



## TRENDS OF URBANIZATION IN BHOJPUR PLAIN : A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords:

#### Introduction

The basic truth of the population which includes growth and distribution of population, sex ratio, cast structure, literacy and occupation. The characteristics directly and indirectly influence the urbanization process on has remained the seat of power, center of cultural revolution and zone of social conflicts. These phenomena have certainly affected the level of urbanization in Bhojpur plain. This research paper attempts to highlight the level and trends of urbanization in Bhojpur plain. The study of urbanization by its variation in nature involves several dimensions basically time dimension, spatial dimension and socio-cultural dimension. Another dimension relevant to the study of urbanization specially in India has to do with the economic and political process that has shaped and are continuing to shape the basic character of the urban life.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

The following are the main objective of the research paper:

1. To know about trends of urbanization in Bhojpur plain
2. To analyze growth of urban centers in Bhojpur plain

#### METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data, print & electronic media, observation & intensive library work, books, magazines & daily newspapers etc are important source of data. Data have been analyzed by different statistical measures and represented by suitable maps & diagrams.

#### HYPOTHESES

The urban population is growing at much faster rate than the population as a whole and by larger annual increments than ever before. By the early years of the next century most of the people in the world will live in urban areas. In the most developing regions, the proportion of people living in the largest cities is also increasing. Hence the rate of urbanization will also increase and i am trying to present the trends of urbanization in Bhojpur plain.

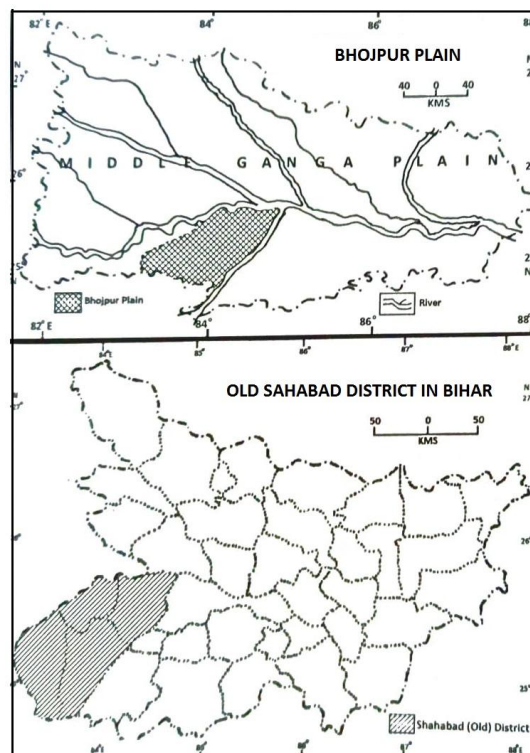
#### STUDY AREA

The study area is restricted to Bhojpur plains which forms

part of south Bihar plains. It is a micro geographical region located in middle Ganga plain, one of the meso level regions. Bhojpur plains is coterminous with Shahabad plain. The study area is located between 24°46'N to 25°56'N latitude and 83°19'E to 84°45'E longitude. The study area is situated on the western border of Bihar state. It is bounded on the north by the district of Gazipur & Ballia in Uttar Pradesh and Saran in the north Bihar, the river Ganga fences it on north as well as north -west for some extent and forms natural boundary. The river Karmnasa bounds it on the west for a considerable length.

The study area is comprised of four districts namely Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas & Bhabhua. Whole part of Bhojpur & Buxar district come under the study area but the southernmost part of the Rohtas & Bhabhua is excluded from the Bhojpur plain.

#### LOCATION MAP



### TRENDS IN LEVEL/DEGREE OF URBANIZATION

The level/degree of urbanization of any geographical entity is generally defined as the percentage of total population living in urban areas. It is mathematically defined as

$$A = U/T \times 100$$

Where, A = Degree of urbanization

U = Urban Population

T = Total Population

The index not only provides the clear picture of rural urban distribution of population in the geographical areas concerned but it also reflect the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the study areas. High level of urbanization is an indicator of high socio-economic condition of the society. It is one of the good indices for the measurement of economic development of a given region. Economically advanced nations are generally found at its higher level of urbanization.

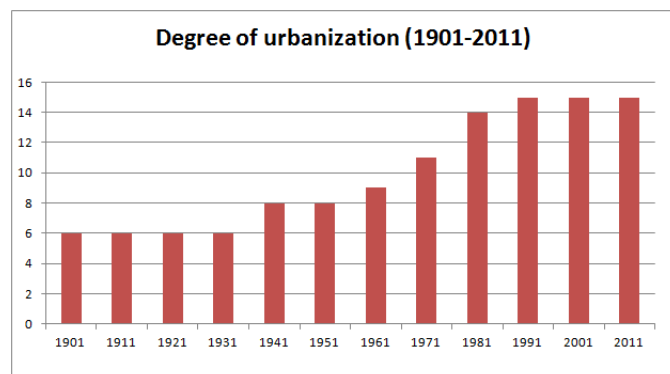
**TABLE - 1**

#### DEGREE & RATE OF URBANIZATION IN BHOJPUR PLAIN (1901-2011)

Census Year	Degree of urbanization	Rate of urbanization
1901	6.03	-
1911	5.5	-8.79
1921	5.58	1.45
1931	5.9	5.73
1941	6.24	5.76
1951	6.72	7.69
1961	7.2	7.14
1971	7.99	10.97
1981	11.22	40.43
1991	10.74	-8.53
2001	10.97	2.14
2011	11.6	5.74

Source - Census of India & Calculated by Scholar

Table 1 shows socio-economic development of Bhojpur plain indirectly reflected through the degree of urbanization. On the basis of poor level of urbanization one can remark that the study area is a less developed region. However, other than urbanization level may also be used to measure socio-economic development.



**FIG - 2**

Table 1 reveals that urbanization process was slow up to 1941. It was 6.03% in 1901 and this level did not reach before 1951. In 1911 level of urbanization declined to 5.50% and almost the same level maintained even in 1921. In 1931 the level marginally improved reaching 5.90% . after 1931 the pace of urbanization gained momentum and started showing significant change in its level. It increased from 6.24% in 1941 to 11.22% in 1981 but in 1991 it declined to 10.74%. in 2001 level of urbanization improved and reached to 10.97% and it further improved and attended the level of 11.60% in 2011 (Fig 2)

### TREND OF URBANIZATION

Rate of urbanization is simple change in the level of urbanization between two points of time. Table 1 shows rate of urbanization in the study area. It is important to note that in Bhojpur plain during 1901-11 decade rate of urbanization was negative but during 1911-21 it improved and turned into positive. Unfortunately during 1921-31 it recorded positive growth by 5.73%. after 1931 urbanization rate continuously increased up to 1991. During 1931-41 urbanization rate increased to 5.76%. During 1941-51 and 1951-61 decades rate of urbanization was 7.69 and 7.14% respectively. During 1961-71 the urbanization rate reached to 10.97%. The highest rate of urbanization ever recorded was during 1971-81, it was 40.43%. it was perhaps due to increasing naxal activity in the study area which forced to migrate rural people to urban centers of the region. As the situation started to return normal, the migrated persons returned to their respective native villages. This process causes sharp decline in urbanization rate. During 1981-91 decade urbanization rate was -8.53%. during 1991-2001 and 2001-2011 decades urbanization rate moderately improved. During 1991-2001 it increased by only 2.14% and 2001-11 by 5.74%.

### PROGRESS IN NUMBER OF TOWNS

Just as long as cities grow in size or multiply in number, urbanization is taking place. It can stop, recede and go at any level in time and space. This remarkable statement of Prof. Eldridge is an indicative of the fact appearance or emergence of new town/cities expansion of existing towns or urban units in an indicator

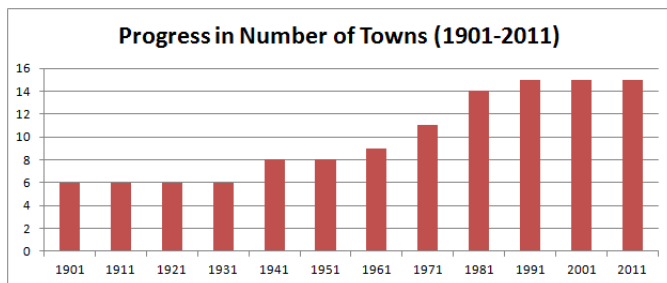
of the process of urbanization. As the process of urbanization continues, new town appears on the urban map and the existing ones develop in their sizes of population and area. The progress in the number of towns in Bhojpur plain is shown in table no 2

**TABLE - 2**

**PROGRESS IN NUMBER OF TOWN IN BHOJPUR PLAIN (1901-2011)**

Census Year	Number of Town	Decadal variation	% Variation
1901	6	-	-
1911	6	-	-
1921	6	-	-
1931	6	-	-
1941	8	2	33.33
1951	8	-	-
1961	9	1	12.5
1971	11	3	22.22
1981	14	3	27.27
1991	15	1	7.14
2001	15	-1	-6.66
2011	15	1	7.14

Source - Census of India & Calculated by Scholar



**FIG - 3**

Table 2 & Figure 3 reveals trends of urbanization in Bhojpur plain in term of progress in number of towns during last 110 years.

### CONCLUSIONS

Urbanization is the measure of scaling the level of regional development of any territorial area. The trend of Bhojpur plain is not exciting. Bhojpur plain occupied only 6 towns in 1901 and in 2011 it grows with only 9 town and the number reached to 15 towns. . Therefore, the study of Trend of Urbanization is very important and relevant in the present contest.

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