

## Urbanization and urban problems in Jammu city

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**Abstract:** The ongoing rapid urbanization without adequate urban planning and service provisions means that a substantial proportion of urban population is at the risk of the environmental hazards such as increasing pollution, slums, ill health, crime and vice among others. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the implications of rapid urbanization without adequate urban governance and service provision on the urban environment in the Jammu city.

**Key words:** Pollution; environmental hazards; overpopulation; urban governance.

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### 1. Introduction

Urban centers have already been considered as nucleus of human civilization and culture and therefore, urbanization is regarded as an important index of socio-economic development of the region. Urbanization is the process whereby land and people of a region become urban. It refers to the grouping of the people in concentrations that are different in size, function and institutions from rural clusters. Urbanization is also considered as process of changing of behavior patterns from rural to urban which includes qualitative and quantitative improvements in the system of housing, water supply, sanitation, means of transport and communication, administrative and educational institutions together with many other aspects of life as culture and tradition. Urbanization is most essential for all round development of a nation but the modern urban development has created a number of serious socio-economic and environmental problems which are the world wide phenomenon.

Many developed and developing countries of the world in recent years have paid great attention to these acute problems. The objectives of the present study were (i) to study the growth of slums and socio-economic conditions of slum dwellers in Jammu city, (ii) to study the growth and influence of industrialization on the environ of the city, and (iii) to study the problems of traffic congestion in the study area.

### 2. Material and methods

#### 2.1 Study area

To set the agenda for research, the first effort has been set forth as identification of the area. The area identified is Jammu the city of temples and the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, located on both the banks of river Tawi. It is situated at 1200 ft above the mean sea level. It is located between 32° 39' N to 32° 40' N Latitudes and between 74° 48' E to 74° 54' E longitudes. This is the part of outer most ridges of hills. The ridges are cut through by the Valley of Tawi River. The old city is confined to the right bank and later expansion of the city has largely taken place on the left bank of the river. King Jumbo Lochan is believed to be the founder of Jammu. The area experiences sub-humid monsoon type of climate. The summer temperature fluctuates between 31°C-42°C. In winters the temperature range from 8°C-13°C. The annual rainfall is about 85-135 cm.

The city at present extends from Roop nagar and Janipur in the North to Sainik Colony and Greater Kailash in the South, from

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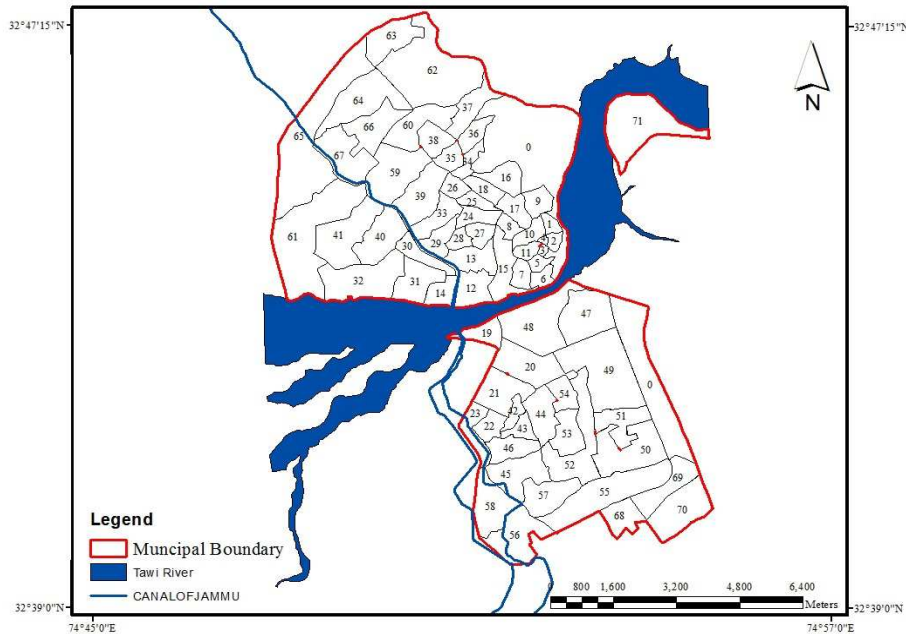
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Panjtirthi and Gujjar nagar in the East to the cantonment in the West.

According to the census of 2001, Jammu city spread over an area of 201.59 sq. Kms. With the urban expansion, new location and other linear extension along the Jammu-Pathankot and Jammu-Akhnoor roads have extended the urban limits in the form of some stay colonies. The increase in population was

too sudden for the city to accommodate and provide urban services like drinking water, sanitation, education, health, transportation, housing etc. Pull of Jammu was the major factor responsible for unprecedented growth of population. Migrants to Jammu city came from other parts of the state thus beginning the story of transformation of Jammu City.

**Map of Jammu City (Ward wise)**



### **Growth of urbanization in Jammu city**

The city of Jammu is going through the same process of urbanization as stated earlier. It has been emerged as one of the urban hubs of Jammu and Kashmir state. It is an ancient settlement with its chequered history. Being a traditional focus of culture, political and economic linkages of the Dogras who constitute the dominant group in the part of city. Before independence the urbanization process of the Jammu city took place in different periods. The city transformed from medieval character to feudal system with the seat of government at the highest commanding point, nobles lying in the close proximity of the place. The market place at the centre and the lowest class of the society towards the outskirts. Various temples complex were built during Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-1885 A.D) period. Infact the growth of the city

resulted in formation of infrastructure like Tawi bridge, Ranbir Public Mission School, Military Hospital, GGM Science College, Dak Bunglow, Silk Factory etc. The physical character of the city has considerably improved in its later form by construction of new roads and provision of infrastructure. The comprehensive layout of infrastructure appears to have led to the formation of Municipal system in the city. The development of the city leads towards the expansion of industry and the provision of infrastructural and Community facilities.

Urbanization in the Jammu city has taken a fillip during the post-independence period. Development of the Housing colonies, new Bus stand, Universities, Colleges, Hospitals, road network, Tourism Department etc. have rapidly taken place for the past 26 years. The city with its Municipal limits is now

spread on both sides of river Tawi over an area of 16.87 km. Urban conurbation around the Municipal limits have spread in all directions, which has warranted delineation of local area extending upto village Keran, Chinor, Gurabrahman in the North, village Chak-kalu, Bubiliana, Bhor and Chatha in the South, village Bahu, Channi-Rama and Thangar in the East and village Patoli-Bharamana, Barnai, Muthi, Huzori-Bagu, Chak Ghulami, Gol-Gujral, Rakh Raipur in the West now comes under urban areas.

Urban population has been growing more rapidly than rural population. More and more people live in towns and increasing proportion live in big cities. Rapid urbanization is due to number of reasons i.e. agricultural improvement, industrialization, growth of services, improvement in transport and communication, emergence of town as a socio-cultural center, improvement in educational and health facilities.

#### **Industrial areas in and around Jammu city**

Jammu city has made a significant progress in the field of Industrialization during the last 50 years. There are about six Industrial Estates functioning in and around the Jammu city. The location and the area covered by each Industrial Estate is given below:

Details of Industrial estates in and around the Jammu City

<b>Location of Industrial Estates</b>	<b>Area (in ha)</b>
Digyana	11.74
Bari Brahmana Phase I	130.91
Bari Brahmana Phase II	132.26
Gangyal	40.07
Birpur	15.37
Akhnoor	1.46

Out of these six Industrial Estates, Digyana, Bari Brahmana Phase-I, Bari Brahmana Phase-II, Birpur and Gangyal fall under the limit of Jammu agglomeration. Industrial estate of Samba has been identified as industrial growth centre and is situated at a distance of 40 Km. from Jammu city towards south-east on NH-1A. Bari Brahmana is 22 Km. from Samba. Industrial estate of Akhnoor is 28 Km. from Jammu city towards north west. These industries are regulated and controlled

by Development Corporation (SIDCO) at Bari Brahmana and small industries corporation (SICOP) at Digyana, Birpur, and Gangyal. Besides these Industrial Estates, there are large number of small, medium scale Industrial units in Jammu city. The Digyana Industrial Estates and Gangyal Industrial area has become the hub of industrial activity. Bari Brahmana Industrial Estates are fast growing areas of the hinterland. These industries give employment to large number of people mostly coming from rural areas. Besides these constructional activities have rapidly been picked up in the city and fringe area of Jammu. The demand is being met from 87 brick kiln, 31 saw mills and timber depot spread over various part of the city. Saw mills and timber depot are mainly concentrated along Jammu-Akhnoor Road in the urban areas of the city. Brick kilns are spread over along Jammu-Akhnoor Road and around Bari Brahmana along national highway. Besides occupying the valuable land they add to the pollution and impede traffic movement.

#### **Slums of Jammu city**

Urbanization and Industrialization are two fundamental forces which bring about rapid change in social system. Rapid migration, industrialization and development of other aspects of cities have given rise to a host of problems in the city centre. Slums are also the result of the complicated force affecting the urban areas. These areas have been identified as slums which have been squatted by immigrants and have non-proper civil amenities, have poverty and unhygienic living conditions.

The slums of Jammu city can be categorized as immigrant slums as the slums here are mostly dominated by migrant laborers who are mostly drawn here by on-going construction activity including Railway Line extensions, Fly-over construction programmes, Canal and road construction works. In Jammu city about 80 % of slum dwellers are engaged in construction work because the daily wages in real terms in Jammu city are relatively higher than majority of other cities of the country. The people living in these slums have emigrated from even far-off areas like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

### Causes of slums

1. Industrialization
2. Rural Migration
3. Poverty and Inadequacy of Resources
4. Unplanned Growth of City

### Census population of Jammu city

Census Year	Population	Decadal growth (%)
1941	58,847	-
1951	83,551	41.98
1961	1,08,257	29.56
1971	1,64,207	51.68
1981	2,23,361	36.02
1991	3,20,261	43.38
2001	5,49,791	71.66

Source: Census District Handbook ,Jammu.

The slums in the Jammu city have grown in the centre of the city as well as on the fringe of the city. In Jammu city following are big slum settlement Panjtirthi slum, Dogra Hall slum, Krishana Nagar slum, Resham Ghar slum, New Plot slum, Amphalla slum, Chandnagar slum, Raipur Mangotraian slum, Sarwal slum, Paloura Slum etc.

Name of Slum	Households	Population
Panjtirthi	118	616
Dogra Hall		
a) Baba bali basti	50	300
b) Kabir colony	150	750
Krishna Nagar	15	85
Resham Ghar	30	200
New Plot		
a) New Plot	200	200
b) Jawahar Nagar	100	1000
c) Prem Nagar	70	400
Amphalla		
a) Pacca Talab	150	600
b) Amphalla	20	80
Sarwal		
a) Mana Basti	40	160
b) Sarwal	60	240
Chand Nagar	67	375
Raipur Mangotrian	115	345
Gole (Om Nagar)	44	209
Shiv Nagar	90	220
Paloura	35	105
Toph Sherkhanian	25	75
Bahu East		
a) Qazim Nagar	56	280
b) Sheik Nagar	31	128
Patta Paloura	130	520

In 2011 J.M.C conducted a ward wise survey in which about 15 slums were notified comprising of about 1764 household having population of 7997 approx. Out of these notified slums New Plot slum is having the population of 1680 with 270 number of households followed by Dogra Hall slum having the population of 1050 is composed of Bawa Bali Basti and Kabir Colony Slum. Slum dwellers in Jammu city form a fast growing segment of the urban population. However, one could assess the actual condition of the people living in the slums and it would also help in highlighting the problems that they are facing in the fast growing city of Jammu.

### Problems faced by slums dwellers in Jammu city

- Lack of health care facilities
- Access to electricity supply and water facilities
- Education problems for Children
- Shortage of housing
- Inadequate Infrastructure facilities
- Low income engaged in semi-skilled & un-skilled jobs
- In these slums facilities such as water drainage, latrine and electricity are consider as more critical than the problem of housing. Due to lack of these minimum facilities ,improper environmental sanitation is one of the most important problem that exist in the slum areas and because of lack of proper sanitation facilities ,high morbidity and mortality levels especially very high rate of infant and child mortality is found among the slum dwellers. It is found that most common illness among slum dwellers are respiratory diseases, gastro intestinal disorder, skin diseases, fever, worms, ENT diseases and tuberculoses. A slum poses serious challenges to the civil authorities because they are centers of pollution and crime.

### Programmes for the development of slums

- Government of India has been initiating targeted schemes and programmes to improve slum:
- In 2005 Government started the **Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)**; for basic

services to the poor; and **Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY)** for a slum- free India.

- Integrated development of slums through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to provide utilities to the urban poor.
- Slum improvement & rehabilitation projects
- Projects on water supply/sewerage/drainage, community toilets/baths, etc.
- Houses at affordable costs for slum dwellers/ urban poor. Civic amenities, like, community halls, child care centers, etc

### Traffic and transportation problems

Marked increase in population and number of vehicles on one hand and fast urbanization on the other, have resulted in rapid growth in traffic volume in recent years. There has not been matching increase in traffic infrastructure has aggravated the traffic and transportation problems in Jammu city. The personalized mode of transport has been increasing tremendously with the annual increase of 18%.The public transport vehicles (buses and mini buses) registered annual growth of 7.55% and taxis and auto rickshaws shows the annual growth of 13.80%.In the old city to facilitate transportation of goods, light carriage vehicles (LCV) i.e. two wheelers and three wheelers, have been added to the fleet and their number is also increasing. With high growth rate of personalized vehicles, the share of public transport has fallen. The modal split in favor of public transport which was more than 60% in 1991 has fallen to about 43% in 1998-99. The absence of effective public transport system has resulted in more traffic congestion on roads. Old city being the main business; attract people from adjoining localities/villages etc. maximum movement of the passengers by road is from R.S Pura, Kathua and surrounding villages like Bishnah, Gadigarh, Chatha, Janipur, Nagrota, Domana etc. falling within the radius of 10-25Kms from CBD. Buses and trucks move on the main corridors, whereas rickshaws are mostly plying from Gajansoo, Marh, Gho Manasa, R.S.Pura, Miran Sahib to fetch vegetables and return to their rural destination in the . The roads in the areas of Talab Tillo, Gajansoo, Gole Gujral, Domana, Muthi etc. are not so wide to take these slow moving vehicles and

thus face a lot of traffic congestion. Among the roads in hierarchy, traffic movement is quite heavy on B.C. Road, Canal Road, Shalimar Road and Palace Road are the most busy roads which carry more than 2500 passenger car units in peak hours. On these roads maximum number of the trips is carried by mini -buses. High volume of traffic and poor geometrics of roads create major traffic bottlenecks at congested intersection points i.e. Jewel Chowk, Vikram Chowk, Dogra Chowk, K.C Chowk, City Chowk, Satwari and Asia hotel junction. Situation at these junctions is worsening day by day and there is a urgent need to take immediate improvement measures.

### Conclusion

In the last few decades there has been stupendous growth in urban population of Jammu city. Consequently there is environmental degradation and quality of life in the urban areas is deteriorating at a faster pace. Jammu city is confronted with the problems of poor housing, slums, shanty colonies, traffic congestion, poor social amenities, air, water and noise pollution. The new industrial complexes near Jammu deserve special planning efforts to reduce the environmental pollution. The environs of Jammu city are also highly degraded. Deforestation and encroachment of urban settlement into the pastures, agriculture land, hills and natural areas have induced the process of environmental degradation more rational approach for the distribution of population needs to be adopted. Programme should be promoted to make accessible to scattered population the basic social amenities which may go a long way in reducing the outmigration of the rural workforce towards the metropolitan city of Jammu.

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