# Need Based Planning for Development of Census Towns; Requirements and Ways

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**ABSTRACT**

*This paper briefly deals with the issue of less development efforts put behind the development of the rural areas. There have been discussed the growth of rural areas into census towns. As census towns, in India are being defined as urban areas. It also deals with the possible ways of finding the gaps or lesser developed areas, or components be it infrastructural, administrative, or social. The idea of opinion of public have been put in centre and given more important to get the brief idea about performance of current government and government development programmes or schemes for the development of the rural areas.*

*In the last census the unexpected increase in the number of census towns, has thrust them into the spotlight. The new CTs account for almost 30% of the urban growth in the last decade(Pradhan 2013). The estimated contribution of migration is similar to that in previous intercensal periods. Further, the data indicates a dispersed pattern of in situ urbanisation, with the reluctance of state policy to recognise new statutory towns partly responsible for the growth of new CTs. A growing share of India's urban population, living in these CTs, is being governed under the rural administrative framework, despite very different demographic and economic characteristics, which may affect their future growth.*

***Keywords –****Rural development, Need based development planning, Liveability Index, Rural Governance*

## 1 Introduction

As we all know, around one third of India's population lives in rural areas, that itself shows the importance of developing them. (Census of India, 2011) There are also many other reasons like pressure on urban infrastructure which consequently makes very hard for any ULB to provide it.

As of today, we see a vast regional imbalance while comparing some urban areas with its very be siding rural areas, which would most probably be having almost same physical and social characteristics. It doesn't need any deep analysis or study to prove the same. So, what maybe the reason behind it? That maybe political, social or maybe financial. Whatever it maybe, but, as a result of that, there have been put very less efforts in developing rural areas in India.

Most of the importance is given just to increase urbanisation and achieve more industrialisation. There does exist some rankings like Ease of doing business or Liveability index for Cities or Smart city index. But we can rarely find any ranking which deals with the development level of rural areas. So first of all, we have discussed about growth of towns in India. The kind of governance in such areas is also discussed. And one of thedevelopment measures, measure of keeping opinions of citizens have been kept central idea which ultimately also becomes helpful to decide how much successful have past decisions becomes, how much past development programs have served to citizens and actually fulfilled the need of citizens actually.

## 2    Requirements of rural development

It has been discussed here that why is the rural development a important topic to be kept in mind while framing any policies. By observing the last census of India 2011, it was very interesting to know the growth of numbers of census towns in India. In the last census,the increase in the number of census towns has brought them into the spotlight.

From the data of census, the new census towns account nearly for 30% of the urban growth in the past decade(Pradhan 2013). The migration's estimated contribution is similar to that in previous census years. Further, the data of dispersed pattern of in situ urbanisation indicates, with the unwillingness of state policy to recognise new statutory towns partly responsible for the growth of new census towns. (Though, it is a different research topic to find out the reasons behind unwillingness of states to recognise new statutory towns.) A growing share of India's urban population, living in these census towns, is being governed under the rural administrative framework, despite very different demographic and economic characteristics, which may affect their future growth.

### 2.1    Definition of census towns

In India Urban areas are classified in three broad types:

- Statutory Towns (STs),
- Census Towns (CTs) and
- outgrowths (OGs).

Statutory towns are administratively declared urban areas by a state law which includes all manner of urban local

bodies (ULBs), such as municipalities, town panchayats, cantonment boards, etc,

Census towns are complete settlement units that are classified as urban areas by the Registrar General of India (RGI), as part of the census operations, if they cross the threshold on three specific urban characteristics, viz,

- Size (population of at least 5,000),
- Density (at least 400 persons per square kilometre) and
- Non-farm nature of workforce (at least 75% of male workforce in non-farm sector).

However, settlements declared as CTs continue to be administered as rural areas.

Kundu in his article have stated that; Outgrowths are viable units which emerge adjacent to, but outside the administrative limits of statutory towns. These areas are, however, not complete settlement units, like an entire village. Since the census schedules for urban and rural areas are different, settlements are identified as census towns before the start of the census operations. This has led some commentators to speculate that the urbanisation for 2011 may have been artificially inflated (Kundu 2011).

### 2.2    Growth of census towns

For the study of this urban and rural imbalance and the growth and the pace of growth of populations that are in urban areas and rural areas, the data of last census of India 2011 was done. And the major outcomes concerned that were brought out were as per below:
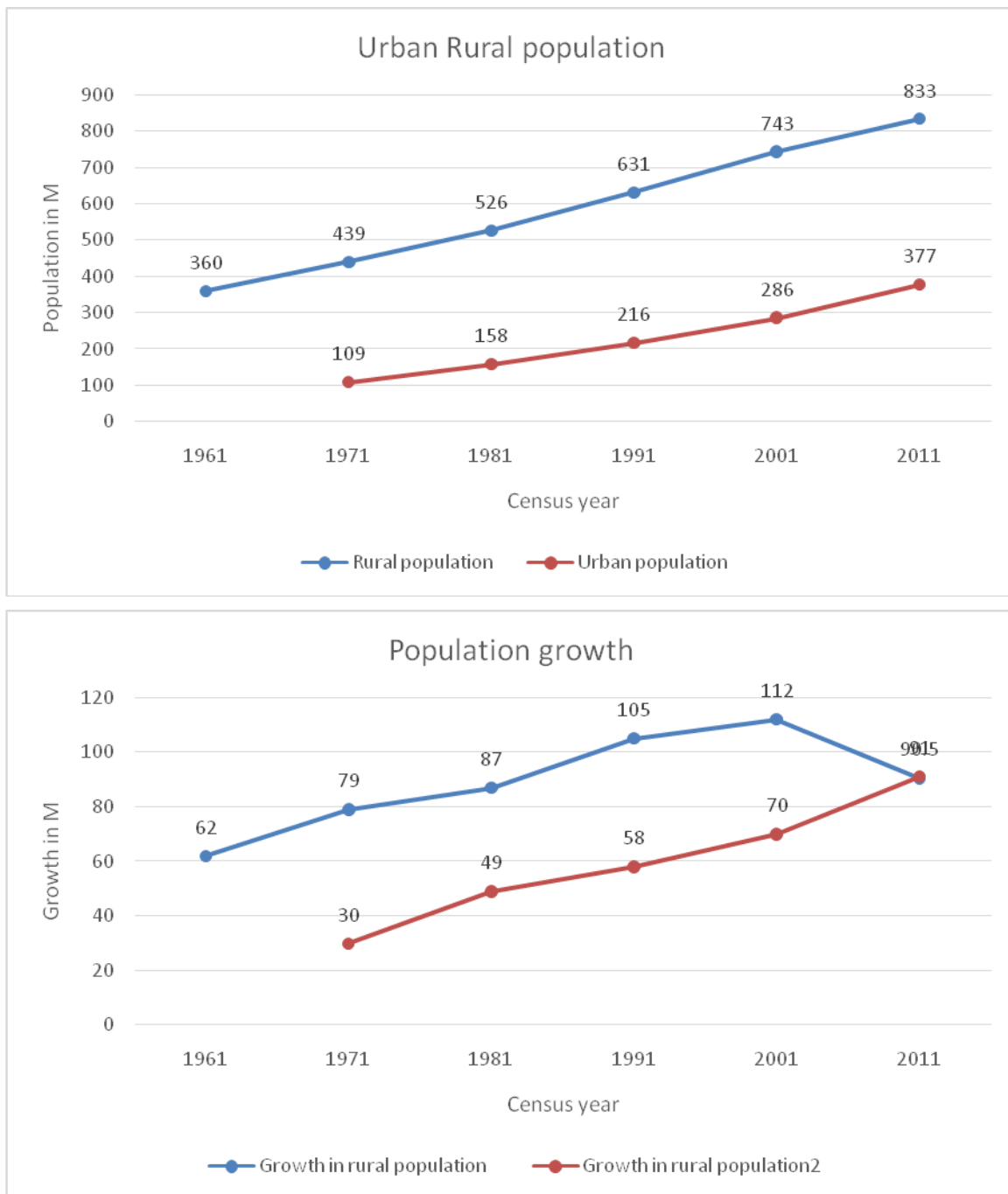
*Figure 2-1Rural Urban population and its growth*

The urbanisation numbers from the Census of India 2011has induced several reactions. It can be seen from the graph that for the first time theurban population's absolute growth (91 million) was morethan its rural counterpartand somewhat higherthan expected (Kundu 2011; Bhagat 2011).

The urban growthrate, which fell in the last two decades, also rose in thiscensus. But the major surprise came with the number of censustowns rising from 1, 362 to 3,894, while the number of statutory towns (STs) increased marginally from 3,799 to 4,041
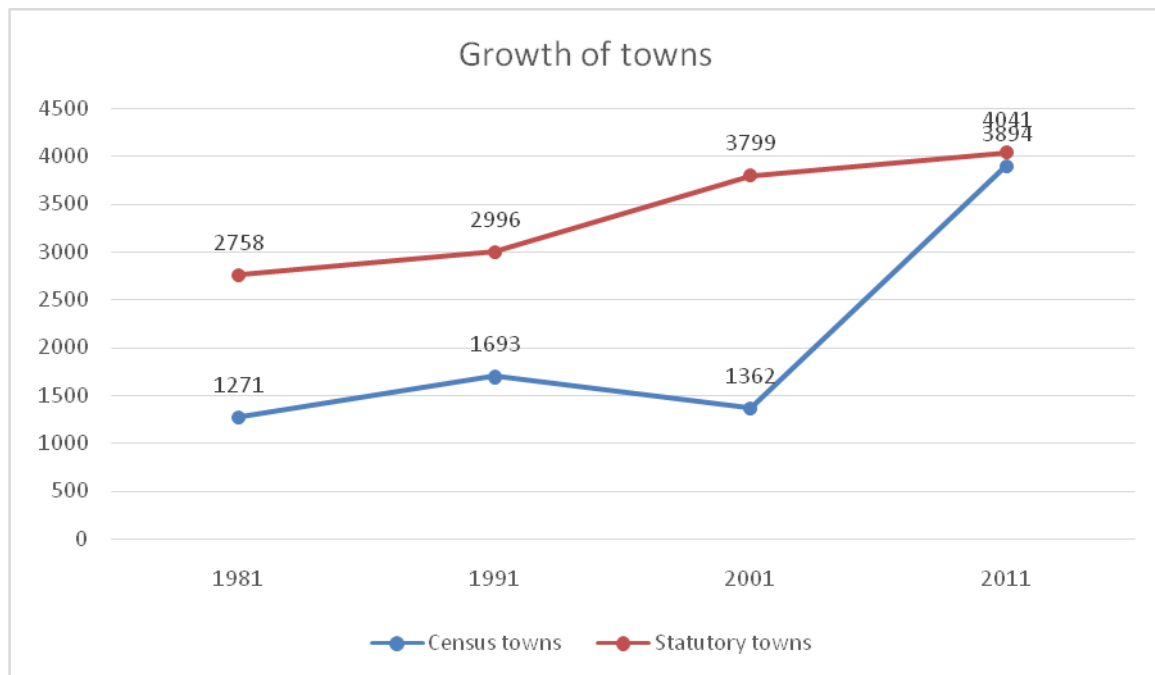
*Figure 2-2 Growth of Towns*

From the figures it can be clearly seen share of census towns in the total urban population was low which was equal to 7.4% in2001 and their numbers were growing steadily. The focus on census towns was limited up to 2001.Though,the unexpected increase in the number of census towns has highlighted theneed for more attention to this class of settlements.

## 2.3    Type of governance in census towns

Census towns are defined to be the urban areas according to the definitions of Census of India. So, by seeing it, we can expect them to be treated as urban parts and being governed also as urban areas.  But census towns are still governed by rural panchayats. So maybe it is keeping them from having urban infrastructures.

## 2.4    Spatial growth of census towns

It is very interesting to know how have these census towns grown spatially, what was the point of attraction or point of potential that made them grow.

## 3    Need based planning of villages

By seeing all the above consequences, it is required to take some steps towards the village development. It is studied in this paper towards the need-based planning of villages or towns.

There has not been any ranking related to development of rural areas available currently available in India. The development programs always take up village land to be converted into urban land for some industrial use or some urban use other than agriculture.

## 3.1    Ease of Living Index 2018

There has recently been launched 'Ease of living Index, 2018 India' byThe Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA),Government of India to measure how liveable our cities are.

This was done to help cities systematically assess themselves against global and national benchmarks and encourage them to shift towards an 'outcome-based' approach to urban planning and management.

The ease of Living captures the breadth of the quality of life in cities across different categories using different indicators which maybe of different importance and relation or value. The core indicators measure those aspects of ease of living which are considered as Essential services. The supporting indicators are used to measure adoption of innovative practices which are considered desirable for enhancing ease of living.

The key objectives of the Ease of Living Index are to:

- Generate information to assist evidence-based planning;
- Catalyse actions to achieve broader development outcomes including the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Assess outcomes achieved from various urban policies and schemes; and
- Serve as a basis for dialogue between citizens and urban decision makers.

The indicators used to form Index (at broader level) are as:

- Institutional
- Social
- Economical
- Physical

As per those 4 pillars data of different 15 categories may be needed to assess namely;

- Transportation or Mobility
- Power Supply
- Safety & Security
- Assured Water Supply
- Education
- Governance
- Health
- Identity & Culture
- Solid Waste Management
- Public Open Space
- Housing & Inclusiveness
- Pollution
- Economy & Employment
- Waste Water Management
- Land use

It is intended as a companion background and provides guidance on data collection, source of Data, and the process to be followed for calculation of the index.

### 3.1.1 Marking of each category

The Index construction follows the Dimensional Index Methodology. This method computes the scores for each indicator with reference to 'maximum within the comparison group' or 'absolute benchmarks'. These absolute benchmarks were derived from national or international standards. Where neither international nor national benchmarks exist, the city with the best performance in its group (relevant population range) is treated as a benchmark and the marks awarded to other cities (within the relevant population group) are calculated proportionately.

Each city is given a score between 0 and 100.

## 4    Conclusions

The study of emergence of sudden growth of census towns in India was done from the census of India 2011 data and it was brought out that census towns have grown at very rapid pace which makes it very important to put some light on the development of census towns to make them sustain themselves. Otherwise census towns will also start to degrade its liveabilities   like urban areas and metro cities.

After studying the ease of living index 2018 of India it was seen that there is given no importance to the opinion of public about current situation and their satisfaction with the place and the services and infrastructures provision at ground level rather than just on paper provisions.

## 4.1    Lack of public opinion in index

While creating the index ranking of Ease of Living Index India the opinion of public about each category be it infrastructure or governance or social environment.

The actual situation at ground level differs widely as per planning proposals and after implementation level.

So, it becomes very important to assess villages as per public opinion.

## 4.2    Proposals

After this study, a village or town ranking methodology can be provided which can assess the infrastructure and different aspects that were assessed for the creation of ease of living index 2018 India.

Here for the study, public survey can be done for getting the view of public about each categories and results will be obtained for the same. By asking dwellers of town to rate their satisfaction with the objective measure for each indicator.

Example of a question:

i.e.,The water supplied is having good quality.

Available options;

One can answer to each question with

- Strongly Disagree (SD),
- Disagree (D),
- Neutral(N),
- Agree (A),
- Strongly Agree (SA).

Normalization to the scale of 0-10.

*Table 4-1Normalization of response*

| Response | SD | D | N | A | SA |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Marks | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 |

Answer to each Indicator gives a score for each indicator.

Average of which in turn gives score of that particular category. This can also be used as categorical analysis by normalizing to the score out of 100.

Further average of all 4 categories gives the final liveability index that is marks out of 100.

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