

Urbanisation Level and Pattern in Jammu and Kashmir: A Regional and District level Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Urbanisation in Jammu and Kashmir is gathering momentum and in order to plan for a sustainable urban future, immediate attention needs to be paid to the spatial distribution of population where there has been a significant variation among the different regions of the state. The present study is entirely based on the Census of India data during the period of 2001 and 2011. Various urbanisation indicators were used in the present study and required choropleth maps were prepared using GIS to show the urbanisation pattern among the different districts of the state. This paper makes an instance for the intensive development of the three regions as a key approach for ensuring sustainable urbanization in the state. The results depict that there is a great variation in the level of urbanisation among the districts and regions of Jammu and Kashmir. So the development of these districts can ensure more balanced regional development among the three regions of the state i.e. Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Keywords: Urbanisation, Geographic Information System (GIS), level of urbanisation

Introduction

Urbanization is the process that leads to growth in the number of people living in urban areas. It mainly results from the physical development of cities. According to Clark (1982), 'urban growth is a spatial and demographic process and refers to the increased importance of towns and cities as a concentration of population within a particular economy and society. Urbanization involves natural increase in population, migration and reclassification, which leads extension of urban areas both vertical and horizontal (WHO, 2010). The twentieth century witnessed a rapid shift of population from rural to urban areas in most of the countries of the world. A merely 13 per cent of the global population lived in urban areas in 1900, which increased to 29 per cent in 1950 and to about 50 per cent by the close of twentieth century (U.N. 2006). Globally, 54 percent (3.9 billion) of the world's population living in urban areas, and it is projected to reach 66 percent by 2050 (UN, 2014). According to UN (Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2014) projection that three countries India, China, and Nigeria will account 37 percent of projected growth of the world population from 2014 to 2050. The rate of urbanization in India has been increased faster than expected rate. India's urbanisation will be slow down as expected by urban experts (Kundu 2007). Economic growth has great impact on bringing faster urbanisation (Bhagat, 2011). The present level of urbanization in India is 31 percent. During 2001-2011, 377 million people added in urban population with a growth rate of 2.76 percent (Bhagat, 2011). It is projected to add 404 million more urban dwellers by 2050 (UN, 2014). It will account around half percent of the total population by 2050. The state of jammu and Kashmir also shows a significant variation in the distribution of urban population among its districts and regions. The urban population and settlement distribution exhibit a highly uneven pattern due to the influence of physiographic and environmental factors (Bhat, 2008).

Census of India follows two criteria for defining urban; the first one is administrative principles and second is demographic and economic criteria. As per first criteria, the state government grants municipal status-corporation, municipal council, notified area committee or Nagar Panchayats, etc. to a settlement. These towns are known as statutory towns or municipal towns. On the other hand, if a settlement did not fulfil the above administrative criteria but satisfied demographic and economic criteria i.e. a place having a population 5000 or more, a density of 400 per square kilometre (1000 persons per square mile) and at least 75 percent of the male workforce are engaged in the non-agricultural sector. Such urban areas are termed as census towns (Census of India, 2001).

Rationale of the study

Kingsley Davis (1962) has explained urbanization as process of switch from spread out pattern of human settlements to one of concentration in urban centres. Urbanization in India is currently marked by two fundamental trends i.e lopsided migration to the larger cities and unbalanced regional economic development. The state of Jammu and Kashmir is no exception in this where there is high degree of regional imbalance of economic development which leads to variation in distribution of urban population. In this

context, this paper makes a comprehensive study of regional distribution of urban population along urbanisation level and pattern in Jammu and Kashmir along with regional and district level analysis.

Objectives

- To study the level of urbanization along with the growth of towns in Jammu and Kashmir from 1901 to 2011.
- To study the level and pattern of urbanization between the districts and regions of Jammu and Kashmir in 2001 and 2011.

Data and Methodology

The present study is entirely based on the Census of India data during the period of 1901 to 2011. Various census volumes on rural-urban distribution of population, directory of towns, general population table and cities and other related census volumes have been utilized. The level of urbanization defined could vary from zero to one hundred. The level of urbanization is measured simply by the percentage of urban in the total population at any fixed date.

$$\text{Level of Urbanization} = \frac{\text{Urban Population}}{\text{Total Population}} * 100$$

The state of Jammu and Kashmir map was geo-referenced and then digitised to get the shape file and the desired choropleth map was made by using ArcGIS software 10.1. All the graphs and related urbanization measures were calculated with the help of Microsoft excel.

Results & Findings

Table 3.1 shows the overall trend of population in Jammu and Kashmir along with its rural and urban components from the year 1901-2011. The rural percent and the urban percent are calculated as per the above information on the basis of its rural and urban population. The total urban population of Jammu and Kashmir was 181 thousand at the beginning of the century, comprising 8.46 percent of the total population. Within a span of 100 years, in 2001 the total urban population increased to 2.51 million constituting 24.82 percent of the total population. According to the 2011 census, the urban population of Jammu and Kashmir reached 3.43 million, which constitutes 27.37 percent of the total population. Similarly the number of towns in the state increased from just 10 towns in 1901 to 122 towns in 2011. **Figure 3.1** better depicts the trend of growth of towns and cities along with the level of urbanization in Jammu and Kashmir from the year 1901 to 2011. The graph shows the increasing share of urban population in the state along with the contributing factor of growth of number of towns over the period of time.

Table 3.2 shows the distribution of urban population in the three regions of Jammu and Kashmir i.e Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The finding shows the unequal spatial distribution of its urban population in the state where the Kashmir region has the highest of 63.42 percent of the states total urban population in 2011. Kashmir region shares in the urban population has increased from 59.01 percent in 2001 to 63.42 percent in 2011. Jammu region has seen a decrease in its urban share from 39.50 percent in 2001 to 34.77 percent in 2011 while Ladakh region got a slight increase from 1.49 in 2001 to 1.81 percent in 2011 of the states total urban population. The percentage share of urban population between the three regions of the state in 2001 and 2011 is better depicted with the help of pie diagram. **Figure 3.2** where Kashmir region shares the highest percent of urban population followed by Jammu region and lastly Ladakh region.

Figure 3.3 shows the inter district distribution of urban population of the state in 2001 and 2011 respectively. From the figure it is clear that district Srinagar shares the highest present of urban population (35.52%), followed by district Jammu (22%), Anantnag district (8%) and Baramulla (5%) in 2011. Many of the districts like Ramban, Kishtwar, Kargil and Shupiyan has only around 1-2 % of the urban population of the state. Similarly the significant unequal distribution of urban population is also seen in 2001 where same district like Srinagar, Jammu, Baramulla, and Anantnag shares the highest percentage of urban population of the state. Similarly **Figure 3.4** shows the urban population to the total population in 22 districts of the state in 2001 and 2011. It makes it more clearly about level of urbanization by taking absolute values of total population and its urban population. Thus the district like Leh, despite of having 34.21% urbanization level may have less urban population than the other less urbanised district like Kupwara (12.04%) and Budgam (12.99%) which has 104729 and 97912 of urban population respectively as compared to Leh district which has 45671 persons living in urban area. The spatial distribution of population among the different 22 districts of the state is also shown with the help thematic map via **the Map 3.2 (a) and Map 3.2 (b)** is the map showing level of urbanisation along with number of towns in the 22 different districts of Jammu and Kashmir in 2011 and 2001. The benefit of making such map makes the situation of the distribution of urban population more rich between the different towns within the districts e.g. Leh district has 3 towns as per

2011 but has 34.21% urban population while as Kupwara district has only 12.03 % urban population and has 12 towns in the district. That signifies the urban population is Kupwara district is fairly distributed among many towns while in Leh district it is concentrated in few towns only.

Summary and Conclusion

The process of urbanization depends on different physiographic, social, economic, historical and political factors in different regions. So the rate of urbanization differs from region to region. It has been noted that Jammu and Kashmir displays a lower level of urbanization (27.37%) as compared to the national level of 31.16%. However there are two districts like Srinagar and Jammu that record significant levels of urbanization. The study reflects the region wise and inter-district distribution of urban population and highlights the growth of cities and towns in the state. The level of urbanization in the state was 27.37 percent in 2011 compared to 24.81 percent in 2001. This has increased from mere 8.46 percent in 1901 to 27.37 percent in 2011 witnessing almost a three-fold increase in more than a century. The urban population of Jammu and Kashmir has increased from 181 thousand in 1901 to 3.43 million in 2011. In absolute numbers, the increase has been 3.24 million persons added in urban areas in the last 110 years. Among the regions, Kashmir region shares the most of the urban population of the state with 63.42 percent followed by Jammu region (34.77 per cent) and Ladakh region (1.81 per cent). Ladakh covers about two third of the state total area but due to tough terrain and other low socio-economic development the region experienced a low level of urbanization where undulating topography and harsh climate has restrained people from concentrating at one place.

There is large variation in the level of urbanization among different districts in Jammu and Kashmir. Among all districts, Srinagar district ranks first with 98.6 percent urban population followed by Jammu district with 50 percent urban population. Ramban district with 4.16 percent of urban population followed by Shopian with 6.15 percent are the least urbanized districts. As per Census 2011, there are 122 towns in the State. The analysis shows that Srinagar district has only five urban centres but it constitutes more than about 36 percent of the total urban population of the state. The significant percentage of urban population in Anantnag, Baramulla, Kulgam and Bandipora is because of fertile soil, levelled topography, accessibility and greater interaction with Srinagar as compared to other districts. Similarly Udhampur and Samba districts also show significant number of urban population due its proximity to Jammu and the area has seen an increase in industries in recent years. The hilly districts of Jammu region like Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban by and large display low degree of urbanization largely due to the problems related to their terrain and the limitation of such a physiography in terms of mobility of goods, services and people due to poor accessibility.

Key Findings

- The level of urbanization in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has increased from mere 8.46 percent in 1901 to 27.37 percent in 2011 witnessing almost a three-fold increase in more than a century.
- The number of towns has increased from only 10 in 1901 to 122 in 2011 in the state.
- Kashmir region shares the most of the urban population of the state with 63.42 percent followed by Jammu region (34.77 per cent) and Ladakh region (1.81 per cent) as per Census of India, 2011.
- Srinagar district is the most urbanized district 98.6 percent followed by Jammu district with 50 percent urban population. Ramban district with 4.16 percent and Shopian with 6.15 percent are the least urbanized districts.

Table 3.1: Jammu and Kashmir's total population along with its rural and urban population from the year 1901 - 2011 (in lakhs).

Year	Total Population (in lakhs)	Rural Population	Percent Rural	Urban Population	Percent Urban	No of Towns
1901	21.39	19.58	91.54	1.81	8.46	10
1911	22.93	20.50	89.40	2.43	10.60	33
1921	24.24	21.74	89.69	2.5	10.31	26
1931	26.70	23.56	88.24	3.14	11.76	29
1941	29.46	25.6	86.90	3.86	13.10	29
*1951	32.53	27.96	85.95	4.57	14.05	26
1961	35.6	29.67	83.34	5.93	16.66	38

1971	46.16	37.58	81.41	8.58	18.59	44
1981	59.87	47.26	78.94	12.6	21.05	59
**1991	77.18	58.79	76.17	18.39	23.83	67
2001	101.43	76.26	75.18	25.17	24.82	75
2011	125.41	91.08	72.63	34.33	27.37	122

Source: Census of India 1901-2011.

* There was no census in 1951. The figure given by the Census department is the authentic mean of 1941 and 1961 population.

** The 1991 census was not held in J&K. The population of India includes the projected population of J&K as on 1.3.1991 made by the Standing Committee of Experts on population projections (Oct.1989). The projected population of J & K excludes the population of area under occupation of Pakistan and China.

Table 3.2: Region wise distribution of Urban Population in Jammu and Kashmir, 2001 and 2011.

Regions	Urban Population		Percentage Distribution of Urban (%)		No of Towns	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Kashmir	1557361	2177379	59.01	63.42	34	62
Jammu	1042455	1193854	39.50	34.77	39	56
Ladakh	39296	62009	1.49	1.81	2	4
Jammu and Kashmir	2639112	3433242	100	100	75	122

Source: Census of India 2001 and 2011.

Figure 3.1: The overall trend of population and number of towns in Jammu and Kashmir along with its rural and urban components from the year 1901-2011.

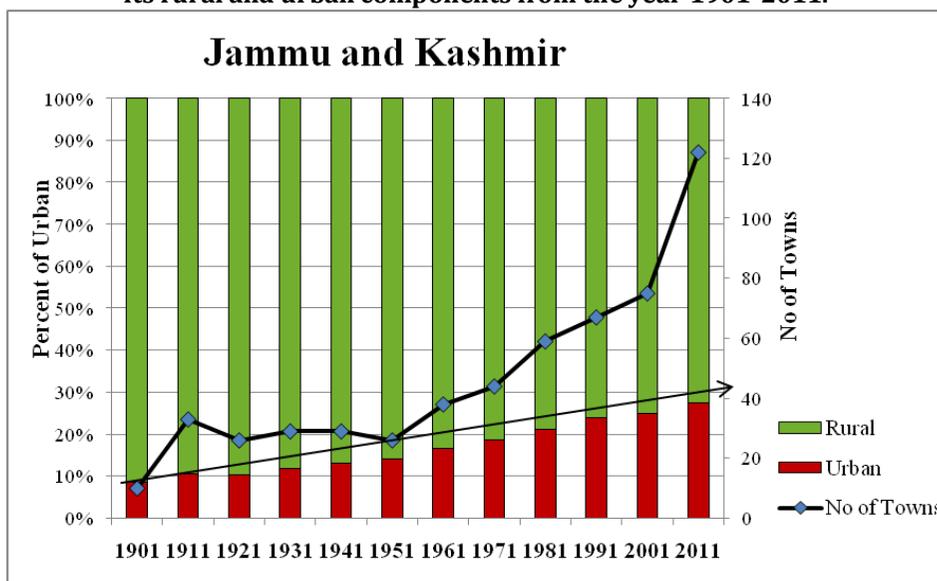
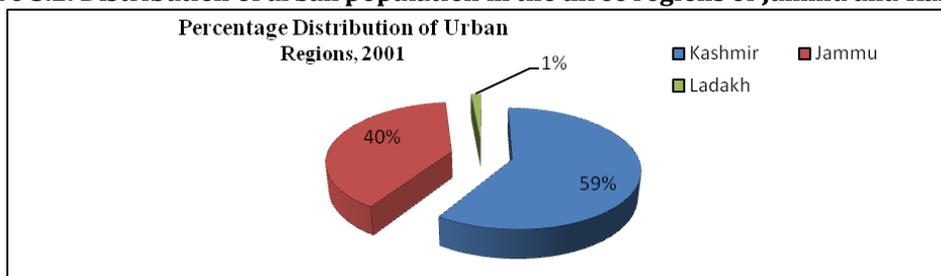


Figure 3.2: Distribution of urban population in the three regions of Jammu and Kashmir.



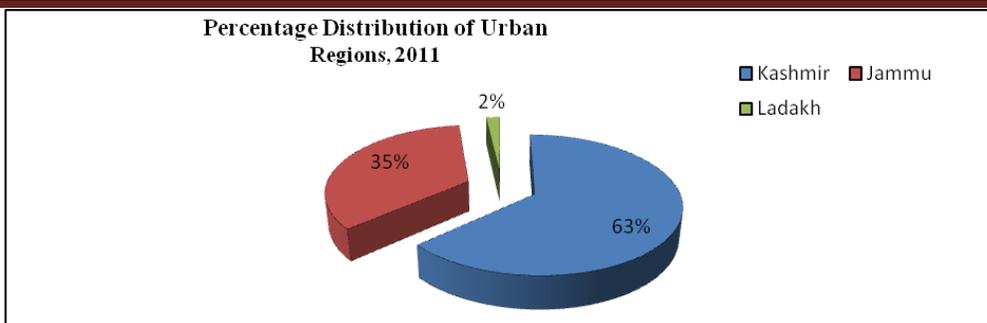


Figure 3.3: Distribution of urban population in the 22 districts of Jammu and Kashmir

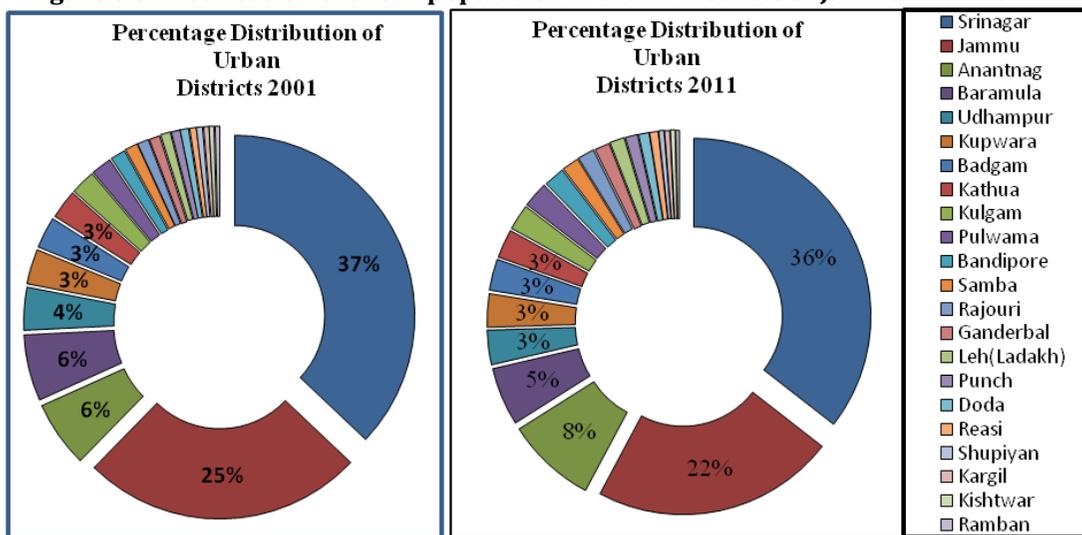
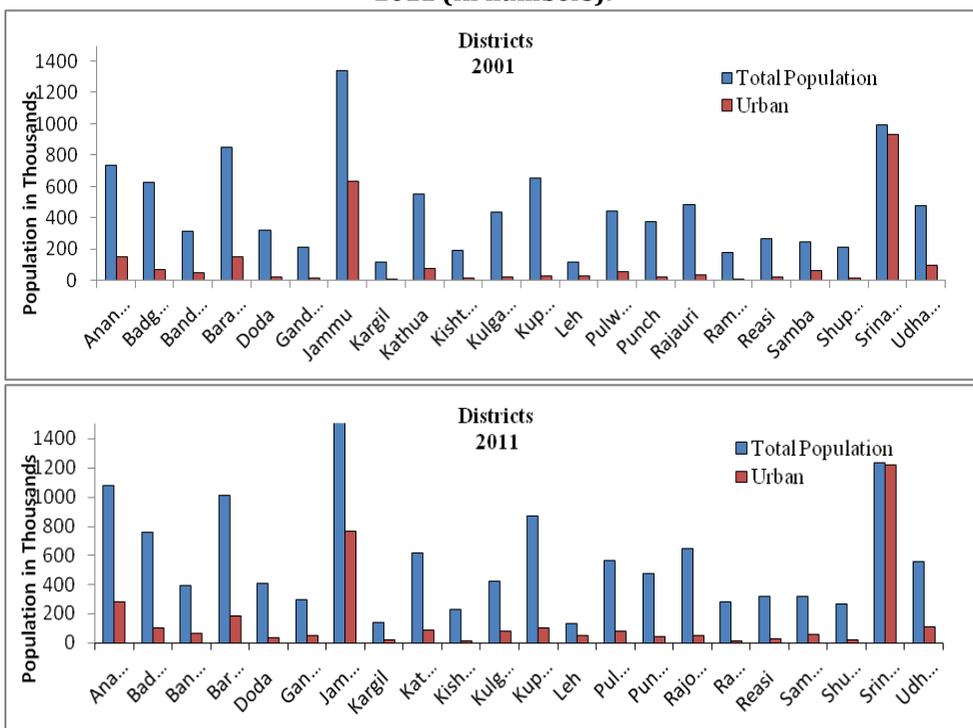
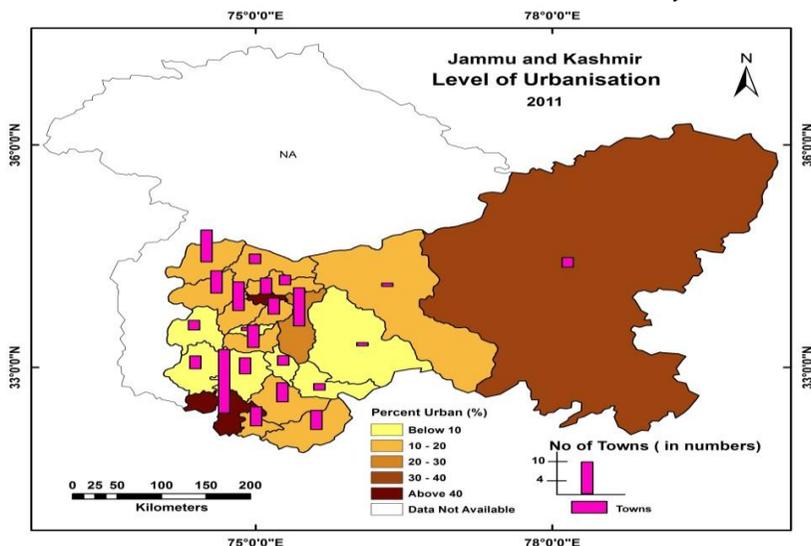


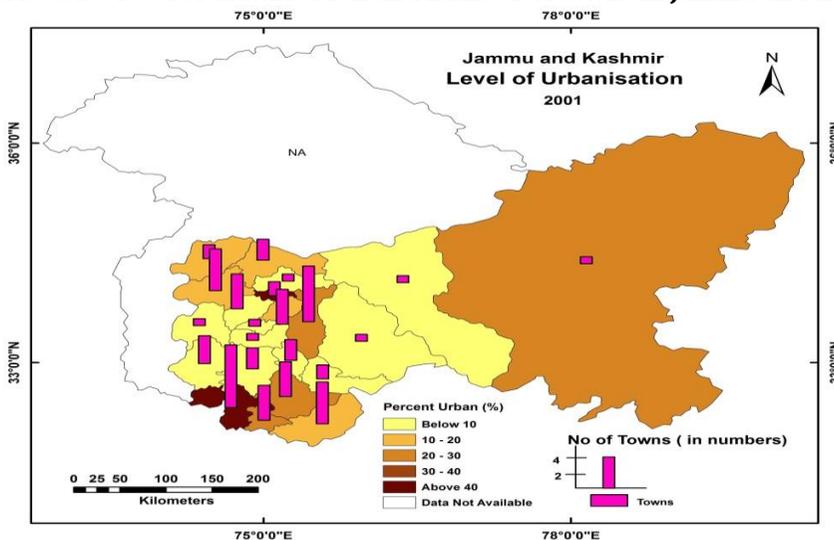
Figure 3.4: The urban population and the total population in 22 districts of the state in 2001 and 2011 (in numbers).



Map 3.2(a): District wise level of urbanisation and number of towns in Jammu and Kashmir, 2011.



Map3.2 (b): District wise level of urbanisation and number of towns in Jammu and Kashmir, 2011.



Source: Census of India 2001 and 2011.

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