AIRO JOURNALS

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Peer Reviewed
Multidisciplinary
International

ISSN: 2320-3714
Volume 4 Issue 3
December 2021
Impact Factor: 11.7
Subject: Economics

A Research on the Differences between India's Rural and Urban Demographic Characteristics

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Abstract

Based on their geographical settings and socio-cultural traits, Indian society has been widely categorised into urban, rural, and tribal societies. In the country, there exist variations between urban and rural areas in terms of educational institutions, career possibilities, housing, way of life, and other factors. The so-called urban-rural divide that characterises contemporary urbanisation in India started to emerge some 200 years ago. Differences in socio-demographic trends and economic sectors continue to be viewed as a barrier to sustainable development. In order to create new policies and programmes addressing India's general socioeconomic growth, this article attempts to examine the issue of rural-urban disparities. The Report on India Sample Vital Statistics (SVRS) of various years, released by the India Bureau of Statistics, served as the primary source of data for this study (BBS). It is discovered that despite government efforts to lessen rural-urban gap in the context of development, problems still exist between rural and urban areas. The findings of this study should aid in the development of creative and successful policies and programmes that might lessen India's disparities between rural and urban areas.

Keywords: *Urban, Rural, Differentials, Demographic characteristics, Development, India.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

A sign of monetary advancement is the point at which an economy shifts from being farming and generally rural to becoming modern and predominately urban; in comparison to the rest of the globe, urbanisation is happening more quickly. The country's urban and rural divide is the result of an increase in urbanisation. Along these lines, it is regularly contended how the country's two economies — the rural economy, known as Bharat, and the urban economy, known as India — are bit by bit turning out to be more unique. The essential objectives of the subject are to resolve a few issues with rural-urban disparity, the extension of megacities, and other connected topics (urban rural conditions).

The majority of citizens view rural living as unattractive in comparison to urban life. Opportunities are greater in urban than rural locations in a number of fields, including education, health, job, etc. Urban and rural education differ from one another in terms of quality, access to early education, post-auxiliary results, remembering enlistment for advanced education, as well as parental schooling levels. Compared to metropolitan regions, the prevalence of poverty is frequently higher in rural communities. Since work is the essential kind of revenue for the extraordinary larger part of individuals in emerging countries like India, it serves as a vital link between economic progress and the reduction of poverty. This work option is more prevalent in metropolitan regions than in rural ones. Many rural residents are pushed to move to cities by all these distinctions, which have an impact irrespective of socioeconomic and demographic reasons, in order to seek the predicted socioeconomic gains.

1.1. Rural and Urban Disparities

The differences between urban and rural environments are best illustrated by the following areas:

- **Education:** In comparison to rural areas, which have less developed educational facilities and varying educational levels of the population, urban areas have more educated and qualified residents, while illiteracy rates there are higher than in urban areas. This is because more advanced and reputable educational institutions for elementary and higher education have been established in urban areas.

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ISSN: 2320-3714
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- **Health and Medical:** Urban areas have more modern and advanced health and medical facilities; hospitals, health and medical centres, and numerous programmes for child care have been established. In any case, in the advanced world, individuals like to head out to metropolitan regions and look for clinical guide and medical care offices in city emergency clinics. On the other hand, in rural areas, health and medical facilities have been established, providing healthcare amenities to the rural masses.
- **Employment Opportunities:** According to reports, 60% of the labor force in India works in the agrarian area, with agriculture being the primary occupation of those who live in rural regions. Other employment options in rural areas include opening up small grocery stores or tea stalls, starting other small enterprises, or hiring individuals to work in small-scale industries to make a living. There are many employment prospects for people in metropolitan areas thanks to the development of educational institutions, healthcare facilities, offices, businesses, and organisations in the service sector, all of which provide places for people to work.
- **Housing:** In rural regions, individuals ordinarily live in cottages with covered rooftops and modest homes, but housing facilities have been provided so they may live comfortably even during extreme weather conditions like strong rain, flooding, or draught. Rural communities have embraced a holistic strategy that incorporates nourishment, disinfection, cleanliness, and admittance to clean water. On the opposite side, innovative building materials are used to build homes in metropolitan regions, where people's homes are built using the right technological tools and materials.
- **Lifestyles:** People in rural areas generally lead modest lifestyles, working hard at their occupations in the agricultural, industrial, or entrepreneurial sectors. They also tend to raise livestock and cattle and typically don't have access to electricity in their homes, cooking instead on stoves. Urban lifestyles have significantly improved, employment prospects have increased, merchandise and results of different kinds are imported, and innovation, especially advanced innovation, has altered the lifestyle of individuals in urban as well as in rural spots.

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1.2. Urban and Rural Income Differences

A significant part of the development of an economy is the persistent income disparity between urban and rural communities. People frequently refer to it to shed light on the differences between the two areas' standards of living. For this approach to function, it is preferable to have estimates of personal income in both regions, which are essentially unavailable in the nation due to regional accounting frameworks and issues involving cross-line streams of wares and administrations. Therefore, utilizing family utilization expenditures is broadly acknowledged instead of individual income to shed light on the differences in lifestyles of individuals. It appears that it ignores the variations in population saving habits between the two places. Since it considers the actual developments, business level, and useful limit of the area, pay procured inside the geological limits given by the possibility of home grown produce can act as a substitute. It becomes especially important in this situation to create estimates of domestic goods produced in an economy's urban and rural sectors. Then, in various base years for the national income series, the Focal Measurable Association (CSO) begins to deliver these assessments for the whole country.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Banerjee, S. (2021) A maturing populace puts a demographic weight on a country like India, which as of now battles under the heaviness of powerless government managed retirement frameworks and generally low degrees of public interest in the wellbeing area. There is a huge hole among rural and urban regions with regards to senior individuals' admittance to clinical consideration in India, which adds to the difficulty posed by India's accelerating demographic change. "Progressively achieve universal health coverage" is one of the primary goals outlined in India's National Health Policy (2017). This objective is predicated on relieving the sub-public uniqueness, which requires recognizing the drivers of the divergence so strategy can be implemented in a manner that is specifically tailored to address them. As a result, the purpose of this research is to make an effort toward the examination of the key contributing variables that are behind the difference that exists among rural and urban regions as far as the older population's use of healthcare services in India.

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Rabiul Islam, K.M. et. al, (2021) The differences that still exist in socio-demographic and economic sectors are, in some ways, seen as a barrier to sustainable growth. This study tries to examine the issue of rural-urban differentials to set a reasonable picture up to plan new strategies and projects with respect to the overall financial development of India. In particular, this exploration centers on India. The majority of the data included in this investigation originated from the Report on India Sample Vital Statistics (SVRS) that was made available by the India Bureau of Statistics for a variety of years (BBS). It has been discovered that, notwithstanding steps taken by the public authority to lessen rural-urban difference with regards to development, the imbalance that exists among rural and urban locales keeps on existing, and the difficulties that accompany it continue to advance. The discoveries of this examination should add to the development of new policies and programs that are both successful and creative, with the goal of reducing the rural-urban disparities that currently exist in India. The findings of this research need to be scientifically used in order to establish effective programs that address the reasons of rural-urban differentials in India. If this doesn't happen, the goal of all-encompassing and sustainable development may continue to elude us.

Fehintola, Joseph (2020) The socio-economic status scale was developed and shown to be reliable and valid. For the purpose of this investigation, a descriptive research design of the survey sort was chosen as the appropriate methodology. Participants from public and private organizations in Ibadan territory supplied a combined total of fifty-four hundred individual answers during the duration of the study. The instrument is broken up into seven sections; the first section provides demographic information on the participants, and the sections that follow provide 45 questions relating to different aspects of participants' socioeconomic standing. The instrument itself is also broken up into seven separate pieces. According to the main component analysis as well as the confirmatory factor analysis, the Socio-economic status Scale was made up of a total of six different factors (SESS). During the process of selecting the items that would go into the final scale, we got rid of the ones that had a total-item correlation of less than 0.3, those that had factor loadings of less than 0.4, and those that had factor loadings of 0.4 on two or more of the factors in order to make room for the ones that had the highest factor loadings across all of the factors. The scale has a high degree of internal consistency and a decent amount of construct validity overall. The socioeconomic status scale is comprised of ten subscales, which are as follows: educational background, housing tenure, occupational background,

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income pattern, travelling experience, possession of property, and professional affiliations that an individual belongs to (SESS). The researcher came to the conclusion, on the basis of the findings of this study, that the instrument has adequate construct validity, adequate concurrent validity, adequate discriminant validity, and adequate convergent validity, and that it can be used to measure an individual's socioeconomic status. This conclusion was reached because the researcher found that the instrument had adequate construct validity, adequate concurrent validity, adequate discriminant validity, and adequate convergent validity (SES). Accurate assessments of the socioeconomic status of households could be obtained via the use of the SESS. This could be done for the purpose of future research as well as the categorization of SES.

Javier Montalvo et al., (2019) The ideal natural structure for fathoming social worries connected with supportability or strategy arranging is given by rural-urban slopes. We tried the speculation that spatial and rurality slopes, which might be credited to social scenes in Mediterranean Europe, in a roundabout way impact the speed of human populace extension at the neighborhood level. As a contextual investigation, every one of the 8125 of Spain's districts were utilized, which had recently been partitioned into 5 gatherings along a rural-to-urban inclination. By utilizing geographic data frameworks, a few geological examples and connections between's nearby typical per capita populace development rate, populace mean age, street openness, as well as other natural and scene factors connected to rurality slopes, have been recognized (Multivariate insights and gis). The connection between populace size varieties over the long haul and other demographic and regional characteristics was analyzed utilizing relapse investigation. The laid out thought was upheld by the finding that populace development rate was associated with both street availability and the inclination of rurality. The populace mean age was the main variable impacting momentary populace development or even fall. Based on experimental proof, a visual guessed model of the nearby populace development rate is really shown. Chiefs can utilize the discoveries to help including nearby land the board drives to laying out approaches and systems to address the market issue.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This exposition depends principally on information from the Report on India Test Imperative Measurements (SVRS) of different years, which was delivered by the India Department of

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Insights (IBS). To play out this review, numerous insights reports, relevant exploration papers, books, and various public and worldwide distributions have additionally been counseled. In order to determine the required rate of change for various socio-demographic factors, we have employed I an arithmetic growth model; and (ii) the Karl Pearson coefficient of correlation to determine the strength of the linear relationship between two variables.

The following mathematical equation can be used to determine the arithmetic growth rate:

$$P_l = P_b(1 + ry) \quad \ldots\ldots (1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad r = \frac{1}{y}\left(\frac{P_l}{P_b} - 1\right) \quad \ldots\ldots (2)$$

Where,

P_l = the launch year's value;

P_b = the base year's value;

y = years between the send off year and the base year;

r = the growth rate

While the estimated Karl Pearson correlation coefficient is:

$$r(X,Y) = \frac{\frac{1}{n}\sum XY - \bar{X}\bar{Y}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum X^2 - \bar{X}^2\right)\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum Y^2 - \bar{Y}^2\right)}} \quad \ldots\ldots (3)$$

Where,

X and Y are two variables; and

r (X, Y) = Correlation coefficient between X and Y.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Population Growth

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India's population dramatically expanded from 361 million in 2017 to 1,028 million in 2021, nearly tripling in that time (Table 1). In 2021, the proportion of persons living in urban areas rose to 30%. The rural population increased by 1.9 percent year between 2017 and 2021. Scheduled Castes (SCs) make up over 180% of India's population, and Scheduled Tribes make up 10%. (STs).

India's population has risen by about 2% annually since independence for almost 20 years. Due to the progressive fall in the birth rate, population growth has slowed down since the 1970s. From 2007 to 2017, the drop was gradual; however, it later quickened. The net contribution to the population increased despite slower population growth. More than 200 million people, or roughly 20 million each year, were added to the nation's population during the 2000s (Table 1). Despite the fact that India's rural population fell from 91% in 2017 to 74% in 2021 (Table 2), the country will continue to add a significant amount of people in the near future, especially in its rural areas.

Table: 1. India's population size and growth, 2017-2021

Census year	Population	Percent of Growth over decade	Multiple of 2017 population
2017	441,236,773	23.8	4.0
2018	550,161,654	27.0	4.5
2019	685,331,099	26.9	5.1
2020	848,423,041	26.1	5.8
2021	1,030,739,438	23.7	6.5

Table: 2. India's urban and rural populations, 2017-2021

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Census Year	Population in (000's)		Change over decade (000's)	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
2017	81,939	362,300	18,495	63,656
2018	111,116	441,048	32,179	80,750
2019	161,465	525,869	52,351	86,823
2020	219,613	630,812	60,150	106,945
2021	288,122	744,620	70,511	115,810

4.2. Literacy and Education

The most frequently utilized proportion of instructive development overall is proficiency. Just 11% of ladies and 29% of men were proficient, as per the primary post-freedom Evaluation in 2017. Due to the government's terrible heritage of educational neglect and illiteracy, it laid out the grandiose objective of presenting free and compulsory instruction to all youngsters to the age of 14. The level of individuals in India's rural regions who actually have practically zero training is still extremely high, and it is significantly greater for women than for men. In the population of people ages six and older, 24% of guys and 20% of females have never gone to class, and 44% of young ladies and 24% of guys have under a five-year degree. The headway made in rural India, both regarding quality and amount, has not been satisfying despite the increase of educational institutions. The 2021 census revealed that although while the government strives to achieve complete literacy, the powerful education rate (in the Indian Evaluation, the trial of proficiency is fulfilled in the event that an individual can both read and compose with figuring out in any one language) is just 67%. It is only 61% in rural areas and only 48% for women. In India, there are still significant regional differences in literacy rates. Less than 32% of women are literate in various states. Only 83% of primary school-age children (ages 6 to 10) attend school in rural areas. There is an enormous orientation hole in rural regions

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with regards to school participation. All in all, the condition of training toward the beginning of the 21st century isn't especially reassuring, rural India actually has far to go prior to accomplishing the objective of widespread essential schooling.

4.3. Adult literacy rate

Over the past few decades, India's educational system has advanced significantly. If there are no spatial discrepancies, it is guessed that the instruction area will progress quicker than it is currently. Grown-up proficiency is perhaps of the main developmental component, alongside different variables. The grown-up proficiency rate is the extent of individuals who are no less than 15 years of age and can compose a letter to all individuals in a similar age bunch. With a populace development pace of 4.83 percent every year, grown-up proficiency has improved from 61% in 2017 to around 73% in 2021. Grown-up proficiency has expanded from 57% in rural locales to 66 percent in urban regions over a similar period, with a rural increment pace of 3.99 percent and a urban increment pace of 2.36 percent, separately (for example 2017-2021). Notwithstanding, contrasted with urban regions, the speed of increment is higher in rural regions. In contrast with rural regions, metropolitan areas have a significantly higher overall adult literacy rate. This disparity in the adult literacy rate may be to blame for the nation's overall progress. Figure 1 also shows the year-by-year growth in adult literacy over the previous five years (2017–2021), broken down by total, rural, and urban areas.

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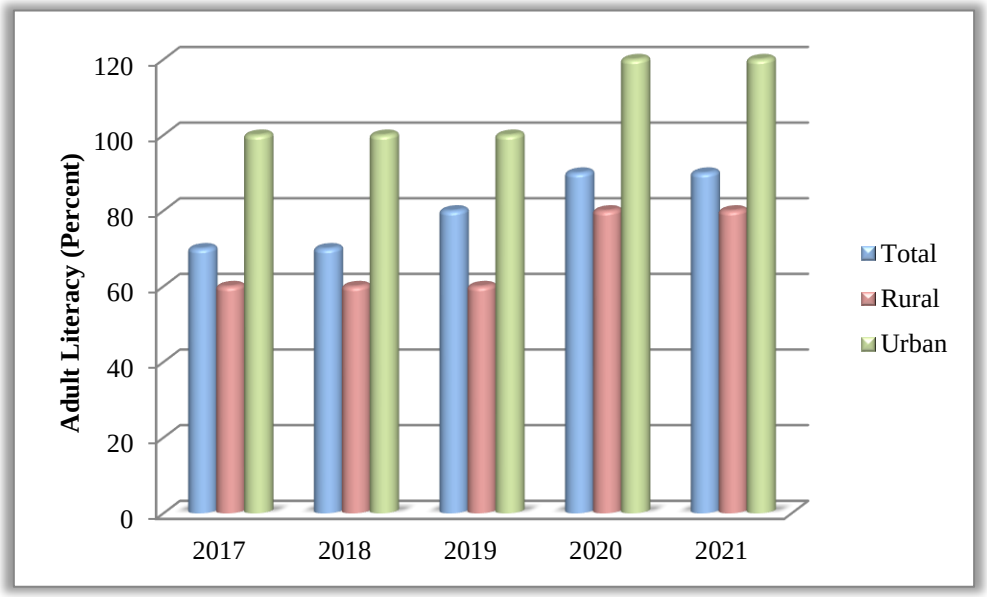

Figure: 1. Differentiation between rural and urban areas and the rate of adult literacy growth

4.4. Fertility and mortality

One of the simplest fertility indicators is the crude death rate. According to a prior analysis, the rate of contraceptive prevalence has been essentially constant over the past few years. The analysis of fertility has shown this to be the case. The country's crude birth rate has marginally reduced (0.68%) from 2017 to 2021, although it has climbed annually in rural areas throughout that time by 1.44 percent. In metropolitan regions, the yearly crude death rate fell by 4.90 percent during the same period (Table 3).

Similar to the crude birth rate, the total fertility rate has climbed in rural areas while decreasing across the board and in urban areas. From 4.13 in 2017 to 4.07 in 2021, the country's total fertility rate has declined by 2.71 percent year, while in urban regions, it has decreased by 4.19 percent annually over the same period. Instead, with an annual growth rate of 4.07%, the overall fertility rate in rural regions rose from 4.21 in 2017 to 4.39 in 2021 (Table 3).

The most significant and straightforward metric to describe a nation's mortality situation is the crude death rate. The annual rate of crude mortality for the entire population has fallen somewhat from 2.96 percent in 2017 to 7.3 percent in 2021, from 7.5 percent to 7.3 percent. In

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urban areas during a similar time span, this lowered rate was 4.19 percent. This crude death rate in rural regions rose by 2.44 percent annually from 7.8 percent in 2017 to 7.9 percent in 2021 (Table 3).

Table: 3. Differences between rural and urban areas and the yearly growth rates of fertility and mortality

Year	Total	Growth rate (Total)	Rural	Growth rate (Rural)	Urban	Growth rate (Urban)
Crude birth rate (per 1000 population)						
2017	21.2	-	21.5	-	20.4	-
2018	21.1	-2.55	21.6	2.54	19.4	-7.51
2019	21.0	-2.55	22.5	6.66	18.7	-6.12
2020	20.9	-2.55	23.1	4.98	18.3	-4.44
2021	20.7	-3.12	22.6	- 4.42	18.3	2.02
r2017-2021	2.68		3.44		-4.90	
Total fertility rate (per women aged 15-49 years)						
2017	4.13	-	4.21	-	3.86	-
2018	4.13	2.02	4.24	3.39	3.79	-5.82
2019	4.12	-2.49	4.32	5.62	3.74	-4.84
2020	4.12	2.02	4.40	5.50	3.70	-4.35
2021	4.07	-4.40	4.39	-2.44	3.70	2.02

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r2017-2021	-2.73		4.07		-7.19	
Crude death rate (per 1000 population)						
2017	7.5	-	7.8	-	6.8	-
2018	7.4	-3.91	7.8	2.02	6.3	-12.89
2019	7.3	-3.94	7.7	-3.81	6.8	14.21
2020	7.3	2.02	7.9	5.66	6.4	-10.72
2021	7.3	2.02	7.9	2.02	6.4	2.02
r2017-2021	-2.96		2.46		-4.19	

Every person needs to be educated, every person needs to have a source of income, and improvements need to be made in both the agricultural and modern areas in urban and rural regions so that individuals can make a rising number of open positions. There are contrasts among urban and rural regions; education is crucial for establishing a solid foundation for people's overall development. For example, in rural areas, 80.8% of men and 61.0% of women have some form of education, whereas in urban areas, men and 82.1% of women have some form of education. As a result, it can be said that there are more educated people in urban areas than in rural ones. Health is another area where discrepancies can be seen. Although metropolitan areas only include 33% of the population, they are home to over 80% of hospitals, and there are 13.5 medical professionals for every 10,000 people there compared to 4.1 in rural areas. 35% of the populace in rural regions lives in poverty and cannot afford to pay for any type of medical care or medications.

5. CONCLUSION

This essay tries to draw attention to an important distinction between rural and urban socio demographic backgrounds in India. The findings of this study may be sufficient to help formulate policies and programmes that effectively address rural-urban disparities in India and

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other developing nations, along with their flawless execution. To kill the inescapability of rural-urban imbalance, it should be focused on that each arrangement and program to further develop urban circumstances should be couple with an arrangement and program to work on rural circumstances. To alleviate rural drift, it is essential to address concerns with sustainable development and infrastructure distribution. India won't experience the needed development until there is balanced growth in both the rural and urban sectors. Albeit a portion of the essential records and strategy papers are sensible in principle and give off an impression of being implementable, the results have yet to be seen in practise. In order to address the current difficulties, the government must be innovative in renewing and modifying strategies and execution methodologies, instead of only turning to outdated policies. Imbalance between the rural and urban regions will proceed to be a significant barrier to India's growth until action is made to solve it.

This overview of current work on rural-urban collaborations has uncovered that, as opposed to mainstream thinking, there are much of the time counterfeit qualifications among populaces and exercises that are delegated "rural" or "urban," and that these differentiations are every now and again inconsistent. Various countries might have various meanings of what is a "urban focus," and families might be "multi-spatial," for certain individuals living in towns and a few in rural areas, and a few individuals working in horticulture or other non-cultivating ventures in the open country. Urban communities and the wide open are associated across space by streams of individuals, products, and waste, as well as the connected developments of data and cash.

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