

# Urban Growth and Urbanization in Rayalaseema

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**Abstract:** *Urbanization is the movement of population from rural areas to urban society and involves an increase in the number of people in urban areas rather than rural places. It is a finite and continuous process which changes through space and time. Urban growth is the actual increase in population of an area or a region or a country over time, expressed in a number, where as urbanization is the increasing proportion of population living with in urban areas, which would be given most likely in a percentage of the total population or ratio. Urban growth and urbanization are phenomena of increasing concern to both planners and policy makers. The process of urbanization involves a rapid growth of urban population at a higher rate than that of the increase in the total or rural population. A country or a region is said to become more urbanized when its cities grow in number, its urban population is increase in size and the proportion of its population living in urban area rises. In this context, this paper attempts to study the urban growth and level of urbanization in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh from first census to present census of India that is One Forty years from 1871-2011 using census data.*

**Keywords:** Population growth, Urbanization and Urban areas

## 1. Introduction

Urbanization is an important aspect of the process of social, economic and political structure of a region, as urban centres have special role to play in its development. It is a finite and continuous process which changes through space and time. Urban growth is the actual increase in population of an area or a region or a country over time, expressed in a number, where as urbanization is the increasing proportion of population living with in urban areas which would be given most likely in a percentage of the total population or ratio. Urban growth and urbanization are phenomena of increasing concern to both planners and policy makers

“Urbanization is the process of increase in the number and size of centres of concentration”. (Ranganatham, 1984). Thus, the urban centres grow in population size as well as multiply in number resulting in the increase of the degree of urbanization in any region. Urbanization, “being a complex socio – economic process closely connected with the scientific – technological revolution exercises a growing influence on all aspects of society’s life affecting the nature of economic development, the demographic, ethnic and many social processes”. (Kanstebovskeya,1976). Urbanization has to be studied in the regional setting since the urban centres and their surrounding areas are interdependent and exert reciprocal influence (Reddy, 1970).

## 2. Objective

The main objective of this paper is to examine the urban growth and trends of urbanization in Rayalaseema region during the period 1871- 2011.

## 3. Data and Methodology

The present study relies on secondary sources of data such as District Census Handbooks of Indian Census, Municipal Administrative reports and local authorities. The analysis of data is made by statistical methods. In this study relative growths of Urban and total population analyzed to find out

Level of Urbanization because it is the good measure of Urbanization

## 4. The Region

Geographically, Rayalaseema is situated between 12°3' and 16°15'N latitudes and 76°55' and 79°55' E longitudes. It is, one of the two physico – socio – economic regions of Andhra Pradesh, comprises the districts of Chittoor, Cuddapah, Anantapur and Kurnool and falls within the shadow region of three metropolitan cities namely Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai. Rayalaseema is bounded by Tamilnadu and Karnataka States on the South, Karnataka State on the West, Telengana State, on the North and Coastal Andhra on the East (Fig.1). It is a landlocked region sprawling over an area of 67,300 Sq.Km and accounts for 41.3% of the total area of the State.

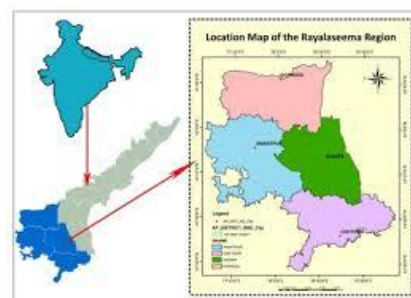


Figure 1

The region has the population of 152lakhs and an urban population of 45lakhs which accounts for 18.0% of the State’s total population 29.66% and 16.0 % of the total population of the region and total urban population of the State as per 2011 census. The urbanization in Rayalaseema is said to be less than that of Andhra Pradesh as well as India (Table.1&2). It is the most backward in terms of economic development. It is known as the stalking ground of famines and one of the most drought affected regions of Andhra Pradesh. Hence today, Rayalaseema is referred to as the “Famine Zone of South India” and the “Blackest spot on the famine map of India” (Ranbhupal Reddy and Bhupal, 2019).

**Table1:** Urban and Total Population of Rayalaseema with Andhra Pradesh and India

Region	Urban Population (Thousands)		Total Population (Thousands)		% of urban to Total Population	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Rayalaseema	3123	4505	13520	15190	23.10	29.70
Andhra Pradesh	23475	28220	76210	84581	31.00	33.40
India	285350	377106	1027015	1210193	28.00	31.16

Source: Computed from Census tables

**Table 2:** A comparative picture of Urbanization in Rayalaseema with Andhra Pradesh and India (1901-2011)

Year	Rayalaseema	Andhra Pradesh	India
1901	9.52	9.65	10.84
1911	9.30	10.09	10.29
1921	9.24	10.21	11.18
1931	9.09	11.13	11.99
1941	11.05	13.43	13.86
1951	13.82	17.42	17.29
1961	15.66	17.44	17.97
1971	16.45	19.31	19.91
1981	20.33	23.32	23.70
1991	23.17	26.84	25.72
2001	23.10	31.00	28.01
2011	29.70	33.40	31.16

Source: Computed from Census table

### 5. Growth Trends of Urban Population in Rayalaseema

In 1871 Rayalaseema had only 2.73 lakhs of urban population which increased to 3.8 lakhs, 4.1 lakhs, 10.3 lakhs, 27 lakhs, 31 lakhs and 45 lakhs in the years 1901, 1931, 1961, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. The urban growth in Rayalaseema remained more or less constant for a period of six decades starting from 1871 to 1931. Even the total urban population remained more or less constant except

for the period 1891-1901. Slowly urbanization picked up starting from 9% in 1931 to 11% in 1941, 13.8% in 1951, 15.67% in 1961 and later on it has been increased to 16% in 1971. It is observed that there is a continuous increase of urban population and total population from 1931-2011. The urban growth in Rayalaseema has witnessed a rapid growth since 1941. Due to planned economic development, the urban population growth has reached 20% in 1981, 23% in 1991 and 29.7% in 2011 (Fig.3). But the growth rate increased at a decreasing rate from 35% in 1941 to 26% in 1971. All this clearly shows that even though there are fluctuations in the urban growth of Rayalaseema the last two decades witnessed a high urban growth. The Table3 shows the growth of urban population in Rayalaseema since 1871.

**Table 3:** Growth of Urban Population in Rayalaseema since 1871

Year	Total Population	Urban Population	Decadal Variation of urban population	% of Decadal Variation	% of Urban pop to total population
1871	N.A.	272546	-	-	-
1881	N.A.	264920	-7626	-2.80	N.A.
1891	4138528	282418	17498	6.61	6.82
1901	3981770	379047	96629	34.21	9.52
1911	4161692	386613	7566	2.00	9.30
1921	4126489	381359	-5254	-1.38	9.24
1931	4541381	412963	31604	8.29	9.09
1941	5051996	558380	145417	35.21	11.19
1951	5628719	778072	212669	37.61	13.82
1961	6595765	1033266	255187	32.80	15.67
1971	7960214	1309336	276070	26.72	16.45
1981	9625931	1957161	647825	49.48	20.33
1991	1168044	2703499	746338	37.84	23.17
2001	13520253	3123245	419746	38.13	23.10
2011	15191144	4505515	1382270	44.25	29.66

Source : Computed from Census tables



**Figure 2:** Urbanization in Rayalaseema from 1871-2011

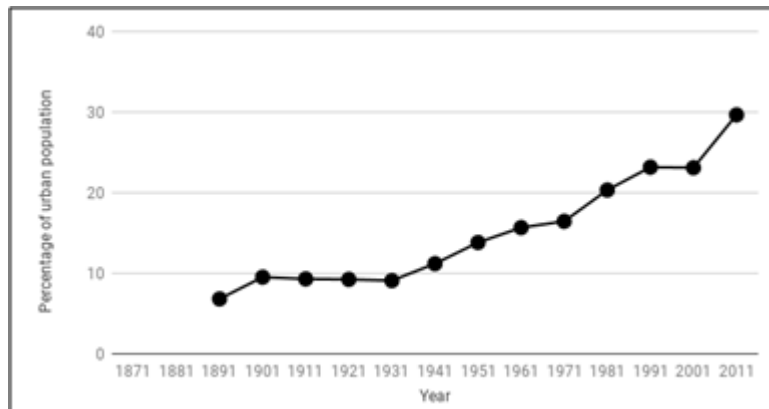


Figure 3: Level of Urbanization in Rayalaseema since 1871

## 6. Decadal Growth

The decennial growth rates of urban population in Rayalaseema from 1871-2011 show significant fluctuations, though the general growth trend has shown acceleration. The decadal variations point out that during 1871-1881 and 1911-21 the urban population declined by 2.80% and 1.36%. But the successive decades during 1881-1911 and 1931-2011 registered a rise which was 6.61, 34.21, 2.00, 8.30, 35.21, 37.61, 32.80, 26.72, 49.48, 37.84, 38.0 and 44.3 percents respectively which reveals that the urbanization has

progressed appreciably. The highest percentage increase of urban population of 49.48% was recorded in the decade 1971-81 and the lowest of 2.00% in 1901-1911. There has been negative growth rate during the period 1871-1881 and 1911-21. This is due to famines and epidemic diseases. Thus the period between 1901-1911 and 1911-1921 is the period of stagnation and decline. The decade between 1931-1941 is termed as a period of rapid growth and from 1941-51 is the decade of slow growth. After 1951 rate has shown acceleration with fluctuations (Fig.4).

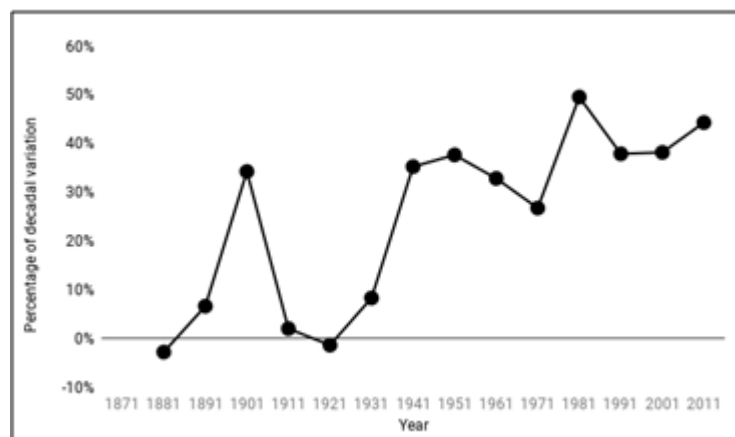


Figure 4: Growth of Urban Population in Rayalaseema from 1871-2011

## 7. Distribution of Urban population (District – Wise)

The district – wise distribution of urban population in Rayalaseema indicates that Anantapur district has the highest urban population among all the districts of Rayalaseema during 1871-1931. From 1941 onwards Kurnool district has shown the highest urban population due to the rapid growth of Kurnool and Adoni towns. Chittoor district has the lowest urban population from 1871 to 1941. But the urban population of Chittoor district showed continuous increase of population of Tirupati and Chittoor towns. From 1951 onwards Cuddapah district has the lowest urban population. Chittoor district has the highest urban growth rates during 1871-1881, 1901-1911 and 1941-1971 where as Anantapur district has the highest urban growth rate only during 1911-1921. Kurnool district has recorded the highest urban growth rates during 1881-1891 and 1921-

1941. Negative urban growth rate has been observed in Anantapur and Kurnool districts during 1871-1881 and Kurnool and Cuddapah districts during 1911-1921 which might be due to the worst effect of famines and epidemic diseases that prevailed over the country during this period. But Chittoor district was somehow less affected from the epidemic diseases. Cuddapah district has recorded the highest urban growth rate during 1891-1901 due to the transformation of class V and VI towns in to class IV and V towns respectively and during 1971-81 due to the transformation of class II towns in to class I towns. (Table 4)

**Table 4:** Distribution, Growth and Growth rate of Urban Population by Districts

Year	Chittoor	YSRKadapa	Anantapur	Kurnool
1871	37538	70529	84961	79518
1881	42348 4810* (12.81)	70657 128* (0.18)	79602 -5359* (-6.31)	72313 -7205* (-9.06)
1891	48053 5705* (13.47)	54083 -16574* (-23.46)	91803 12201* (15.33)	88479 166166* (22.36)
1901	58807 10754* (22.38)	94262 40179* (74.30)	133411 41608* (45.32)	92567 4088* (4.62)
1911	66963 8156* (13.86)	99838 5576* (5.92)	123117 -10294* (-7.72)	96695 4128* (4.46)
1921	67840 877* (1.31)	84748 -15090* (-15.11)	132323 9206* (7.48)	96448 -247* (-0.26)
1931	76615 8775* (13.00)	86421 1673* (1.97)	129428 -2895* (-2.19)	120499 24051* (24.94)
1941	94865 18250* (23.82)	105856 19455* (22.51)	162623 33195* (25.65)	195016 74517* (61.84)
1951	151205 26340* (59.30)	134229 28353* (26.78)	241296 78673* (48.38)	251349 56333* (28.89)
1961	219601 68396* (45.23)	17711 42884* (31.95)	3076 66331* (27.49)	328925 77576* (30.85)
1971	307454 87853* (40.04)	223643 46530* (26.27)	375790 68163* (22.16)	402449 73524* (22.35)
1981	462142 154668* (50.31)	374503 150860* (67.46)	530917 155127* (41.28)	589599 187150* (46.50)
1991	642980 180838* (39.13)	543484 169345* (45.22)	747040 16123* (40.71)	763904 174305* (29.56)
2001	810015 167035* (26.00)	600487 57003* (10.50)	920079 173039* (23.16)	792664 28760* (3.76)
2011	1231386 421371* (52.02)	979132 378645* (63.00)	1145711 225632* (24.52)	1149286 385382* (48.62)

Source: District census Hand books. Note: Figures indicated by\* are growth & in Parentheses are growth rate of urban population

## 8. Conclusion

The study concluded that Rayalaseema has witnessed high urban growth with slight fluctuations. The period between 1901-11 and 1911-21 is the period of stagnation and decline, 1931-41 is the period of rapid growth and 1941-51 is the decade of slow growth. After 1951 the growth rate has shown acceleration with slight fluctuations. It can be seen that the urban growth and urbanization of Rayalaseema has been phenomenal with considerable changes over the past One Forty years.

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