

385-22-1-16

**NAME OF THE CANDIDATE:DILIP KUMAR**

**NAME OF THE SUPERVISOR:PROF.RUMKI BASU**

**DEPARTMENT:POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**TITLE :Impact of the Politics of Urbanization on Environment,  
“A Study of Industrial Pollution in Delhi”**

---

### **Abstract**

Urbanization is increasing at an alarming rate all over the world. Urbanization is a form of social transformation from traditional rural societies to modern urban communities. It is a long term continuous process. The objective of this thesis is to understand the extent, trend and pattern of urbanization and also the consequences in the Social ,Economic and Political context of Delhi, India by using data from the Census of India 1901-20011, NSSG etc. It is an attempt to outline urban growth process and its consequences which have severe implications on policy issues. Before attempting an analysis of pattern and trends in urbanization in India, it becomes imperative to trace the process of urbanization in India through history because what distinguished India most, from many other countries of the world is its long tradition of urbanization dating as far back as about five thousand years, when Indus Valley Civilization saw the birth of the earliest urban settlements in human history. Urbanization can be defined as “as a process which reveals itself through temporal, spatial and sectoral changes in the demographic, social, economic, technological and environmental aspects of life in a given society. Urbanization not only accompanies industrialization but it is also interlinked with modernization and these three sometimes work in conjunction. In the countries of the third world urbanization has not been accompanied by modernization as well as industrialization, i.e. a case of pseudo urbanization ‘or over-urbanization’. In most of the developing countries the modern process of urbanization is a recent phenomenon and it is still unfolding. As this process is still unfolding in the developing countries it is revealing special features. The study of different aspects of urbanization is very important in order to have a proper understanding of the urbanization phenomena as well as policies to deal with it. Most of the urban poor in India already face lots of difficulties, and the consequences of environmental problems further reinforce these difficulties. This thesis focuses on the urban poor men and women in Saboli, a slum area located in Delhi, in order to see how they make use of Self Help Groups (SHG) in order to deal with consequences like increased flooding, limited fresh water supply, and increase in food-prices. Through these groups the inhabitants of Saboli are able to get empowered both through knowledge and financially. For the women, the SHG meetings provide an opportunity to go out, meet other women, and get engaged in the local community - all activities that might have been harder to do had it not been for the SHGs. A common reason why the poor turn to the SHGs is the lacking initiative from local leaders and politicians to provide necessary means for help. There was a reoccurring issue of distrust and dissatisfaction with the politicians and leaders in the area, especially with regards to them making promises in exchange for votes and then not seeing these promises through. In this regard, this thesis also looks at the relationship between the State and

Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), as this is a very complex relationship in India. Ever since Independence, NGOs have played an important part in India's development, and at the same time the Indian government have played a key role in shaping Indian NGOs. One of the apt descriptions of Delhi done in my research thesis is a quote "The city is stretched beyond its means." So it is. Urbanization is perhaps eating into the socio-ecological balance of the capital city. It has come to pass that Delhi is the world's second most populous city in 2014 because of urbanization. It has already doubled its population since 1990 and the city is tipped to have 36 million residents by 2030, which can easily spell disaster. Like many other large cities of developing nations, the co-existence of plush localities and sprawling slums is not uncommon. These slums are the home for migrants from rural areas working as domestic helps. Not everyone moving to Delhi finds a place to stay that leads to informal settlements. The annual influx of migrants is continuously depleting the city's resources. Delhi gets into a crisis mode for something as basic as drinking water. The Ever-increasing population is to be blamed for the surging demand and dwindling supply of drinking water. Population and pollution go hand in hand. Rapid urbanization of Delhi and the National Capital Region has forced the working population to commute from the suburbs to the city. The trend of buying more personal vehicles that started almost two decades back, naturally contributed to vehicular emissions. Only a few years back, Delhi came to the limelight for being the fourth most polluted city in the world. The air quality in Delhi has degraded alarmingly fast. Inherent inadequacy of public transport is touted as one of the prime reasons for people to switch to personal vehicles. Even when positive strides were taken to increase the availability of public amenities, they have consistently been under pressure to accommodate the swelling population. Delhi Metro could be a case study. Moreover, the traffic troubles are on the rise as the city is running short of space to accommodate its traffic, despite having built India's most extensive road network. The large chunk of increased roadway capacity was consumed by additional traffic in five years. The unbridled growth of residents has also led to the unprecedented rise in both domestic and industrial wastewater pollution. Delhi's sewage treatment capacity is not optimized to its full potential due to faulty trunk sewer system. And who is responsible for this waste generation? The buck again stops at population. It has led to the emergence of more unauthorized colonies and clusters, which are not provided with sewerage systems. Delhi is completely stressed out. It's already gasping for more space and its consumption is continuously exceeding the supply. The capital city's demand for power is increasing by 10% each year. All these above problems are somehow related to industries running in Delhi, it means industrial pollution having a major role or industrialization having a major role in Delhi environment. Apart from this the politics of Delhi is also affected by the Delhi environment as I have stated in the in this thesis. As shown in this study, this is the case with the people living in Saboli; they cannot count on the leaders and politicians for necessary help, and thus have to rely on the local NGO as a middleman in order to get what they need from the State. The women and men in the unrecognized area Saboli in Delhi use the local NGO and SHGs in order to empower themselves, and thus deal with some of the environmental issues in the area, as well as acquiring the strength to talk to, and stand up to politicians and local leaders, who seldom provide the help needed. In order to do this, I will contribute with my own material from my fieldwork in the area. Through this material I hope to shed some light on these issues, with first hand opinions from the people who are actually affected, as well as my own observations in relation to these issues. I thought it would be interesting to do a fieldwork in this area because I wanted to see for myself what the situation was like, and not only rely on what I had read or heard on these topics.