

Trend and Pattern of Urbanization in Uttar Pradesh with Special Reference to Bundelkhand Region

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Abstract : *Rapid growth of population, continuous upgradation of technology and infrastructure, increasing economic inter-dependency between urban and rural areas lead towards urbanization. Developing countries experience it severely and it is like a challenge as well as an opportunity for them. This paper is an attempt to analyse temporal and spatial distribution of urban centres and their population in Uttar Pradesh at regional level and district-wise in Bundelkhand region. This study is based on secondary data sources mainly provided by Census of India. Its major findings are related to demographic nature of urbanization in the region. The region has mainly politico-administrative urban centres. The districts like Jhansi and Jalaun has higher level of urbanization than districts situated on rugged land like Chitrakoot, Banda and Lalitpur. Jhansi is the primate city of the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. Above 65 percent of the urban inhabitants are living in the cities and large towns. Population growth rate in cities and large towns is higher than medium and small towns but it shows decreasing trend from 2001 to 2011 census.*

Key Words: *urbanization, urban centres, trend and pattern, regional, Bundelkhand.*

Introduction

Defining any settlement as 'urban' is a difficult task and at present, different criteria and methods are being used by different governments to define urban settlement. 105 countries use administrative criteria, 100 countries define cities by population size and population density, 25 countries specify economic characteristics and 18 countries count the availability of urban infrastructure in their definitions. 25 countries have no definition of urban at all while 6 countries regard their entire population as urban (UN, 1998, 2003).

In India, to define urban places administrative criteria, population size and density and economic characteristics are used. In 1981, Census of India, the responsible administrative body to collect population related data, determined some characteristics to define "urban". These are:

- a) Any place with a municipality, corporation, or cantonment or notified town area; or
- b) Any other place which satisfies all the following criteria:

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- I. a minimum population of 5000 person,
- II. at least 75 percent of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural activities, and
- III. a population density of at least 400 person per square kilometre.

According to Nijman (2012) urbanisation “is not just about numbers and quantitative change: it reflects a much deeper social transformation, restructuring economies and difficult livelihoods, changing class systems, refashioned urban fabric, and a new politics”. Urbanization is not a new phenomenon, it begun for a planned and secured habitation especially for non-agricultural functions, and different level of urban centers has been developed since ancient ages up to mediaeval period. After the Industrial Revolution in Europe, urbanization has increased its speed. From the second half of 20th century, global urban population is increasing rapidly since that it has increased almost four times since then. 21st century is called as urban century because for the first time in the human history urban population has exceeded countryside population (Mohan and Dasgupta, 2004). According to World Urbanization Prospective (2018), in 1951 30 percent of the world population was urbanized which increased to 55 percent in 2018 and by 2050, it is projected that 68 percent population would be urban. In this world's urban growth developing countries share more than 90 percent of the total urban growth.

India is the second most populated country of the world with 1.2 billion people residing in about 6 lakh villages and 7935 urban centres. Percentage of Indian citizen living in urban areas increased from 17.3 percent in 1951 to 31.16 percent in 2011. According to Census of India between 1901 and 2011 the total population of India grew five-fold, whereas the urban population increased by seventeen times. “Nevertheless, India did not face “urban explosion” as compared to trends in many other countries of the world” (Mohan, 1985). However, in these 110 years the urban population as a proportion of the total population grew by three-fold (Buch, undated).

Historically, the process of urbanization has experienced different phases (cf. Singh, 2008). Its contemporary pattern in India reveals that urban population is concentrated in comparatively developed states and in big urban centres. Kundu (2011) in his analysis found that “after liberalization of the Indian economic policy there is a clear trend which shows that developed states and larger cities have more urbanization and urban growth rate than the backward states and smaller towns”. Level of urbanization in the country varies from state to state. Southern and western part of the country, consists of comparatively developed states, and have higher percentage of urban population than northern and central parts.

The Study Area

Bundelkhand is a ‘geo- cultural region’ in the central part of India which has semi-arid climate and commonly faces severe droughts. It has 13 districts: 7 from southern Uttar Pradesh and 6 from northern Madhya Pradesh. However, only 7 districts of Bundelkhand region will be studied, which

is administratively part of Uttar Pradesh. The study area had only four districts in 1951 which became seven in 2011 census because of bifurcation of some districts during this time. For comparability the researchers have considered all districts from 1951 on the basis of sub-divisional map of districts. These districts are Jhansi, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda, and Chitrakoot. It covers 29,418 sq. km. area with the population of 96,59,718 persons according to 2011 census. The population density of the region is 338 person per sq. km. which is much lower than the state average 828 person per sq.km. Bundelkhand region is among the one of the most backward regions of the country. This region faces problems like droughts, infertile land, lack of irrigation and other agrarian constraints yet agriculture is the major source of livelihood in the region. Almost 80 percent workforce is still engaged in cultivation and agricultural labour. Illiteracy, unemployment, migration, lack of infrastructures and social feudal system generates vicious cycle of poverty in the region.

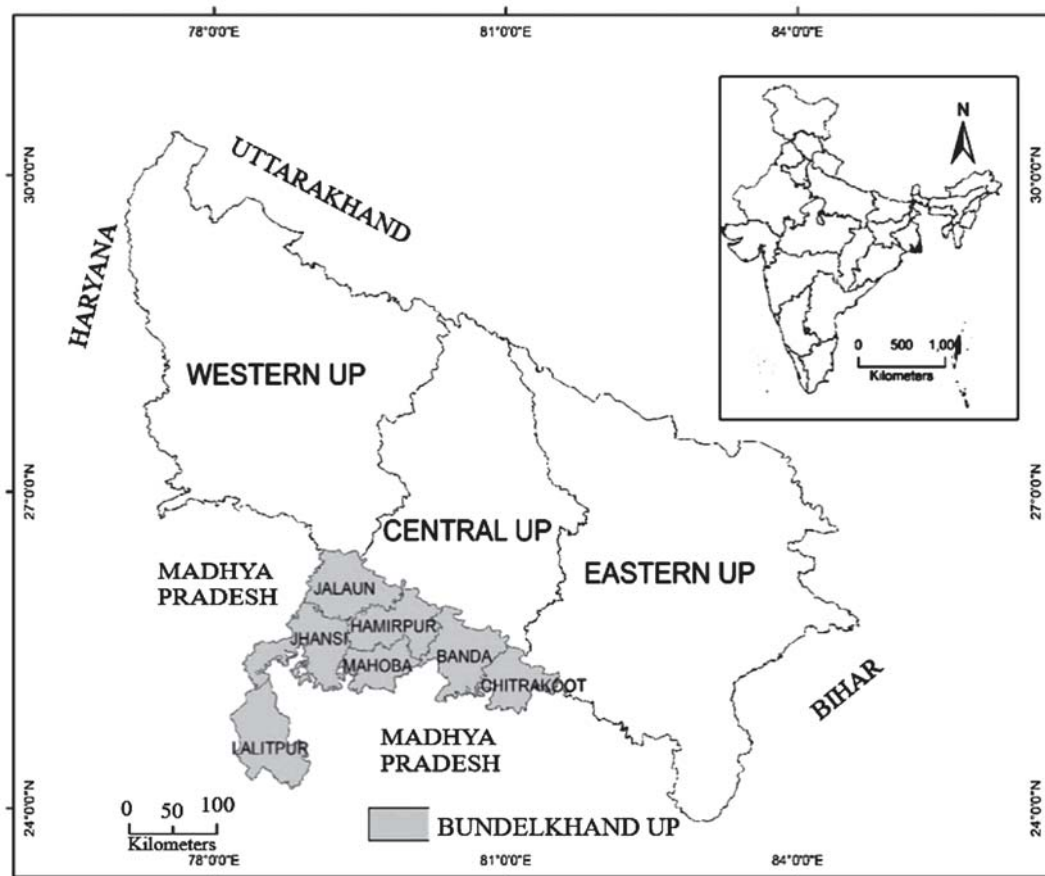


Figure 1: Location Map of Bundelkhand Region, UP

Source: Based on State Planning Board, Uttar Pradesh

Objectives

This paper is an attempt to analyse demographic aspects of urbanization in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. And the objectives are:

- To understand the nature of urbanization in Uttar Pradesh.
- To analyse trend and pattern of urbanisation in Bundelkhand region of the state.
- To assess concentration and growth of urban population in different size-class.

Data Source and Methodology

This study is purely based on published secondary data sources including Village and Town Directory, Primary Census Abstract, District Census Handbooks, District-wise Development Indicators of UP, 2016. Data collected from different sources were then analysed. For cartographic representation of data Arc GIS 9.3 has been used. Thematic maps and tables are prepared and drawn by the authors for the analysis of urbanization trend and patterns in Uttar Pradesh as well as Bundelkhand region of the state. For the preparation of different thematic layers Google Earth Image for digitization of urban centres have been used.

Results and Discussions

Urbanisation level and urban centres in Uttar Pradesh

Trend of urbanization

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state of the country with about 200 million population as per 2011 census. Most of the people of the state, about 78 percent, reside in the rural areas but it has 44 million urban residents which is second highest after Maharashtra. Table 1 shows that after 1951 there is a continuous increase in the urban population and number of towns and urban agglomerations. In 1951, 13.6 percent urban population lived in 410 urban centres which increased up to 22.27 percent and 915 town and urban agglomerations which has 648 statutory towns and 267 census towns in 2011. From 1951 to 1981, except 1961, all census decades show increasing trend of urbanization. In 1961 many urban centres were declassified as rural areas also change in definition of 'urban centres' are the reasons behind it. Decadal growth rate of urbanization steadily increased to more than double, from 1971 to 1981. It happened due to another change in definition of urban centres but this time it was in favour of urbanization level. In 1991 census, there was steep decrease in level of urbanization, from 1991 to 2011 the rate of urbanization is gradually decreasing. However, urban population is increasing but the natural population growth rate in rural population is higher than the urban population.

Regional pattern

State Planning Board has divided Uttar Pradesh into four economic regions due to the large population and vast geographical area of the state. These regions are named as Western UP, Central UP, Eastern UP, and Bundelkhand. The percentage of urban population varies in different

Table 1. Urbanization trend in Uttar Pradesh, 1951-2011

Census Year	No. of Towns & UA	Total urban population (million)	per cent of urban population	Decadal growth rate of urban population
1951	410	8.22	13.6	21.86
1961	215	8.98	12.9	9.23
1971	256	11.63	14.0	29.72
1981	598	18.74	18.0	60.89
1991	631	25.97	19.8	38.52
2001	670	34.51	20.78	32.88
2011	915	44.49	22.27	28.91

Source: Census of India, 2011

regions. As shown in Table 2, Western UP has the highest level of urbanization (31.38 percent) in the state, while Eastern UP (12.19 percent) is the least urbanised. It is because Western UP has a strong industrial base due to its proximity to National Capital Region. That is the reason behind the rate of urbanization hereto be higher than other parts of the state. Ghaziabad, Noida, Meerut, Agra, Bareilly and other urban agglomerations are evolved with big urban concentration. In Eastern UP there are only two mega cities Varanasi and Allahabad, located in the southern part of the region. Northern part of eastern UP called Tarai belt is among the backward regions of the country and has very low level of urbanization. In Central UP 25.73 percent population lives in 125 urban centres. Most of the urban population is living in Kanpur, the largest city of the state and also in the capital city Lucknow. Bundelkhand region, the southern part of the state has 59 urban centres and 22.67

Table 2. Regional pattern of urbanization in Uttar Pradesh

Region	per cent of urban population		No. of urban centres		Change in level of urbanization* (per cent)
	2001	2011	2001	2011	
Western U. P.	28.25	31.38	343	426	11.07
Central U. P.	25.15	25.73	107	125	2.3
Bundelkhand	22.39	22.67	55	59	1.25
Eastern U.P.	11.74	12.19	203	305	3.83

*Note: Percentage of urban population to total population.

Source: Census of India, 2001 and 2011

percent of urban population. Jhansi is the largest city which has above 5 lakh population but there is no million plus city in the region. Agriculture is the major source of income of the state till today. It is clearly visible that the regions where agriculture is comparatively developed, the rate of urbanization there is higher than the other parts.

Class-wise share of urban population

After independence, planning commission had focused on industrial development and policy inclined towards big urban centres. Share of class I urban centres in total urban population has increased from 33.71 percent in 1951 to 60 percent in 2011 and number of class I towns increased from 14 in 1951 to 54 in 2001 and 64 in 2011. Remaining less than 40 percent of urban population is distributed haphazardly in all other urban classes as follows : 9.25 percent in 59 towns of class II, 13.85 percent in 212 towns of class III, 9.48 percent in 308 class IV towns, 3.71 percent in 233 towns of class V and 0.14 percent urban population living in class VI towns in 2011 census (Bercegol, 2017). This concentration of urban population is due to “both areal expansion and in-migration” also due to submergence of satellite towns, developed in their vicinity, in urban agglomerations (Kundu, 2011). There are seven cities with more than one million population in the state. However, unlike Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana urban population in Uttar Pradesh is not concentrated only in some mega cities.

Census towns

In the last decade of 2001-11 number of census towns has rapidly increased from 66 to 267 and in Figure 2 it is clearly visible that most of them have emerged around class I cities. Pradhan (2013) finds in his study that large number of census towns are concentrated in the vicinity of ‘metropolises’. Western UP has more census towns than any other region of the state, especially near NCR region. That shows strong connections between economic activities and emergence of census towns and with time they will soon become part of urban agglomeration. Many census towns have developed as market centres for their surrounding villages and along the highways and railway halts as service provider for travellers.

Growth of Urbanization in Bundelkhand region, 1951-2011

Bundelkhand region is known for its cultural heritage and rural settlements but the traces of urbanization could be found in ancient period which began through spiritual and traditional education centres. Tripathi (1986) has studied about the historical evolution of urban centres in the Bundelkhand region. He classified this evolution period into three parts such as ancient, medieval and modern period. In the medieval period process of urbanization gained pace through fortified urban centres while after the arrival of Britishers, emergence of new administrative centres and transport centres have accelerated the rate of urbanization in the region. However, this region has never seen rapid urbanization due to economic and geopolitical reasons. The urban population in this region was 2,58,630 in 1901 which increased to 4,31,175 in 1951 and in next fifty years it has grown more than four times to 21,95,078 during 2011 census. It reveals that after independence growth of urbanization rate has accelerated than the pre-independence era. Table 3 shows district-wise urbanization trend

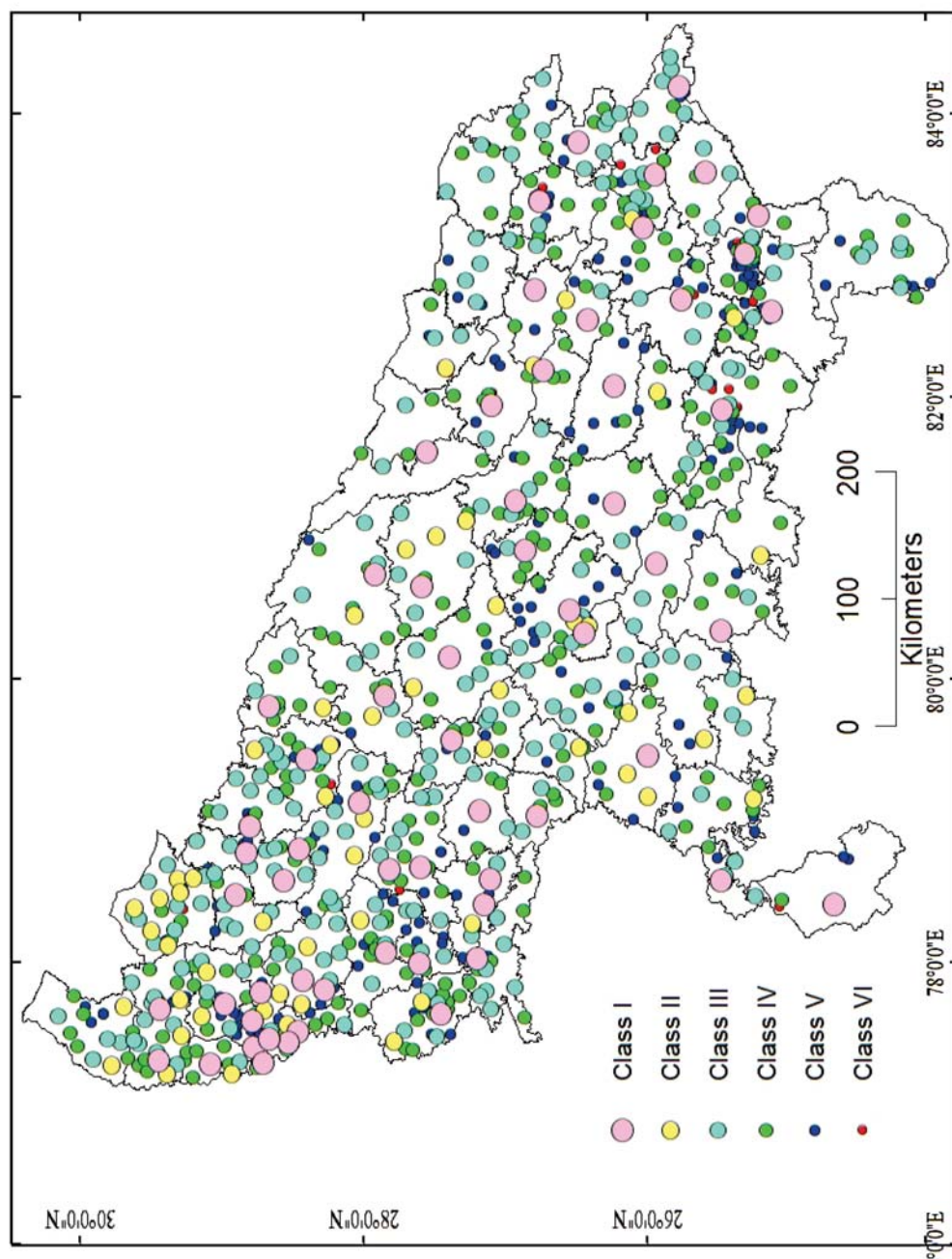


Figure 2: Class-Wise Distribution of Urban Centres in Uttar Pradesh, 2011

Source: Prepared by Authors (based on data from Town Directory)

in the region from 1951 to 2011. In 1951, Bundelkhand region had 13.6 percent urban population with 37 urban centres which decreased to 10.93 percent with 22 urban centres in 1961. This steady decrease in level of urbanization happened due to change in definition of urban centre, which denounced 15 urban centres into rural settlements. In 1961 census, 75 percent of working population engaged in non-agricultural activities and 400 person per square kilometre was added in 1951 definition of urban centre.

Table 3. Trend of Urbanization in Bundelkhand, UP

Census Year	No. of urban centres	Total urban population	per cent of urban population	Decadal growth rate of urban pop
1951	37	435194	13.6	23.43
1961	22	473855	10.93	8.88
1971	24	629033	12.41	32.75
1981	52	1081399	18.46	71.72
1991	54	1424166	19.45	24.06
2001	55	1843511	22.39	29.44
2011	59	2195078	22.67	19.07

Source: Census of India, 2011

In 1981 census, number of urban centres increased almost three times; from 24 in 1971 to 52 in 1981, because in that year Census of India had classified many large villages into towns on the basis of definitional changes of urban centre. Level of urbanization had increased 48.75 percent within a decade, from 12.41 in 1971 to 18.46 percent in 1981. The rate of urbanization steeply increased from 31.81 to 72.39 during that decade. As from 1981, only male workers are being considered as non-agricultural workforce and workers engaged in livestock rearing, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation were excluded from non-agricultural activities (Bhagat, 2005). From 1991 to 2001 level of urbanization had increased by 15 percent, 4 new urban centres were added and three large towns entered into class I category. Since 1991, rate of urbanization is decreasing (Table 4). In 2011 census, with 19 percent rate of urban growth, level of urbanization became 22.67 percent of the total population which is slightly above the state average, i.e., 22.27 percent but less than the national level of urbanization, i.e., 31.16 percent. Urban population of the region is continuously increasing but the rate of urbanization is sluggish. Agrarian distress, lack of infrastructural and industrial development and socio-economic backwardness are the causes behind low rate of urbanization (Tripathi, 1987). Bundelkhand region has only 533 km metalled road per thousand sq. km., less than half of 1124 km., which is the average length in the state. Here, number of registered working factories per lakh of population is 1.43, less than the state average, i.e., 6.93. Cities and towns of the region do not have enough employment opportunities except in Jhansi. Urban growth in the region

is slow too, because flow of migration from the region is towards big urban centres out of the region (NITI Aayog, 2015).

Class-wise Distribution of Urban Centres in the Region

Figure 3 represents distribution of class-wise urban centres. In 1951, Jhansi was the sole class I city in the region. The number increased to 4 in 2001 when Banda, Lalitpur and Orai were added. There was not a single Class II urban centre in 1951 which increased to 7 in 2011. Jalaun, Kalpi, Konch (Jalaun district) and Mauranipur (Jhansi District) are the secondary towns while Rath, Mahoba and Chitrakoot Dham (Karwi) are the largest towns and district headquarters of Hamirpur, Mahoba and Chitrakoot respectively. Number of class III towns increased from 4 in 1951 to 12 in 2011. Number of urban centres of class IV and V increased from 8 and 10 in 1951 to 19 and 16 in 2011 respectively.

In 2011 census there were six urban centres classified as census towns in this region; three census towns were in Jhansi district, two in Lalitpur and one in Chitrakoot district. However, in 2001 census only two census towns namely Parichha and Khailar; emerged both of which were located in Jhansi district. Deori Singhpurain Jhansi, Baguwan Kalan and Maharoni Rural in Lalitpur and Karwi Mafi in Chitrakoot district are classified as census towns by the Census of India, 2011. All these towns have more than 5000 population in 2011 except in Baguwan Kalan (2706) and fulfil other urban criteria also.

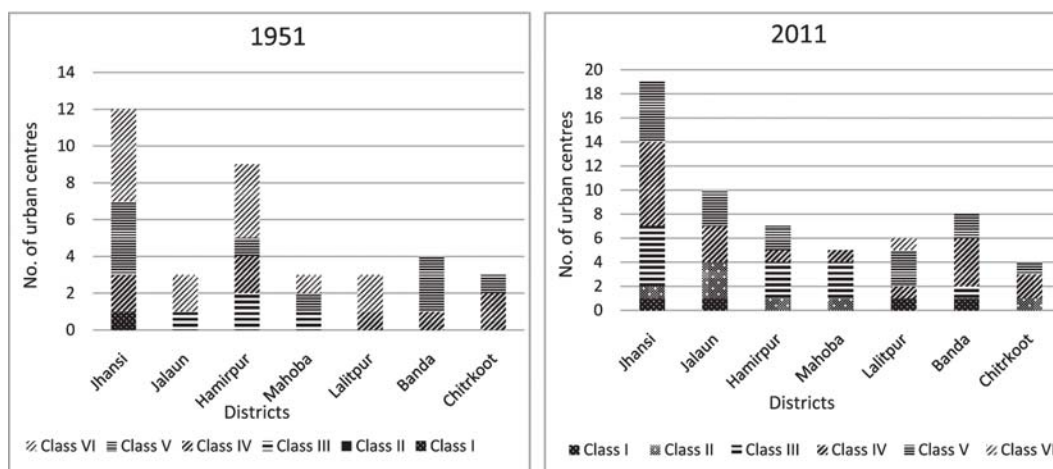


Figure 3: Distribution of Class-wise Urban Centres in Bundelkhand (UP)

Spatial Pattern of Level of Urbanization and Urban Centres

As Table 4 shows, in Bundelkhand region level of urbanization varies district-wise. According to 2011 census, in Jhansi 41.7 percent of total population lives in the urban areas while in Chitrakoot only 9.7 percent people are urban residents. Jhansi district has the highest level of urbanization and Chitrakoot has the lowest. Jalaun and Mahoba districts are moderately urbanized, where level of

urbanization is between 20 to 30 percent. While Banda, Hamirpur and Lalitpur districts have level of urbanization between 10 to 20 percent which is low. There are several geographical, historical and political factors responsible for regional variation in level of urbanization. Jhansi is well connected through national highways and rail routes, here North-South and East-West corridor crossed each other. But Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba districts have low level of connectivity.

Table 4. District-wise Urban Centres and Level of Urbanization in Bundelkhand

Districts		1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Jhansi	No. of urban centres	12	9	10	16	17	18	19
	per cent of urban population	32.85	32.74	32.10	37.93	39.61	40.79	41.70
Jalaun	No. of urban centres	9	4	4	10	10	100	10
	per cent of urban population	15.29	12.77	13.74	19.91	22.07	23.41	24.79
Hamirpur	No. of urban centres	4	2	3	7	7	7	7
	per cent of urban population	9.5	5.76	8.6	15	13.6	16.65	19.00
Mahoba	No. of urban centres	3	2	2	5	5	5	5
	per cent of urban population	14.01	4.30	6.38	19.12	22.77	21.86	21.16
Lalitpur	No. of urban centres	3	1	2	4	4	4	6
	per cent of urban population	8.96	6.76	9.6	13.33	14.03	14.52	14.36
Banda	No. of urban centres	3	1	2	7	8	8	8
	per cent of urban population	7.71	5.84	8.36	13.17	14.28	15.87	15.32
Chitrakoot	No. of urban centres	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
	per cent of urban population	6.88	8.34	8.11	10.81	9.82	9.99	9.71
Bundelkhand	No. of urban centres	37	22	24	52	54	55	59
	per cent of urban population	13.6	10.93	12.41	18.46	19.45	22.39	22.67

Source: Primary Census Abstract, 1951-2011 (calculated by authors).

Jhansi district has 19 urban centres which is the highest while Chitrakoot has 4, which is the lowest. Historically, Jhansi was the capital city of Bundelkhand and had strategic importance from

medieval period to colonial era. That is the reason for Jhansi district having developed comparatively more urban centres. In this region, most of the towns and cities are developed basically as administrative centres such as district, sub-division and C D block head-quarters, because of that there is an apparent hierarchy in urban centres. These urban centres are the outcome of “political-administrative processes of urbanization” (Ramachandran, 1989). Historically, they are developed by past rulers and government investments for administrative and strategic purposes (Census of India, 1961 quoted by Bhagat, 2005). As Bose (1969) explains “Historically, urban centres come to exist long before the emergence of industries. In countries with a tradition of feudal rule, courts and centres of commerce and trade developed into towns with different population sizes in mediaeval ages”. Till today, this region is mostly out of focus from modern urbanization.

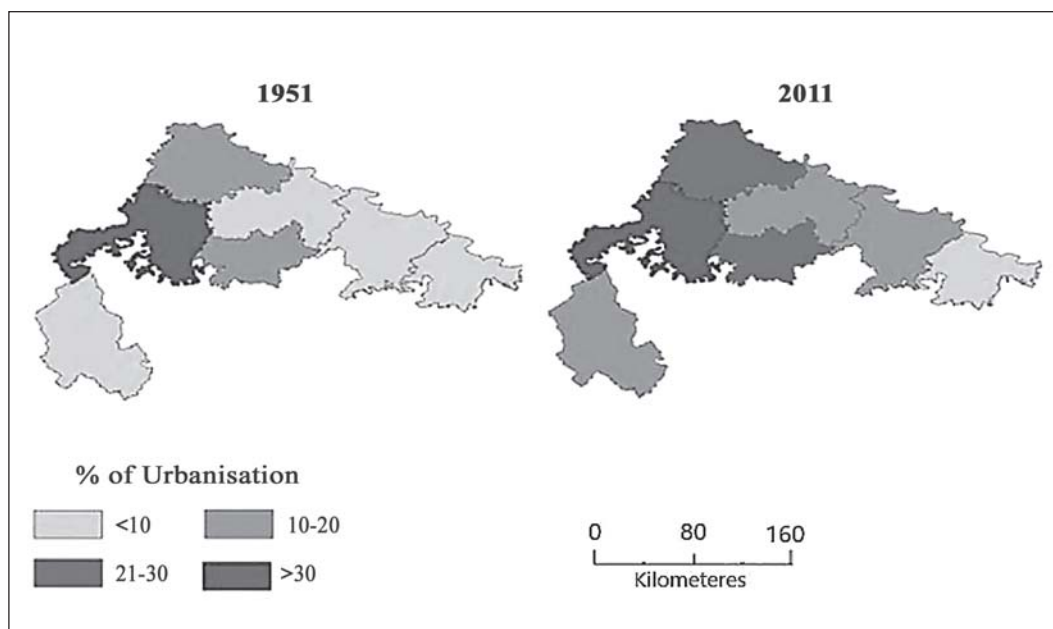


Figure 4: Level of Urbanization in Bundelkhand Region, UP

Note: Level of urbanization: <10 = very low; 10-20 = low; 21-30 = moderate; >30 = high.

Concentration of Urban Population in Different Size-class

Table 5 shows the concentration of urban population is in the cities and large towns and this trend prevails not only in Bundelkhand but in the state also. It is not different by urbanization characteristics of the country as Chadchan and Shankar (2012) have expressed, “the process of urbanization in India is marked by increasing concentration of population in larger cities”. According to 2011 census 4 cities and 7 large towns contain above 65 percent of the total urban population of the region. Jhansi is the largest city of the region with more than 5 lakh population, it has 60.67

percent share in the district's total urban population and almost 20 percent share in total urban residents of the region. In Jhansi, Lalitpur and Banda districts more than 50 per cent of the total urban population lives in cities which have population more than one lakh. In Mahoba, Chitrakoot and Jalaun districts urban population is concentrated in large towns. Medium towns have larger share in urban population of Hamirpur and Mahoba districts. In figure 5, from 2001 to 2011 the share of urban population in cities and large towns has increased. However, small towns, emerging as rural clusters, are increasing in number but their overall share of urban population is decreasing.

Table 5. Size-class of Towns and Distribution of Urban Population, 2011

Districts	Cities (≥100,000)		Large towns (50000-99999)		Medium towns (20000-49999)		Small towns (<20000)	
	No.	Per Cent of Urban Pop.	No.	Per Cent of Urban Pop.	No.	Per Cent of Urban Pop.	No.	Per Cent of Urban Pop.
Jhansi	1	60.67	1	14.66	5	8.38	12	16.29
Jalaun	1	45.5	3	38.67	0	0	6	15.83
Hamirpur	0	0	1	31.00	3	54.61	3	14.39
Mahoba	0	0	1	51.36	3	41.22	1	7.41
Lalitpur	1	76.01	0	0	0	0	5	23.99
Banda	1	58.2	0	0	1	17.2	6	24.6
Chitrakoot	0	0	1	59.6	0	0	3	40.4
Bundelkhand	4	45.00	7	20.09	12	15.54	36	19.37

Source: Town Directory, 2011, (calculated by authors)

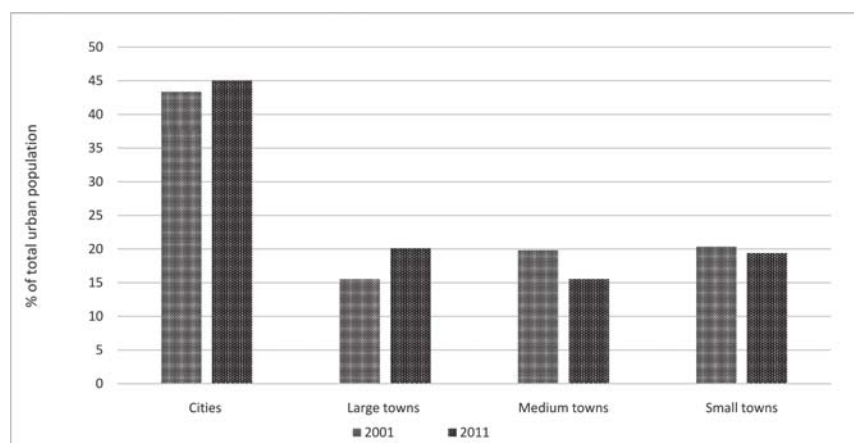


Figure 5: Share of Urban Population by Size of Towns in Bundelkhand, UP

Table 6. Class-wise Population Growth rate of Urban Centres

Class of urban centres	No. of urban centres		Average population growth rate of urban centres	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
I	4	4	40.30	22.41
II	5	7	26.24	16.35
III	12	12	25.38	20.92
IV	19	19	17	10.64
V	15	16	15.16	9.81
VI	-	1	-	-

Source: Town Directory, 2011

Town Directory of 2011 census shows that population growth rate is high in upper category towns and it is 22.41 percent in class I cities. Population growth rate was higher in class III towns than class II towns in 2011. Urban population is increasing in class III towns. Towns in Class IV and class V category have minimum population growth rate. But from 2001 to 2011 census population growth rate has decreased. In towns of Class I and II category growth rate has decreased rapidly than other smaller towns.

Conclusion

Urbanization in Uttar Pradesh, which is less than the national average (2011), appears to be in its 'initial stage'. During 1951-1981 period, an increasing trend in urbanization has been observed in the state; but it declined in 1991-2011. At regional level, Western UP has a higher rate of urbanization compared to the other regions. Urban population in the state lives in 915 urban centres of which the Class I urban centres contain 60 percent indicating clear concentration. In Bundelkhand region, level of urbanization is 22.67 percent, which is slightly higher than the state average of 22.27 percent; however, it is quite less than the national average (31.16 percent). Rate of urbanization in this region has slowed during 2001-2011 from 29.44 percent to 19.07. Growth rate of towns also decreased in the same period. Jhansi and Jalaun districts have comparatively higher level of urbanization and nearly half of the total urban centres are lying in these two districts. These districts are comparatively well connected through road and railways while other districts have lack of physical connectivity. Chitrakoot district has less than 10 percent urban population and has only 4 urban centres which is the lowest in the region. Urban centres are unevenly distributed in the region. There are four Class I urban centres in four districts, each have one while out of the seven, three districts namely Hamirpur, Mahoba and Chitrakoot do not have any class I urban centre. Most of the urban

inhabitants are concentrated in Class I and II urban centres among which most are administrative headquarters. In census 2011, there were only 6 census towns, it shows that economic process of urbanization is very slow in the region. Growth rate in cities and large towns is high that is why share of urban population in medium and smaller towns is decreasing. To impulse sustainable urban growth in the region infrastructural development and small and medium enterprises need to be promoted.

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