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CONCLUSION

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C O N C L U S I O N

Cities are the nodes of man's greatest impact on nature, the places where he has most altered the essential resources of land, air, organisms and water. Through urbanization man has created new ecosystems within which the interactions of man, his work and nature are complex. Today the majority of people are attracted towards cities and in the recent years the converging forces of population, urbanization, technology and environment have come to serious conflict.

A city is a special combination of a place and its people. In the definition of city it is broadly stated that it includes the totality of natural, social and artificial components aggregated in the population of places. The city may also be thought of functionally, as an open ecosystem for perpetuating urban culture by exchanging and converting great quantity of material and energy.

The 20th century has been called the age of urbanization. In 1900, about 8 percent of the world population lived in urban areas. By 2000, this percentage will rise to 50, and about three billion people will be living in the cities of the world.

India is no exception to this process of urbanization. Though our rate of urbanization is comparatively low, the size of our urban population is very large. According to the 1981 census, it is 156 million, fourth largest urban population amongst the countries of the world.

The problems confronting our cities are similar to the problems which are being faced by other developing countries. What we do in India to solve these problems is of special interest to them. Any innovation provided by us will bring us closer to the developing countries most of whom are nonaligned. The developing countries, by the turn of the century, will together hold about 75 percent of the world population.

In every aspect of city life, such as density of population, availability of land, housing, slums and squatters, settlements, municipal services, the scale and character of migration, employment, transport, civic sense, and general environment; the current conditions are far from satisfactory.

In our cities, economic problems loom large. Social problems are becoming increasingly acute and so are environmental problems such as congestion and pollution.

In the urban system of South Maharashtra, Kolhapur city is an important urban centre. It is an ancient town of South Maharashtra popularly known as "Dakshin Kashi". Today it is a leading commercial and industrial centre of South Maharashtra. Being an important economic, administrative and cultural centre, it is growing rapidly. It has expanded its area and population during the last five decades. With the growth of population and the area, it has also developed several industrial, commercial and service functions. Rapid growth of population brought heavy pressure on the functions and services of the city. The comparative

growth of functions and services does not match the accelerated rate of population growth. However, some of the functions show satisfactory growth.

The standard urban area of Kolhapur city includes two towns, namely, Kolhapur and Gandhinagar. It covers 155.51 sq.km. area of which 82.73 km. area is rural in character. The rural urban fringe of Kolhapur city indicates mix landuse. It is observed that from 1961 to 1981 there is a remarkable change in the fringe zone of the Kolhapur city. It covers an area of 470 sq.km. and nearly 22 small rural settlements are included in fringe zone. The rapid expansion of fringe zone of Kolhapur city also created several problems in the provision of services and functions.

In order to find out the immediate zone of influence of Kolhapur city fieldwork is carried out. It is observed that the Kolhapur city for various functions and services has a different area. The city bus transport zone covers 563 sq.km. area and serves 53 rural settlements. In Kolhapur municipal corporation buses serve nearly two lakh rural population of the unland of the Kolhapur city.

The secondary education zone serves 20 rural settlements, covers an area of 250 sq.km. and serves nearly 70,000 rural population. However, vegetable supply to Kolhapur city comes from 41 rural settlements and covers an area of 344 sq.kms. A state transport buses operated after 8.30 p.m. in the surrounding area also gives better results of immediate zone of influence. Such operation of buses is essential because the people who are closely connected to the city of Kolhapur use these buses.

The study of fringe zone and umland of Kolhapur city gives us a clear cut idea about the expansion of city limit and its close linkage with the surrounding area.

The rapid expansion of city and growth in its industrial and commercial activities has attracted migrants to the city. The volume of migration is so large that the existing social facilities services, and other functions become inadequate and create problems. Kolhapur city indicates continuous expansion in its population size and built up area. Still the problem of residential space is acute. The implementation of urban ceiling act has restricted the transaction of urban lands which has further increased the land values. There are several lands in the city area which are under the urban ceiling act.

The extension of residential areas is taking place on the fringe of the city. Still the problem of residential space is very serious in Kolhapur city. In order to solve this problem government agency should take the possession of urban land and construct residential flats.

Regarding water supply as compared to other cities of Maharashtra, Kolhapur city has better condition of water supply. The old areas of Kolhapur city are not getting better supply of water. It is because of old small pipe lines. These outdated pipe lines should be replaced by new big pipe lines to improve the supply. Regarding the quality of water it is observed that in the month of June the quality of drinking water is not good. In the same way during the month of November also the water is

polluted. It happens so because sugar factory waste is dumped into river water. The Bavada pumping station is located 1/2 km. ahead of the spot where waste material of Kolhapur sugar factory is dumped. Naturally during November and June there are several cases of jaundice, gastro and diseases related to digestive system. The city is rapidly growing and developing industries demand more water. By the end of 20th century the city will need more than 100 million liters of water.

It is felt that the growing need of water of Kolhapur city can be satisfied if the water scheme is connected to Radhanagari dam which is about 50 km. from Kolhappur.

The rapid growth of industries and development of urbanization has brought prosperity to surrounding areas, but it has created many urban problems. The growing population needs extra facilities and services. The industrial workers have a desire to live near the place of work. The phenomena of slum has been regarded major problem of urbanization. Most of the migrants coming to city are poor; and they do desire to live near the place of work. It gives rise to the development of slums. In Kolhapur city during the last 30 years several slums have developed. If this growth of slums is continued at the same rate the quality of urban life will deteriorate further. Municipal corporation of Kolhapur is planning for the rehabilitation of slum dwellers.

The city of Kolhapur has a comparatively better bus transport system. The eastern and northern parts are more

accessible than the southern and western parts. The city bus transport of Kolhapur city is facing several problems in which the following are important :-

- i) Inadequate number of buses
- ii) Rising cost of transport
- iii) Financial problem and
- iv) Problem of maintenance.

The city size and the crime rate have a positive relationship. In Kolhapur city the types of crimes and their rates have a close association with the density of the population. It is observed that during the last 10 years the crimes like house breaking, cheating, gambling and crimes related to prohibition are increasing comparatively.

Our problems are formidable and our demands are increasing, comparatively our resources are inadequate. In order to solve the problem of Kolhapur city the civic authority and citizens have to make combined efforts so that the life in the city will be better. It is observed that in the development plan of Kolhapur city several changes are made. These changes also hamper the entire ideal plan and the future development of the city. By the end of the 20th century this growing urban centre will demand more space for residence, industry and commercial activities. Considering this an ideal draft, plan should be prepared by the town planning authorities.