

# CAUSES, EFFECTS & SOLUTIONS OF URBAN SPRAWL

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**Abstract** - Urbanisation over rural areas is becoming more and more popular around the world, giving cities a much more sculpted texture, yet this process frequently dries up the city's life. In wealthier countries, people frequently move to the periphery in search of larger living spaces, whereas developing countries are making great efforts to give everyone their own space. Numerous studies have been done on the problem of urban sprawl. Regarding the aforementioned urban problems, this essay aims to analyse the effects of sprawl through a thorough understanding of its traits and root causes before introducing appropriate solutions. Attempts can be made to restrict sprawl by re-densifying suburbs, enhancing their walkability, avoiding changes in land use, and blending those uses with appropriate regulations.

**Key Words:** urbanisation, urban sprawl, mix land use, density

## 1. INTRODUCTION

India is rapidly urbanizing. Such rapid Urbanisation involves not only the migration of people from rural to urban areas but also the exchange of values, ideas, and attitudes, which has the effect of rapidly changing people, society, and cities. Cities have recently experienced a trend of rapid development or growth as a result of rapid Urbanisation. Growth is connected to change in terms of the size and direction of urban development. It is possible to quantify or qualitatively describe this transformation. A variety of urban forms may result from growth, some of which may be desired while others may not. The word "sprawl" has a negative connotation, and many authors, planners, and sociologists have tried to define it. Urbanisation is essentially another name for urban sprawl. It describes the movement of people away from densely crowded towns and cities and towards low density residential construction on steadily larger tracts of rural land. The eventual result is that a city and its suburbs gradually encroach upon more and more rural areas. In other words, low density residential and commercial development on undeveloped land is what is meant by urban sprawl. People frequently leave these locations in search of better places to reside. Since the dawn of time, this has been how things have been.

## 2. NEED OF THE STUDY

Cities nowadays face new difficulties in achieving economic growth, raising wealth, and enhancing the quality of life for citizens. Both development and growth are crucial for developing communities. They give the entire scenario fresh life and vitality. The study will describe potential causes and effects of urban sprawl.

**3. AIM** – Aim of the study is to promote urban sprawl management solutions to improve living standard.

## 4. OBJECTIVES-

- The goal of this study is to clarify what is meant by the word "sprawl."
- To determine urban sprawl's causes and impacts.
- To recognize the issues caused by urban sprawl in Indian cities and to research potential management solutions to address the issues.

## 5. URBAN SPRAWL

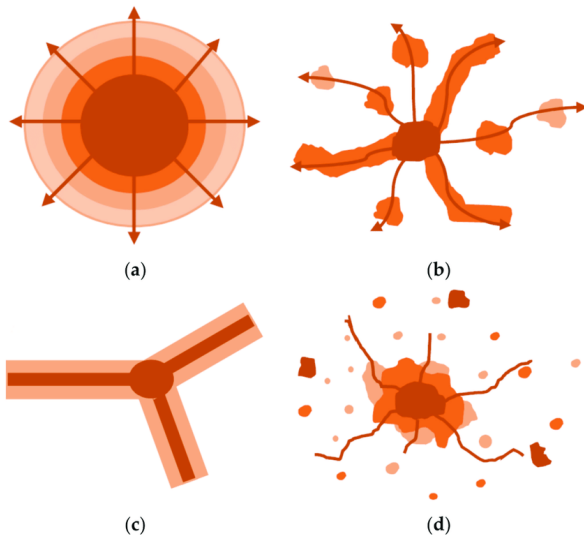
**Definition and Concept** -Sprawl is heavily influenced by urban growth because as cities grow, they encircle their Peripheries. Sprawl, on the other hand, is more precise in that it is characterized as "uncoordinated growth"—that is, the growth of a community without any useful regard for the effects of unfavorable environmental conditions or environmental damage.

Sprawl has become an umbrella term, encompassing a wide range of urban forms, indeed, "the term has become so abused that it lacks precise meaning, and defining urban sprawl has become a methodological quagmire" (Audirac, Shermeyen, & Smith, 1990).

Urban sprawl has been defined in several ways, but there is still a lot of debate over what it exactly means. However, few descriptions that specify a few traits or properties have been widely accepted in the absence of a precise definition for urban sprawl. The following are some definitions of the same, in various contexts:

- Urban sprawl refers to a specific form of urban development characterized by low-density, leapfrog, commercial strip development and discontinuity (Ewing, 1997; Downs 1999; Galster et al., 2001; Malpezzi and Guo, 2001).
- Other important characteristics of sprawl include unlimited outward extension of development, dominance of transportation by private automobiles, fragmentation of land use, and large fiscal disparities among individual communities (Burchell 1998; Downs 1999; Brueckner 2000). Together, these features accelerate the spatial expansion of metropolitan areas by creating discontinuous land use patterns (Ewing 1997).

- A variety of urban forms have been covered by the term “urban sprawl” ranging from contiguous suburban growth, linear patterns of strip development, leapfrog, and scattered development (Ewing 1994, Pendall 1999, Razin & Rosentraub 2000, Peiser 2001).
- Types Of Urban Sprawl



(a) Low-density development, (b) Leapfrog development, (c) Commercial ribbon development (d) Scattered development

## 6. CAUSES OF URBAN SPRAWL

- Access to appropriate housing
- Low price for public transportation systems
- Increasing numbers of jobs in suburbs
- Improvement in infrastructure
- Low Land rates
- Increase in living standards
- Population growth

## 7. IMPACTS OF SPRAWL

Sprawl results in the engulfing of villages into peri-urban areas, peri-urban areas into towns and towns into cities. The most common and significant consequence of this kind of expansion, results in:

- Sporadic development
- Inadequate access to services
- Increased trip lengths
- Infrastructural costs in the neighbourhood are rising
- Depletion of natural resources and loss of agricultural land
- Loss of open space
- Increased cost of infrastructure
- Loss of rural character
- Loss of farms and forestland
- Loss of community character
- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Increased energy consumption
- Loss of urban population to non-urban areas

- Urban decay
- Increases in housing starts and building permits

## 9. SOLUTIONS TO URBAN SPRAWL

*i) Mix land uses:* High-density mixed-use development encourages the incorporation of mixed uses as an important part of smart growth and enhances social inclusion, quality of life, and connectivity.

*ii) Make use of compact building design:* Communities should look for ways to become more compact in the design of their buildings and streets, as opposed to the traditional sprawling development pattern that consumes a lot of land.

*iii) Develop a range of housing options and choices:* Different housing options needs to be accessible for various households with various income levels in order to ensure equality and a balanced distribution of assets. As a result, the neighborhood's economy will be improved, environmental justice will be promoted, and social segregation will finally be minimised.

*iv) Keep your neighbourhood walkable:* Smart Growth aims to develop walkable neighbourhoods where residents may live, work, learn, play, and go to worship all within easy walking distance.

*v) Promote distinctive, aesthetically pleasing neighbourhoods with a strong sense of place:* Creating societies with a strong sense of place helps people become more aware of their culture and feel like they belong, which in turn encourages them to participate more actively in raising the standard of living in their communities, making decisions, and safeguarding their local resources.

*vi) It is important to protect open space, farms, natural beauty, and important environmental areas:* By maintaining sensitive environmental areas, strengthening local markets, enhancing social interactions, and raising the standard of living in the community, preserving open space and farmlands supports smart growth goals.

*vii) Strengthen existing communities and focus development there:* Rehabilitating and developing existing communities is always preferable than building new communities.

*viii) Offer a range of transport options:* Smart Growth aims to give people equal access to multiple transport options, facilities, employment, leisure activities, and housing, as well as to enhance social equity. It is important to have a variety of transport options, including bike paths, secure pathways and comfortable transportation hubs.

*ix) Make development decisions predictable, equitable, and economical:* The main goal is to build self-sustaining societies that encourage investment and provide a decent level of living.

*x) Promote stakeholder and community collaboration in development decisions:* Because residents are familiar with their communities well, they can suggest creative solutions to challenging problems.

## 10. CONCLUSIONS

At global level urban sprawl has become a challenge for sustainable development in cities. Urban sprawl has negative impacts on environment as well as human society. Reallocation of underutilized or waste lands or government occupied large unused lands should be given the primary importance for further urban development to control urban sprawl in city area. Zoning will be more modernized method for better management of urban growth at city level. Smart growth solutions which focus on compact development patterns can be seen as a superior solution against urban sprawl of undesired type. Smart growth promotes a compact urban development with a higher density that will renew the metropolitan area within its reach by combining urban development and environmental protection as an alternative to sprawled urban growth, which is expensive in terms of economy, environment, and society.

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