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**SECTION : B**

**QUIZ : 01**

**TEACHER : MAM ALINA**

**: URBANIZATION :**

Refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas the decrease in the population of people living in rural areas and the way in which societies adapt to this change it is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are fromed and become larger as more people begins living and working in central areas.

**EFFECT OF URBANIZATION PESHAWAR ON CITY :**

With over 207 million people, Pakistan is the world’s sixth most populous country. It is also the most urbanized large country in South Asia: according to official statistics, nearly two-fifths of the population is urban, and urbanization is estimated to reach 50 percent in the next 15 years. Estimates based on the Agglomeration Index, however, indicate that Pakistan has already crossed the 50 percent urbanization mark Between 2002-2012, Khyber Paktunkhwa (KP) province’s economy has grown at an annual rate of 4.2 percent, which is slightly lower than the national growth rate of 4.6 percent for the same period. Poverty in KP is approximately 36 percent. The cities of Peshawar (32 percent), Charsadda (37 percent), Mardan (35 percent), and Nowshera (33 percent) were classified by the same study as amongst the poorest urban residents in Pakistan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province is rapidly urbanizing with large spatial and economic agglomerations centered around Kp’s cities. Officially, KP’s urban population increased 74 percent from 1998 to 20171, with the overall share of population

remaining at around 19 percent. However, official statistics may not reflect the true extent of urbanization within the province as these are based on official city boundaries that do not reflect actual built up areas and leave out large highdensity

settlements which have marked urban characteristics. It is instructive to note that per GoKP’s Integrated Development Strategy 2014-2018, two-thirds of the rural population of KP lives within a travel time of one hour to the city.2 The current settlement patterns in KP show emerging spatial agglomerations with large economically dependent populations centered around KP’s cities. A recent report for the Inclusive Urban Growth Program for KP3 predicts that Peshawar, Mardan, and Abbottabad will become contiguous settlements, and the existing population of over 2 million people will multiply to nearly 5 million by 2035. The report also states that the region’s cities contribute an estimated 73 percent of provincial GDP. While emerging agglomerations are expected to make a significant contribution to KP’s economic growth, it is important to consider issues of overcrowding, increasing demand and competition for housing, infrastructure, services, and resources, as well as potential impacts on environment.



Although migration and urbanisation is a nationwide trend over the decades, the Peshawar Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) stands as the most glaring example of this phenomenon with migration streams constituting millions of forced in-migrants since 1980s The Peshawar Valley consists of five central districts of KP, namely: Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan and Swabi. The valley represents a unique set of circumstances with regard to in-migration and urbanisation. It has ethnic affiliation with conflict-ridden northern KP, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Afghanistan Importantly, the valley’s central location within KP affords the above regions’ geographical proximity and access to the valley. Its relatively better law and order situation is also an important factor for people of conflict areas. Hence, the Peshawar Valley has received the highest number of in-migrants since political turmoil began in the Pashtun region in the 1980s. The in-migration factor -- coupled with yearly natural increase of the valley’s own population -- has fueled unchecked urban growth in the form of squatter settlements. This has been witnessed throughout the five districts constituting the Peshawar Valley. Successive KP governments have not empowered local government agencies adequately to respond effectively to infrastructural and environmental challenges of such urbanisation. There is little decentralisation of power, transparent use of funds, upgradation of infrastructure, investment in sustainable urban development and population control. Due to absence of the above measures, the 2011 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report of KP identified the province’s urban areas as the poorest with little provision of basic social services. Several of these areas are concentrated in Peshawar Valley, which continues to host the population displaced due to militancy and natural disasters. According to another study conducted by the United Nations-Habitat in 2013, "KP is experiencing rapid urbanisation and has grown by 23 per cent between intercensal periods of 1981-1998. This level of urbanisation is likely to be close to 50 per cent if the present trends continue with the Peshawar Valley experiencing the greatest growth of urban and suburban settlements." The current urbanisation of the Peshawar Valley is being accelerated by three kinds of in-migrants. There are those who migrate from rural areas of KP and FATA for better economic opportunities, those that arrive for access to social services, such as education and medical care, and those forced migrants that flee militancy or political persecution. The last factor is unique to the Pashtun region. The rise of militancy in various parts of the region has become a constant factor that forces people to migrate to Peshawar Valley for the short-term, medium-term or even long-term settlement. Since the anti-Soviet War in the 1980s, the valley has hosted millions of Afghan refugees until very recently. Moreover, since the commencement of military operations in FATA and then northern KP, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were added to this displaced population that sought refuge in various districts of the Peshawar Valley. Initially, the populations of the affected areas perceived that the militancy would be eliminated in a matter of months, as the authorities in Peshawar Valley issued registration cards to IDPs only for 36 months for receiving food aid. However, the occurrence of sporadic attacks did not allow normalcy to be fully restored in FATA. Schools, especially those for females, continued to be blown up, and according to a student from FATA who migrated to Peshawar, "We were threatened to leave school or else face bombs and bullets." **The current urbanisation of the Peshawar Valley is being accelerated by three kinds of in-migrants. There are those who migrate from rural areas of KP and FATA for better economic opportunities, those that arrive for access to social services, and those forced migrants that flee militancy or political persecution.** In many cases, schools could not be reopened due to continued precarious situation in FATA. Similarly, families with Pashtun political affiliation faced heightened risk of persecution. Owing to these factors, along with opportunities for better income for the poor, people from FATA and northern KP permanently shifted their families. According to KP’s Social Welfare Department, a majority of the 514,806 displaced families were accommodated in Peshawar, Mardan and Charsadda. Despite the slogan of ‘change’ and promise of empowerment of local governments by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, there have been widespread allegations of corruption, nepotism and mismanagement on provincial and district council levels. This has affected efficiency of local bodies in managing the IDPs. Additionally, only 20 per cent in-migrants reside in IDP camps and the rest are forced to live in urban slums. They tend to be employed in the informal economy sector of Peshawar Valley, with poor quality of life and degraded environment. The valley is thus, the fastest urbanising region of KP, facing overstretching of its already fragile infrastructure and scarce natural resources. Certainly, urbanisation is occurring, but there is more urban decay than urban development. Population is growing, hospitals and schools are overburdened, traffic is congested, pollution (including that in water supply) is increasing, and solid waste and sewerage management are poor. For the affluent, new ‘gated communities’ are being established at the expense of prime agricultural lands of the Peshawar Valley. Despite departure of Afghan refugees, reverse migration of IDPs to places of their origin is less than desired. Reasons include lack of security and non-provision of key infrastructure in their hometowns. Thus, there seems to be no mitigation in the continuing rapid urbanisation of the Peshawar Valley.