

A STUDY ON URBAN GROWTH AND ITS IMPACT ON KABUL CITY, AFGHANISTAN

Fidel Rahmati¹, Dr. Mohd. Akhter Ali², M.Kamraju³

*Research Scholar¹, Assistant Professor², Student³
Department of Geography
Osmania University
Hyderabad, Telangana-500007*

ABSTRACT

Kabul City is an urban area in which all facilities, amenities, infrastructures and density of human settlements will be available. Rapid migration of Afghani migrants from inside of the country and outside, neighbors countries caused by urban sprawl. Urbanization in Afghanistan has created a havoc for the environment and residents. In this paper our main concern is on urban growth and its impact on the study area. For analyzing the data, secondary data has been used from various sources of data acquisitions like, worldmeter, Springer, ISPRS, international and national journals, books, and e-books and libraries. The main outcome of this research will be beneficial for the town planning department of Kabul municipality, ministry of urban development, researcher and academicians related to the topic.

Keywords: *Urban, Sprawl, international, Planning department, Kabul Municipality.*

INTRODUCTION

According M. Kamraju (2020), Urbanization and Urban Systems: Urban area is a region which is having all the amenities, infrastructure, and density of human structure.

The quality of urban environment depends a great deal on the quality of infrastructure and their appropriate management. Utility services like sanitation, sewerage, drainage, drinking water supply, waste management, electricity, gas and fuel for cooking are inevitable physical infrastructure for maintaining the urban environmental quality (Islam, 1997).

Kabul was a very nominal populated area before 2001, but after new government establishment the population explosion took place at a rapid speed. As before 21st century the Afghanistan was suffering from political crisis and conflict due to Taliban regime.

Urbanization in Afghanistan especially in Kabul City was not in a normal manner. As urbanization and urban growth are very important part of any city but unfortunately it has certain limitations and barriers so Afghanistan too had demerits of this unpredicted and haphazard growth.

STUDY AREA

Kabul is the capital and largest city of Afghanistan located in the eastern part of the country with estimated population of 4.222 million.

Kabul city is consist of 22 districts playing as the mosaic for all major ethnic groups of Afghanistan which serves as the center of political, economic and cultural. Kabul has the 75th ranking of the largest city in the world.

Afghanistan is with an estimated population of 38,935,009 as of July 2020 based on the latest explanation of United Nation data, so, Afghanistan population is equivalent to 0.5 percentage total world population which come under the rank of 37 in the world. The population density in Afghanistan is 60 per Km². The urban population make 25.4 percent which make 9,904,33 people in 2020. The average age in Afghanistan is 18.4 years (Worldmeter, 2020).

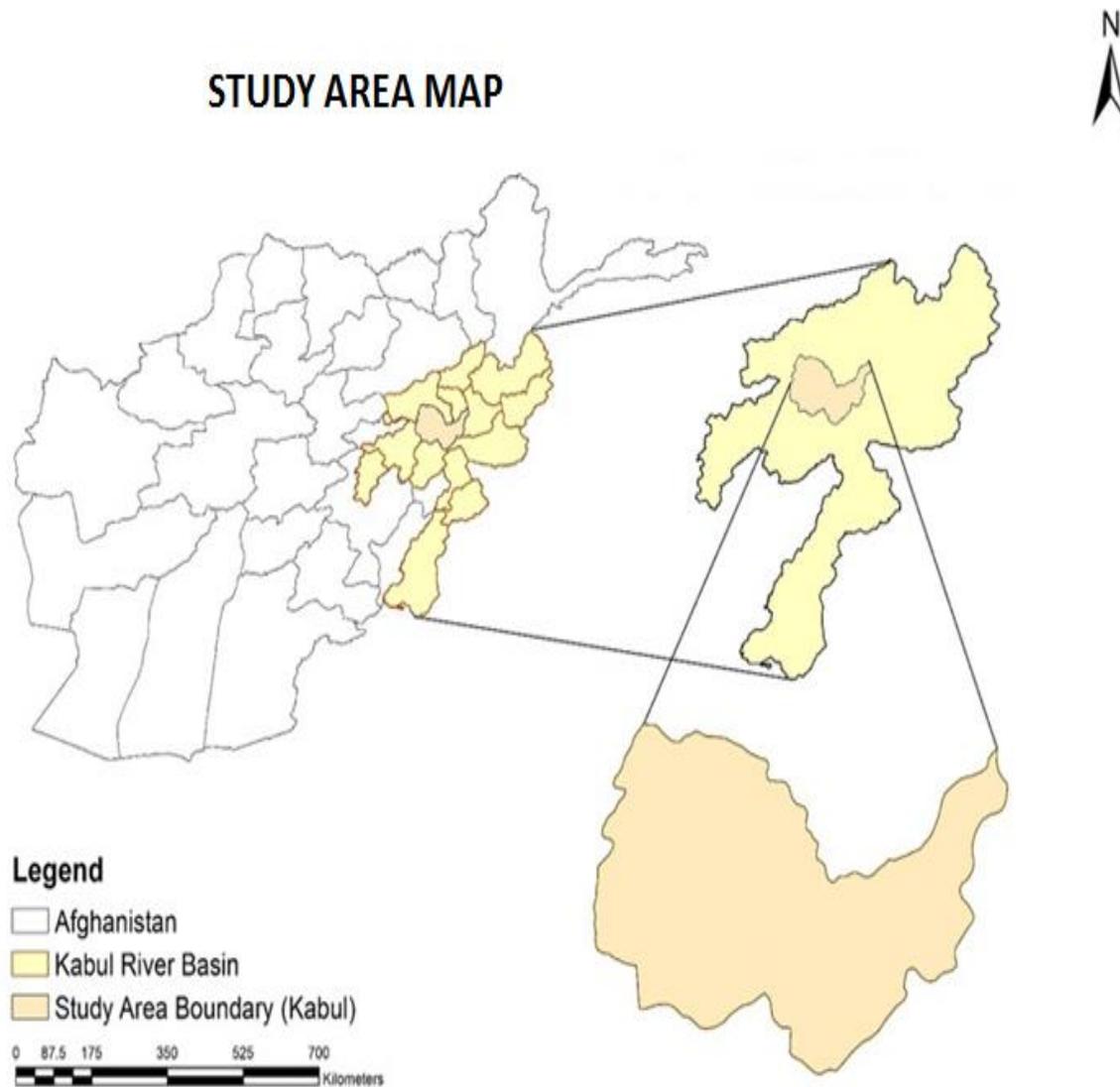


Figure1, Source: Khairandish- retrieved-2020

OBJECTIVE

The major objective of this paper is to study the impact of Urbanization on study Area

METHODOLOGY

In this paper we have mostly used secondary data to analyze the research topic. The Secondary data was collected through reports, books, journals, Government Publications, Statistics collected from various sources, Internet, and grey literatures. For analyzing the data we used Microsoft Excel for preparing charts, diagrams.

LITERATURE REVIEW

It is a critical analysis of the existing literature to the related topic on which research is to be conducted. It is essential as it gives us an insight into the field study and also direction of our progress.

Kamraju.M in his paper, *Impact of Urbanization on lakes: A Case Study of Hyderabad (2016)*; he discussed the major causes of pollutions in water bodies of Hyderabad. His major concern was on industrial pollutants and household waste.

Balakishan. A .et.al. His paper titled *Environmental Impacts of Urban Growth from an Integrated Dynamic Perspective: A Study of Hyderabad, Telangana State, India (2019)*, his emphasis on environmental impact on urban growth in Hyderabad City and provided remedial measures for coping urban sprawl. The author suggested that in order to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, flyover and foot over bridge up to some extended level can be a good remedy.

Haroon Nazire.et.al. (2016) in his paper titled, *Effects of Informal Settlement Upgrading in Kabul City, Afghanistan: A Case Study of Afshar Area*, found out two significant points, after the 2001 due to return of migrants from neighbor countries and abroad there were extremely high inflow of migrations which caused formations of slums and origin of informal occupation. In which any policies and program which tried to upgrade the present physical and socio-economic scenario but not drainage, pavement, and sewer.

ANALYSIS

Afghanistan is a mountainous terrain which is having average elevation of 1800 meters above sea level. The country was having rich natural resources and potential base which was unmatched till 2000. So, Afghanistan is with a full potential remain untapped in urban development. Before 2000, most of the people migrated from Afghanistan to the nearby countries such as Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Central Asian countries. After Bonn agreement, establishment of new government in 2001, December, 5th. Afghanistan evolved in a new phase in which urbanism exploded rapidly.

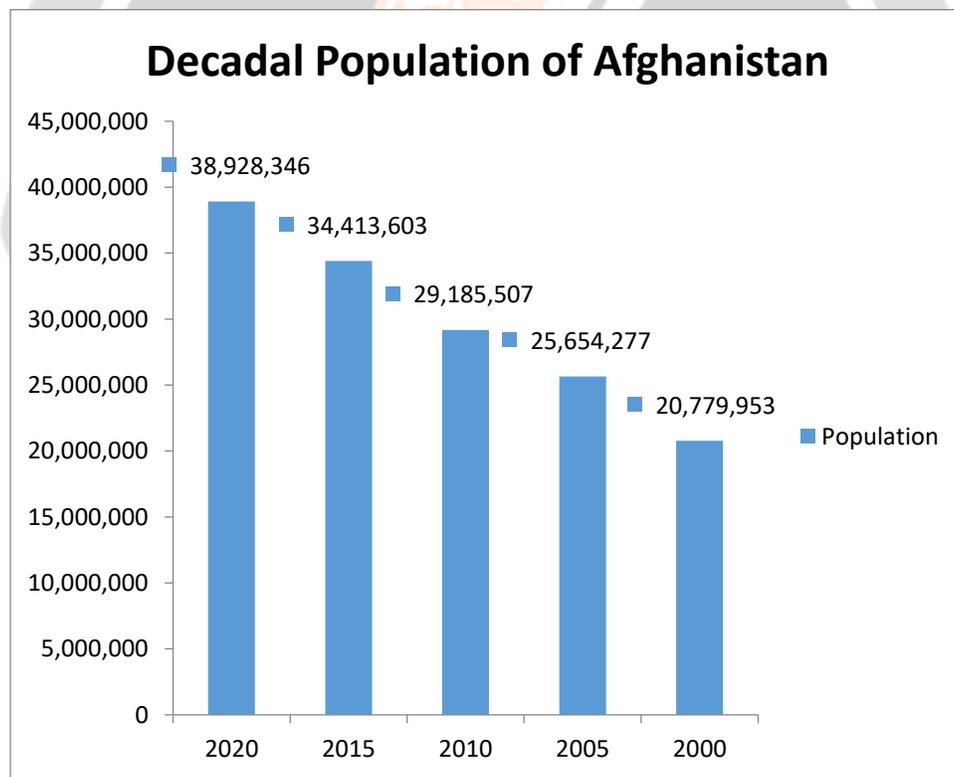


Figure2, data Source: worldometers

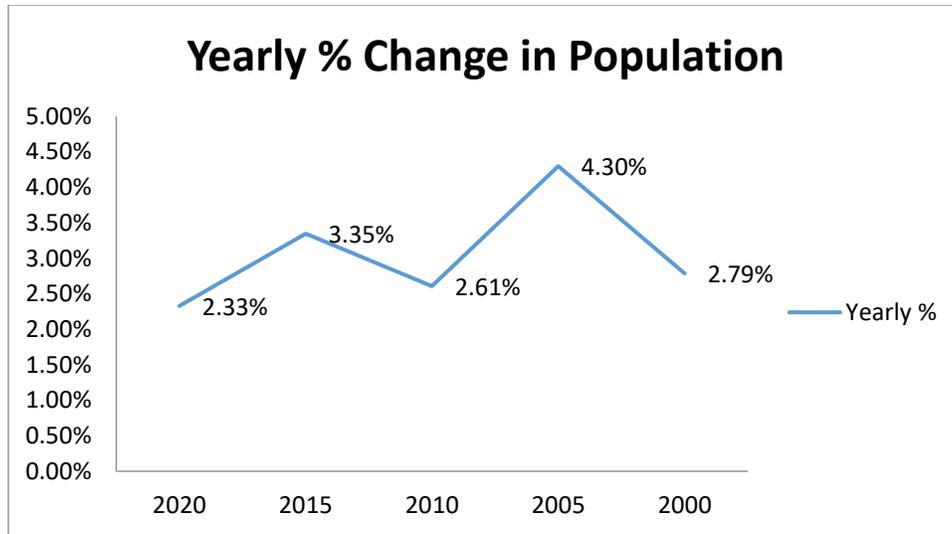


Figure3, data Source: worldometers

The above bar graph illustrates the decadal population growth of Afghanistan (5 years) since 2000 to 2020. The graph states that after 2000 the population started growing rapidly from 2.07 Crores to 3.89 Crores with in span of 20 years. The yearly percentage change in population in 2000 was 2.79 %, in 2005 it exploded to 4.30 %. It shows that immigrants were feeling peaceful in settling in Kabul City. But suddenly in 2010 and subsequently 2015 and 2020 yearly change in population was 2.61%, 3.35% and 2.33% because of security reasons and withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

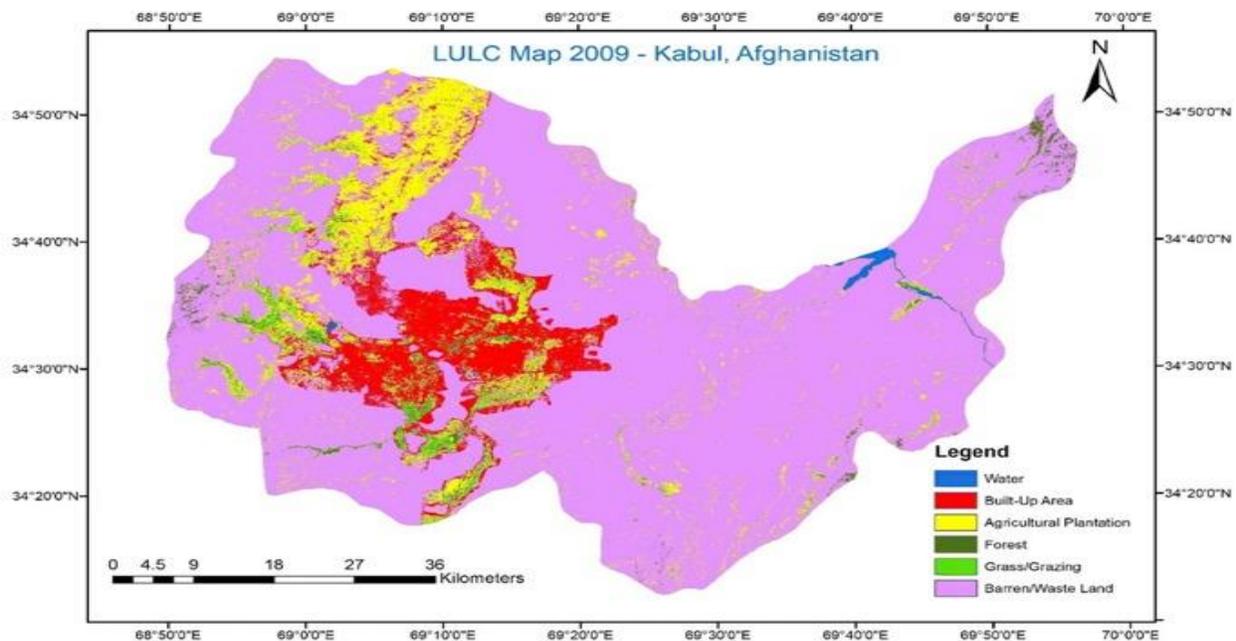


Figure4, Source: Courtesy: Khairandish,

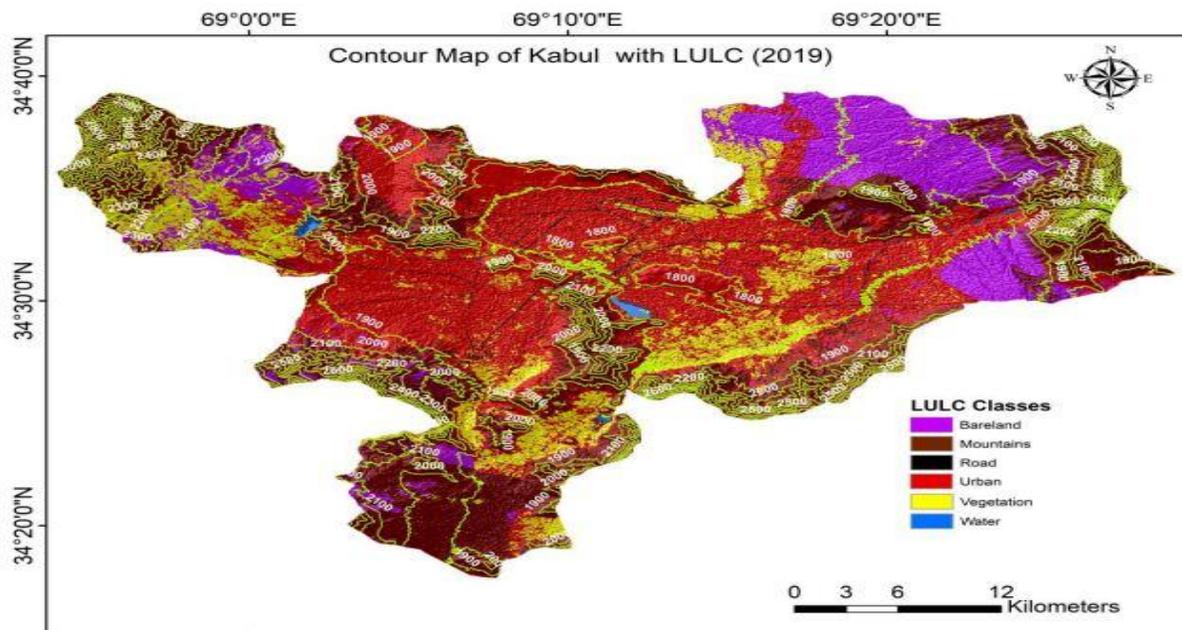


Figure5, Source: Courtesy: Khairandish,

From the above maps 4 and 5, we can clearly identify that the Land use and Land Cover (LU/LC) has changed rapidly. In 2009 most of the land was under barren and waste land but by 2019 everything changed and the barren and waste land became built up area. In 2009 built up area only minimal but in the course of time the built up area expanded throughout the Kabul region. As it is a Capital City the political, economic and cultural activities are more compared to the other regions of the country. Moreover, the urbanization did not follow any systematic way which should be followed in Capital city as a result of it the slums and informal sectors started to evolved in and around the core and periphery of the CBD (Central Business District).

Due to population growth and urbanization there were many environmental hazards which occurred in the City. Mainly pollution was the major concern in the city that to water pollution, land pollution and air pollution which caused havoc to the residents of the Kabul City.



Figure6, Source: Aljazeera. Retrieved 2020.

SUGGESTION

Some of the major suggestions for Kabul City are as follows:

- Transport system and infrastructure development should be regulated by the government to ease the flow of better amenities to the public.
- It is for the government to regulate all the slums and informal sectors to provide them with basic facilities so that they can live their livelihood with safety and better lifestyle.
- Urban waste management and recycle should be properly maintained.
- Potential use of resources should be plan for future generations of the nation so that created a pave way for a good development plan.
- Proper laws should be enforced for the plantation and urban forestry to reduce the pollutions levels in the city in a natural manner and sustain the standard level pollutants in the atmosphere.
- Informal market should be stabilize or regulated by the municipal corporation in order to maintain the city clean and to prevent traffic congestions in the study area.

CONCLUSION

Finally we can say that urbanism is good for a nation or city but if it is planned and done in the systematic manner. But unfortunately due to four decades of conflicts in Afghanistan all these measures could not be implemented properly in Kabul City, which took a 'U' turn in the development and growth of study area. There are many loopholes in the management of urban development in the city.

The new Kabul City Project which is being built adjacent to the present Kabul City is a good initiative by the government of Afghanistan. This project is under progress which can be a good example of planed city in the country. In the long run Kabul has the potential for being a smart city which can provide the necessity of the youths and citizens of the nation, only when the government is implementing laws and policies to strengthen the state regulations.

The average population growth shows 3.076 Percentage annually after 2000 so it signifies the major reason for the outbreak of population was removal of political conflicts which used to occur continually before the onset of 21st century. Therefore, there is a huge need for proper urbanization in Kabul city to compete with the neighbor by nations.

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