

## **Level of Urbanization and Development in Jammu and Kashmir**

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### **Abstract**

The demographic phenomenon of urbanization is interpreted as a process involving the absolute and relative growth of towns and cities within defined area vis-à-vis the function of socio-economic changes that took place through time. The present paper examines the level and degree of urbanization, and comparative trend of the urban growth. The Study focuses on some important determinants of urbanization like Literacy rate, percent age of non-agricultural workers, sex ratio, density of roads, density of towns and population distribution with their impact on urbanization process using statistical technique for measuring the dispersion of the determinants like standard deviation and coefficient of variation. Although the level of urbanization in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has increased yet it has always remained lower than the national level. At the district level the urban growth in 2001 varied from less than 10 per cent in five districts and more than 50 per cent in one district Srinagar only. Maximum share of urban population is present in class 1 towns followed by class 1V, CLASS 11, CLASS 111, CLASS V, and CLASS VI Towns respectively.. There is positive correlation with all determinants except the sex ratio. The regression analysis shows that one unit change in the non-agricultural workers leads to the change of 1.4 unit change in urban population which is highest as compared to other determinants.

**Keywords:** Urbanization Determinants Growth pattern Dispersion Trends

### **1.1 Introduction**

Urbanization refers to the process by which the rural population gets transformed into an urban population (Bhagat, 1992). It is a finite process--- a cycle through which a nation passes as they evolve from agrarian to industrial society (Davis, 1965). Historical evidence suggests that

urbanization process is inevitable and universal (Kundu, 2009). Urbanization is a specific process of reorganization of space, which is operationalized through spatial redistribution of population among a hierarchical system of settlements of various sizes and having mixes of rural - urban attributes along a continuum in response to vertical shifts within the work force ( Raza, 1981). Urban growth is simply a concentration of differentiated but functionally integrated specialization and advanced technology (Kundu, 2011). Currently developed countries are characterized by high level of urbanization and some of them are in final stage of urbanization process and experiencing slowing down of urbanization due to host of factors. The onset of modern and universal process of urbanization is relatively a recent phenomenon and is closely related with industrial revolution and associated economic development (United Nations, 1996). A majority of the developing countries, on the other hand started experiencing urbanization only since the middle of 20th century ( Hussain, 2000), In India as many as 833 million (68.84%) persons live in rural areas and about 377 million(31.16%) live in urban areas. India hosts a total of 11976 towns as per 2011 Census. For the first time since independence, the absolute increase in population is more in urban areas than in rural areas (Census, 2011).

The history of urbanization in Jammu and Kashmir State is fairly old. Towns and urban places like Pandrethan, Naranag, and Awantipora have their origin in the ancient period (Sidiqqe, 1988). During this and medieval periods, urbanization was associated with the seats of administration, capitals and trading centers. During the period of Sikhs and subsequently after the arrival of English people, the rate of urbanization accelerated and present the growth of this urban population has turned to be a matter of concern for administrators and planners. The pull factors of urbanization in Jammu and Kashmir forces the rural migration to urban areas (Srinagar and Jammu) for want of employment though not conducive for the urban environment (Zutshi, 1986). It is in the back drop of this phenomenon that the present study has been carried out to analyze the features of urbanization in the study area.

## **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

**The main objectives of the study are as follows.**

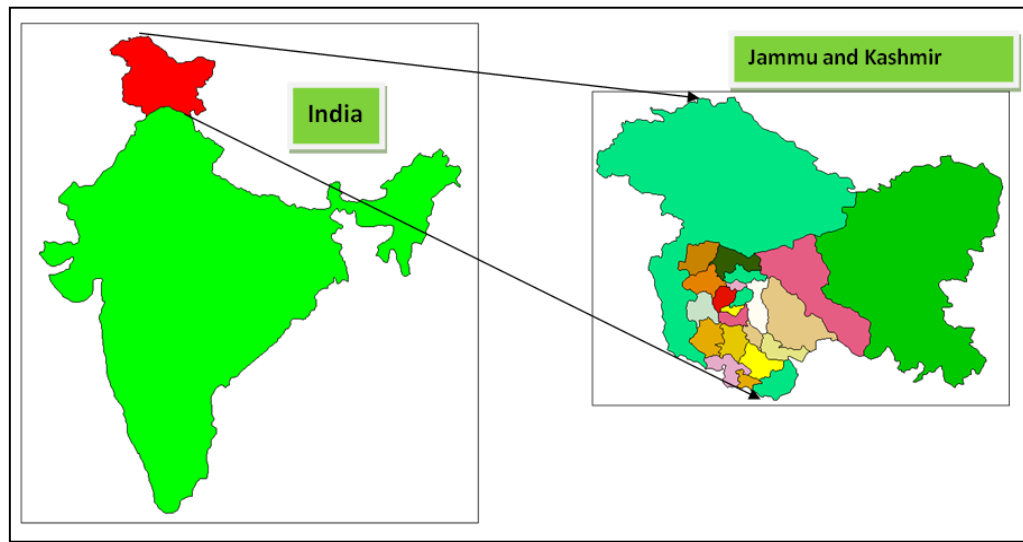
1. To analyze the growth pattern of urbanization in Jammu and Kashmir
2. To establish the hierarchal order of urban areas in the state.
3. To determine the impact of selected socio-economic indicators on urbanization

## **1.3 Methodology**

The present study is based on secondary sources of information like Census of India under different series, reports published by various government and non-government agencies and literature available on various aspects of urbanization of the state. Judicious use of statistic has been used in the study to arrive at desired conclusions.

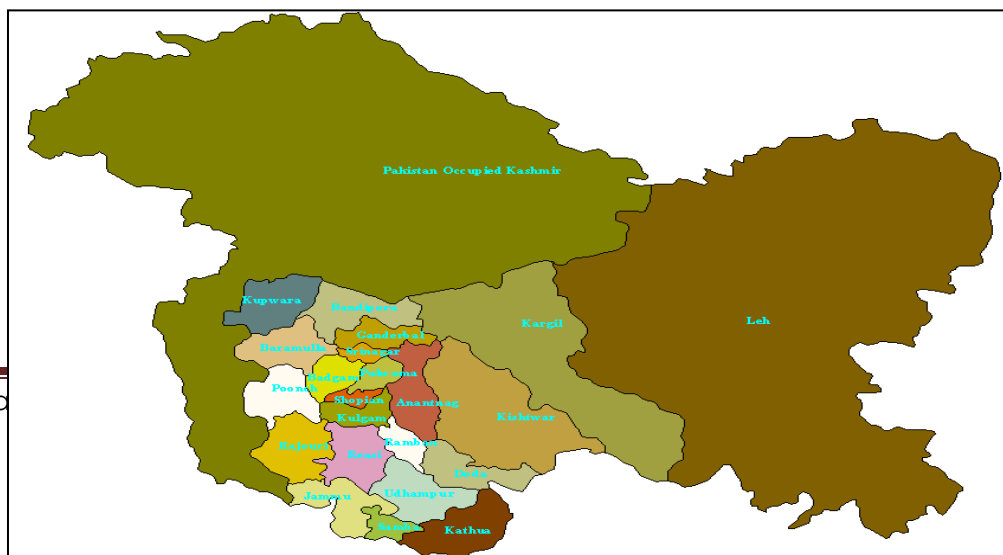
#### 1.4 Study Area

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is located between 32° 17' N to 37° 06' N latitude and 73° 26' E to 80° 30' E longitude and is the part of North Western Himalayas (Fig. 1.1). It occupies a land area of 2,22,236 Km<sup>2</sup>. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is about 425 km from north to south and extends over 520 km from east to west. The state is divided into three administrative divisions



**Fig.1.1**

, i.e., Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The percentage area wise share of the three divisions of the state are 19% (Jammu), 11% (Kashmir), and 70% (Ladakh). The above three regions differ from one another in their relief, climate, drainage, vegetation, language, culture etc. The State is comprised of 22 districts.



**Fig 1.2**

### **1.5 Results and Discussion**

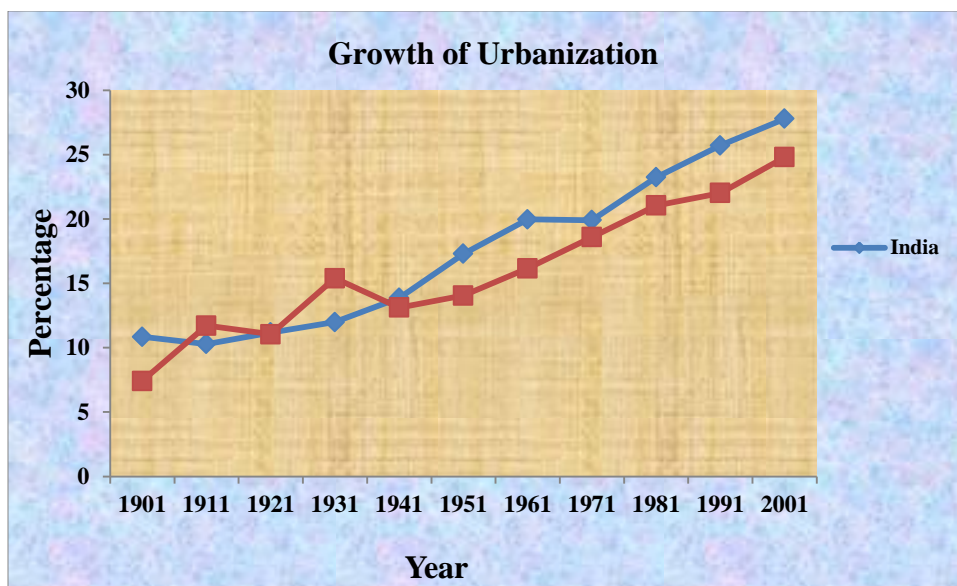
The present research work presents a detailed account on the growth and spatial patterning of growth, trends of rank fluctuation in districts, degree of urbanization, and characteristics of towns by class and size.

The urbanization of the state is of recent origin in the 20th century. It has steadily increased after an initial decline between 1911-1921 and 1941. The level of urbanization in Jammu and Kashmir State in true sense is in its early stage as the state continues to be predominated by rural population. Jammu and Kashmir State has 24.8 percent urban population to total population and stands on 15th rank in the country (Census, 2001).

**Table: 1 Levels of Urbanization**

<b>Year</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>
1901	10.85	07.42
1911	10.29	11.71
1921	11.18	11.04
1931	11.99	15.39
1941	13.86	13.12
1951	17.29	14.05
1961	19.97	16.16
1971	19.91	18.59
1981	23.24	21.05
1991	25.71	22.00
2001	27.78	24.80

**Source:** *Census of India, J&K Series, 2001*



**Fig. 1.3**

Increase in the level of urbanization in the Jammu and Kashmir state has gained momentum since 1961. (Fig 1.3). Amongst the districts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir the highest level of urban Population is in district Srinagar followed by Jammu and leh.

**Table 2: Shifting of Districts According to levels of Urbanization (1981-2001)**

Urbanization (%)	Level	Districts (1981)	Districts (2001)
0-10	Very Low	Kupwara, Udhampur, Pulwama, Kargil, Doda, Rajouri and Poonch	Kupwara, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda and Kargil
10-20	Low	Leh, Baramullah, Anantnag, Kathua, and Budgam	Pulwama, Budgam, Kathua, Anantnag, Udhampur and Baramullah
20-30	Medium	Jammu	Leh
Above 30	High	Srinagar	Srinagar and Jammu

**Source:** *Census of India, J&K Series, 2001*

Table 2 reveals that during last two decades, Udhampur and Pulwama shifted from very low level of urbanization to Low (10- 20%) of urban population and Leh district shifted from Low level (10-20%) to Medium (20-30%), while as Jammu district shifted from Medium to High level of urban population. In 1981, six districts of the state were having less than 10% of urban population and five districts were having 10-20% urban population, while as one district have urban population between 20-30% and one district above 30%, but in 2001, the number of districts having more share of their population residing in urban areas increased and from table 2, it is evident that in 2001, only five districts were in very low level of urban population category (Fig 1.4), while as six districts were in low category (10-20%), one district in Medium category (20-30) and two in high category (Above 30%).

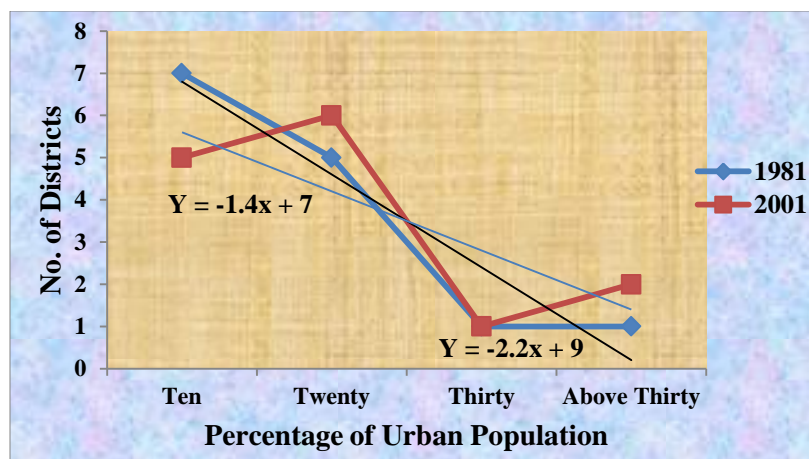


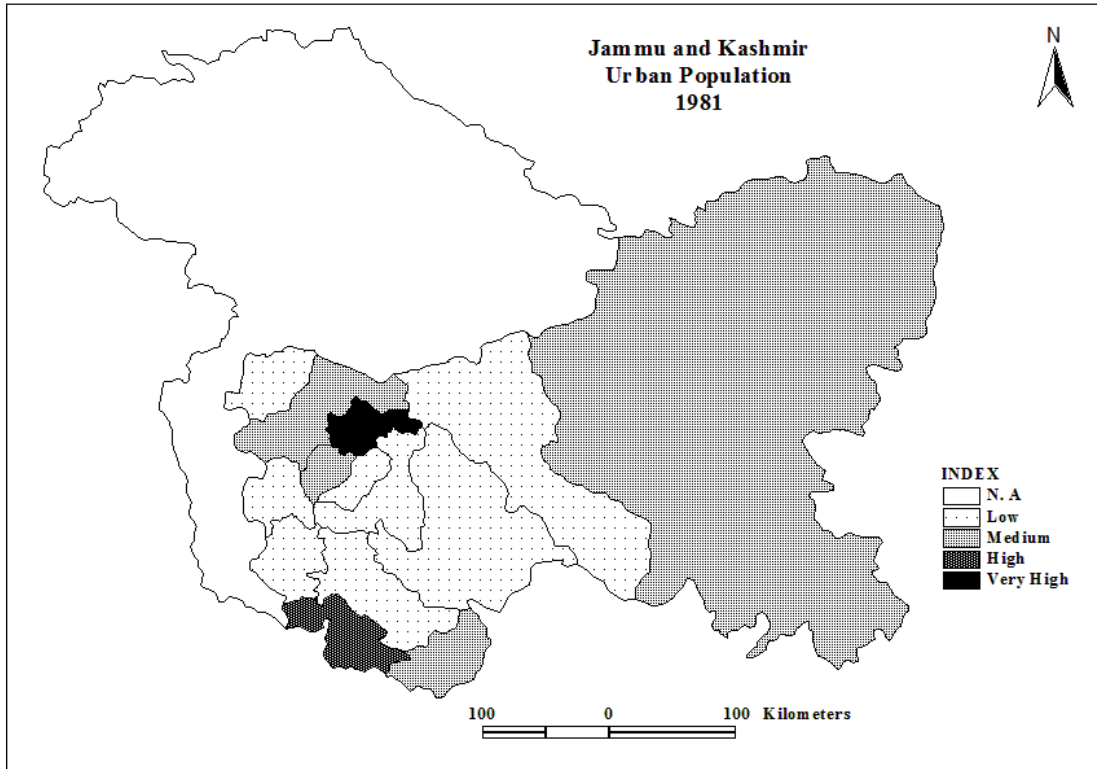
Fig. 1.4

In Jammu and Kashmir growth of urban population has increased in all the districts except the district Srinagar and Budgam during the last two decades from 1981 to 2001 because of the migration of Kashmiri pandits from these areas in 1990 due to political strife in the state. At the district level, urbanization varies considerably and only two districts have urban population above the state average while the remaining districts have below the state average. The district wise growth of urbanization in the state is given in the table 3.

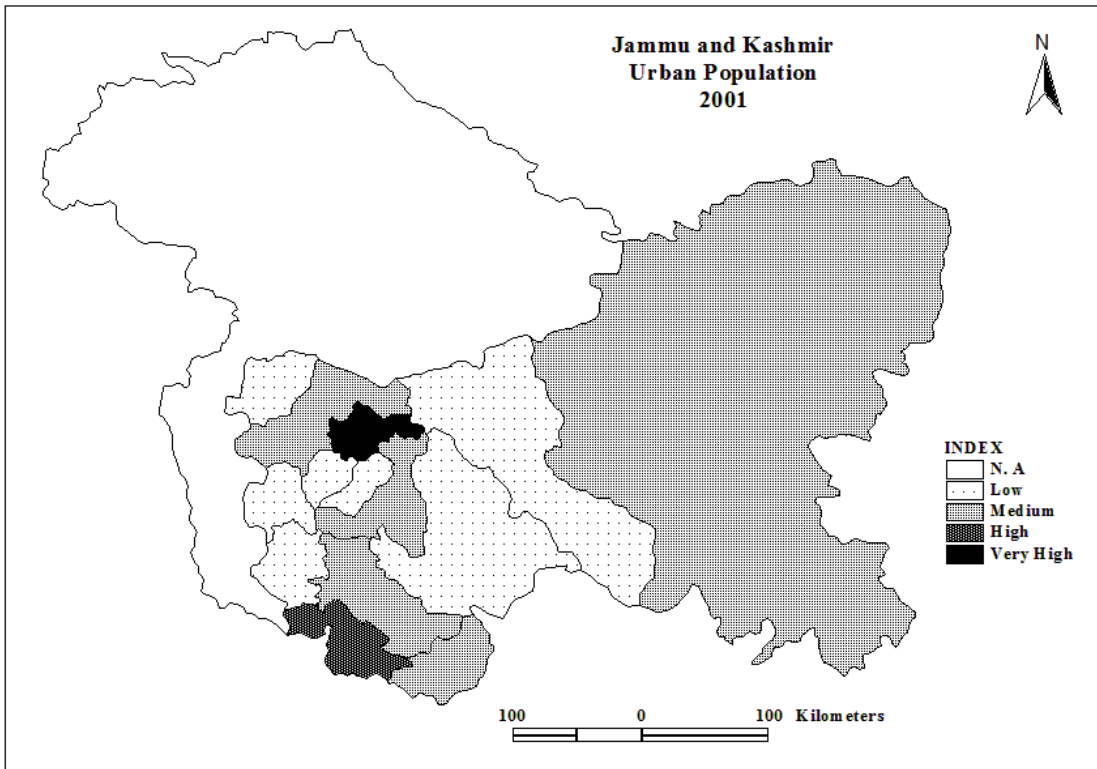
Table 3: Growth of Urbanization (1981-2001)

District	1981	2001
Anantnag	8.98	14.40
Baramullah	13.49	16.94
Budgam	14.13	11.66
Doda	5.92	7.50
Jammu	29.64	44.50
Kargil	5.34	8.63
Kupwara	2.95	3.96
Kuthua	11.38	14.21
Leh	12.75	23.39
Pulwama	8.98	10.72
Poonch	6.32	6.32
Rajouri	5.23	6.98
Srinagar	80.50	78.59
Udhampur	9.53	16.00
Total	21.05	24.8

Source: Census of India, J&K Series, 1981 and 2001



**Fig. 1.5**



**Fig. 1.6**

Table 4 shows that only two towns of Jammu and Kashmir fall in the category of class I towns contributing 59.72% of the total urban population in 2001 which was 64.22% in 1981 showing -4.50% decrease from 1981 to 2001 as the large scale migration took place in 1990 due to political turmoil in the state. In 1981 there was not even a single town in class II category but in 2001 there were 5 class II towns in Jammu and Kashmir state because the major hinterland of Srinagar and Jammu city developed economically due to the direct trade links with the two capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu. However the growth of the towns falling under the other categories showing a stunted growth constituting 11.9% of the total urban population. However class III towns are showing the decreasing number of towns because all the class III towns in 1981 were shifted to class II towns in 2001 and only 7 towns of class IV in 1981 shifted to class III towns in 2001. The highest number of towns in Jammu and Kashmir in 1981 and 2001 are in class VI towns as these towns are scattered in the different parts of the state as large number of these class VI towns are tourist based towns.

**Table: 4 Distribution of Urban Population by Size / Class of Towns in 1981 and 2001**

Class	Population range	No. of Towns 1981	No. of Towns 2001	Increase/Decrease in the no. of towns 1981-2001	%age Share of Urban Population 1981	%age Share of Urban Population 2001	Increase/decrease in the %age share of urban population 1981-2001
I	1,00,000 & above	02	02	0	64.22	59.72	-4.50
II	50,000 to 99,999	0	05	05	0	11.9	11.9
III	20,000 to 49,999	05	07	02	11.75	8.63	3.12
IV	10,000 to 19,999	07	20	13	6.96	11.10	4.04
V	5,000 to 999	20	20	0	11.60	5.2	-6.40
VI	Less than 5,000	24	21	-3	5.47	2.73	-2.74
	All Classes	58	75	17	100	100	+5.42

**Source:** *Census of India, J&K Series, 2001*

There occurred a lot of migration from these small towns to the cities as a result of which their growth got retarded. Since the role of small towns in the field of industrialization and agricultural and rural development is enormous, their growth is imperative for the balanced urbanization in the state. It is because of this fact that small towns are often called as “Bridge” between the rural and the urban universe or between the big cities and the rural settlements.

In general it may be summarized that the state of Jammu and Kashmir has only two class I cities (Srinagar and Jammu) and rest of the towns are small towns, falling mainly in class IV, V, and VI categories. Many of the small towns are still not having social amenities which they should have. In fact, several of the small towns have the characteristics of Indian village. In order to determine the impact of determinants (socio-economic) on urbanization different indicators have been used like literacy, non-agricultural workers, sex ratio etc. The variation in distribution shown by the statistical measure (Coefficient of Variation) shows 105.83% variation in the distribution of urban population followed by 70% in town density and 59% in population distribution while as sex ratio showed only 4% of variation of the distribution.



**Table: 4 Coefficient of variation of different determinants of urbanization**

S/No.	District	Percent Urban population (2001)	Literacy (2001)	Sex Ratio (2001)	Percent of Non agriculture workers in (2001)	Density of Towns Km <sup>2</sup> ( 2001)	Percent of Total Population 2001	Density of Roads /100 Km <sup>2</sup>
1.	Anantnag	14.40	44.10	922	48	0.22	11.62	34
2.	Baramulla	16.94	44.57	909	54	0.1	11.59	34
3.	Budgam	11.66	40.94	918	55	0.07	5.90	63
4.	Doda	7.50	46.92	905	31	0.05	6.86	07
5.	Jammu	44.50	77.30	907	68	0.22	15.61	52
6.	Kargil	8.63	58.21	901	49	0.007	1.14	05
7.	Kupwara	3.96	40.80	929	37	0.08	6.36	27
8.	Kuthua	14.21	65.29	907	43	0.22	5.40	29
9.	Leh	23.39	62.24	805	58	0.002	1.17	02
10.	Pulwama	10.72	47.76	938	44	0.22	6.28	61
11.	Poonch	6.32	51.07	916	30	0.05	3.69	18
12.	Rajouri	6.98	57.65	891	29	0.1	4.75	18
13.	Srinagar	78.59	59.31	871	87	0.1	12.30	67
14.	Udhampur	16.00	54.64	871	36	0.1	7.34	18
	<b>Mean</b>	<b>18.84</b>	<b>53.61</b>	<b>899.28</b>	<b>47.78</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>19.94</b>	<b>10.46</b>	<b>37.89</b>	<b>16.13</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>21.21</b>
	<b>Coefficient of Variation</b>	<b>105%</b>	<b>19.51%</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>68.41</b>

Source: *Census of India, J&K Series, 2001*

The table 5 shows the correlation between the urban population and the determinants of the urbanization. The correlation value (r) of the determinants of the urbanization shows that the urbanization is positively associated with all the determinants except the Sex Ratio with which the urbanization is negatively associated. The highest correlation of urbanization was found with non-agricultural workers. So, among all these determinants, non-agricultural workers are an important determinant of urban population in the Jammu and Kashmir. The low positive correlation was found between urban population and density of roads followed by density of towns.

**Table: 5 Correlation Analyses of the Determinants of Urban Population**

S.NO.	DETERMINANTS	CORRELATION (r Value)
1	Literacy	+0.48
2	Non-Agricultural Workers	+0.88
3	Sex Ratio	-0.24
4	Density of Towns	+0.15
5	Population distribution	+0.58
6	Density of Roads	+0.08

**Table: 6 Regression Analysis of the Determinants of the Urban Population**

<b>Independent variables</b>	<b>Intercept (a )</b>	<b>Slope (b)</b>
Literacy	-31.02	0.93
Non-agricultural workers	-33.56	1.09
Sex Ratio	132.36	-0.12
Density of Towns	14.45	39.94
Population Distribution	-0.77	2.74
Density of Roads	14.63	0.09

The regression analysis was carried out by taking urban population as dependent variable and the determinants as independent variables. The regression results analysis shows that one unit change in non agricultural workers, literacy, sex ratio, density of towns, population distribution, density of roads leads to the change of 1.04 units, 0.93 units, -0.12 units, 39.94 units, 2.74 units, 0.09 units in urban population respectively.

### **Conclusion**

There has been a marginal increase in the urban population (21 percent in 1981 to 24.8 percent in 2001) in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Out of the total urban population, fifty eight percent is concentrated in Kashmir division while only 1.5 percent in Ladakh division and the rest 40% urban population is concentrated in Jammu division. The number of towns in the state has increased from fifty eight in 1981 to seventy five in 2001. The number of towns located in Kashmir division increased from 24 to 35 during these twenty years, while as in Jammu division the number of towns increased from 32 to 39 and in ladakh region, there was no increase in the number of towns during these twenty years. In the case of Kashmir division major urban centers are concentrated only in few pockets of Jehlum valley floor. The Srinagar urban agglomeration recorded a concentration of 39.51 percent of urban population and Jammu urban agglomeration recorded 29.39 percent of urban population to total urban population in the state. Thus these two urban agglomerations in the state contribute 68.90 percent of total urban population in the state and 31 percent of the urban population is distributed in the remaining 12 districts of the state. It indicates that these two cities occupy primate city position having concentration of socio-

economic and service sector activities. Thus the engines of economic development are conspicuous by their absence in the rest of the districts in the state. The size of population for towns in the state shows that only Srinagar and Jammu were the class I towns having population more than one lakh. The state recorded only five class II and these towns were Baramulla, Anantnag, Sopore, Udhampur and Kathua as these towns have some growth generating activities. They have some economic influence in their adjacent hinterlands and mostly have developed due to service and trade activities while the other towns of the valley lack the required social, economic and credit infrastructure to develop their own areas. The low level of inter-sectoral diversification, weak trade linkages, rudimentary stages of development of agro-pastoral and horticulture resources and low level of technology for harnessing natural resources have contributed to the low level of urbanization in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. There is a great variation in the distribution of the urban population in the Jammu and Kashmir which needs orderly and effective restructuring for achieving the goals of balanced regional urban development. Appreciation the need for slowing down of large cities urban growth and providing encouragement to the growth of small and medium towns by giving greater emphasis to the provision of infrastructural and other facilities to the small towns, to equip them to act as growth and service centers for the rural hinterland (especially in class IV, V and VI) should be adopted for achieving decentralized urban growth process.

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