



Rapid Urbanization: An Exploration into the Nature and Causes of the Urban Transition in Ayodhya District

Gaurav Yadav¹, Kunvar Chandra Verma² & Dr. Pranay Kant Biswas³

^{1&2}Research Scholar, ³Assistant Professor

CMP College, University of Allahabad (A Central University)

Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

In this paper, we examine and contrast the growth of the population residing in the urban area in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya District with that of the state as a whole. This research delves at the causes of urbanization, the problems associated with it, and the results that may be expected from an approach to urban planning and development that prioritizes sustainability. To better comprehend the processes of urbanization in Ayodhya District and the state of Uttar Pradesh, this research draws on data from census records, such as the urban population percentage of Ayodhya District in 2001 and 2011.

Key Words: *Census, Urban planning, Population, Urbanization*

Objective: The study aims to examine the factors that have bestowed to the rapid growth of Ayodhya district between 2001 and 2011.

Introduction

Ayodhya, one of India's holiest cities, is located in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. It has a long and significant history, dating back over 5,000 years. The city is mentioned in many Hindu scriptures, including the Ramayana, and is believed to be the birthplace of Lord Rama. Ayodhya has been a major destination for Hindu pilgrims for centuries, and its religious importance has had a profound impact on Indian culture and society.

Ayodhya has urbanized expeditiously in recent years, with its population increasing by over 60% in the past decade, making it one of India's fastest-growing districts. The Uttar Pradesh government has invested heavily in infrastructure development, revamping roads, bridges, and public transportation, making the city more ravishing to residents and businesses.

Urbanization

Urbanization is the phenomena by which a society becomes more urbanized, with a larger proportion of the population living in cities. It is a complex phenomenon with a long history, but it has prompted significantly over the past century as people have moved from rural areas to urban centers in quest of better job opportunities, education, healthcare, and other facilities.

There are various factors that have bestowed to urbanization, including:

- **Economic upshot:** As economies develop, they tend to move around from agricultural to industrial and service sectors. This shift creates new jobs in cities, attracting people from rural areas.
- **Advancement in transportation and communication:** Advances in transportation and communication have made it smoother and more economical for people to move to cities and to stay connected with friends and family in remote areas.
- **Government policies:** Some governments have executed policies to improve urbanization, such as investing in urban infrastructure as well as providing tax reliefs to businesses that relocate to cities.

Demography

Specifically, the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has the Ayodhya district. The population density of the Ayodhya district in 2011 was 10,56 persons per square kilometer, with a total of 24,70,996 residents. The total land area of the district is 2,341 square kilometers. Ayodhya district has a somewhat greater sex ratio than the rest of India, with 961 females for every 1000 men. In the Ayodhya district, Hindi, Awadhi, and Urdu are the most often spoken tongues. Crops including wheat, rice, sugarcane, and vegetables make up the bulk of the district's agricultural output. Wood carving and needlework are two of the region's other well-known handicrafts. The area is well-served by both publicly funded and privately-operated medical institutions. However, rural communities need better healthcare access. The Ayodhya area as a whole is home to a multicultural populace and thriving agricultural and artisanal industry.

Research Methodology

Data from the Census of India, the Handbook of Districts, and the Government of India's census website are used to compare the district to the rest of Uttar Pradesh in terms of urbanization. QGIS 3.28 is used to create the maps, while Microsoft Excel is used to create the tables. After analyzing the statistics, we evaluate the variables that have contributed to urbanization since last decade.

Data Analysis

Variables	2001		2011	
	Ayodhya	Uttar Pradesh	Ayodhya	Uttar Pradesh
Total Population	2,088,928	166,197,921	2,470,996	199,812,341
% increased	-	-	18.29	20.23
Total Area	2341	240,928	2,341	240,928
Population Density	892	690	1,056	829
Rural Population Density	798	564	940	666
Urban Population Density	3,762	4,567	4,551	5,884
% of Urban Population	13.46	20.78	13.77	22.27

Source: Handbook of Census of Faizabad District, Retrieved from Census of India

Inferences about population increase from the data above are strong. The population of Ayodhya grew by 18.29% while the rest of Uttar Pradesh grew by 20.23%. The Urbanization of Uttar Pradesh has exhibited substantial rise as well, being 22.27 percent as urban population in 2011 as opposed to 20.78 percent in 2001 while the Urban population percentage of Ayodhya stayed constant being, 13.77 percent in 2011 and 13.46 percent in 2001. Over the last several decades, Ayodhya District and the state of Uttar Pradesh have seen significant increases in their urban populations. Ayodhya's urban population density (UPD) increased from 3,762 in 2001 to 4,551 in 2011. Over the last decade, the UPD in the state has increased from 4567 to 5884. The rural population density has likewise exhibited rise in both the scenarios. In addition, Ayodhya's population has grown by 18.29% over the last decade, while Uttar Pradesh as a whole has grown by 20.23%.

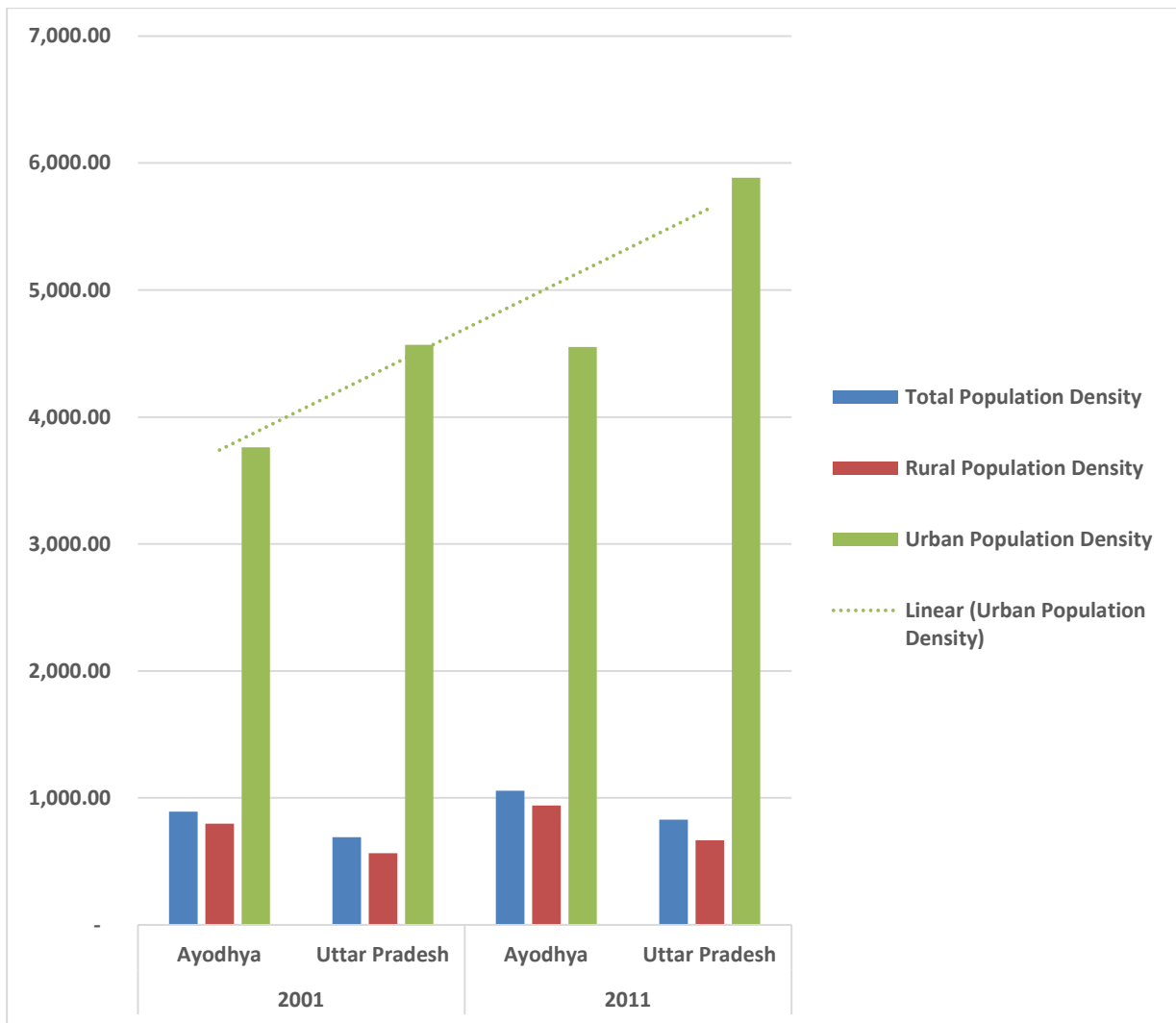


Fig-1: Trend line of Urbanization (Population Density in Urban Area)

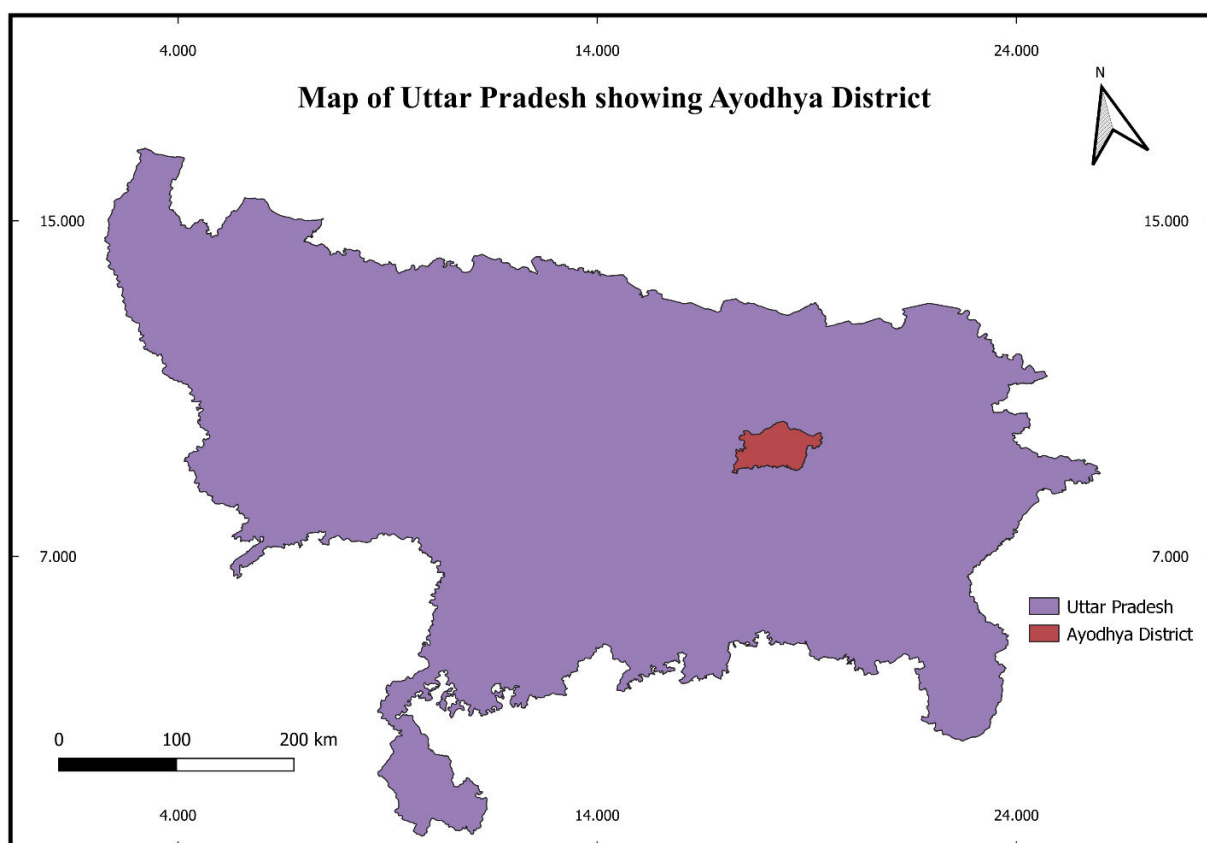


Fig-2: Map of Uttar Pradesh showing the district Ayodhya

Factors Influencing Urbanization

The urbanization of Ayodhya is due to a confluence of a number of different reasons. The expansion of the tourist trade is a major reason. Legend has it that Lord Ram, a central figure in Hinduism, was born in the city of Ayodhya. Tourists from all over India and the world flock to the city to see its many temples and other holy monuments. Since there are more visitors, the hospitality sector has expanded, which has boosted related sectors including the building and transportation industries, as well as retail.

The improvement of Ayodhya's physical infrastructure is another reason in the city's rapid urbanization. A number of projects, including new roads, bridges, and flyovers, have been initiated by the government to enhance Ayodhya's physical infrastructure.

Ayodhya's urbanization has been affected by the controversy surrounding the Ram Janmabhoomi and the Babri Mosque. For decades, the conflict has been a flashpoint between the city's Hindus and Muslims, escalating into many acts of violence. There has been a rise in

government and media attention to the city due to the disagreement. Since then, the city's infrastructure and other activities have improved thanks to the greater attention.

Challenges Associated with Urban Population Growth

1. **Housing and Basic Amenities:** Ayodhya District has difficulties providing for its growing urban population in the areas of housing and essential services including water, sewage, and power.
2. **Environmental Impact:** Increased air and noise pollution, solid waste management challenges, and the disappearance of green areas are the major environmental repercussions of fast urbanization.
3. **Social Issues:** We look at how Ayodhya District's booming population might affect the area's social fabric, including the rise of new crime trends, the worsening of existing traffic problems, and the stress on already overburdened healthcare and schooling systems.

Discussion

From 2001 to 2011, Ayodhya saw a period of rapid development that altered the city's physical appearance. Ayodhya is becoming more urbanized as shown by its growing population, thriving building sector, and improved access to essential services. There are a number of causes that have led to increased urbanization, including the expansion of the tourist sector, improvements in transportation, and the Ram Janmabhoomi- Babri Masjid controversy.

It will be crucial for Ayodhya's politicians to guarantee that the city's continued development and progress would be sustainable and beneficial to all residents. In addition to policies that foster economic growth and social progress, investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare will be necessary. Protecting and honoring the city's religious and cultural traditions while also fostering mutual respect amongst believers of different faiths will be crucial.

Conclusion

The rising percentage of the urban population in Ayodhya District, from 13.46% in 2001 to 13.77% in 2011, is a source of both promise and peril for the area. When compared to the rest of Uttar Pradesh, it is clear that better urban planning and sustainable development measures are needed. Ayodhya District has the potential to create a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable urban environment by tackling housing, basic utilities, environmental impact, and social well-being challenges. Moreover, the district's rate of urbanization is far lower than that of the whole state, where population growth is linear.

Sustainable Urbanization for Successful Development- As Ayodhya continues to urbanize, sustainable development depends on the applied management of urban growth, mainly in low income and low middle income regions.

References

- Census of India. (2011). District Census Handbook: Ayodhya. Government of India. Retrieved from https://censusindia.gov.in/2011census/dchb/DCHB_A/09/0917_Part_A_DCHB_Faizabad.pdf
- Chakraborty, D., & Nag, B. (2019). Urbanization and Regional Sustainability in India. In Handbook of Environmental Materials Management (pp. 1-21). Springer, Cham.
- Devi, P., & Pandey, D. (2018). Urbanization in Uttar Pradesh: An Analysis of Level, Pattern, and Determinants. *Space and Culture, India*, 6(3), 5-20.
- Ghosh, A., & Roy, P. (2019). Urbanization in India: A Spatio-temporal Analysis Using Census Data. *Journal of Settlements and Spatial Planning*, 10(1), 1-10.
- Gupta, K., & Sharma, R. (2014). Sustainable Urban Planning and Development in India. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 7(4), 15-30.
- Mathur, O. P. (2013). Urban Growth Strategies: Uttar Pradesh, India. International Growth Centre. Retrieved from <https://www.theigc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Mathur-2013-Working-Paper.pdf>
- Roy, A., & Oommen, M. A. (2018). Urbanization in Uttar Pradesh: An Analysis of Pattern and Determinants. *Theoretical and Empirical Researches in Urban Management*, 13(1), 57-71.
- Singh, R. B., & Kumar, D. (2016). *Urban Development Challenges, Risks and Resilience in Asian Mega Cities*. Springer.
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. (2018). *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision*. Retrieved from <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Report.pdf>
- Census of India. (2001). Ayodhya City Population Census 2001-2021. Retrieved from <https://www.census2011.co.in/data/town/800824-ayodhya-uttar-pradesh.html>
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. (2016). *Key Indicators of Construction Sector in India*. Retrieved from https://mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/KI_Construction_sector_2016.pdf
- Uttar Pradesh Tourism. (n.d.). Ayodhya. Retrieved from <https://www.uptourism.gov.in/destination/ayodhya>
- United Nations Development Programme (2018). *Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 Statistical Update*. Retrieved from http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf