



The dynamics of urbanisation in Ludhiana city

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Abstract

Post Partition Period the city of Ludhiana has witnessed an upward trend in its population and physical growth. This paper provides an overview of urbanization after 1947 and also explores the dynamic changes in population growth, its density, changing composition and socio economic demographic forces which have culminated into the present day Ludhiana city.

Keywords: Ludhiana city, demography, caste differentiation, kinship association

Introduction

From 1947-1966 a period of about twenty years showed a large rise in population from 111,639 to 401,176. During two decades, Ludhiana grew 2½ times in population from 1.54 lakhs to 4.01 lakhs. During the decade of 1951-1961, it registered a

growth of 58.67 per cent where as in 1961 to 1971, the growth of population touched 64.39 per cent. Ludhiana was inhabited by 30000 people in 1947. Because of migration from the West Pakistan the population of Ludhiana swelled by another 75000 People.

Table 1: Growth Trends – Urban Population in Punjab and Ludhiana ^[1]

Year	Urban Population of Punjab (Persons)	Population of Ludhiana Municipal Corporation (Persons)	Population of Ludhiana Municipal Corporation as Percentage of Total Urban Population of Punjab	Decadal Growth Rate of Urban Population of Punjab (%)	Decadal Growth rate of Population of Ludhiana City (%)
1941	1657414	111639	6.74	41.85	+62.77
1951	1989267	153795	7.73	20.02	+37.76
1961	2567306	244032	9.51	29.06	+58.67
1971	3216179	401176	12.47	25.27	+64.39

The Population of the city increased on the continuous basis which was essentially due to growth of trade and commerce which resulted in urbanization of the city. In 1971 population density in Ludhiana city was 96.2 persons per hectare after that the population density was on lower side as there was tremendous increase in Municipal Corporation area i.e. 42.82 sq. k.m. in 1962 to 110 sq.km in 1981 ^[2].

From 1947 to 1966 there was moderate to sharp rise in population. In 1947 the Ludhiana was at the third place in population after Amritsar and Jalandhar. In 1961 census report Ludhiana became at the second position after Amritsar. Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Amritsar had higher proportion of

urban population than the state as a whole.

From 1951 to 1971 the population of Ludhiana increased from 153,795 to 401,176. Ludhiana had attracted the largest number of people from outside. It was also the result of migratory arrival of Hindus and Sikhs, who settled in the town after migration from Pakistan in 1947 ^[3]. The population of Ludhiana was 111,639 in 1941 and 153,795 in 1951. The maximum increase of population took place during the period 1961-1971. Population of Ludhiana increased from 244,072 to 401,176 in 1961 to 1971. The increase in the population in satellite town of Ludhiana within a radius of 45 km is as under ^[4].

Table 2: Increase in Population of Satellite Towns within a Radius of 45 km from Ludhiana ^[5]

	1901	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Mullanpur Dakha (15km.)	-	-	-	-	-	8115	10138	13949
Phillaur 15 km.	6986	9011	9484	11058	11543	17650	20956	22302
Doraha 21 km.	-	-	3062	4602	5804	7606	9589	18986
Samrala 34km.	-	-	4734	5439	7554	10824	14921	17590
Khanna 40 km.	3838	7941	12646	24416	34820	53761	71990	103099
Jagraon 45 km.	18760	26704	24519	29617	32999	39683	47372	60080

The above table shows that the increase in the population in the towns situated on the periphery of the city has not been to the extent as in the case of Ludhiana. Three towns which are

very close to Ludhiana are Mullanpur Dakha, Phillaur and Doraha. These towns are sparsely populated. The increase in the population of these towns is either because of the high

birth rate or increase in agricultural production in the neighbouring towns like Khanna [6].

Sex ratio, in general, always remained in favour of males because of their higher birth rate, higher rate of mortality among women due to their neglect [7]. The practice of female foeticide in past contributed to the lesser number of females. Punjab's, being a predominantly peasant society [8], preference for sons for doing agriculture especially ploughing, was clearly evident in the traditional society. Their love for agriculture land which further required males for inheriting and cultivating it placed a premium on sons. The prevalent social system denies women any significant property rights [9]. The socio-cultural practices of the male centred kinship system prevalent in the region contributed towards making position of women vulnerable in the family and this lowered her access to resources both within the household and societal level [10]. Their continuous neglect in access to resources, health, nutrition, medical care and general care, resulted in high mortality levels and in turn led to low sex ratio. This

practice is still being followed which has led to the skewed sex ratio of the city.

The sex ratio in Ludhiana improved consistently from 1941 to 1971 from 751 to 823. More male laborers have migrated to Ludhiana City for employment. Thus the sex ratio makes a difference on the occupational structure of the city and its area. Growth of Ludhiana City is dynamic and continuous process due to growth of trade and commerce and consequent urbanization. The town faced multifarious physio, socio-economic and infrastructural problems like haphazard growth, overcrowding, congestion, housing shortage and there by further deteriorating the healthy living environment.

Table 3: Male to Female Ratio [11]

Year	Total	Males	Females	Sex Ratio
1941	111,639	65,061	46,578	751
1951	153,795	83820	69,975	864
1961	244,032	133,443	110,589	843
1971	401,176	222,052	179,124	823

Table 4: Religious Composition [12]

	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain	Religion Not Stated	Other Religion and Persuasions
1941	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1951	301,398	3360	1200	497,419	-	3397	-	5
1961	211,560	524	1966	95988	25	4680	-	9
1971	262,726	428	2133	131,291	98	4484	16	-
1981	386,459	1983	2902	209,067	26	6117	17	481
1991	647,944	9133	5915	372,174	600	6780	194	-
2001	904,233	31372	8794	437,600	1600	14444	238	186

The most fascinating demographic feature of post partition Ludhiana was the religious composition of its population. Ludhiana had changed dramatically in the post-partition period. The town transformed itself from being a Muslim majority locality to non-Muslim majority area after 1947. The population of Ludhiana district declined between 1941 to 1951 but the population of Ludhiana city grew by 38 per cent. Although the 1951 census doesn't provide a detailed breakdown of religious composition, but in 1961, it is clear that the Muslim community had virtually all migrated to Pakistan. In 1947, 302,482 Muslims left Ludhiana district and migrated to West Pakistan and in their place 169,267 Hindus and Sikhs migrants settled in the district [13].

Table 5: Composition of Population in Ludhiana Town 1941-1961 [14]

	1941	1961
Total Population	111,639	244,032
Hindu	31%	67%
Muslims	63%	0%
Sikh	5%	30%
Others	1%	3%

The outgoing Muslims were replaced by Hindus and Sikhs who came from West Punjab. Prior to partition, Ludhiana was a Muslim majority locality representing 63 per cent of the city's 111,639 population. Hindus accounting for 31 per cent while Sikhs represented 5 per cent of the population. An examination of the religious composition of Ludhiana urban population reveals that the Hindus made a relatively bigger

presence in the city. After partition, Ludhiana City was transformed into Hindu majority locality, over 67 per cent Hindus and 30per cent were Sikhs. This religious Community Composition decided the area, location and number for various religious buildings in the city required for.

Table 6: Literacy Rate in Ludhiana City [15]

Year	Total Literates	Males		Female		Literacy Rate (%)
		Number	%age	Number	%age	
1941	-	-	-	-	-	-
1951	56488	31206	55.24	25282	44.75	36.72
1961	135705	83465	61.5	52,240	38.49	55.61
1971	227971	136,683	48.70	91,288	35.42	56.82
1981	527021	315495	57.09	221526	45.44	60
1991	864419	505924	59	358465	41	69

The above table shows an increase in the literacy rate. In comparison with 1951 and 1961 census reports the literacy rate was increasing. Ludhiana continued to lead the State in the field of female literacy. The increasing literacy rate led to the positive physical and economic development. The more the education, the greater the probability that a worker would move from a blue collar to a white collar occupation.

In 1961, 146,627 there was 14.4per cent persons immigrated to Ludhiana city and 125,591 persons migrated from the city. Ludhiana had the highest level of human development in terms of education, expectancy of life and adjusted per capita income. It had the highest share of the state urban population and the migrant population. Ludhiana's rich agricultural area and the industrial units attracted migrants from far and near.

The city experienced high volume of in- migration for work from the state of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Moderate volume of in-migration was experienced from the nearby state of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttaranchal and also from West Bengal ^[16]. Low volume of immigration was experienced from Rajasthan and Jharkhand. Other states also sent a negligible volume of immigrants to Ludhiana ^[17].

Thus it is noticed that industries in Ludhiana largely depend on migrant workers from outside Punjab mainly from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Women's participation in economic activities outside the domestic sphere is likely to decline rather than increase after migration to town ^[18]. This is based on a general rule in all developing countries that men are quicker than women to change over from traditional to modern type occupation.

The main workers constituted 30.39 per cent of the total population in 1981 against 29.79 percent in 1971 as compared to 24.35 per cent in 1981 the state. There were 54.35 per cent male workers and 2.51 per cent female workers. Female workers have shown a significant improvement over 1971 where in 1.43 per cent female workers were recorded. Out of total working force 43.84 per cent of worker were engaged in agriculture as cultivators and agricultural laborers as against 30.80 percent in 1971 census. Thus there has been a decline of 6.96 percent in primary sector where as there has been corresponding increase of 6.96 percent in the secondary and tertiary sector. This appears to suggest that the economy of the district had made great strides during the last decade and was moving ahead.

There was only 37 per cent workers in the city and 63 percent were non-workers. This puts an additional burden on workforce and hence economy. The number of cultivators and agricultural laborers decreased markedly due to this novel urban phenomenon. Household industries were increasing as people were converting their houses for industrial use e.g. ground floor was used for industrial purpose and rest for residential purposes.

The economy of Ludhiana is basically agrarian. During the 1950s there has been a shift towards industrialization, even then a vast majority of the population still depend upon agricultural in 1951, 53.7 per cent of the total working force functioned as cultivators and agricultural labourers.

In Ludhiana District, urban population rose by 29 percent while the rural population experienced a decline of 9 percent between 1941-51 ^[19]. While the population of Ludhiana District declined between 1941-1951, the population of Ludhiana city grew by 38 percent ^[20]. The wealthier, more enterprising migrants were driven away in a tidal wave from the West to the East. Many of the migrants from West-Punjab would have come from the canal colonies, having only migrated to places like Lyallpur fifty years earlier. They were forced back once more into the crowded areas of East Punjab. Indian Government suggested the people that they should settle in Ludhiana District ^[21]. They again stirred themselves to success in new fields of enterprise.

In Ludhiana there had been relatively little immigration from West Pakistan: less than one third employers and less than one-fourth employees in the hosiery and metal using trades were displaced persons from Pakistan. There had been a fairly large movement from other districts in India, particularly of

East Punjab. There was a 'rural push and city pull' situation due to better job opportunities in the urban areas. In the Pre-Partition period, there was already a nucleus of hosiery industry in Ludhiana dominating by Jain entrepreneurs. According to the census of 1941 there were 15000 persons belonging to hosiery trade ^[22]. In 1947 the migration of Muslims from the town did not affect its hosiery trades.

The metal – using trades began to develop in numerous homes during the first two Plan periods. After that a distinct shift in the industrial structure of the town emerged. The metal trades were developed to a large extent by the initiative and skill of Ramgarhia entrepreneurs. The caste is concentrated in and around Ludhiana. They followed their traditional occupation of blacksmithy and now have taken to the newer lines such as foundry work, machine cutting etc. City's industrial climate was thus congenial for developing the talents and abilities of a community which had remained deprived of political power and social dominance. Ramgarhias encouraged from the performance of other castes which had progressed fast in recent years. Another contributory factor is the deep rooted belief that they were the descendants of Vishwakarma, Lord Architect-Engineer of the Universe. This had helped them in building up a strong community loyalty.

The Jains, who control the hosiery trade, had also taken advantage of the new economic climate and expanded their output as fast as the other trades ^[23]. There is concentration of certain castes among both employers and employees. The Jains, Khatri hindus and Ramgharia Sikhs each account for one- fourth of small industrialists. More than 80 per cent the hosiery and textile entrepreneurs in hail from Bania Community viz., Agrawals, Guptas, Gargs, Jains, Doomras, Oswals, Kapoors, Tandons ^[24] and while almost half of the machine tool factories are owned by Ramgharias with a handicraft tradition. The workers in the different industries show a higher degree of caste differentiation ^[25], with the Khatri and Ramgarhias forming a majority.

More entrepreneurs from Jain caste had matriculated or gone for further studies than Ramgarhia entrepreneurs. Ramgarhia's attitude towards higher education also differ. Jain, Khatri and Aroras favour higher studies while Ramgarhia Hindus and Sikhs were not in favour of such education. They prefer educating their children in vocational institutions and then putting them into their family business.

The forefathers of most employers and employees were agriculturists by occupation over the last two generations. Shifts in occupation are mainly noticeable in the preceding generations – from father to the son. So they had generally left their rural homes but most of them kept close and continued connection with the village of their origin ^[26]. The joint family in and around Ludhiana was breaking up and yielding to the nuclear, i.e., 'single' family. The average size of households in Ludhiana district according to successive census reports has dwindled over the last 60 years, largely as a result of the disintegration of collateral into nuclear family groups ^[27].

The shift from rural to urban surroundings does not appear to have made much difference to the caste and kinship associations of either employees or employers. Members of a particular caste and kinship prefer to choose their associates from people of the same caste or kinship group. In this regard, caste continues to remain a dominating influence on social

relations, both uniting as well as dividing families within and without their working lives.

The relation between the employers and employees were less bureaucratic in small factories than in large factories, though these were not always genial inside the factory. In hosiery, workers are seasonally employed for about eight months from April to November and ever during this period there is no shortage of hands. Employers can pick and chose and workers run the risk of dismissal, though it is not a common occurrence. However, this creates tensions and effects on social relations between two groups.

To sum up, during 1947-1966, there was an absolute increase in urban population as well as in the percentage of population. This growth was less due to natural increase and more due to migration. This is reflected from the sex ratio in the city which was generally much lower than in the province. In initial years, mostly males were literate, but now females are more learned than males. In response to new economic opportunities and technological advancement, people tended to move from small trades and traditional craft to factory industry. The development of the industry in Ludhiana has made an impact on the lives of the participating community. The new and emerging employer-employee relations have been sufficiently cooperative to steer clear stresses accompanying industrial growth. On the whole, a lively pattern is seen to be forming in the city which is in considerable interest from the economic and sociological viewpoint.

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