URBANIZATION

Urbanization refers to the growth of towns especially in terms of human population and physical size. In other words, urbanization refers to the change in the functions of a settlement from a rural character to an urban character.

Factors Responsible for Urbanization or Growth of Urban Settlement

1. **Accessibility:** People are likely to settle in areas that are easily accessible by roads, rails, etc. and these tend to increase the growth of such settlements.
2. **Economic Activities:** People tend to settle in areas where economic activities such as trading, farming, mining, etc. take place so as to easily get employed.
3. **Administration:** People also settle in places where the seats of government are located so as to benefit from the social amenities and other facilities that are often provided in such areas.
4. **Presence of Social Amenities:** Many people tend to settle in areas where social amenities like pipe borne water, electricity, etc. are available and these tend to increase the growth of the settlement.
5. **Nature of Soils:** Fertile soils tend to attract people for intensive agricultural activity, hence, the growth of such a settlement.

6. **Absence of Disaster:** Absence of both natural and man-made disasters in a place tends to attract people to such areas, hence, the growth of such settlement.
7. **Relief:** The presence of low relief and low-lands favours settlement unlike rugged relief and highlands which repel the settlement of people.
8. **Climate:** Favourable climate also tends to attract people to an area which equally leads to the growth of a settlement.

Factors Responsible for Urbanization or Growth of Urban

1. **Increased demand for goods and services:** As a result of the high influx of people into urban areas, there will be an increase in demand of goods and services to satisfy their wants.
2. **Increased in social vices or crimes:** Social vices like armed robbery, hired assassins, car snatching, etc. will be on the increase, partly due to unemployment and other factors in urban centres.
3. **Increased demand for social amenities:** Social amenities like pipe borne water, electricity, etc. will be in high demand due to the high population density.
4. **Decrease in agricultural land:** High concentration of people tends to lead to land fragmentation which reduces the size of farmlands and leads to low yield.
5. **High cost of living:** High population concentration leads to high cost of living as only few facilities and goods are

available to the people and these tend to increase the cost of living.

6. **Environmental Pollution:** More wastes are produced due to high concentration of people and these tend to cause pollution in the environment.
7. **Traffic congestion:** Many people travel on the roads at the same time; hence there is traffic congestion most of the time.
8. **Housing congestion:** High population also leads to poor accommodation as the numbers of houses are not always enough for the people; and the buildings tend to be closely packed together.
9. **Unemployment:** Areas of high population usually do not have enough jobs for the ever increasing influx of people into such area. This leads to unemployment or underemployment.
10. **Increase in labour force:** The influx of well qualified people into an area does leads to increase in the number of labour force in the area.