

Every year, men and women crowd into cities in search of employment, a decent living, and the stimulation of urban life. According to a research, the population in Shanghai alone has increased 26% in the last three years. With rise in urban population, many big cities have met problems of their own.

One big problem is that city dwellers lose touch with the nature. A few flowers in a public park, if we have the time to visit it, may remind us that spring comes. A few leaves clinging to the pavement may remind us that it is autumn. All the simple and good things of life like sunshine and fresh air are at a premium.

A second problem is that we pay dearly for the privilege of living in a city. The demand for accommodation is so great that it is often impossible for ordinary people to buy a house of their own. Costly rents must be paid for tiny flats which even country hens would disdain to live in. Just about everything we buy is likely to be more expensive than it would be in the country.

But of all our problems, the most serious and pressing one which threatens to paralyze the city is the widespread crime. City residents live under constant threat. The crime rate in most cities is very high. Bank robberies which were unheard of in the past now occur more frequently. Today, even walking in the street in broad daylight will make you nervous, let alone in the late night.

All these problems make big cities no longer attractive to people as years before. Only a madman would choose to live in a large modern city.