

FAQ's

1. What is brownfield site?

Brownfield is a term used in urban planning to describe land previously used for industrial purposes or some commercial uses. Such land may have been contaminated with hazardous waste or pollution or is feared to be so. Once cleaned up, such an area can become host to a business development such as a retail park.

2. How to stop rapid urbanization?

From the article written by Khosh-Chashm (1995), the author believed that the concept of "Healthy City" provides a unique opportunity for people and authorities to build a partnership and provide an effective strategy to overcome the problems in urban area. Healthy City can be defined as clean and have a good health and environmental services. He further added that Healthy City is safe and people can live in them comfortably with their own social bonds, beliefs, customs and lifestyles. Basically, Health City concept attempts to solve the social and environmental problems. Healthy City approaches can be categorized into two parts namely, formulation of policies by the local authority and establishment of partnership between local authority and community. Firstly, the local authority will prepare policies for land use, traffic and transportation, housing and other related aspects through the different level of development planning which consists of National Physical Plan, Local Plan and Special Area Plan. Through the preparation of development plan, the local authority and planner will set out requirement and guidelines for the city planning. It is important for governments to formulate urban environmental policies and plans at all levels and integrate environmental considerations into all urban development planning efforts. Secondly, the

partnership between the local authority and community must be established to ensure the success of Health City concept. Through partnership, it will encourage the community to participate in the programs and activities that have been organized as well as involvement in the decision making. Community participation is very crucial to ensure that what have been planned by the local authority will fulfill the needs of all stakeholders.

Thrust 1: An efficient and sustainable urban development

In order to accommodate an orderly and manageable development, urban development should have a clear guidance on the direction of future expansion. The authorities should specify area in the city where the urban development is permitted and the area which urban development is not allowed. This to ensure the efficiency use of land use and at the same time prevents misuse of land use. The authorities should encourage brownfield development rather than developing green area. This is to prevent development from encroaching upon agricultural and environmentally sensitive areas, to promote the optimum usage of existing infrastructure and to revive the attractiveness and liveliness of the urban centres. The government has formulated nine policies in realizing the first thrust. In overall, the nine policies promoting the conservation of environmentally sensitive areas, development of urban renewal rather than opening a new town or city as well as provision of an adequate open spaces to meet the requirements of the population

3. Compare the phenomenon of urbanization in India and China.

Although China is currently doing a much better job building new cities, the authors say that India has the potential to reap a much larger urban demographic dividend if it can fix its current urban operating model, primarily because China is aging rapidly. The rapid pace of urbanization, especially manufacturing led

urbanization (where factories are located in cities or its urban agglomerations), has been the primary driving force behind China's spectacular economic growth of the past three decades. In fact, it is no coincidence that China's pace of urbanization picked up sharply since 1995 (as observed from the graphic). This coincided with a rapid spurt in the economic growth.

In contrast, India's urban population has grown slowly, a reflection of its rural-centric growth strategy. State and central governments in India will have to redress this skewedness in priorities in order to push the economy into a sustainably higher growth trajectory.

The article said India and China alone will account for more than 62 percent of Asia's urban population growth and 40 percent of global urban population growth from 2005 to 2025." In 1950, India with an urban population of 17 per cent was a more urban nation than China at 13 percent. "But from 1950 to 2005, China urbanized far more rapidly than India, to an urbanization rate of 41 percent, compared with 29 percent in India."

4. Discuss the impact of urbanization on the environment.

The urban heat island has become a growing concern and is increasing over the years. The urban heat island is formed when industrial and urban areas are developed and heat becomes more abundant. In rural areas, a large part of the incoming solar energy is used to evaporate water from vegetation and soil

In cities, where less vegetation and exposed soil exists, the majority of the sun's energy is absorbed by urban structures and asphalt. Hence, during warm daylight hours, less evaporative cooling in cities allows surface temperatures to rise higher than in rural areas.

Additional city heat is given off by vehicles and factories, as well as by industrial and domestic heating and cooling units. This effect causes the city to become 2 to 10° F (1 to 6° C) warmer than surrounding

landscapes. Impacts also include reducing soil moisture and intensification of carbon dioxide emissions.

- i. Slums and its consequences of overcrowding.
- ii. Lack of sanitation,
- iii. Poverty,
- iv. Illiteracy,
- v. Unemployment and
- vi. Crime is the worst impact of urbanization.
- vii. Global warming, air pollution, water scarcity and pollution and loss of forest cover, agricultural land and depletion of wildlife as a result of urban sprawl, pose serious threats to the environment.
- viii. Urban areas suffer from serious problems of environmental pollution. There are high levels of air pollution and noise pollution due to industries and automobiles. Water is also polluted due to industrial wastewater discharge. Solid waste generation in urban areas is very high, and its proper disposal is a major problem.
- ix. Proper sewerage facilities are often lacking in urban areas. In the crowded slums, the human waste is just deposited in gutters or vacant spaces, which become a breeding ground for pathogenic bacteria spreading salmonella and hepatitis infections. In most of the cities heavy rainfall totally upsets the sewerage system.
- x. Cities are warmer than villages. Due to lot of heat released by various types of human activities in cities, which get retained by built structures and then slowly released into the atmosphere there is creation of urban heat island. This problem can be partially tackled by growing green belts of trees.
- xi. Urbanization also provides several benefits when there is a well-planned city with proper transportation and residential facilities, reducing pollution problems.

- xii. Due to better access to health care, educational and social service facilities, infant mortality is less in cities.