


# Chapter 16

## Climate Change and Urban Poverty Solutions to Prevent Poverty

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Cities are at the centre of economic, social and political life. As a result, cities are constantly growing and their populations are rapidly increasing. As is well known, references are made to the industrial revolution when defining today's cities. With the industrial revolution, cities have become major centres for rural-to-urban migration. With this wave of migration, the construction of informal structures in cities and the struggle for survival of new urban poor in these settlements can be observed. This process is continually observable in developed, developing and underdeveloped countries at different times and to varying degrees. As a result of cities themselves becoming commodified in a world continually impacted by climate change, the urban poor's struggle to survive has been intensified by factors such as increasing rent prices, reduced access to basic services, diminishing access to food and clean water, and settlement instability.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The concept of poverty is a concept that has existed throughout human history. From tribal life to urban antecedents, from ancient cities to today's post-modern cities, we can see poverty emerging in urban space in every period. The factors of poverty of each period may be different. Especially after the industrial revolution,

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the population of cities started to increase dramatically. As a result of the increase in job, social, etc. opportunities offered by cities, cities have become centres of attraction. However, not all people migrating to cities could have these opportunities. However, cities cannot provide the desired opportunities to the people who migrate and poverty emerges. Since the industrial revolution, classes and their living spaces have continued to differentiate and segregate sharply within the urban space. Cities have become places where prosperity and misery are experienced by different classes at the same time.

We can see that the concept of ‘sustainability’ has become important in the studies of both the UN and non-governmental organisations after the environmental awareness started to be formed after the middle of the twentieth century, when the damages caused by humans to the environment became visible over time and started to be negatively affected by this situation. The concept of ‘sustainability’, which is important for the continuity of humanity and the universe, has been discussed through various meetings and conferences and has clearly stated the responsibilities of state administrations and individuals in terms of the rights of future generations and what needs to be done.

Since the late 20th century, rapidly changing climate and increasing natural disasters have started to cause a unique challenge for the world and humanity. The increase in greenhouse gases, the occurrence of heat waves, rising sea levels due to the melting of glaciers, irregularities in climate systems (Cengiz& Uğur, 2024:1) cause problems for human life.

After the effects of global warming and climate change, which is one of the important fields of study in recent periods, have started to be felt in urban space, we can see that the segments struggling to live in cities are more affected. In this study, solution proposals for preventing the increasing urban poverty after climate change will be discussed and the proposals will be analysed.

## **1. URBAN POVERTY**

After the industrial revolution, people started to migrate to industrial cities. After the second half of the 20th century, we can see that the number of people living in cities started to increase rapidly. After 1980, globalisation and neo-liberal economic policies that started to take effect in the world accelerated the urbanisation process even more. As a result, when we look at the 21st century world, the number of people living in cities has become more than the number of people living in rural areas. While approximately 1 billion people lived in cities in 1960, we can see that more than 4.6 billion people live in cities in 2023. Figure 1 shows the increase in the urban population from 1960 to 2023. The urban population increased by 1.82%

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