



**“IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA”  
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**

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**Abstract:** Industrial revolution started in 18<sup>th</sup> century and it spread all over France, Germany, America, Denmark, Portugal etc. It results into the origin of hug industries in those countries. Industrial revolution followed with the process of urbanization. Process of urbanization has great impact on the status of women. Urbanization empowered the status of women in India. Rights are distributed among the husband and wife. Workload distribution based on gender is decreased and women started to work with men. Though urbanization created some problem among the relation of husband and wife, still patriarchy in the society gives submissive treatment to women. In this sense it is a major obstacle in the progress of women. The present research is an attempt to find out the impact of urbanization on the status of women from sociological point of view.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Industrial revolution, Empowerment

**Introduction:**

Urbanization is nothing but migration rural people towards urban/ city areas. Urbanization is a modern process which starts with the Industrial Revolution. The impact of this process is seen in both western & Eastern countries. The present study focuses on the impact of urbanization in India on the status of Indian women.

Due to urbanization the status of Indian women is improved. In most of urban families, husband uses his rights with the suggestions of women or they divide their rights while taking decisions in their life. Traditionally, work was distributed on the basis of gender but in urban society women are free to do any work. Now days, it seems that husband helps his working wife in her household works like kitchen etc. Due to service or job some men couldn't pay attention to their household business, so women carries the responsibility of children, market, post, banking etc. While carrying that responsibility she is free to take her own decisions regarding it. In this way we find the equality among the men & women due to the urbanization.

**Aim and Objectives:**

- 1) To study the meaning, nature & phase of urbanization.
- 2) To find out the impact of urbanization on the status of women from social point of view.

- 3) To know the presents position of women after urbanization.

**Methodology of Research:**

For present study, secondary sources are used, such as essays, newspapers, periodicals, Research papers, internet sources etc.

What is Urbanization?

According to Anderson, "urbanization is not one way process but it is a two way process. It involves not only movement from villages to cities and change from Agricultural occupation to business, trade, service and profession but it also involves change in the migrants attitudes, beliefs, values and behavior patterns."

In above definition Anderson widen the scope of the concept urbanization. Generally we limit this concept to the migration of rural people towards urban but Anderson focuses on the attitudes, values, tradition and cultures migrates with the people.

The second definition by Thompson wamen, "The movement of people from communities concerned chiefly or solely with agriculture to other communities generally larger whose activities are primarily centered in government, trade, manufacture or allied interests.

Compare to Anderson, the definition of Thompson Wamen is narrow one because he talks of migration of agricultural communities towards the business & government centered large communities

with the help of above definition, we can draw following meanings of urbanization:

- 1) Migration of rural people towards urban people is urbanization.
- 2) Urbanization is process where people except non-agricultural service and transform their attitude, beliefs, traditions & culture as per urban life style.
- 3) In this process people except the urban lifestyle.
- 4) This process increase the numbers of towns & urban in the country.

#### Characteristic of Urbanization

##### 1) Consequence of Industrialization:

Urbanization is a byproduct of Industrialization. It fertilizes the process of urbanization. Most of the industries are started in urban area and obviously people attracts towards the industries for jobs. Most of rural people search their jobs in industries and for that they have to migrate at urban area.

##### 2) Process of Migration :

Urbanization is process of migration from rural area to urban or industrial area where huge number of communities lives. In this sense it is a process of migration.

##### 3) Modern process:

Urbanization is a modern process. In ancient era towns & urban were existed but there was not urbanization because people didn't do permanent migration to rural or urban area. It was the industrial revolution in England and European countries paved the way to the urbanization. That's why, urbanization is a modern process.

##### 4) Social process :

Like modern process, urbanization is a social process. People from one geographical area migrate to another geographical area which is an important social change because people migrate with their culture traditions & values. Though they migrate with their culture, tradition & values, they give up it and assimilate with the new culture, traditions & value in urban area.

##### 5) Fulfillment of certain pre-requisites:

For the process of urbanization it needs certain pre-requisites, such as latest traveling aids for e.g. railway, motor, roads flights etc.

Latest communication tools for e.g. post, telegram, telephone, fax, radio, t.v., mobile etc. Enough water supply, light, schools, markets, hospitals etc. basic needs should be available because in such condition people migrates from rural area.

#### Phases of Migration

Urbanization is not drastic process, it depends on the progress of Industrialization. Urbanization process has to go from different phases:

1) At initial phase the process of urbanization is very slow.

2) In second phase, citizens certain pre-requisites (for e.g. soil, water supply, light, construction tools etc.) are available. In this phase due to industrial revolution the process of urbanization takes speed.

3) In third phase, due to over urbanization some problems has to be faced. To resolve these problems one has to find out solutions on it.

4) In fourth phase, due to complete industrial progress, the process of urbanization decreases. Some suburban's increases at urban side.

In this way the process of urbanization achieves its height.

#### Impact of Urbanization on the status of women

Most of countries in the world are patriarchal. India is not exceptional. Most of the countries are male dominated and they tread women at secondary place. Actually, women were not at secondary position physically, mentally or intellectually but they had the face such kind of exploitation. The question arise, why women exploited by male dominated societies. If we peep into the history, women invented the art of agriculture and until they were working in farm, they have dominancy in male but as time goes different inventions, were occurred in agricultural field. To use new tools in farm they need powerful people. Men were more powerful than women so they entered in agriculture field & shattered down the monopoly of women.

In India, due to integrated family system all rights were centered in the hands of men. Women were kept aside. They were aliened from educational system. They were

not allowed to choose their partner, women child marriage became a great problem in society. Windows were not allowed for the remarriage. In public places, women were not allowed to come for any activity. They were restricted to kitchen & children. Women were considered responsible for the girl child & boy child birth. From all sides women was caged and treated secondary and unimportant.

Industrial revolution in England spreads all over Europe countries like France, Germany, America Denmark Portugal etc. all these countries became the houses of big industries. In India, due to britisher, industrial revolution has been took place. British started the roads , railways, water ways, telegram, post telephone, radio etc. which connected India and become easy for the industrial development.

This industrial revolution in India pawed they way for urbanization its results in to the empowering the status of women in India. The impact of urbanization on Indian women status is as below:

1) Educational Empowerment:

Due to urbanization education system involved women in the teaching learning process. Environment in urban area is more suitable for the subjectivities and industrial freedom. Naturally urban gave equal scope to men and women for the industrial progress. In this way women get opportunity of education. Education gave them right to choose their own partner. As the process of urbanization increased the progress of women education went with it. We find the large number of educated women in large cities. Now women are taking all kind of education with men. In this way urbanization brought education empowerment among women.

2) Earning :

Traditionally, Indian men earned their family and women did household things like kitchen, children etc. Gender based working system was braked with industrial urban. Women could get their education, individual freedom. Give to high lifestyle and increasing product values made women come out side and work for their family. In marriage system earned women get most demand so parents also willing for the

education and earning of women. In urbanization number of business are started which gave women jobs at government, semi government, private offices, banks, shops, entertainment places etc. women are working at all places, its results in the improvement in their status in the society.

3) Achieved rights in family :

Traditional Indian society made men as a chief of the family. Women and children were under the rights and orders of men. Women did not have right to take decisions in family. After the urbanization women get rights in family. Though still men are chief in the family, they are using their rights with the suggestion of their wife. There are some rights which are divided among them. Men are helping and cooperating their wife in their kitchen work because they know that their wife is also working like them. The men who are working away from their family has to give all rights of family in the hands of wife e.g. buying goods for family, children education, banking, paying bills, relatives and their hospitality etc. In this way women in urban society enjoying their freedom.

Now instead of slaves, they were treated as friend, partner, and better half by the husband. In this way, urbanization empowered the place of Indian women society.

4) Involvement in social activity :

Women involvement in social life is increased. In urban area personality and career development having in a scope. So women are developing their personality and career as well. Women are working in social, economical, political, art, sports, literature, dance, music, drama, film etc. Now they are working in all these fields equally with men. Now women life is not restricted with kitchen and children.

5) Women form & movement :

Due to urbanization women took education and they became literate. They started to do job and services. In the sense they became self-depended as a result they started to come together and it creates a kind of awareness against the exploitation of women. They awarded of their rights and freedom obviously with the help of their movement they raised their voice against

the exploitation of women. It gave birth from different forms and movement of women.

6) Patriarchal society :-

Monopoly of men always seems in the patriarchal society. Still men are not ready to give authority to women. This patriarchal ego is the basic problem behind the status of women.

Findings:

- 1) Urbanization has great impact on women position and status in society and research find positive result that urbanization empowered the status of women in society.
- 2) Urbanization opened the doors of all fields to work and to get equal status with men but still the doors of social mind are closed to this equality.
- 3) Monopoly of men in the society is right of male race is a psychological state which till find in society. Though women are working as doctor, engineer in the society, still they get secondary treatment in a family.
- 4) there are still in many area were women are not equal rights. Still in our society most of the educated men feel that women should not work after marriage even though she may be interested in her career just to pander to his male ego.

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