



Why People Move to Cities and the Problems It Creates

KS4 GEOGRAPHY

URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Ages 11-14



3 min read

Why Are People Moving to Cities?

Around the world, more people are moving to cities than ever before. In **1950**, only **30% of people** lived in cities. Today, more than **55% of the world's population** lives in urban areas, and this number keeps growing.

People move to cities mainly for **jobs and money**. Cities have more businesses, factories, shops, and offices, so there are more career opportunities. Wages are often higher in cities too. Young people especially move to cities to find better work and build their futures.

Cities also offer better **services and facilities**. You'll find better hospitals, schools, universities, and entertainment. Shopping, restaurants, public transport, and cultural activities are all easier to access in cities compared to smaller towns or villages.

Think of it like a magnet: cities attract people like a magnet attracts metal, because they promise better opportunities and more exciting lives.

Problems Caused by Rapid City Growth

When too many people move to cities too quickly, it creates serious problems. The biggest challenge is the **housing crisis**. There simply aren't enough homes for everyone. This pushes **house prices** and **rents** sky-high, making it impossible for ordinary workers to afford a place to live. Many people end up in **overcrowded slums** with poor living conditions.

Traffic and pollution are another major issue. More cars on the roads mean more **air pollution** and **greenhouse gases**. Public transport systems become dangerously overcrowded. Streets get congested, making it hard to move around the city.

Cities also struggle with **waste management**. More people means more rubbish, and many cities don't have systems to handle it safely. Water shortages can happen too, especially in hotter regions where cities use more water than they have available.

Think of it like pouring too much water into a cup: it overflows and makes a mess everywhere.

Finally, **unemployment** can rise in cities because there aren't enough jobs for everyone moving there, even though there are more jobs than in smaller places. Crime rates sometimes increase in overcrowded areas, and social problems like poverty become more visible.

Finding Solutions

Governments are working on solutions like building more affordable homes, improving public transport, and encouraging businesses to move to smaller towns so not everyone has to migrate to the biggest cities.