



Urbanization and health

Questions

Theory:

Short note:

- Urbanization and health
- Industrialization

Viva:

- Various social and health problems due to urbanization
- Difference of health problems in urban and rural area.

- Urban area:

- Population above 5000
- At least 75% males engaged in non agricultural occupations
- Population density - 400 persons / sqm or more
- Declared as an urban area by GoI

- **Urban agglomeration**

- A city or a town with continuous outgrowth

- **Standard Urban area**

- A core town of minimum population of 50000

- Continuous areas made up of other urban as well as rural administrative units which have mutual socio economic links with the core town

- In all probabilities the entire area should get fully urbanized within the span of 2-3 decades

Differences in rural and urban communities

1. Population density
2. Population size
3. Principal occupation
4. Dependence (social)
5. Interpersonal relation (type)
6. Dominance of cast system

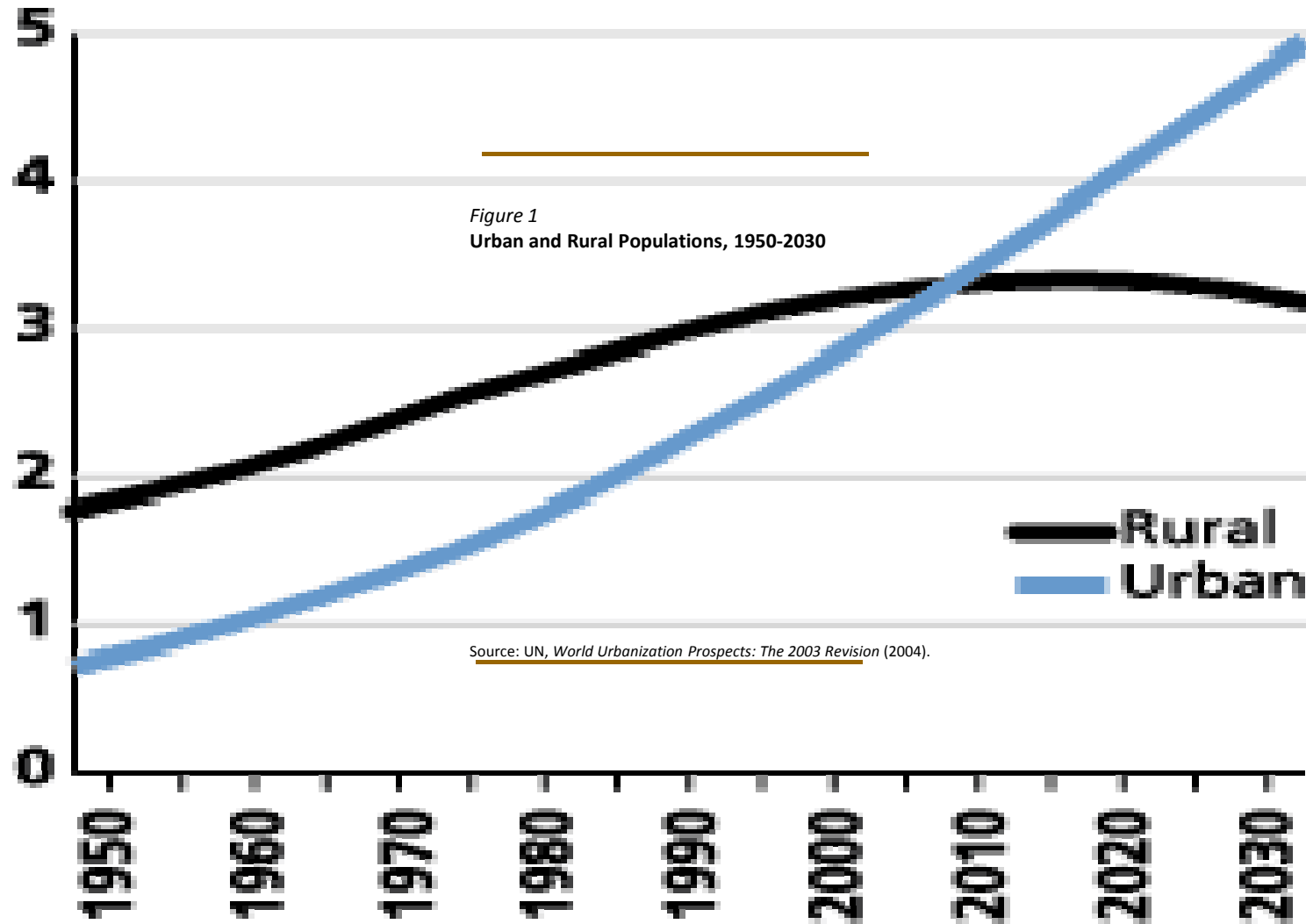
- *Urbanization:*

A process of population concentration and occupational diversification

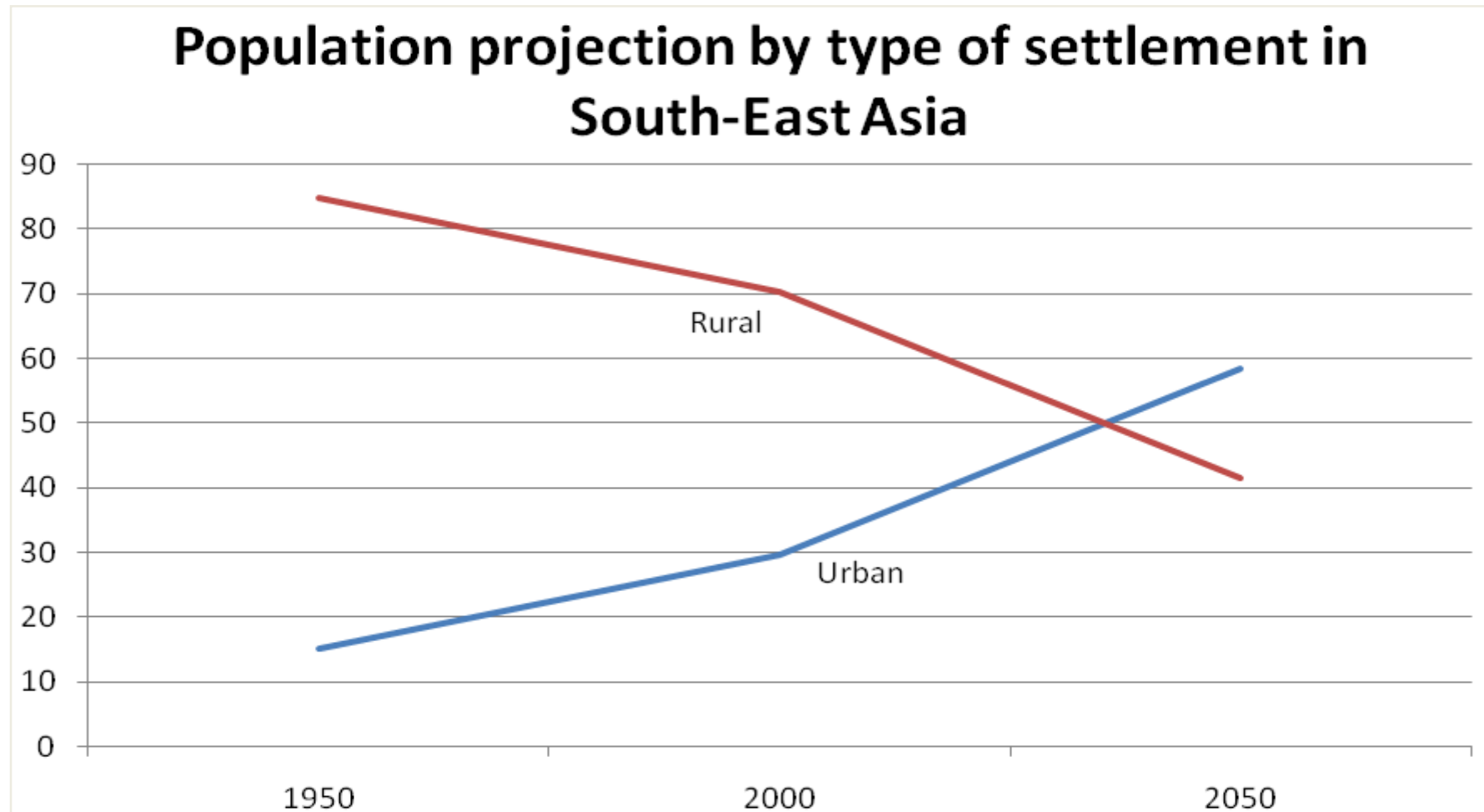
- A continuous process
- Starting point can not be shown with precision
- Starts in two ways:
 - Existing points of population concentration increase in size
 - New points of population concentration emerge

POPULATION PROJECTION FOR THE WORLD

In billions



Urbanization in SEAR



Source: UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs, Population Division (2006)

History of Urbanization

- Through most of history, the human population has lived a rural lifestyle, dependent on agriculture and hunting for survival.
- In 1800, only 3 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas.
- By 1900, almost 14 percent were urbanites, although only 12 cities had 1 million or more inhabitants.
- In 1950, 30 percent of the world's population resided in urban centers. The number of cities with over 1 million people had grown to 83.

- The world has experienced unprecedented urban growth in recent decades.
- In May 2007 for the first time in history over 50% of the world's population lived in urban areas.
- There are 411 cities over 1 million.

- More developed nations are about 76 percent urban, while 40 percent of residents of less developed countries live in urban areas.
- It is expected that 60 percent of the world population will be urban by 2030, and that most urban growth will occur in less developed countries

Causes of urbanization

- A city grows through natural increase — the excess of births over deaths
- Migration
- Reclassification of areas
- More Developed Countries and Less Developed Countries differ in the way in which urbanization is occurring.

- ***Metropolitanization***

- A special type of urbanization
- A huge city together with its immediately surrounding territory, including many urban and rural communities that have been largely self sufficient in the past
- The central city has the social and economic dominance over the surrounding communities (may not always be unilateral)
- The central city plays key role in socioeconomic activities

MEGACITIES

- As the population increases, more people will live in large cities. Many people will live in the growing number of cities with over 5 million habitants known as [megacities](#).
- In 1950 just eight cities had populations of 5 million or more, two of them in less developed countries.
- There were 41 megacities in 2000.
- By 2015, 59 megacities exist, 48 in less developed countries.

Effects of urbanization

- Demographic
- Ecological
- Structural
- Behavioral
- **Health**

Demographic effects

- Constant increase in urban population
- Now: fastest rates of urbanization are seen in under developed countries
- Relatively lower proportion of people aged 55 years and above in urban areas

Ecological effects

- rural community: small, occupationally homogenous; has little spatial separation
- Urbanization starts the process of changing and reorganization of residential zones, industrial areas, market places etc. (segregation, town planning)





Structural effects

- Changes in social structure:
 - Bureaucratization
 - Distribution of activities and authority
 - Selection of persons by qualification, not birth or status
 - Stratification
 - On the basis of socio-economic status, not cast
 - Voluntary associations
 - Serve for the gratification of complex needs of the urbanites

Behavioral changes

- Alienation: Karl Marx
- Anomie (normlessness): Emelie Durkheim
 - Inequilibrium in social relationships and organizations
- Aspirations: educational and occupational

Effects on health

- Health:
 - Vital statistics (CBR, CDR, IMR, age sp. MR, fertility indicators, life expectancy):
Better
 - Utilization of health services: **Better**

- **Morbidity:**

- Communicable diseases especially in unplanned sections of the urban areas
- Usually due to lack of basic facilities like clean drinking water, waste water disposal, sewage disposal as well as poor housing conditions
- Diseases like viral hepatitis, typhoid, cholera, malaria.

- Morbidity:

- Overcrowding can lead to acute respiratory infections, tuberculosis
- Non communicable diseases including occupational hazards
- Cancers, pneumoconiosis, dermatitis
- Psychological illness (psychosomatic illnesses) like peptic ulcer, asthma, ulcerative colitis, hypertension etc..

- Morbidity:

- Ill effects of air and water pollution

- Accidents

- Other: prostitution, STDs, crimes, homicides, suicides, juvenile delinquencies (social pathology)

National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)

- The Government of India has launched the NUHM for the urban population.
- The emphasis is given to the people living in slums and slum like areas.
- The core strategies include providing safe drinking water, improving waste management and vector control

National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)

- The mainstay of the NUHM is the grass-root worker "Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)"
- ASHA is an honorary worker who does not receive any salary but gets incentives as per the norms.

MAKING URBAN AREAS WORK

Better Urban Governance

- **Definition:** Organization of & relationships between political & administrative institutions + the relationships among government, private institutions & civil society
- **Consensus:** National governments should play the role of enabler; local governments should have more control over the planning & management of local affairs

Decentralization

- Devolve budget authority from national and state governments to municipal level
- Increase administrative capacity of local governments
- Ensure an inclusive process (community participation)

Role of Local Governments

- Implement “pro-poor” social and economic policies
- Provide housing and basic services like safe water, sanitation etc.

Role of Communities

- Organize and work together to increase negotiating power with government / authorities
 - Example: community savings and loan groups
- Community groups can often provide cheaper housing and/or other services

Role of Donors

- Long-term approach that emphasizes institution-building
- Increase funding to nongovernmental organizations when government structures are weak
- Work through local partners

Improving Water and Sanitation

- With community participation, municipal governments can improve water supplies & sanitation
- Saving water is more effective than finding new sources of water
- Fix leaky valves & water mains and cut back on illegal taps
- Pricing water

Curbing Air Pollution

- WHO estimates: bringing suspended particulate matter in cities in developing countries down to safe levels could save 300,000 to 700,000 lives annually
- More effective transport systems
- More land for parks and green areas

Recycling Wastes

- Recycling urban waste into new resources
- Some countries have gone beyond recovery and recycling by promoting "industrial symbiosis"
- In many poor countries who are unable to afford high-tech solutions, armies of "rag pickers" sort through garbage for items they can resell or recycle: However, this poses a health hazard to the rag-pickers

Thank You