2 (Nagpur University, Sanskrit University)
Population (2001 Census)	40,51,444	Educational Degree Colleges	22
Males	20,95,489	Medical Colleges	3
Females	19,55,955	Ayurveda Colleges	2
Literacy Percent	84.18%	Law Colleges	8
Rural	75.76%	Educational Schools of Various Branches	97
Urban	88.75%	Pre-Primary Schools	1029
Administrative Division		Higher Primary Schools	1739
District Code	9	Secondary Schools	177
Talukas	13	Industrial Training Institutes	33
Villages	1874 (as per 2001)	Housing Development (MHADA)	
Local Bodies (Administration)		Pardi	64 Blocks
Municipal Corporation	1	Wadi	50 Blocks
Nagar Parishad	10	Indora	56 Blocks
Katak Mandal	1	Khapri	76 Blocks
Panchayat Samiti	13	Kamptee	425 Blocks
Gram Panchayat (including Group Panchayat)	778	Transportation	
Police Stations	59	S. T. Junctions	7
Police Outpost	121	S. T. Stations	30
Agriculture		Travelers Sheds	221
Land Under Cultivation	558000 Hectares (Net Area)	No. of S. T. Buses in District	575
	640775 Hectares (Total Area)	No. of Trips of S. T. Buses	4790
Total Geographical Area	986550 Hectares	No. of Travelers benefited by S. T. Buses everyday	20,15,000
Forest Covered Land	138000 Hectares	Vehicles	
Irrigation (1995-96)		Motor Vehicles Registered	45,15,000
Net Irrigation Area	77100 Hectares	Post Offices	344
Total Irrigation Area	149100 Hectares	Telegraph Offices	89
Electricity		No. of Telephones	12,15,000
Electricity Provided Villages	1869	Social Welfare	
Electricity Provided Towns	23	Hostels for Backward Classes	5 (Boys)
Industries		Students	4 (Girls)
Number of Registered Industries	1852	Ashram Schools for Students of Scheduled & Nomadic Tribes	9
Number of Registered productive Industries	1434	Schools for Handicapped	21
Co-operative Sugar Industries	3	Old Age Homes	1
Number of Thread Mills	9	Forest Development	
Public Health		Temporary Forest Area	2947 sq. km.
Hospitals	23	National Park	1 (Pench); 257.26 km
Dispensaries	129	Plants Nursery	20



Table - 5 Percentage of urban population in Nagpur region (1951-01)

District	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Nagpur	46.79	52.06	54.32	56.75	61.83	64.35
Chandrapur	9.45	7.72	10.18	12.73	28.04	32.11
Bhandara	8.58	10.74	11.38	13.10	13.14	15.47
Wardha	23.35	23.65	21.57	24.94	26.60	26.28
Gadchiroli	-	-	-	-	8.70	6.93
Total of region	23.23	25.14	26.80	29.74	35.02	39.5

Source - District census handbook (1951-01)

Nagpur region it was only 35.2 percent. It means compared to urbanization of the State, urbanization in the region is low; the percentage of urban population in districts since 1951 is noted in Table 5.

As the Table shows in 1951 only 23.23 percent population was urban which increased to 39.5 percent in 2001. During these four decades from 1951-2001, this percentage has increased by 16 percent. It clearly shows that urbanization has accelerated.

The largest increase has taken place in the Chandrapur district from 9.45 percent in 1951 to 32.11 percent in 2001 which is nearly fourfold increase (Fig. 1). The main reason behind this increase is the coming up of mining and industrial activity and jobs created due to them. However, Wardha and Gadchiroli district have recorded negative change as the percent decrease is by - 0.32 percent and -1.77 percent, which is due to lack of such activities. Nagpur district has largest number of urban population. In 1951 46.79 percent of the district population was urban and in 2001 it has increased to 64.35 percent (Table 6). In Nagpur district the percentage of urbanization is very high because of the presence of large metropolitan center Nagpur nearly half of the total population of the district lives in Nagpur.

Fig. 1 Change in the Number of Urban Centers in Nagpur Region

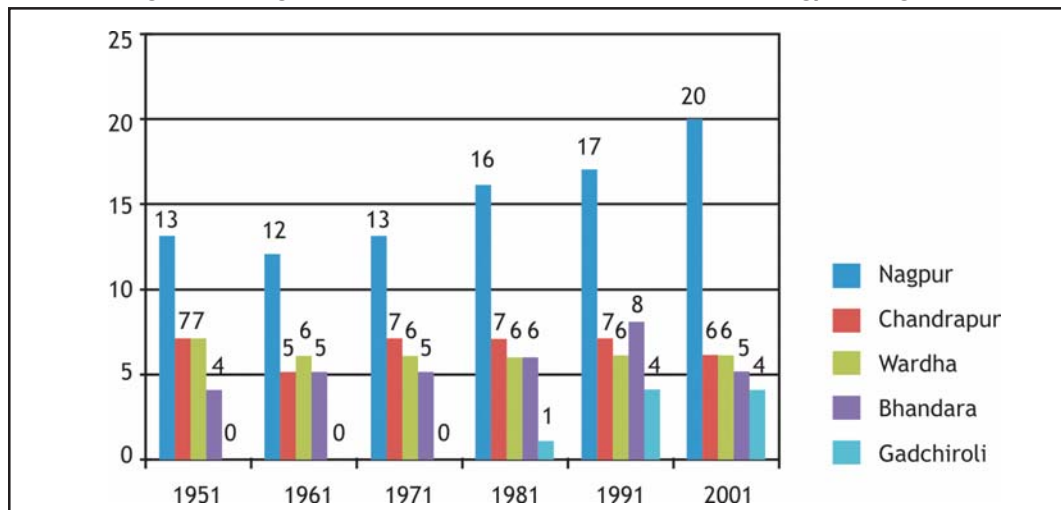


Table 6 Urbanisation Trend in the Nagpur District

Year	Total Population In 1000's	Urban Population In 1000's	Decadal Variation Of urban Population	% of urban Population To total Population	% of Decadal Variation
1901	748489	240388		32.11%	
1911	806287	194903	-45485	24.17%	-18.92%
1921	789940	239984	45081	30.38%	23.13%
1931	936987	323345	83361	34.50%	34.74%
1941	1056537	418181	94836	39.58%	29.33%
1951	1230535	577650	159469	46.94%	38.13%
1961	1508455	787700	210050	52.21%	36.36%
1971	1942688	1055357	267657	54.32%	33.98%
1981	2588811	1469279	413922	56.75%	39.22%
1991	3287139	2030914	561635	61.78%	38.23%
2001	4051444	2607362	576448	64.35%	28.38%

Focusing on the Nagpur district, the urban population is heavily concentrated in a single metropolitan city, which dominates the urban scene. Population of the city as per 2001 census is 2.15 million and is ranked the eighth largest city in India. Area of Nagpur is 2.19 percent of the total area of the district and accommodates nearly 53.06 percent of the total population of the district. Nagpur being the most important urban center in the district, all development is concentrated here. Thus, it has become a magnet and prevents the forces of urbanization to be channelized into a planned and organized pattern. The decadal growth rate of Nagpur is given in Table 7.

Urban development is always selective and agglomerative in the way it develops in conjunction with the macro economic developments. National and State economic policies on location of industrial and economic activities aid to a large extent the growth strategy of urban development. The concept of identification of growth nodes and development of sub-primate city can be adopted as a decentralization strategy to contain and manage concentration in Nagpur.

Table - 7 Degree of Primacy of Nagpur in the District

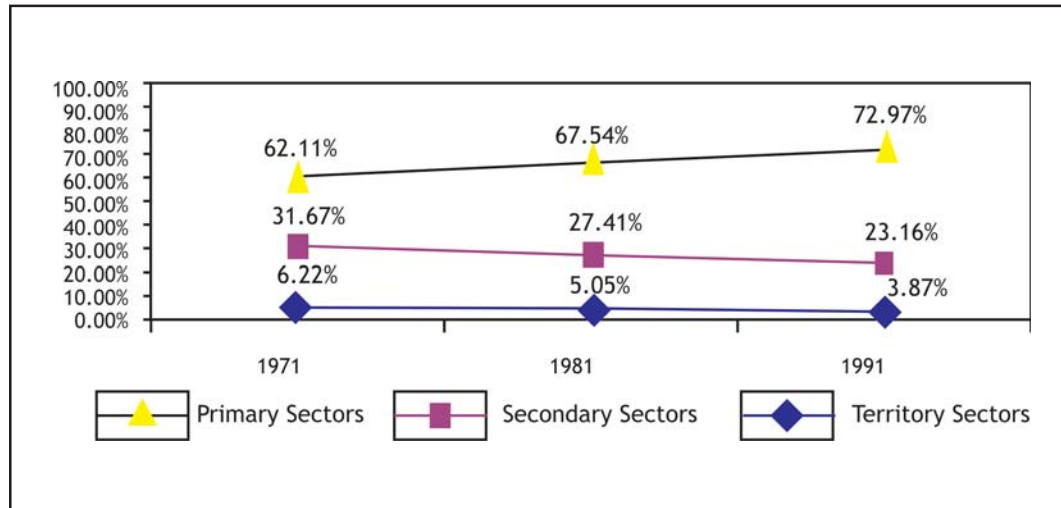
Year	Compared to the 2nd largest city
1981	18.10 times
1991	20.66 times
2001	24.32 times

Table - 8 Growth Rate of Population in Nagpur

Year	Population in lakhs	Growth rate in %
1901	127734	-
1911	101415	-20.60
1921	145193	43.17
1931	215165	43.19
1941	301957	40.34
1951	449099	48.73
1961	643659	43.32
1971	866076	34.56
1981	1219461	40.8
1991	1624752	33.24
2001	2051320	26.25



Fig. 2 % Distribution of Economic Activity in Primary, Secondary and Territory Sectors



Nagpur city is considered as the world’s 143rd biggest urban city. It is ranked as the 13th biggest urban assembly in India. Nagpur is named as the world’s 114th largest city. Nagpur is a tertiary (Fig. 2) sector base metropolitan city and the second capital of Maharashtra state. Because of the concentration of administrative and educational institutions in the city and its strategic location the degree of its primacy (Table 8) is increasing from decade to decade. As a result of which there is an enormous pressure on the already inadequate infrastructure. It has resulted in squeezing of the population in the congested areas, emergence of high-rise buildings, indiscriminate invasion of greenery, haphazard and accelerated urban sprawl, disorderly development, etc.

Nagpur is several times larger than other settlements of the district and serves as political, economic and social hub of the entire Nagpur district. As per the 2001 census around 99.4 percent of the population was engaged in non-agricultural activities attesting to the overwhelming urban character of the Nagpur city.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In order to plan for balanced and integrated development of the district and to control the growth of Nagpur, potential cities and towns should be developed to their optimum capacity. These growth centers should be developed not only to direct some of the population that would otherwise come to Nagpur as this process jeopardizes the planned growth but also helps other towns to grow in a planned way and to effect corresponding positive impacts on the surrounding hinterland. Other towns should be characterized by being self contained, self sufficient. There should be minimum need or scope for commutation with the main city for day to day activities. These should give all desired relief from growing congestion.