



SYM 101

Sociological

Concepts

Unit : 03

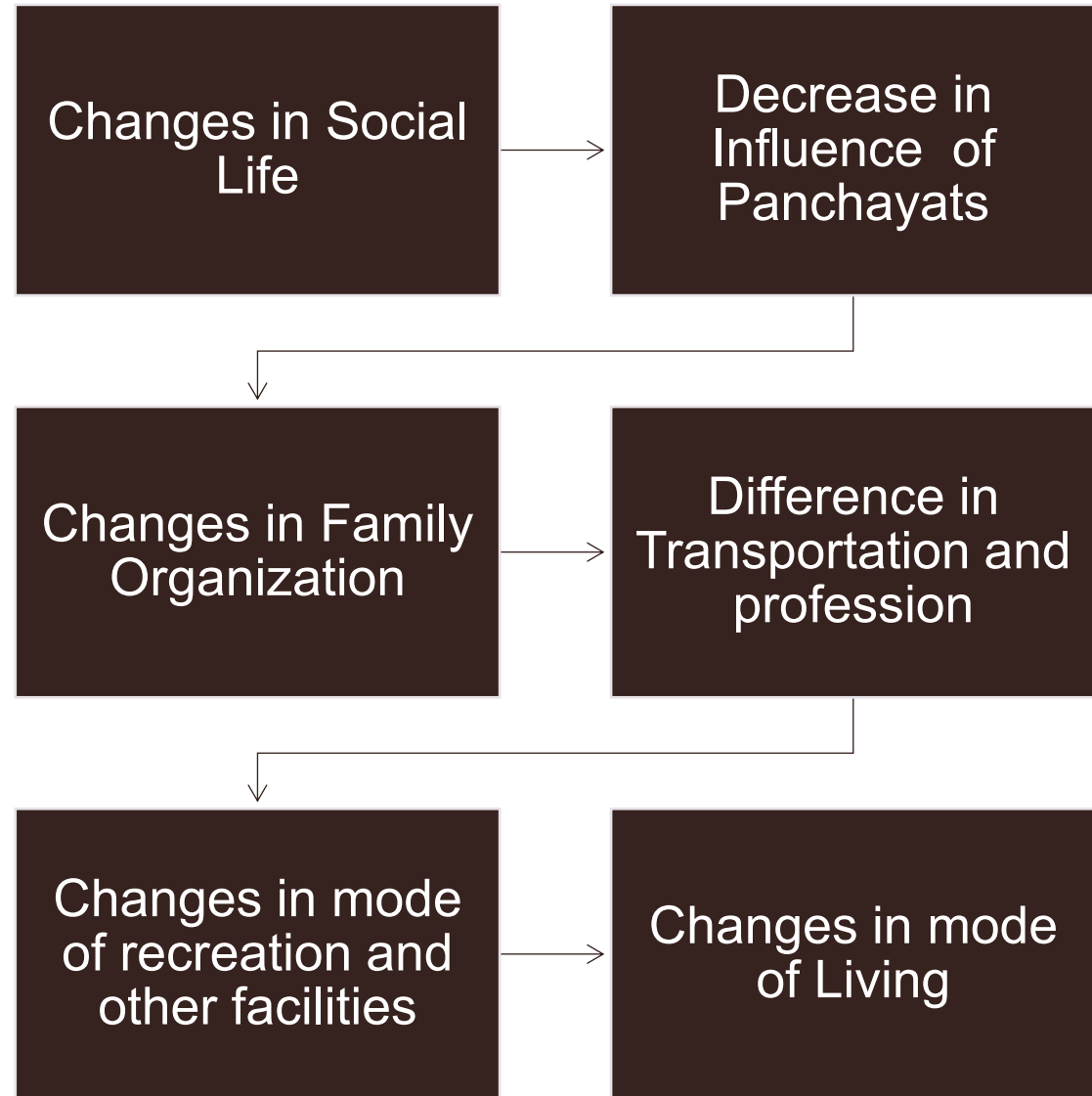
Topic : Urban Community
Part 02



Content

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- + Rural Urban Contrast
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- + Urbanization & Urbanism: Chicago School
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Urban Influence on Rural Community



Rural Urban Contrast

Difficulties in Comparison of Rural and Urban Contrast

No Universal Definition

Difference Only
in Degree
between village
and town

The Environment
of the city and
village are
different

Both Village
and Town
Changes



Bases of Differences between rural and urban communities

- Social Organization
- Social Restrictions
- Social Relations
- Social Interactions
- Social Viewpoint
- Social Mobility
- Differences in Economic Life
- Differences in culture life

Hazards for Social Ecology

It is undeniable that society and the environment are inextricably linked. The field of social ecology helps us understand this intricate relationship, illustrating how communities adapt and sustain themselves within diverse environmental contexts. However, driven by an inherent pursuit of self-interest and development, humanity has often overlooked the critical need to safeguard its societal and ecological foundations.



Hazards for Social Ecology

This oversight is particularly evident in the transformative changes sweeping across both rural and urban communities. Rapid industrialization, while fueling progress, has simultaneously inflicted significant harm on the natural environment. Consequently, urban centers have increasingly become epicenters of crime and pervasive social problems, reflecting a degradation of the social fabric alongside environmental damage. Ultimately, it is human activities that bear direct responsibility for the pervasive decline observed in both our social and natural surroundings.





Hazards for Social Ecology

- + Natural Hazards
- + Anthropogenic Hazards

Natural Hazards

- Within the framework of social ecology, a range of environmental hazards pose significant threats to both natural systems and human societies. **Natural Hazards** are environmental events that can cause harms to human communities, infrastructure and ecosystems. These include critical global issues such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, droughts, wildfires, desertification, and various natural disasters.
- These can trigger social disruption, environmental degradation and economic losses.



Natural Hazards

- Focussing on preventive measures like early warning system, building codes and disaster preparedness is crucial for reducing the impact of natural hazards.



Anthropogenic Hazards

- + Anthropogenic hazards (human-made actions) are risks or damages that are primarily or directly caused by human activities or choices. These human endeavors are the primary drivers behind many of the significant hazards currently threatening social ecology. Key among these are industrial accidents, pollution, ozone layer depletion, resource exploitation, climate change, introduction of invasive species.



Anthropogenic Hazards

- + All these hazards are deeply interconnected, forming a complex web of cause and effect that contributes to the degradation of our social and natural environments. Addressing root causes of these requires shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, eco-friendly technologies and responsible governance.





Ozone layer depletion poses a grave threat to human health and the global ecosystem. Simultaneously, global warming has led to a critical increase in environmental temperatures, severely disrupting ecological balance worldwide, and is now recognized as a pressing global concern among scholars.

Beyond these, deforestation, desertification, and the pervasive loss of biodiversity represent major ecological threats within the framework of social ecology. While natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, and wildfires are inherent hazards, it's also crucial to note that phenomena such as acid rain further contribute to the degradation of our social-ecological systems.

- + The pursuit of development has frequently come at a severe cost to our planet's natural ecosystems. When we deforest for expansion, we directly disrupt ecological balance and fracture delicate food chain systems.
- + Urbanization further exacerbates this disruption of social ecology. The demand for land to construct roads and buildings often leads to the acquisition of fertile agricultural land, undermining natural food production.





- + Large infrastructure projects like highways and dams are significant drivers of both deforestation and the forced displacement of native populations.
- + These communities are often uprooted by powerful authorities and capitalistic entities for their own economic gain, directly destroying the social ecology that defines their way of life.

+ It's imperative that we grasp a fundamental philosophical truth: genuine and sustainable development is impossible without prioritizing the well-being of both human society and the natural environment. Our collective future hinges on recognizing this interconnectedness.



Urbanization and Urbanism

- + One can understand urbanism as the patterns of behaviour, relationships, modes of thinking that characterizes urban dwellers while urbanization is primarily understood as a process of movement of people from rural areas to urban areas by the virtue of which population as well as spatial boundary of a city grows. Often, this growth occurs due to increased economic activities which triggers migration or pulls people from rural areas to urban areas. **Urbanization and urbanism form central trope around which urban social theory tries to discuss growth and development of cities.**





Urbanization and Urbanism: Chicago School

- + The Chicago School refers to a group of sociologists at University of Chicago. The scholars focused on the city of Chicago and looked at the city as social laboratory where true human nature could be explored. **Robert Ezra Park, Ernest Burgess, Louis Wirth** are a few among many influential **Chicago School urbanists** who explored different dimensions of the city. The city of Chicago which saw an unprecedented growth at that time served as an apt place for the Chicago School to investigate processes of modern urban growth. The School offers a **modernist view of city as a unified whole**. The School looked at urban processes and conditions through subjective experiences of urbanites.



Chicago School

- + The School propounded several influential ideas that formed foundational concept in understanding the evolution of differentiated urban social areas and urban way of life. **Robert E. Park coined the term Human Ecology** that attempts to apply biological processes/concepts to the social world and maintains that the city and city life are product of competition in the natural environment. The School also focused on the **physical form of the city and human's adjustment to the ecological conditions of urban life**. The School was also influenced by Functional Theory and Social Darwinism and looked at city as social organism where different parts/segments are bound together by internal processes. For the Chicago School, the cities are similar to biotic/symbiotic environments in which inhabitants compete for paltry resources.



Concentric Ring Theory

- + Concentric Ring Theory, propounded by **Ernest Burgess**, remained important for a long time in understanding the pattern the urban growth. **The Concentric Theory proposes that the city grows outward in continuous residential circles around a Central Business District (CBD).** The theory is “based on assumptions that included a uniform land surface, universal access to a single centered city, free competition for space, and the notion that development would take place outward from a central core, Burgess concluded that the city would tend to form a series of concentric zones.

Concentric Ring Theory

- + **Burgess** argues that CBD forms the core of city. Around CBD, a transitional zone develops offices and dwelling places by converting older houses.
- + Beyond transitional zone, working population zone develops which contains residential units of working men and lower class population. A zone, Middle Class Zone, further develops where middle class have residences which has relatively new dwelling units. At the outer most part, the commuter zone develops which is separate from the continuous built-up area of the city. In response to Burgess' model, two more theories of urban morphology were develop.



Sector Theory & Multiple Nuclei Theory

- + In response to Burgess' model, two more theories of urban morphology were developed by the Chicago School. **Homer Hoyt in his Sector Theory** noted the tendency of cities to grow in starshaped rather than concentric form along highways that radiate from a center with contrasting land uses in the interstices. Hoyt stresses the importance of axial route ways that spreads the outward growth of the built-up area. Concentric Zone as well as Sector Theory are based on the idea that city develops around a Central Business District.

Sector Theory & Multiple Nuclei Theory

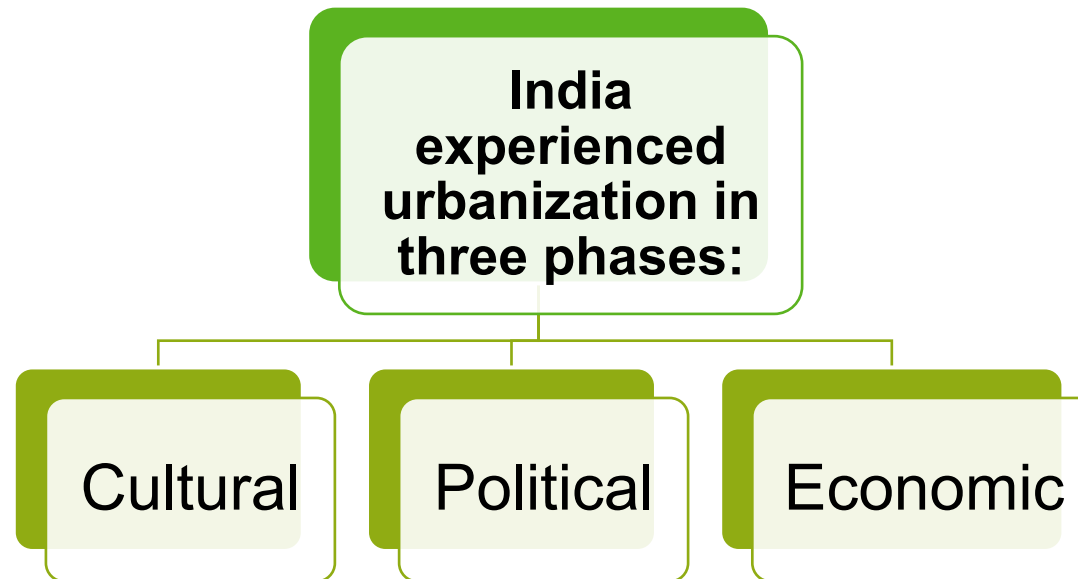
- + **Harris and Ullman** argued that there are several subsidiary centres beyond the CBD. They called their theory as **Multiple Nuclei theory** which proposed that “cities have a cellular structure in which land-uses develop around multiple growth-nuclei within the metropolis” (Dear: Los Angeles and the Chicago School: an invitation to a debate, 2002). These theories remained influential in urban social theory for most part of the twentieth century which also influenced planning as well as growth of cities.



Chicago School: Limitations

- + It should be noted that urbanization concentrates mainly on demographic growth and the Chicago theorists focused on ecological dimensions of cities. “Although both demographic and ecological aspects are important in any urban (or rural) study, in themselves, they do not enable us to understand the social institutions, interactions, activities, values and norms of the urban dwellers”.
- + Dominant ideas propounded by Chicago theorists obscured the actual realities of social structure that shapes the city and decisions affecting land use, public budget and urban social life.

Urbanization and Urbanism: Indian Context



Urbanization and Urbanism: Indian Context

One of the 14 important aspects of Indian urbanization is that it has a continuous history of urbanization starting from Indus Valley to the present day, says **Ramachandran in Urbanization and Urban Systems in India(1991)**. India has a continuous history of urbanization starting from Indus Valley to the present day.

During initial days of British rule, Indian cities did not experience much growth but later on several pre-existing cities were revived and new cities established. There were phases of growth of cities across Indian subcontinent. These ancient cities flourished around some specific functions though they also served other functions.



Urbanization and Urbanism: Indian Context

- + Cities grew in number and size during during the Mauryan and post-Maurya periods (from 300 BC to AD 600), both in northern India as well as in the extreme South. Cities declined and were largely neglected during the post-Gupta period. In southern India, on the other hand, urbanization attained a zenith during the period from AD 800 to 1200. Urbanization on a subdued scale flourished in northern India under the influence of Muslims rulers...and attained a second climax during the Mughal period when many of India's cities were established.



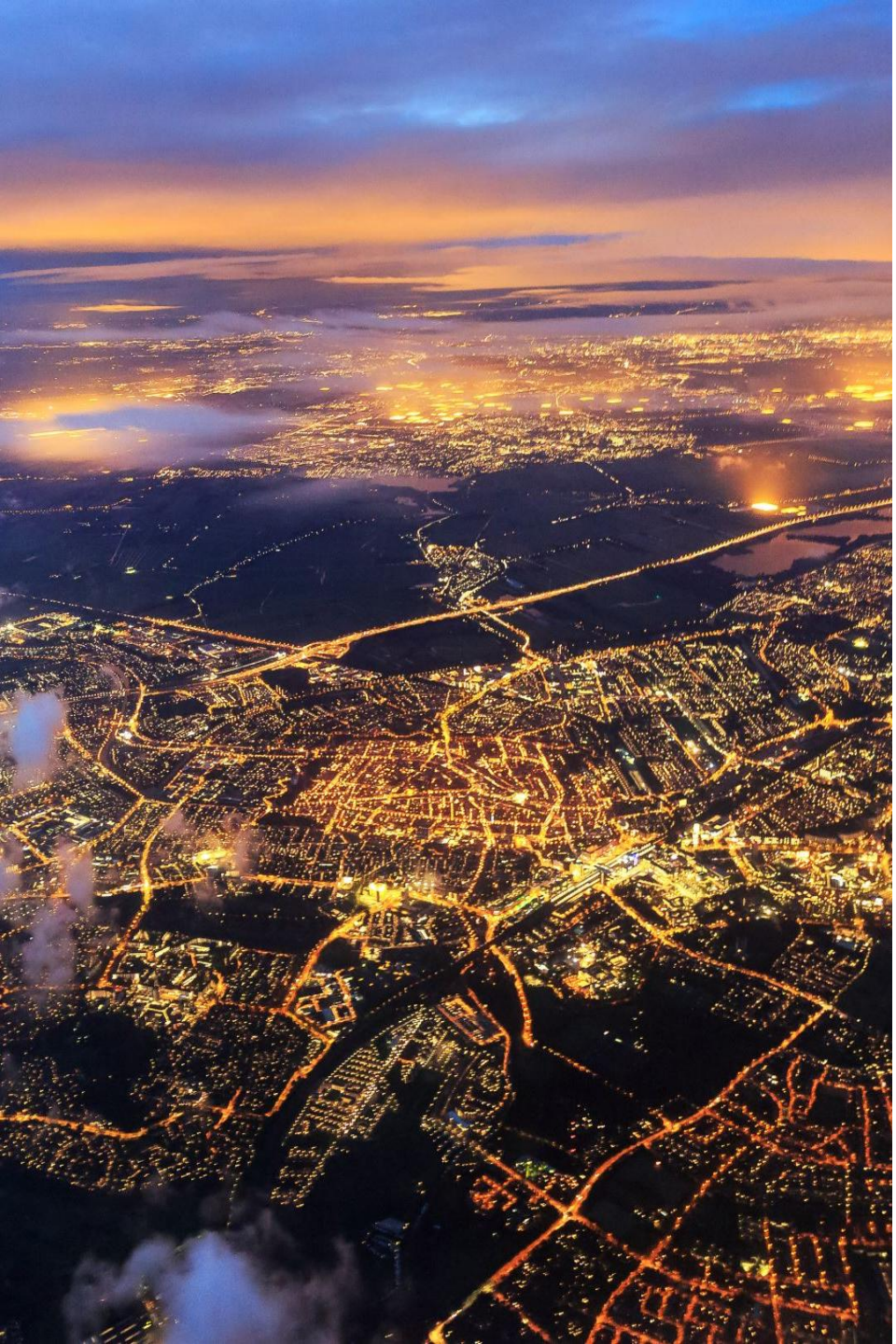
Urbanization and Urbanism: Indian Context

- + The British came to India at a time when India was perhaps the most urbanized nation in the world, and the early part of British rule saw a decline in the level of Indian urbanization. During the latter half of British rule, Indian cities regained some of their lost importance; further, the British added several new towns and cities, in addition to generating newer urban forms in the existing cities. The post-Independence period has witnessed urbanization in India on a scale never before achieved.

Urbanization and Urbanism: Indian Context

- + The causative factors behind urbanization varied from time to time, leading to not one but several urbanization processes at different points in time. **In the prehistoric period, urbanization was synonymous with the origin and rise of civilization itself**, thus manifesting itself essentially as a **cultural process**. In the historical periods from ancient times to the British period, **urbanization was inextricably related to the rise and fall of kingdoms**, dynasties and empire, and thus in effect urbanization during this period was essentially a **political process**. In the recent times, **urbanization has been associated with industrialization** and economic development. In this sense, urbanization is essentially an **economic process**.





Urbanization and Urbanism: Indian Context

- + As **Shaw (Indian Cities, 2012)** writes, with **independence** India saw a different phase when urbanization speeded up for a number of reasons. Refugees from East and West Pakistan, immediately after Independence, required new spaces due to which existing cities in Punjab, Bengal extended. **Then towns such as Bhilai, Durgapur, Bokaro, Rourkela grew due to establishment of heavy industries.** The modernist dream of Nehru was translated with the creation of city of Chandigarh. In **post-liberalization era**, the number of metropolitan cities have increased but along with it a lot of dualities have also developed. The horizontal and vertical expansion of cities, rise in number of residential complexes, gated communities, shopping malls, widening of city roads, depletion of basic services in inner city, creation of ring roads, flyovers and so on are a few features of current urban growth. The cities are being privatized in the name of beatification and sanitization. Slums, slum dwellers, poor are systematically ousted. Therefore, **the current phase of urban growth offers a dual picture.**



Urbanization and Urbanism: Indian Context

- + **The boundary between rural and urban is increasingly blurred**, and many of the traditional distinctions between urban and rural cultures, lifestyles and enterprises are eroding or reforming, more particularly when the importance of nation-state is eroding and cities are becoming important site for market activities and global capitalism.



Thank you