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### ***Effects of Urbanization on Peshawar citizens, land and Environment***

#### ***1. Positive Effects of Urbanization***

Urbanization yields several positive effects if it happens within the appropriate limits. Some of the positive implications of urbanization, therefore, include the creation of employment opportunities, technological and infrastructural advancements, improved transportation and communication, quality and medical facilities, and improved standards of living. However, extensive urbanization mostly results in adverse effects. Below listed points are a few of them.

#### ***2. Housing Problems***

Urbanization attracts people to cities and towns which leads to a high population increase. With the increase in the number of people living in urban centers, there is a continued scarcity of houses. This is due to insufficient expansion space for housing and public utilities, poverty, unemployment, and costly building materials which can only be afforded by a few individuals.

#### ***3. Overcrowding***

Overcrowding is a situation whereby a huge number of people live in a small space. This form of congestion in urban areas is consistent because of overpopulation and it is an aspect that increases day by day as more people and immigrants move into cities and towns in search of a better life.

Most people from rural or undeveloped areas always have the urge of migrating into the city that normally leads to congestion of people within a small area.

#### ***4. Unemployment***

The problem of joblessness is highest in urban areas and it is even higher among educated people. It is estimated that more than half of unemployed youths around the globe live in metropolitan cities.

And, as much as income in urban areas is high, the costs of living make the incomes seem horribly low. The increasing relocation of people from rural or developing areas to urban areas is the leading cause of urban unemployment.

#### ***5. Development of Slums***

The cost of living in urban areas is very high. When this is combined with random and unexpected growth as well as unemployment, there is the spread of unlawful resident settlements represented by slums and squatters.

The growth of slums and squatters in urban areas is even further exacerbated by fast-paced industrialization, lack of developed land for housing, a large influx of rural immigrants to the cities in search of a better life, and the elevated prices of land beyond the reach of the urban poor.

## **6. Water and Sanitation Problems**

Because of overpopulation and rapid population increase in most urban centers, it is common to find there are inadequate sewage facilities.

Municipalities and local governments are faced with serious resource crisis in the management of sewage facilities. As a result, sanitation becomes poor and sewages flow chaotically, and they are drained into neighboring streams, rivers, lakes, or seas.

Eventually, communicable diseases such as typhoid, dysentery, plague, and diarrhea spread very fast leading to suffering and even deaths. Overcrowding also highly contributes to water scarcity as supply falls short of demand.

## **7. Poor Health and Spread of Diseases**

The social, economic and living conditions in congested urban areas affects access and utilization of public health care services. Slum areas in particular experience poor sanitation and insufficient water supply which generally make slum populations susceptible to communicable diseases.

[Environmental problems](#) such as [urban pollution](#) also cause many health problems namely allergies, asthma, infertility, food poisoning, cancer and even premature deaths.

## **8. Traffic Congestion**

When more people move to towns and cities, one of the major challenges posed is in the transport system. More people means an increased number of vehicles which leads to traffic congestion and vehicular pollution.

Many people in urban areas drive to work and this creates a severe traffic problem, especially during rush hours. Also as the cities grow in dimension, people will move to shop and access other social needs/wants which often cause traffic congestion and blockage.

## **9. Urban Crime**

Issues of lack of resources, overcrowding, unemployment, poverty, and lack of social services and education habitually lead to many social problems including violence, drug abuse, and crime.

Most of the crimes such as murder, rape, kidnapping, riots, assault, theft, robbery, and hijacking are reported to be more prominent in the urban vicinities. Besides, poverty-related crimes are the highest in fast-growing urban regions. These acts of urban crime normally upset the peace and tranquility of cities/towns.

## **Solutions to Urbanization**

### **1. Building Sustainable and Environmentally-friendly Cities**

Governments should pass laws that plan and provide environmentally sound cities and smart

growth techniques, considering that people should not reside in unsafe and polluted areas. The objective here is to build sustainable cities that embrace improved environmental conditions and safe habitats for all urban populations.

Governments should also encourage sustainable use of urban resources and support an economy based on the sustainable environments such as investment in green infrastructure, sustainable industries, recycling and environmental campaigns, pollution management, renewable energy, green public transportation, and water recycling and reclamation.

## **2. Provision of Essential Services**

Urban stakeholders must ensure all populations within the urban areas have access to adequate essential social services namely education, health, sanitation and clean water, technology, electricity, and food.

The objective here is to provide and implement employment opportunities and wealth creation activities so that people can earn a living to pay for the maintenance of the services.

Subsidies can also be availed by the government to lower the costs of basic healthcare, basic education, energy, education, [public transportation](#), communication systems and technology.

## **3. Creation of More Jobs**

To lessen the negative effects of rapid urbanization while at the same time conserving natural ecosystems, private investments should be encouraged so as to [utilize natural resources](#) and create more job opportunities.

Tourism promotion and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources can create more jobs for urban populations. Subsidies and grants may as well be provided to foreign and private investment in environmentally friendly development projects that encourage job creation.

## **4. Population Control**

Key stakeholders in urban areas must provide campaigns and counseling for effective medical health clinics and family planning to help reduce the high rates of population growth.

Medical health clinics oriented towards family planning options must be made accessible across the entire urban area with the objective of controlling diseases .