

GROWING NUMBER AND SIZE OF TOWNS/CITIES IN HARYANA: A GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Haryana, like India, is urbanizing rapidly and about 8.8 million people live in 154 towns/cities (Census of India, 2011) across the state which constitutes about 34.79 per cent of the total population. The number of towns/cities has significantly increased from 106 in 2001 to 154 in 2011 with a decadal increase of 48 towns.

The study of growth of towns/cities by size class is helpful in understanding the stages of urban development in a country/state. The present paper, therefore, is a modest attempt to investigate the growing number of towns/cities by size class in Haryana since 1951. It is based on census data from 1951-2011.

Urban population of Haryana recorded nearly 10 times increase; from 9.68 lakh persons in 1951 to 88.2 lakh in 2011. A large part of increase in urban population is attributed to emergence of new towns to take the total number of towns to 154 in 2011 as compared to 62 in 1951.

In order to provide a meaningful analysis of the changes in size-class composition of urban population, the various categories of urban centres have been divided into four groups: (i) *cities* (the urban centres with population of one lakh and more); however, the cities with population of 10 lakh and more, i.e. one million and above, are termed as *million plus cities*; (ii) *large towns* (the urban centres with population of 50,000 to 99,999); (iii) *medium towns* (the urban centres with population of 20,000 to 49,999); and (iv) *small towns* (the urban centres with population of <5000 to 19,999).

Though, the *small towns* (having population of less than 20,000 persons) predominate in the hierarchy of towns, but the proportion of urban population residing in these towns is on continuous decrease from 37.34 per cent in 1951 to 9.12 per cent in 2011. By comparison, about three-fourth (68.02 per cent) of the total urban population of the state is living in the *cities* and

million-plus cities as per 2011 census. This shows that the majority of population prefers to live in *cities* and *million-plus cities* mainly because of better urban amenities and employment avenues available there.

KeyWords: growth, towns, cities, urban centres, million plus cities, amenities and employment avenues, post-independence period.

Introduction

Haryana, like India, is urbanizing rapidly and about 8.8 million people live in 154 towns/cities (Census of India, 2011) across the state which constitutes about 34.79 per cent of the total population. The number of towns/cities has significantly increased from 106 in 2001 to 154 in 2011 with a decadal increase of 48 towns.

The study of growth of towns/cities by size class is helpful in understanding the stages of urban development in a country/state. Haryana, as one of the developed states of India, has seen a considerable change in the number of urban settlements during 1951-2011 period. The present study, therefore, is a modest attempt to investigate the growing number of towns/cities by size class in Haryana since 1951. It is based on census data from 1951-2011.

Literature Cited

As compared to voluminous literature available on urbanisation in India and abroad, the studies dealing with various aspects of urbanization and urban growth in Haryana are only a few. The notable contributions are of Krishan and Chandna (1973), Chandna (1982), Bhagat (1992) and Sangwan (2008).

Objectives

Following two-fold basic objectives have been taken to pursue the present research work:

1. To explain the trend of demographic change in the urban settlements;
2. To describe the distribution of urban population by size class of towns

Data Base and Methodology

To accomplish the above objectives, the data on the growth of urban centres by their size class have been obtained mainly from secondary sources like census publications and occasional papers published by Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, Chandigarh and Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, New Delhi. The present study will cover a period

of 60 years (1951-2011) for which a reliable and continuous data on various demographic attributes and growth of urban centres in Haryana are available.

As per Census of India, the urban centres have been divided into six classes, viz. Class-I, Class-II, Class-III, Class-IV, Class-V, and Class-VI. However, in order to provide a meaningful analysis of the changes in size-class composition of urban population, all the six categories of urban centres have been divided into four groups: (i) *cities* (the urban centres with population of one lakh and more) comprising Class-I towns; however, the cities with population of 10 lakh and more, i.e. one million and above, are termed as *million plus cities*; (ii) *large towns* (the urban centres with population of 50,000 to 99,999) comprising Class-II towns; (iii) *medium towns* (the urban centres with population of 20,000 to 49,999) comprising Class-III towns; and (iv) *small towns* (the urban centres with population of <5000 to 19,999) comprising Class-IV (10,000-19,999), Class-V (5,000-9,999) and Class-VI (< 5000) towns.

To comprehend this task, methodological tools adopted include mainly ratio and percentage to arrive at meaningful conclusions.

Growth of Towns/Cities in Haryana: A Temporal Analysis (1951-2011)

In 1901, the urban population of Haryana was only 5.7 lakh persons which has become 88.2 lakh in 2011, registering more than 15 times increase in its urban population. So, Haryana is experiencing rapid rate of population growth and urbanization. However, urban population of Haryana recorded nearly 10 times increase; from 9.68 lakh persons in 1951 to 88.2 lakh in 2011. A large part of increase in urban population is attributed to emergence of new towns to take the total number of towns to 154 in 2011 as compared to 62 in 1951.

In 1951, there were 62 towns in Haryana comprising total urban population of 9.68 lakh persons. However, upto 1951, there was no Class I town in the state. There were only 6 *large towns* (Class II) at that time, but they accounted for the highest proportion (39.62 per cent) of total urban population of Haryana. The *medium towns* (Class III) were eight in number. Together these towns accounted for 23.04 per cent of the total urban population. Though the number of *small towns* was more than three times (48) that of *large* (6) and *medium* (8) towns, but contained a little more than half of the population (37.34 per cent) of these towns if combined together ([Table 1](#)).

Table 1: Haryana: Urban Population by Size Class of Towns/Cities, 1951

Size Class of Towns/Cities	Population Size	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	10,00,000 & above	Nil	Nil
City/Cities			
Class I	1,00,000 & above	Nil	Nil
Large Towns			
Class II	50,000-99,999	6	39.62
Medium Towns			
Class III	20,000-49,999	8	23.04
Small Towns	<5,000-19,999	48	37.34
Class IV	10,000-19,999	12	17.65
Class V	5,000- 9,999	18	13.95
Class VI	Below 5,000	18	5.74
Classes I-VI		62	100.00

Source: Computed from *Census Publications*.

During the decade of 1951-61, three towns namely Kaithal Mandi, Karnal Civil Lines and Ambala Civil Lines were declassified for not satisfying the new definition laid down in 1961 census. Two towns of Ukhanamandi and Pehowa were added to the list of towns in 1961, thus taking the strength of towns to 61 in 1961 recording 35.02 per cent decennial growth in urban population during 1951-61 (Table 2).

As a significant development, the first and foremost Class I town emerged in the state in 1961. Ambala Cantt. has achieved this distinction containing 8.07 per cent of the total urban population in the state. The *large towns* had the highest proportion (36.22 per cent) of urban population, followed by *medium* (28.39 per cent) and *small* (27.32 per cent) towns. However, the number of *small towns* (42) was more than two times that of *medium* (11) and *large towns* (7) combined together (Table 2).

The decade of 1961-71 was full of activities in Haryana. The state got full statehood on 1st of November, 1966. This induced new zeal and enthusiasm among the masses, bureaucracy and the leadership in the state. They showed their renewed faith in development of the state. Administrative and developmental activities started expanding on large scale resulting into the emergence of new urban centres. Thus, the tempo of urban growth in Haryana continued during 1961-71 when it experienced decadal growth of 35.58 per cent in its urban population and the number of towns increased to 65, accommodating 17.67 per cent of the total population of the state, in 1971.

During this decade (1961-71), after Ambala Cantt., Rohtak emerged as another *city* of Haryana and both the cities accommodated 12.82 per cent of urban population. There were nine *large*

towns, namely Karnal, Hisar, Panipat, Faridabad Township, Ambala, Bhiwani, Yamunanagar, Sonipat and Gurgaon and still had the highest proportion (39.75 per cent) of urban population. If *cities* and *large towns* are combined together, they contain more than half (52.57 per cent) of the total urban population of the state in 1971 (Table 2).

Table 2: Haryana: Urban Population by Size-Class of Towns/Cities, 1961 and 1971

Size-Class of Towns/Cities	1961		1971	
	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
City/Cities				
Class I	1	8.07	2	12.82
Large Towns				
Class II	7	36.22	9	39.75
Medium Towns				
Class III	11	28.39	14	26.06
Small Towns	42	27.32	40	21.37
Class IV	15	15.68	15	12.54
Class V	15	8.24	20	7.84
Class VI	12	3.40	05	0.99
Classes I-VI	61	100.00	65	100.00

Sources: i) Census of India (1991), *General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstract*, Series-8, Haryana, Part II-A&B, Statement-1&2, pp. 161-164.

ii) Census of India (2001), *General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4)*, Series-7, India, Statements-1 & 3, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 119 -131.

Out of the total of 65 towns, 40 were *small towns*, revealing their predominance in the hierarchy of towns in the state. However, the proportion of urban population contained in these *small towns* was only 21.37 per cent (Table 2). In absolute terms, the increase of 46.5 thousand persons in urban population during this decade was practically the same as total urban population (48 thousand) in the state in 1921.

The momentum of urbanisation further increased in the state during **1971-81**, as the administrative and developmental activities expanded on large scale resulting into the emergence of new administrative centres. As many as 16 new towns emerged, to take the number of towns to 81 in the state. The number of *cities* (**Class I towns**) increased to 9 in 1981 containing highest proportion (47.02 per cent) of urban population (Table 3) as compared to 2 in 1971 consisting of only 12.82 per cent of total urban population (Table 2). In absolute terms, the increase of 10.5

lakh persons in urban population during this decade was a little bit more than the total urban population (9.6 lakhs) in the state in 1951.

The decade (1981-91) took urban population in the state to 40.5 lakh, registering an increase of 43.41 per cent. The proportion of urban population also increased to 24.63 per cent from 21.88 per cent in 1981. Fifteen new towns were added, taking number of towns to 94 because two towns of Jharsa and Rania have been declassified as rural in 1991. Out of these 15 towns, there were 8 census towns and 7 statutory towns. Bilaspur, Dharuhera, Dundaheera, Farakhpur, KheriSampla, Mustafabad, Pinjore (rural) and UnchaSiwana have been treated as census towns for the first time in 1991 census. Whereas, Cheeka, Narnaund, Punhana, Siwani, Ellenabad and Kharkhoda have been notified as statutory towns. Tosham NAC, which had been declassified in 1981 census, again got the status of a town with a municipal committee in 1991 census.

With the upgradation of Gurgaon and Sirsa as Class I towns, the number of *cities* increased to 11 in 1991 comprising highest proportion (52.93 per cent) of urban population, which is more than half of the total urban population of the state. In 1991, the *cities* were followed by *large towns* (Class II towns) in terms of the proportion of urban population (18.99 per cent) (Table 4). However, the *large towns* had the maximum urban population (39.75 per cent) amongst all towns of the state in 1971. It explains that roughly one fourth of the towns of Haryana in Class I and II categories were responsible for three-fourth of the total urban population of the state in 1991.

Thanesar, Ambala Sadar, Narnaul, Palwal and Jagadhari having the status of *medium towns* (Class III towns) and Punchkula Urban Estate having the status of *small town* (Class IV town) in 1981 census have been upgraded as *large towns* (Class II towns) as per 1991 census. There were 31 Class IV towns which outnumber in numerical strength as compared to other size classes in 1991 census. But these towns comprise only 10.78 per cent of the total urban population. Similarly, in terms of numerical strength, the number of Class V towns (21) was next to Class IV towns, but the proportion of urban population accommodated by them was merely 3.94 per cent (Table 3).

Table 3: Haryana: Urban Population by Size-Class of Towns/Cities, 1981 and 1991

Size-Class of Towns/Cities	1981		1991	
	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
City				
Class I	9	47.02	11	52.92
Large Towns				
Class II	7	16.84	11	18.99
Medium Towns				
Class III	15	17.72	18	13.14
Small Towns	50	18.42	54	14.95
Class IV	25	12.04	31	10.78
Class V	23	6.11	21	3.94
Class VI	02	0.27	2	0.23
Classes I-VI	81	100.00	94	100.00

Sources: i) Census of India (1991), *General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstract*, Series-8, Haryana, Part II-A&B, Statement-1&2, pp. 161-164.

ii) Census of India (2001), *General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4)*, Series-7, India, Statements-1 & 3, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 119 -131.

Out of the total of 94 towns, 54 were *small towns* (having population of less than 20,000 persons), which accommodated only 14.95 per cent of the total urban population in the state (Table 3).

During the last decade (1991-2001) of 20th century, fourteen new towns were added, taking the number of towns to 106 because two towns of HMT Pinjore and Jagadhri Workshop Railway Colony have been declassified in 2001. Out of these 106 towns, there were 84 statutory towns and 22 census towns containing 28.92 per cent of the total population of Haryana.

With the upgradation of Panchkula Urban Estate, Ambala, Jind, Bahadurgarh, Thanesar, Kaithal, Rewari and Palwal as Class I towns, the number of *cities/UAs* increased to 20 in 2001 comprising 69.37 per cent of urban population, which is about three-fourth of the total urban population of the State. Total urban population of *cities* (44.36 lakh persons) in 2001 is more than the total urban population of the state (40.55 persons) in 1991. Faridabad Municipal Corporation with total population of 10.55 lakh person emerged as the first *million-plus city* of Haryana in 2001 census claiming 17.25 per cent of the total urban population of the state (Table 4).

Table 4: Haryana: Urban Population by Size-Class of Towns, 2001 and 2011

Size-Class of Towns/City	2001		2011	
	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population	Number of Towns	Per cent Urban Population
Million-Plus City	1	17.25	1	15.99
City				
Class I	19	52.12	19	52.03
Large Towns				
Class II	7	6.79	11	7.99
Medium Towns				
Class III	26	12.98	45	14.87
Small Towns	53	10.86	78	9.12
Class IV	36	8.68	34	5.80
Class V	16	2.11	36	2.97
Class VI	1	0.07	8	0.35
Classes I-VI	106	100.00	154	100.00

- Sources: i) Census of India (1991), *General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstract*, Series-8, Haryana, Part II-A&B, Statement-1&2, pp. 161-164.
- ii) Census of India (2001), *General Population Tables, Haryana (Tables A-1 to A-4)*, Series-7, India, Statements-1 & 3, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, pp. 119 - 131.
- iii) Census of India (2011), *Primary Census Abstract, Haryana, Series 7, Tables -A5-A8*, Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana.

The share of the state's urban population in *large towns* (Class II towns) is only 6.79 per cent, whereas *medium towns* (Class III towns) account for 12.98 per cent. There were 36 towns in Class IV, which outnumber in numerical strength as compared to other size classes in 2001 census. But these towns comprise only 8.68 per cent of the total urban population of the state (Table 4).

Out of the total of 106 towns in Haryana, 53 were *small towns* (having population of less than 20,000 persons) which accommodated only 10.86 per cent of the total urban population in the State (Table 4).

During the first decade (2001-2011) of 21st century, forty eight new towns were added, taking the number of towns to 154 in 2011. Out of these 154 towns, there were 80 statutory towns and 74 census towns containing 34.79 per cent of the total population of Haryana.

Unlike the increasing trend in the number of *cities* and *million-plus cities* during post-Independence period of 20th century, the number remained unchanged in the first decade of 21st

century. The number of *cities* and *million-plus cities* was 20 in 2001 comprising 69.37 per cent of urban population, but it remained the same in 2011 containing marginally lower proportion of urban population (68.02 per cent) (Table 4).

The noteworthy point of this decade is that though there is an alarming increase in the number of *medium towns* (Class III towns) from 26 in 2001 to 45 in 2011 and they outnumber in numerical strength as compared to other size classes of towns, but these have experienced only a marginal increase of 1.89 per cent of the state's urban population (from 12.98 per cent in 2001 to 14.87 per cent in 2011).

Like previous census years, though the *small towns* outnumber in numerical strength (78) in 2011 also, but the proportion of urban population contained in these *small towns* is on continuous decrease from 37.34 per cent in 1951 to 9.12 per cent in 2011 (Table 4).

At present, there are 154 urban centres in total which are spread over 21 districts, as against the 61 urban centres scattered in 7 districts in 1966 at the time of the formulation of Haryana as a separate state.

CONCLUSIONS

In 1951, there were 62 towns in Haryana comprising total urban population of 9.68 lakh persons. However, upto 1951, there was no Class I town in the state. There were only 6 *large towns* (Class II) at that time, but they accounted for the highest proportion (39.62 per cent) of total urban population of Haryana. The *medium towns* (Class III) were eight in number. Together these towns accounted for 23.04 per cent of the total urban population. Though the number of *small towns* was more than three times (48) that of *large* (6) and *medium* (8) towns, but contained a little more than half of the population (37.34 per cent) of these towns if combined together.

In terms of proportion of urban population to total population, the *large towns* (Class II towns) dominated the scene in the state over a period of three decades from 1951-1971. However, in terms of numerical strength, the *large towns* (22) were less than seven times that of *medium* (33) and *small towns* (130) combined together over this period.

Though the *small towns* (having population of less than 20,000 persons) outnumber in numerical strength in all the six decades from 1951 to 2011, but the proportion of urban population contained in these *small towns* is on continuous decrease from 37.34 per cent in 1951 to 9.12 per cent in 2011. This type of tendency certainly reflects the imbalance of distribution but at the same time it indicates the more definite and dynamic pattern of urban development.

Ambala Cantt. got the distinction of becoming the first and foremost *city* of the state in 1961 census. Rohtak achieved the status of being the second *city* of the state in 1971. Faridabad Municipal Corporation with total population of 10.55 lakh persons emerged as the first *million-plus city* of Haryana in 2001 census claiming 17.25 per cent (about one-sixth) of the total urban population of the state.

At present, there are 20 cities, including the *million-plus city* of Faridabad Municipal Corporation, comprising the highest proportion (68.02 per cent) of urban population which is a little less than three-fourth of the total urban population of the state. This shows that the majority of population prefers to live in cities and *million-plus cities* mainly because of better urban amenities and employment avenues available there.

According to 2011 census, Faridabad (M. Corp.) (14.14 lakh persons), being the industrial capital of the state, is the largest city of the state of Haryana, and is followed by the cities of Gurgaon (8.87 lakh), Rohtak (3.74 lakh persons), Hisar (3.07 lakh persons), Karnal (3.02 lakh persons) and Panipat (2.96 lakh persons).

Haryana registered more than 15 times increase in its urban population from 5.7 lakh persons in 1901 to 88.2 lakh in 2011. This was concomitant with a rise in the number of towns from 54 to 154.

In nutshell, the total number of 92 urban centres emerged during post-Independence period, whereas more than half (60 urban centres) out of the total of 154 urban centres in the state emerged only during last two decades of 1991-2001 (12 urban centres) and 2001-2011 (48 urban centres).

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