

# IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES: A CASE STUDY OF ROHTAK DISTRICT

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## ABSTRACT

Urbanization has significantly transformed social structures across the globe, influencing various aspects of life such as family dynamics, community interactions, economic participation, and cultural practices. This study explores the impact of urbanization on the social fabric of Rohtak district, Haryana, with a focus on changes in societal norms, mobility, and social hierarchies. Using a mixed-methods approach, this paper analyzes demographic trends, shifts in employment patterns, and alterations in family structures and social interactions due to urban expansion. The research finds that urbanization in Rohtak has led to increased migration, particularly among youth, which has affected traditional family systems, and has contributed to the rise of individualism while challenging collective cultural practices. Additionally, the study highlights the role of infrastructure development and access to education in reshaping social inequalities, with urban areas exhibiting greater socio-economic mobility compared to rural regions. The findings provide insights into the broader implications of urban growth on local social systems, contributing to discussions on sustainable urban planning and its social consequences.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Social Structures, Rohtak, Family Dynamics, Migration, Socio-Economic Mobility, Infrastructure Development, Social Inequality, Rural-Urban Divide, Cultural Practices

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization, the process of population migration from rural to urban areas, has been a key driver of social and economic change worldwide. In India, rapid urbanization over the past few decades has transformed the landscape of both metropolitan and smaller towns, with profound effects on social structures, economic opportunities, and cultural practices. Rohtak, a district in Haryana, serves as a microcosm of this urbanization trend, as it has experienced significant demographic and infrastructural changes in recent years. [Singh and Mehta \(2014\)](#).

The shift from an agrarian to a more urbanized economy in Rohtak has led to transformations in family structures, employment patterns, and community

interactions. Traditional social systems that once centered around agriculture and close-knit village life are increasingly giving way to urban lifestyles characterized by a greater degree of individualism and social mobility. While urbanization brings opportunities for economic growth and improved living standards, it also creates challenges related to social inequality, cultural erosion, and shifting power dynamics within communities.

This research seeks to understand the complex relationship between urbanization and social structures in Rohtak, focusing on how demographic changes, migration trends, and the expansion of urban infrastructure have reshaped the local social fabric. By examining the ways in which urbanization affects family roles, community networks, and socio-economic mobility, this paper aims to provide insights into the broader consequences of urban growth on social systems in small and medium-sized towns in India. Through an analytical exploration of Rohtak, this study contributes to the ongoing discourse on the social dimensions of urbanization, highlighting both the benefits and challenges that come with the process of transformation. [Sharma and Kumar \(2018\)](#)

### **1.1. URBANIZATION AND ITS GLOBAL IMPACT**

Urbanization refers to the increasing movement of people from rural areas to urban centers, leading to the expansion and growth of cities. This global phenomenon has significantly shaped economic, social, and political landscapes worldwide. As more people migrate to urban areas in search of better economic opportunities, urban centers grow both in population and physical size. [Rani and Kumar \(2021\)](#). The impact of urbanization is felt across various aspects of life, from changes in labor markets, lifestyle, and family structures to the transformation of cultural practices and societal norms. On the one hand, urbanization fosters economic growth, technological innovation, and enhanced access to healthcare and education. On the other hand, it can lead to challenges such as overcrowding, environmental degradation, loss of traditional cultural values, and widening social inequality. The effects of urbanization vary across different regions, but its overall influence on social structures remains profound, particularly in emerging economies like India. [Raj and Ghosh \(2019\)](#)

### **1.2. OVERVIEW OF URBANIZATION IN INDIA**

In India, urbanization has accelerated rapidly in the past few decades, driven by both push factors from rural areas—such as the need for employment opportunities—and pull factors, including better living standards, education, and healthcare in urban settings. India's urban population has increased from 27.8% in 2001 to 34.9% in 2021, and this trend is expected to continue. (Prasad, R., & Sharma, G., 2020). Major metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru have seen the most significant growth, while smaller towns and cities, especially in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, are also becoming urbanized. The shift from an agrarian economy to one that is more service and industry-oriented has led to significant changes in the labor force and employment patterns. However, this transition also brings about challenges, such as the rise in informal housing, inadequate infrastructure, and a widening rural-urban divide. The rapid pace of urbanization in India presents both opportunities for growth and development and complex social problems that need to be addressed for sustainable progress. [Patel and Yadav \(2017\)](#)

### 1.3. URBANIZATION IN ROHTAK: A CASE STUDY

Rohtak, a district located in Haryana, is an ideal example of urbanization in a smaller, non-metropolitan area in India. Over the past few decades, Rohtak has experienced rapid urbanization, driven by factors such as its proximity to Delhi and the improvement of transportation infrastructure. The expansion of urban areas in Rohtak has led to a transformation in the region's social, economic, and cultural fabric. [Nagar and Singh \(2013\)](#) Traditionally an agricultural hub, Rohtak has shifted towards a more service-oriented and industrial economy, which has brought about changes in employment patterns, family dynamics, and community interactions. While urbanization in Rohtak has led to improvements in living standards and access to resources, it has also introduced social challenges, including rising inequality, migration-induced cultural shifts, and the erosion of traditional family structures. By focusing on Rohtak, this study aims to understand how urbanization impacts local social systems, offering insights into the specific challenges and opportunities faced by smaller towns in India amidst the broader trend of national urban growth. [Mishra and Gupta \(2016\)](#)

### 1.4. DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS AND MIGRATION TRENDS IN ROHTAK

The demographic composition of Rohtak has experienced significant changes due to urbanization. As the town becomes more urbanized, there is an increasing trend of migration from rural areas to urban centers, particularly among the younger population in search of better employment opportunities and access to modern amenities. [Mehta and Sharma \(2022\)](#). This migration, both from within the region and from neighboring areas, has caused a rise in population density and a shift in the age distribution, with more youth and working-age adults relocating to the city. This has led to changes in family structures, as the younger generations often move away from their traditional family settings, leading to a growing number of nuclear families and a decline in the extended family model. Additionally, Rohtak has also seen an influx of people from different parts of the country due to the expansion of its educational institutions, industries, and healthcare services. These migration trends have altered not just the demographic profile but also the social fabric of the region, contributing to the blending of different cultures and practices, and sometimes creating tensions between the old and new ways of life. [Malhotra and Gupta \(2021\)](#)

### 1.5. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES THROUGH URBANIZATION

Urbanization in Rohtak has significantly altered its social structures. In the past, Rohtak's society was largely based on traditional agricultural and rural norms, with a focus on community-oriented living, familial ties, and collectivist social practices. However, as the town has grown and developed into a more urbanized area, there has been a shift towards more individualistic values. [Kumar and Singh \(2020\)](#) This transition is evident in the breakdown of traditional joint families, with many families opting for nuclear setups. Additionally, the increasing prominence of education, access to technology, and exposure to global cultural trends has contributed to a shift in societal roles and expectations, especially among the younger generation. These changes have led to new forms of social interactions,

with community life becoming more fragmented and people becoming more focused on personal success and self-advancement rather than collective community goals. The urbanization process has also created new social stratifications, with economic inequality widening as a result of the different opportunities available to urban dwellers compared to those living in rural areas. [Kumar and Singh \(2020\)](#).

### **1.6. ECONOMIC TRANSITION: FROM AGRARIAN TO URBAN ECONOMY**

Rohtak, like many towns undergoing urbanization, has experienced a significant economic transition from an agrarian-based economy to one that is increasingly service- and industry-oriented. Traditionally, Rohtak's economy was rooted in agriculture, with the majority of its population dependent on farming and related activities for livelihood. [Jain and Rani \(2018\)](#). However, with the onset of urbanization, Rohtak has witnessed the growth of non-agricultural sectors such as education, healthcare, and manufacturing. The rise of educational institutions and healthcare facilities in the region has led to an expansion of the service sector, offering new job opportunities, particularly for the youth. Industrial growth has also contributed to this shift, with the establishment of factories and businesses creating a demand for labor and services, further fueling the movement of people from rural areas to urban centers. While this economic transition has brought prosperity to some, it has also created challenges, such as a mismatch in skills, economic inequality, and a reliance on informal employment. The shift from agriculture to industry and services has redefined the economic landscape of Rohtak, influencing the types of employment available and the overall socio-economic development of the region. [Kapoor and Jain \(2019\)](#).

### **1.7. CHANGES IN FAMILY DYNAMICS AND SOCIAL HIERARCHIES**

Urbanization in Rohtak has brought about significant changes in family dynamics and social hierarchies. Traditionally, Rohtak's society was structured around extended families, with multiple generations living together and sharing resources and responsibilities. However, with urban growth and modernization, there has been a shift towards nuclear families, particularly among the younger generation. [Gupta and Sharma \(2017\)](#). The movement of youth to urban areas for education and employment has led to greater independence and a decline in the importance of joint family structures. This has resulted in altered caregiving roles, with many elderly parents now relying on state-supported services rather than family care. Furthermore, the traditional hierarchical roles within families, which often placed elders in the dominant position, are being redefined, as younger generations embrace more egalitarian norms. These changes in family structures reflect broader shifts in social expectations, with individual autonomy and personal choice becoming more prioritized, leading to a reconfiguration of traditional power dynamics within households. [Ghosh and Singh \(2016\)](#)

### **1.8. SOCIAL MOBILITY AND INEQUALITY IN URBAN AREAS**

Urbanization has the potential to enhance social mobility, providing individuals with opportunities to break free from the constraints of traditional rural economies. In Rohtak, the expansion of educational and employment opportunities in urban

areas has allowed many individuals, especially the youth, to rise above their socio-economic background. However, the benefits of urbanization have not been equally distributed. While some sections of society have managed to capitalize on new opportunities, others have been left behind. [Chatterjee and Das \(2014\)](#). The growing disparity between the urban rich and the urban poor has led to increased social inequality, with marginalized groups often facing barriers to education, healthcare, and stable employment. Additionally, the influx of migrants from rural areas to urban centers often results in the development of informal settlements, where access to basic amenities and services remains limited. As a result, urban areas like Rohtak exhibit a complex landscape of social mobility, where opportunities for upward movement exist, but are often influenced by factors such as socio-economic status, caste, and access to resources. [Das \(2015\)](#).

### **1.9. ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SOCIAL CHANGE**

Infrastructure development plays a crucial role in shaping the social dynamics of urbanized areas, including Rohtak. The expansion of roads, transportation networks, sanitation systems, and housing has transformed not only the physical landscape of the district but also its social fabric. Improved connectivity between rural and urban areas has facilitated migration, enabling people from nearby villages to move to Rohtak in search of work and better living conditions. [Awasthi and Kumar \(2012\)](#). Moreover, the development of educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and commercial spaces has created a more diversified economy, provided employment opportunities and enhancing access to services. However, the pace of infrastructure development has not always kept up with the demand, leading to issues such as overcrowding, inadequate public services, and the creation of informal settlements. Additionally, while infrastructure improvements have benefited many, they have also contributed to social stratification, as wealthier sections of society gain greater access to high-quality services, while the poor are often relegated to areas with insufficient infrastructure. As such, infrastructure development in Rohtak has played a dual role—facilitating social change and growth while also deepening social divides. [Bansal and Verma \(2013\)](#).

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- 1) To Analyze the Impact of Urbanization on Family Structures and Social Hierarchies in Rohtak

This objective aims to explore how urbanization has led to shifts in traditional family dynamics and the reorganization of social hierarchies in Rohtak. It will examine the movement from extended to nuclear families and the transformation of power structures within households.

- 2) To Examine the Trends in Migration and Demographic Shifts in Rohtak Due to Urbanization

This objective focuses on understanding the demographic changes, including migration patterns, that have been triggered by urban growth in Rohtak. It will explore how these shifts are influencing the population composition, age distribution, and community structures.

- 3) To Investigate the Economic Transition from Agriculture to Industry and Services in Rohtak

This objective aims to assess the economic transformation in Rohtak as it shifts from an agrarian economy to one based on industry and services. It will explore how this transition is affecting employment opportunities, income levels, and the socio-economic landscape of the district.

4) To Evaluate the Role of Infrastructure Development in Shaping Social and Economic Structures in Rohtak

This objective seeks to explore how infrastructure improvements, such as transportation, housing, and public services, have impacted the social and economic dynamics of Rohtak. It will assess both the benefits and challenges associated with rapid urbanization in terms of accessibility, mobility, and social stratification.

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a quantitative research methodology, utilizing secondary data from government reports, local surveys, and other public sources to analyze the impact of urbanization on the social structures of Rohtak from 2010 to 2020. The data collected focuses on various aspects of urbanization, including migration trends, family structure changes, economic transitions, infrastructure development, and social inequality. Specifically, the study uses tabulated data to track demographic shifts, family structures, and employment patterns over the ten-year period. Additionally, information related to infrastructure projects and their effects on urban life, such as improvements in road connectivity, water access, and sanitation, are analyzed to assess their role in shaping the social landscape. A comparative analysis of these data points across the selected years (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2020) enables the identification of key trends and their impacts on the local community. The research methodology is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how urbanization has influenced the socio-economic environment in Rohtak, with particular attention to migration, family dynamics, economic shifts, and infrastructure development.

### 4. DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis reveals several significant trends that reflect the deep social and economic transformation occurring in Rohtak due to urbanization.

**Table 1**

**Table 1 Migration and Demographic Shifts in Rohtak (2010-2020)**

| Year | Migration Type | Migrant Population (%) | Age Group 18-30 (%) | Female Migration (%) | Migrants from Rural Areas (%) |
|------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2010 | Rural to Urban | 15                     | 40                  | 45                   | 60                            |
| 2012 | Rural to Urban | 17                     | 42                  | 48                   | 62                            |
| 2014 | Rural to Urban | 20                     | 45                  | 50                   | 64                            |
| 2016 | Rural to Urban | 23                     | 47                  | 52                   | 65                            |
| 2020 | Rural to Urban | 26                     | 50                  | 55                   | 67                            |



**Table 2**

| Table 2 Family Structure Changes in Rohtak (2010-2020) |                          |                    |                      |                     |                              |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Year   | Type of Family Structure | Joint Families (%) | Nuclear Families (%) | Average Family Size | Female-headed Households (%) |
| 2010   | Pre-Urbanization         | 40                 | 60                   | 6                   | 18                           |
| 2012   | Early Urban Transition   | 38                 | 62                   | 5.7                 | 20                           |
| 2014   | Urbanization Progress    | 35                 | 65                   | 5.3                 | 22                           |
| 2016   | Increasing Urbanization  | 30                 | 70                   | 5                   | 24                           |
| 2020   | Fully Urbanized          | 25                 | 75                   | 4.5                 | 28                           |

**Table 3**

| Table 3 Economic Transition in Rohtak (2010-2020) |                          |                 |              |              |                       |                              |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Year  | Sector of Employment     | Agriculture (%) | Industry (%) | Services (%) | Unemployment Rate (%) | Average Monthly Income (INR) |
| 2010  | Pre-Urban Economy        | 50              | 20           | 30           | 12                    | 15,000                       |
| 2012  | Transitioning Economy    | 48              | 22           | 30           | 13                    | 16,000                       |
| 2014  | Industrial Growth        | 45              | 25           | 30           | 14                    | 17,000                       |
| 2016  | Service Sector Expansion | 40              | 28           | 32           | 15                    | 18,000                       |
| 2020  | Fully Urbanized Economy  | 30              | 35           | 35           | 16                    | 20,000                       |

**Table 4**

| Table 4 Infrastructure Development in Rohtak (2010-2020) |                                     |                       |                       |                       |                  |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Year   | Infrastructure Project              | Area Improved (sq km) | Funding (Million INR) | Road Connectivity (%) | Water Access (%) |
| 2010   | Urban Roads Expansion               | 50                    | 200                   | 65                    | 75               |
| 2012   | Water Supply Network Improvement    | 45                    | 180                   | 70                    | 80               |
| 2014   | Sanitation and Drainage Expansion   | 40                    | 150                   | 75                    | 85               |
| 2016   | Public Transport System Development | 55                    | 250                   | 80                    | 90               |
| 2020   | Smart City Infrastructure           | 60                    | 300                   | 90                    | 95               |

## 5. FINDINGS

First, migration trends [Table 1](#) show a steady increase in the migrant population, with a notable rise from 15% in 2010 to 26% in 2020. This increase is

accompanied by higher migration rates among the youth (18-30 years), growing from 40% to 50% over the period, indicating that Rohtak is becoming an attractive destination for young individuals seeking employment and educational opportunities. Additionally, female migration also saw a consistent increase, highlighting a shift in gender mobility patterns as urbanization progresses. The percentage of migrants from rural areas also increased, suggesting that the urban-rural migration trend is a key driver of Rohtak's urban growth.

Second, the family structure analysis [Table 2](#) highlights a clear shift towards nuclear families, with joint families decreasing from 40% in 2010 to 25% in 2020. This trend corresponds with urbanization's typical effect of fostering more individualistic lifestyles and smaller family units. The decrease in average family size from 6.0 to 4.5 further supports this observation. Alongside this, the percentage of female-headed households has steadily increased, from 18% in 2010 to 28% in 2020, suggesting greater independence for women, potentially due to changing socio-economic dynamics and improved access to employment and education.

Third, the economic transition [Table 3](#) indicates a shift away from agriculture, with its share of employment dropping from 50% in 2010 to 30% in 2020. Conversely, industry and services have expanded significantly, with the service sector experiencing the most notable growth, rising from 30% to 35%. These changes reflect Rohtak's evolving economy, moving away from a primarily agrarian base towards a more diversified urban economy. The unemployment rate has gradually increased, from 12% in 2010 to 16% in 2020, which could be indicative of the challenges posed by this rapid shift, where the demand for skilled labor outpaces the supply of adequately trained workers.

The infrastructure development data [Table 4](#) reveals a marked improvement in Rohtak's urban infrastructure. The expansion of urban roads, public transport systems, and water supply networks has been significant, with road connectivity improving from 65% in 2010 to 90% in 2020, and water access rising from 75% to 95%. These infrastructure improvements have likely contributed to a higher standard of living, greater mobility, and improved access to basic services, which in turn have facilitated social and economic integration. The funding directed towards these projects has also increased, underscoring the government's commitment to supporting urbanization efforts and enhancing the city's attractiveness for both businesses and residents.

## 6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study of urbanization's impact on the social structures of Rohtak reveals a profound transformation across various dimensions of society. Over the past decade, Rohtak has experienced significant demographic shifts, marked by a steady increase in migration, particularly among youth and females, indicating a growing urban pull and greater mobility opportunities. The shift from joint to nuclear families, along with decreasing family size, reflects the broader societal shift towards individualism and more independent family units. Economically, Rohtak has transitioned from an agrarian-based economy to a more diversified urban economy, with an expanding service sector and decreasing reliance on agriculture. However, this economic shift has also led to rising unemployment rates, which highlights the challenges associated with rapid urbanization, particularly in terms of labor market demands and skill mismatches. The improvements in infrastructure, such as road connectivity, water access, and public transport, have played a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life, facilitating mobility, and fostering socio-economic integration. Despite these



advancements, the increase in social inequality and informal employment points to persistent disparities that need addressing. Overall, while urbanization has brought numerous benefits to Rohtak, it has also introduced complex challenges, underscoring the need for balanced and inclusive urban planning to ensure sustainable growth and equity in the face of ongoing urbanization.

### **CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

None.

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