Urbanization in India: “Push” and “Pull” Factors

Tipping point **2008**: More people lived in earth’s urban areas than in rural areas.

Q: Why do people move to cities in India?

A: for the same reasons they move to cities anywhere else!

- earn more money
- go to school
- have a safer place to live
- have more services and conveniences

Factors (reasons) people are moving to the cities can be categorized as:

PUSH FACTORS

and

PULL FACTORS

Push factors: Things that make you feel PUSHED AWAY FROM a place

These can include:

-- war or violence

-- food or water insecurity

-- unemployment or poverty

Pull factors: Things that make you feel PULLED TOWARDS the new place

These can include:

-- educational opportunities

-- living nearer to family or friends

-- better job opportunities

"Push" factors – rural India

- Families are large, so inherited farm plots are smaller each generation.
- Dalits will always be known as "untouchables" in their hometowns.
- Rural medical care often is not good.
- Rural schools often are not good.
- University education is not available in rural areas.

"Pull" factors – urban India

- Cities have jobs in construction, manufacturing, and industry.
- Lower-caste members can hide their caste (to some extent).
- Good medical care is available – for a price.
- Good schools are available – also for a price.
- Universities are in the cities.

Problems of rapid urbanization in India

- Not enough homes – People living in "squatter slums"
- Not enough electricity or plumbing
- Not enough jobs
- Not enough roads

As of 2014, about 24% of India's urban people live in slums, typically lacking running water or electricity.

Solutions:

- ✓ Cities need more affordable housing.
- ✓ Cities need to produce more electricity and build more water / sewer systems.
- ✓ India needs a plan to bring more jobs to their smaller cities and towns.