"What is the city but the people?" 
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

More and more people are flocking to cities, either to visit or to live in, raising issues of sustainability and growth. While the everyday 'city' is about systems, the Smart City is about people.

By 2041, the world's population will increase to 6 billion people. The most urbanized regions include Northern America (with 82% of its population living in urban areas in 2018), Latin America and the Caribbean (81%), Europe (74%) and Oceania (68%).

Tokyo is the world's largest city with 37 million inhabitants. 1.3 million people are currently moving to cities each week.

Cities' energy consumption emits 60 to 70 percent of greenhouse gases. Intensive urban growth can lead to greater poverty. Urban air experiences elevated lead levels due to automobile exhaust.

Multiple health issues arise thanks to large volumes of uncollected waste. Animals are inundated with toxic substances, vehicles, and the loss of habitat and food sources.

Global climate change is leading to threats like flooding, heat waves, and epidemics. Prevalence of psychiatric disorders is significantly higher among people living in urban areas.

Pollution and physical barriers obstructing root growth promote loss of urban tree cover.

We need smart cities:

- Energy efficiency: 6%
- Traffic congestion: 10 to 15%
- Water consumption: 15%
- Traffic fatalities: 10 to 20%
- Incidents of assault, burglary, auto theft, and robbery: 8 to 10% increase, 30 to 40% decrease

Benefits of smart cities:

- By 2025, cities that deploy smart-mobility applications may cut commuting times by 15 to 20%.
- Applications could cut emissions by 10 to 15%.
- Applications can decrease the volume of solid waste per capita by 10 to 20%.
- Deploying public safety applications could reduce fatalities by 8 to 10%.
- Incidents of assault, burglary, auto theft, and robbery could be lowered by 30 to 40%.

Cost-saving: automated, artificial intelligence, cognitive computing, data sharing and analysis, and sensors

Efficient: avoid the waste that some cities end up paying for to begin with

Generating revenue: smart technologies create new resources to generate revenue through creative initiatives

Enhancing quality of life: existing implementations are reporting that Smart City initiatives are saving each global citizen 125 hours a year.

Rate of urbanization:

Current energy standards are met by 60 to 70 percent.

Urban areas lose traffic congestion.

Cities are creating a more sustainable world: using IoT sensors + data analytics + engagement.

This intersection of data and digital technology gives residents a better quality of life.

Intelligent syncing of traffic signals have the potential to reduce average commutes by more than 5%.

Water-consumption tracking can encourage people to conserve & reduce consumption by 15%.

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