

Exploring Missing Linkages between the Changing Land Uses and Urbanization and Economic Growth in the Developing Economy of India: An Inter-state comparative overview

(Yogesh Kumar, Joint Director, Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Planning Commission, Govt of India)

Abstract

Land use is an important component in understanding the interactions of the human activities with the environment. Land use changes are very dynamic in nature and have to be monitored at regular intervals for sustainable environment development. Human population growth changed in character and form in the twentieth century. These unprecedented rates of population growth have sparked alarm about their impact on the environment and future prospects of human species. All human activities since antiquity have disturbed a 'pristine' nature. Thus it is not surprising that the high rates of economic and industrial development that accompanied population growth in the twentieth century resulted in the depletion of natural resources and fouling of the land, air, biota and water in many regions of the globe.

The intense modern debate over the relationships between numbers of people and use of available land has resurrected both Malthu's hypothesis and its critics. A critical aspect of these debates is the relation of increasing population to changes in land use. The magnitude of the relationship is linked to human population size and resource use per person. Resource use, waste production, and environmental degradation are accelerated by population growth. As such, the relationships between human population, economic development, and the natural environment are complex.

The complexity gets still intensified in countries having experienced non-consistent and uneven growth across the states. Differentials lie not only in economic growth measured vide per capita GDP but also the paths traversed and strategies adopted by the different states.