

## THE IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON SOCIAL LIFE AND ENVIRONMENT

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### Abstrak

*Urbanization is a social phenomenon that continues to develop alongside modernization and regional development, particularly in developing countries such as Indonesia. The movement of populations from rural to urban areas generates various impacts on demographic structures, social relations, and urban environmental conditions. In practice, urbanization is often accompanied by social problems, including the weakening of social cohesion, changes in family structures, and increasing social inequality. Rapid urban growth also triggers environmental challenges such as pollution, land-use conversion, overcrowding, and declining quality of urban living spaces. This study employs a qualitative approach through a literature review of scientific journals, academic books, and relevant previous research. The analysis focuses on examining the relationship between urban growth, social transformation, and environmental sustainability. The findings indicate that urbanization should not be understood solely as population movement, but as a multidimensional phenomenon that requires integrated planning, social awareness, and environmental responsibility to improve urban quality of life*

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## INTRODUCTION

The development of modern society cannot be separated from the process of urbanization. continues to take place from time to time. Urbanization is one of the social phenomena that most prominent in the dynamics of development, especially in developing countries such as Indonesia. Population movement from rural to urban areas occurs as part of individual and group efforts to achieve a life that is considered better, both in terms of economics, education, and access to various public facilities. The city then perceived as a space that offers job opportunities, advancement, and social mobility which is more open than rural areas. However, behind this assumption, urbanization does not always have a positive impact overall.

The rapid growth of population in urban areas often occurs not balanced with infrastructure readiness, urban planning, and environmental capacity adequate. This condition gives rise to various social and environmental problems which increasingly complex. Problems such as population density, the emergence of residential areas slums, increasing unemployment rates, and weakening social solidarity a reality that is often encountered in big cities. Urbanization ultimately not only changes demographic structure, but also influences the social life patterns of society in general deep.

Apart from social impacts, urbanization also puts significant pressure on environment. Land conversion, reduced green open space, increased waste volume, and the deterioration of air and water quality are some of the consequences of population growth. uncontrolled city. High industrial activity, transportation, and energy consumption in Urban areas also accelerate environmental degradation. If not managed properly, This condition has the potential to cause an environmental crisis which will have a direct impact on the quality of life, life of urban communities and surrounding areas.

Urbanization is becoming an increasingly relevant phenomenon to study. The flow of migration The population of big cities such as Jakarta, Surabaya, Bandung and Medan continues to increase along with the development disparity between villages and cities. These cities become center of economic growth as well as a magnet for villagers who hope to obtain a more decent life. However, the reality faced is often not in accordance with expectations. Many immigrants end up working in the informal sector at a low level, low welfare, living in an inadequate environment, and facing various

social and health risks. Based on these conditions, urbanization needs to be understood not only as a process of population movement, but also as a multidimensional phenomenon that have a wide impact on social and environmental life.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative method with an analytical descriptive approach. through literature study. This method was chosen because it is appropriate to the object of study which is of a conceptual and theoretical, namely urbanization and its impact on social life and environment. Research data was obtained from various written sources such as sociology books urban, development and environmental studies, scientific journals, and research reports which are relevant to the theme of urbanization. These sources are used to understand the concept of urbanization, the factors that influence it, and the various impacts it causes on the social structure of society and environmental conditions. The data that has been collected then analyzed systematically by identifying the main concepts, relationship patterns, and important findings related to the impact of urbanization. Through this method, research is expected to be able to provide a clear and structured understanding regarding the phenomenon of urbanization and its implications for social and environmental life.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **DEFINITION OF URBANIZATION**

Urbanization is one of the most prominent social phenomena in the dynamics of changes in modern society. In general, urbanization is understood as the process of migration population from rural areas to urban areas which occurs continuously. This movement is usually driven by various factors, such as the hope of getting a job. better access to education, wider access to education, and the availability of public facilities. considered more adequate in the city. In this sense, urbanization is not only related to aspects of population mobility, but also reflects changes in lifestyle and thinking patterns the community involved in it (Bandiyono and Kurnia Fitria Indrawardani, 2010: 41).

In sociological studies, urbanization is seen as a social process that brings changes in the structure and organization of society. Cities are not just destinations for migration,

but also becomes a social space that forms new values, norms and interaction patterns. When individuals or groups move to cities, they are confronted with a new social environment, which is different from rural life, both in terms of population heterogeneity, level of competition, as well as a faster pace of life. Therefore, urbanization often accompanied by a social adaptation process that is not simple and can give rise to various challenges in everyday life.

Apart from being a process of population movement, urbanization can also be understood as the process of regional change. Rapid urban growth has led to the expansion of the area urban areas to the outskirts, which were previously rural areas. This change is marked by the conversion of agricultural land into residential areas, industrial and trade centers. In this context, urbanization is not always characterized by migration population directly, but also by the transformation of the character of the region from rural to urban. urban areas, both physically and socially

## **TYPES OF URBANIZATION**

Urbanization does not occur in one and the same form, but can be differentiated into several types based on population movement patterns and the character of changes the area in which it occurs. The differences in the types of urbanization show that the process towards urban life can occur in various ways and stages, depending on conditions social, economic, and development policies of a region. By understanding the types of urbanization, this phenomenon can be analyzed in more depth and is not seen uniform process.

The most common type of urbanization is rural-urban urbanization, which is the movement of population directly from rural areas to urban areas. This type of urbanization This is usually triggered by limited employment opportunities in the village, low income in the agricultural sector agriculture, as well as the city's attractions that offer economic opportunities, education, and facilities more complete public. The migration of villagers to cities often takes place in large numbers and is a major factor in the increasing urban population density. In addition, There is also non-permanent urbanization or temporary urbanization. This type of urbanization is characterized by with the movement of people to the city for a certain period of time without the intention of settling permanently permanent. Examples are villagers who come to the

city for seasonal work, pursue education, or trade, but still maintain ties with their home village. Even though it is temporary, this type of urbanization still has an impact on social dynamics and urban economy, especially in the informal sector (Bintarto, 1998: 32).

The next type is urbanization through the expansion of urban areas. This urbanization is not always accompanied by population movement, but occurs due to the expansion of administrative boundaries and physical city to the surrounding suburbs or villages. As a result, the areas that previously rural areas have changed into urban areas with changes in function land, livelihoods, and lifestyles of its people. In this context, the community local people experience urbanization without having to move residence. In addition, it is also known economic urbanization, namely the urbanization process characterized by a shift in economic activity

society from the agricultural sector to the industrial and service sectors. This type of urbanization often occurs goes hand in hand with industrialization and urban infrastructure development. Although not always followed by physical population movement, this change in economic structure encouraging the emergence of new and increasingly complex urban life patterns. With the existence of various types of urbanization, it can be understood that urbanization is a diverse and interrelated process. Each type of urbanization has its own different characteristics and impacts on social life and the environment. Therefore Therefore, grouping types of urbanization is important as a basis for analyzing the impacts and formulate more appropriate urban development policies

## **FACTORS INFLUENCING URBANIZATION**

Urbanization is influenced by various factors that are interrelated and form individual and group decisions to move to urban areas. Factors can be explained as follows:

### **a. Economic Factors**

Economic factors are the main driver of urbanization. Limited employment opportunities work in rural areas, low community income, and dependence on the agricultural sector which is not always promising, encourages villagers to seek alternative livelihoods in the city. Cities are seen as centers of economic activity that

offer more diverse job opportunities, especially in the industrial and service sectors, thus attracting people's interest in moving.

#### **b. Social Factors**

Besides economic factors, social factors also have a major influence on urbanization. Access to better education, more adequate health services, and public facilities more complete and become the main attraction of the city. Villagers often view life urban areas as a symbol of progress and modernity, which then influences value orientations and their lifestyle.

#### **c. Development Factors and Government Policy**

More centralized development policies in urban areas have also accelerated the pace of development. urbanization. Development of infrastructure, industrial areas, and government centers in cities causing development disparities between villages and cities. This condition encourage rural residents to move to cities to gain access to agricultural products the development (Daldjoeni, 2003: 89).

#### **d. Environmental Factors**

Environmental factors are also a cause of urbanization, especially when the area rural areas are experiencing a decline in environmental quality. Natural disasters, land degradation, and Climate change that impacts the agricultural sector is forcing some rural communities to leave their native areas and seek a safer life in the city.

#### **e. Cultural and Psychological Factors**

The desire to improve social status, seek new experiences, and influence media and information also influence urbanization decisions. Cities are often perceived as a place that offers a more modern and prestigious life, thus encouraging society, especially the younger generation, to migrate to urban areas (Damsar and Indrayani, 2014: 140-150)

### **URBANIZATION PROCESS**

The series of urbanization processes takes place gradually and continuously, it does not happen in a short time, and involves various aspects of community life. Urbanization begins with the existence of social and economic disparities between rural and urban areas, which then encouraged village residents to move to cities. In the initial stages, this processusually characterized by the migration of certain individuals or

groups, such as productive age and job seekers, who try their luck in urban areas by taking advantage of opportunities available economy.

As time goes by, the flow of population movement increases and forming a broader pattern of urbanization. Immigrants began to settle permanently in cities, building new social networks, as well as adapting to urban life which has different character from the village. At this stage, the urbanization process does not only involve physical movement of the population, but also changes in lifestyle, work patterns, and value orientations community. Immigrant communities are slowly adapting to the rhythm of life faster, more competitive and heterogeneous cities. The urbanization process is also marked by physical and spatial changes in urban areas.

Population growth encourages the expansion of residential areas, the development of suburban areas, as well as the conversion of land from agricultural to residential areas housing, industry, and trade. These changes often occur more rapidly compared to the government's ability to provide infrastructure and public services. inadequate, thus giving rise to various urban problems.

## **IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

Urbanization has a significant impact on the social structure of society, both in urban areas and in the areas of origin of migrating residents. Population migration from village to city causes changes in the social composition of society, especially increasing heterogeneity of the urban population. Cities have become meeting places for people from various backgrounds different social, cultural and economic backgrounds, so that the social structure of urban society tends to be more complex compared to relatively homogeneous rural communities.

One of the main impacts of urbanization on social structure is changes in patterns. relationships between individuals. Social relations in urban areas tend to be formal, functional, and interest-based, in contrast to rural life which places more emphasis on family ties. family and social solidarity. Urbanization encourages the emergence of social relationships that more individualistic, where interactions between citizens are often limited to certain interests such as jobs and economic activities. This condition is slowly shifting the values togetherness that was previously strong in traditional society (Damsar, 2013: 27).

Urbanization also affects social stratification in society. Urban growth rapid development is often followed by increasing social disparities between social groups those who have access to economic resources and those who do not. Immigrants who do not have adequate skills tend to work in the informal sector at a low level low income, while certain groups enjoy greater economic opportunities. This difference strengthens social strata in urban society and has the potential giving rise to various social problems such as poverty and marginalization. Therefore, the impact urbanization on social structures is not only seen in changes in the form of social relations, but also on the increasing complexity and inequality in society. Urbanization demands a high level of social adaptation capacity from the community, while also emphasizing the importance of the role of social policy in maintaining social balance and justice in the midst of ongoing urban growth.

## THE IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON SOCIAL LIFE

### a) Impact of Urbanization on Family Structure

In the perspective of the values of the Qur'an, the family is seen as the main foundation in building a harmonious and balanced social life. Family is not only understood as a biological unit, but also as an initial space for the formation of moral, spiritual and cultural values. social. The Qur'an places the family as a place where inner peace and balance of life, so that its existence is very important in maintaining stability of society at large. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of tranquility, compassion and responsibilities between family members which are often formulated in the concept of *sakinah*,

*Mawaddah, wa rahmah.* This concept describes family relationships that are based on peace of mind, deep love, and a sense of ongoing responsibility. These values should ideally be the main foundation in family life, both in the social environment both rural and urban areas, so that the family continues to function as a source of peace and character building (M. Quraish Shihab, 2017: 149).

However, the pressures of urban life due to urbanization often present challenges in realizing these values. High economic demands, the rhythm of busy work and limited time together can reduce the quality of interactions between family members. If this condition is not balanced with spiritual and ethical awareness social, then the values of

harmony in the family have the potential to weaken, so that the family lost its role as a space for moral and emotional development. Therefore, changes family structure due to urbanization does not only need to be understood as a social phenomenon alone, but also as a religious challenge. Urbanization demands a conscious effort to maintaining family resilience and harmony amidst the dynamics of modern life. By making the values of the Qur'an as an ethical foundation, families are expected to remain able maintain social and spiritual functions despite pressure and change caused by urban life.

### **b) Impact of Urbanization on Education**

Urbanization has a major influence on the direction and orientation of education in the region. urban areas. Education is no longer understood simply as a process of transferring knowledge, but also as a means of forming the quality of human beings who are able to be responsible for oneself and one's environment. The movement of people from rural to urban areas is often accompanied by with the hope of improving the quality of life through more appropriate education, so that Educational institutions in urban areas are an important space in forming a generation that intellectually and socially empowered. However, rapid population growth due to Urbanization is often not accompanied by adequate readiness of the education system.

Limited facilities, crowded study rooms, and minimal attention to coaching Students' attitudes and ethics are frequently encountered problems. In such conditions, education tends to be oriented towards academic achievement and technical skills, while the process of character formation, discipline, and social responsibility is not getting enough attention balanced attention (M. Amin Abdullah, 2014, 198).

Urbanization also affects the role of families in supporting children's education. Economic pressures in urban areas require parents to work harder and spend most of their time outside the home. As a result, supervision, guidance, and the instillation of basic values in the child's learning process is reduced. This situation can has an impact on the decline in the quality of the relationship between parents and children, as well as weakening the role of family as the initial space for the formation of personality and morals. Substantially, education should function as a process of formation a complete human being, not only intellectually intelligent, but also has ethical awareness and concern for others. The educational challenges resulting from urbanization require balance between mastery of knowledge and fostering human values. Without this

balance, education risks losing its direction and meaning, so that unable to produce individuals who are ready to contribute positively to social life increasingly complex.

### **c) Impact of Urbanization on Health**

Environmental changes that accompany urbanization often bring direct consequences for public health conditions. Population migration to areas Urbanization not only changes the place of residence, but also affects the rhythm of life daily life, from work patterns, resting habits, to eating habits. In this situation, many individuals have to adapt to time pressures and productivity demands. high, so that attention to personal health is something that is often neglected.

As a result, the balance between physical activity, bodily needs, and inner peace becomes increasingly difficult to maintain consistently. The city also provides various health facilities which is relatively more complete compared to rural areas. The existence of hospitals, clinics, and Diverse medical personnel should be a support for improving the quality of health community. However, the reality on the ground shows that the availability of these facilities does not always guarantee the achievement of optimal health conditions. Fast-paced lifestyle, consumption of instant food, as well as minimal rest time actually gives rise to various diseases related to lifestyle, such as respiratory disorders, high blood pressure, and prolonged physical fatigue (Triyono, 2014: 176).

Mental stress is another aspect that often appears in people's lives urban areas. Fierce job competition, economic uncertainty, and social relations that tend to be impersonal and can cause a significant psychological burden. Many individuals who appear physically healthy, but experience emotional exhaustion and loss of sense of well-being. comfortable in carrying out daily activities. This condition shows that health cannot be understood narrowly as the absence of disease, but rather includes balance between body, mind, and feelings.

Community groups with weak economic conditions face health risks. greater in the context of urbanization. Dense residential environments, poor sanitation adequate, as well as limited access to clean water and open spaces increases the possibility of the emergence of infectious diseases. This inequality shows that the problem urban health is closely related to the quality of the living environment and social concern between communities. Basically, health is closely related to how humans take care of

themselves, and its environment in a balanced manner. Urbanization should not only be seen as physical and economic development process, but also as a test of the ability community in maintaining the quality of life. Without this awareness, the city's progress has the potential to be hampered. ignoring the most basic aspect of human life, namely health as a prerequisite for the continuation of dignified social life (Triyono, 2014: 177).

#### **d) Impact of Urbanization on Social Life**

Urbanization brings quite fundamental changes to social life patterns. society. The movement of people from villages to cities does not only move people physically physical, but also shifting values, habits, and ways of interacting in everyday life. In rural areas, social relationships are usually closely linked through kinship ties, habits of mutual assistance, and emotional closeness between residents. On the other hand, life urban areas tend to form more limited interaction patterns, where social relationships often based on certain interests and takes place in a functional manner. One of them The most prominent impact of urbanization is the strengthening of individualistic attitudes in urban communities. Busy work schedules, social distancing between residents, and limited space for interaction together makes social relationships become strained. Many individuals live side by side in one environment, but do not know each other in depth. This condition causing a weakening of the sense of togetherness and social concern, so that society tend to focus on personal matters and ignore the surrounding environment.

Urbanization also influences the forms of social solidarity that develop in society. Solidarity that was previously mechanical and based on emotional closeness is slowly transformed into a more rational and interest-based solidarity. Social cooperation often appears only when there is a particular need, not as a growing habit naturally. As a result, the function of social control in urban society becomes weak, especially in monitoring deviant behavior and maintaining environmental order. On the other hand On the other hand, the social life of urban communities is also faced with a diversity of social backgrounds. and culture.

Urbanization brings together individuals from different regions, tribes, and customs living in the same social space. This diversity has the potential to enrich life social if managed well, but can also trigger social friction if not managed well. accompanied by an attitude of mutual understanding and respect. Therefore, social life

in urban areas demands collective awareness to build tolerance and shared responsibility (Suyanto, 2015: 69).

Examples of cases can be seen in densely populated residential areas in big cities such as Jakarta. In many urban residential areas, people live in very close proximity. However, social interaction between neighbors is relatively minimal. Mutual cooperation activities, night patrols, or Community meetings are becoming less frequent due to the busy schedules of each individual. In fact, In some cases, residents do not know each other even though they have lived together for years. in one environment. This condition shows that urbanization does not always result in a stronger social life, but it can actually weaken social ties if it is not balanced with efforts to build togetherness and social concern.

## **IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **a) Changes in Environmental Conditions Due to Urbanization**

The development of urban areas as a result of urbanization brings changes major impact on the surrounding environmental conditions. Conversion of land into residential areas, industrial centers, and transportation infrastructure is occurring massively along with the increasing number of city dwellers. Green areas that previously functioned as water catchment areas and ecosystem buffers are slowly diminishing, replaced by permanent buildings. These changes not only change the physical face of the city, but also affect the balance the environment as a whole.

Pressure on the environment is increasingly felt when urban growth is not accompanied by with adequate planning. Population density causes an increase in the need for clean water, energy, and living space, while the environmental carrying capacity has boundaries that are not always taken into account. As a result, various environmental problems begin to arise. emerge, such as declining soil quality, reduced green open space, and increasing volumes of domestic and industrial waste that are difficult to manage optimally (Emil Salim, 2011: 65).

Changes in environmental conditions due to urbanization also have a direct impact on quality. urban life. Increasingly dense environments with minimal green space affects the comfort, health, and tranquility of the residents' lives. Air temperature tends to increase, air circulation becomes less good, and the risk of environmental

disasters such as flooding is getting bigger. This condition shows that the environment is not just a background a place where humans carry out activities, but rather an important part that determines sustainability social life in urban areas.

### **b) Environmental Damage and Urban Ecological Risks**

The rapid expansion of urban areas often leaves behind problems. serious about environmental sustainability. The development of settlements, industrial areas, and massive transportation networks cause gradual environmental damage but sustainable. Green open spaces are increasingly under pressure, the natural function of the land as water absorption is reduced, and the balance of the urban ecosystem is under considerable pressure heavy. This condition shows that urban growth does not always go hand in hand with environmental protection efforts. Various ecological risks arise as a consequence of environmental damage in urban areas. One of the most common risks is the increased potential for Flooding due to reduced water catchment areas.

The ground surface is covered in concrete and asphalt. accelerate the flow of rainwater to drainage channels which are often unable to accommodate it large water discharge. In addition, degradation of soil and water quality also increases vulnerability cities against other environmental disasters, such as landslides and pollution of natural resources. Environmental damage in urban areas also has an impact on the declining quality of the ecosystem support human life. The loss of vegetation and natural habitats causes reduced biodiversity in urban areas. Animals and plants that previously play a role in maintaining ecological balance, forced to be eliminated or become extinct locally. These impacts are not always immediately visible, but in the long term they can disrupt environmental stability and increase the risk of wider damage (Otto Soemarwoto, 2010: 112).

Community groups living in densely populated and vulnerable areas are the ones who are most vulnerable. most affected by urban ecological risks. Polluted environment, quality of Decreased air quality, as well as limited access to green spaces, increases the threat to their health and safety of life. This inequality shows that the damage The environment is not only a matter of nature, but also a matter of social justice in management. urban space.

**c) Case Examples of the Impact of Urbanization on the Environment**

Various big cities in Indonesia clearly show how urbanization impact on environmental damage. Jakarta is one of the clearest examples, where Massive population growth and development have caused the conversion of green land on a large scale. The reduction in water catchment areas makes flooding a frequent occurrence. recurring, especially during the rainy season. In addition, the watershed area in the region urban areas experience a decline in quality due to the disposal of domestic and industrial waste, so that the river no longer functions as it should as a supporter of life and ecosystem.

Similar conditions also occur in industrial cities such as Surabaya and Bekasi, where industrial activities and the increasing number of motor vehicles worsen the quality of air environment. Air pollution, lack of green open spaces, and rising temperatures urban areas are becoming a problem that is increasingly felt by the community. Examples This shows that the impact of urbanization on the environment is real and directly felt in everyday life. Therefore, various environmental cases in urban areas need to be an important lesson so that development is not only growth-oriented, but also considering sustainability and quality of space human life (Otto Soemarwoto, 2010: 115).

## CONCLUSION

Urbanization is not just the movement of people from villages to cities, but rather a social processes that bring about major changes in the order of human life. This phenomenon born from the desire to obtain a more decent life, but in practice often gives rise to various new problems, both in the social and environmental spheres. Urbanization shows how the dynamics of development and population growth can create opportunities and challenges that go hand in hand. Therefore, urbanization needs to be understood as a complex process and cannot be assessed in a black and white manner. From the social life perspective, urbanization has changed the pattern of relations between individuals, the structure of family, as well as forms of community solidarity. Urban life demands speed, efficiency and high competitiveness tend to encourage individualistic lifestyles and weaken social ties. Economic pressures, limited time together, and demands Work also affects family harmony and the quality of social relationships. This condition shows that material progress does not always go hand in hand with inner peace and social balance if it is not accompanied by awareness of shared values and responsibilities.

Apart from social impacts, urbanization also brings serious consequences for the environment. Unmanaged urban growth leads to land conversion, air and water pollution, and the increasing risk of ecological disasters. Urban environment What should be a safe and comfortable living space often turns into source of problems for the community itself. This environmental damage is basically reflects the way humans treat nature without considering balance and long-term sustainability. A more holistic perspective is needed, which places humans as moral beings who have responsibilities towards others and the surrounding environment. Urban development should not only be oriented towards economic and physical growth, but also on the quality of life, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Thus, urbanization can be directed to become a more sustainable process. meaningful if managed with awareness of values, social concern, and an attitude of caring balance of life. When humans are able to organize urban life wisely, urbanization is no longer a source of destruction and inequality, but rather a path to prosperity the creation of a harmonious social life and a sustainable environment.

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