

## **Urbanization Trends in Manipur: Emerging Problems and Prospects**

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**Abstract:** Urbanization refers to the increasing number of people that live in urban areas. It is the process, by which large numbers of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities. The trend of urbanization in the state of Manipur was confined within the limit of Imphal town till the 1961 census. The number of urban centers in the state has been increasing as if it has a concomitant phenomenon involving the process of conglomeration approach. Though the state is slow in making the progress of development in economy and industries, there is a significant growth of urbanization due to the natural increase of population because of births over deaths and rural - urban migration. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to discuss the progress of urbanization in Manipur due to intra-state migration as well as concomitant phenomenon and its problems and prospects. The data used in the present work has been collected from secondary of Census records and field visits to the important town areas to analyze the problems they encountered. Though, the criteria and assets prescribed by the Census Department and state authority declared the status of a town, most towns in the state are below standard except qualifying the criteria of demography. Urbanization is phenomenon, which is observed all over the world whether nation is developed or developing. Urbanization in the state, after 1981 except 1991 where two hill towns were deleted for not fulfillment of demographic criteria and it has dramatically increased in 2011 census. Fragmentation of land for the formation of districts in the hill areas based on homogeneity in culture and community is the major problems in the state. These haphazard expansions of urban centers in the state has aggravated on the socio-economic conditions and administration in the state. Proper managements in settlement, drinking water, transport, waste, solid etc shall promote the urban status in the state in the near future.

**Keywords:** Squatter Settlements, Demography, Homogeneity, Socio-Economic, Fragmentation

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Urbanization means increased spatial scale and density of settlement as well as business and other activities in the area. 'Urban growth' denotes the net population increase of the towns and cities while 'urbanization' refers to the proportionate increase of the urban population in relation to the total population in a given country (Puri, 1981). Study of urban phenomena in India started from the International Conference held at Berkeley (California) in 1960 (Bhattacharjee, 2016). Urbanization in the state is a relatively recent phenomenon dating essentially forms the beginning of the nineteenth century. The progress of urbanization, seen from a demographic point of view is essentially a process of population concentration proceeding in the two ways of multiplication of points of population concentration and growth in the size of population of such points. In its nature, the process of urbanization is highly dynamic in character and involves urban elements that suffer considerable spatial and temporal variations. The proportion of urban population to the total often called the "degree of urbanism" is a good measure to denote the level of urbanization. The process of urbanization is said to be on the March if the proportion of urban population to the total is increasing.

#### **1.1 Study Area:**

Manipur is an isolated hill-girt and a picturesque state in the extreme north-eastern border of India. It is located at the extreme side of the Himalayan-the Purbanchal (Chatterjee, 1965) region along the Indo-Myanmar border with Imphal, a flower on the lofty heights, as the state capital. Nagaland bound it in the north, Mizoram in the south, Myanmar in the east and Cachar district of Assam in the west. The state lies between 92°58'E to 94°45'E longitudes and 23°50'N to 25°42'N latitudes with a total geographical area of 22,327 sq. km. of which an important plain of 1,843 sq. km. being only about 8.3 percent of the total area of the state, constitutes the central plain. The hills and mountains cover 20,484 sq. km. (91.7 percent) where various tribes are inhabited in

the hill districts. Manipur valley stands, at a height of 790 meters to 2020 meters from the MSL, and the valley of beautiful oval shaped with fertile alluvial plain is of lacustrine formation.

### **1.2 Objectives:**

The main objectives of the present research work are to provide an overview of the patterns and trends of urban growth in Manipur since 1941-2011 and to determine the vital factors leading to urban growth in the state.

### **1.3 Methodology:**

The present paper is the outcome of secondary sources collected from Census of Manipur, Economic Survey of Manipur, Statistical Handbook of Manipur and Basic Statistics of North Eastern Region. Calculated the district wise trend of urban growth in the state from the available data and visited the important towns to analyse the problems where they encountered.

### **1.4 Components of Urban Population Growth**

The growth of urban population in the state is effected by:

- (i) Natural growth (due to higher birth rates than the death rates)
- (ii) Reclassification of rural settlements as urban centres when they grow to certain size; a certain criteria as lay down by the census authority
- (iii) Incorporation of suburban areas in the town municipality
- (iv) Migration of surrounding rural population into the urban settlements as pull factors

## **II. URBAN GROWTH AND URBANIZATION IN MANIPUR:**

'Urban Growth' denotes the net population increase of town and cities in a state or region whereas, 'urbanization' refers to the proportionate increase of the urban population in relation to the total population in a given country (Chand & Puri, 1983). Urbanization is a continuous and complex process whereby the proportion of population living in the places defined as 'urban' by an appropriate notional authority increases vis-à-vis the rural component. It is a progressive concentration of population in urban unit. Urbanization is taking place when the population of total population that is residing in places or when urban population is growing at faster rate than the average rate of growth for a nation (Davis, 1962). Quantification of urbanization is very difficult; it is a long-term process (Datta, 2006). Urbanization grows mainly because of migration of the rural population to urban centers (Banerjee, 1969). This migration takes place because labour moves from an area where expected income is lower to area where it is higher. Though the increase of urban areas in the state may be resulted from growth in existing urban population, rural-urban transfer, numerical proliferation of urban centers and spatial expansion of existing urban areas; however, rural-urban transfer has been the moving force behind the rapid pace of urbanization. It is fact that, Manipur was far backward economically as late as 1960s. The state remained an independent administrative unit and was a single district territory until 1971. Manipur received a full-fledged statehood on 21 January 1972 under the provisions of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971. The trend of urbanization in the state was confined within the limit of Imphal town until 1961. The tempo of urban growth was somewhat slowed during 1941-1961 because of affected by II WW In April 1943.

## **III. TRENDS OF URBANIZATION IN MANIPUR**

The trend of urbanization in the state was confined within the limit of Imphal town until 1961. During the period from 1961-1971, Churachandpur, Thoubal, Moirang, Nambol, Bishnupur and Lamalai were notified as Statutory town bringing the total number of towns in 1971 to 8. This means that the state as a whole was economically backward in the early decades. Of the 32 towns of Manipur, 30 are in the Imphal valley and two are in the Hill areas in 1981 census. In the districts of Imphal, Thoubal and Bishnupur there are 14, 9 and 7 towns respectively whereas in the hill districts of Churachandpur and Chandel there are one town each. As per census 1951, Churachandpur had only 6 houses and 30 persons. According to 1961 census as well it was a village. In 1971, as per census return, it was an NAC (Notified Area Committee) with an area of 1.51 sq km and population of 8706 (comprising 4471 males and 4235 females). In 1981 it was up gradated to municipality encompassing 6.5 sq km area and inhabiting 20,764 persons (11,054 males and 9710 females). The growing town of Churachandpur was the third biggest town in Manipur during 1981 whereas Churachandpur census town of 1981 was declassified by census authority as rural area in 1991 census with effect from 11th February 1988 owing to the recommendation of the Hill Areas Committee and was placed under the control of Manipur South District Autonomous Council.

The subsequent decades (1981-'91) were marked by a remarkable change from 3,75,460 (26.42%) in 1981 to 8,34,154 (29.21%), in 2011 respectively. The most spectacular increase of urban population took place in the current decades 2001-2011 (25.11% to 29.21%). The number of urban centers shot up from 30 in 1991 to 51 in 2011 and percentages of urban population went down (23.88%) in 2001 from 27.52 percent in 1991 and

again jump up to 29.21 in 2011 because of demographical criteria. There are four new statutory towns namely Kakching Khunou, Kwakta, Andro and Thongkhong Laxmi Bazar treated as urban units at the 1991 census. The urban development in Manipur shows an interesting trend from the beginning of the century (1901) when it was under the colonial rule to the present era of independence which is experiencing great stress and strain (Singh, 1996). However, the state has continued to lag a behind in the urbanization process mainly because of higher proportion of rural population particularly in the Hill districts of the state (total population and urban population) registered a small decrease to 25.11 in 2001 from 27.52 in 1991. However, it is significant to know that the rays of civilization have recently been penetrated into the hilly regions of Manipur. Table No.1 reveals that growth of urban centers in the State increases from one town in 1951 to 51 in 2011 census.

**Table-1: Profile of Urbanization in Manipur (1951 - 2011)**

Census Year	Towns	Total Population	Total Urban Population	% of Population
1951	1	577,635	2,862	0.50
1961	1	780,037	67,717	8.68
1971	8	1,072,753	141,492	13.19
1981	32	1,420,953	375,460	26.42
1991	30	1,837,149	505,645	27.52
2001	33	2,388,634	575,968	25.11
2011	51	2,855,794	834,154	29.21

Sources: Economic Survey, Manipur, 2014-15, Table 2.13 & 2.14

An interesting urban growth in the Hill districts of Manipur is shown in 2011 census where there were seven towns sprung up. Of which, one each in Senapati District (Kangpokpi CT), Ukhrul (Ukhrul CT), Tamenglong (Tamenglong CT), Moreh (STC), and three Census Towns in Churandpur district- Hill Town, Rengkai, and Lamkang. According to the census 2011, the state constitutes 9 districts, 38 Sub-districts, 51 towns (28 statutory towns, 23 census towns) and 2582 villages.

**Table-3: Population of Manipur, 1901-2011**

Year	Population	Decadal Growth (%)	Change in Growth of population (%)
2011	2,855,794	24.50	-0.36
2001	2,293,896	24.86	-4.43
1991	1,837,149	29.29	-3.17
1981	1,420,953	32.46	-5.07
1971	1,072,753	37.53	2.49
1961	780,037	35.04	22.24
1951	577,635	12.80	-2.12
1941	512,069	14.92	-1.12
1931	445,606	16.04	5.12
1921	384,016	10.92	-10.79
1911	346,222	21.71	-

Source: Census of Manipur, 2011

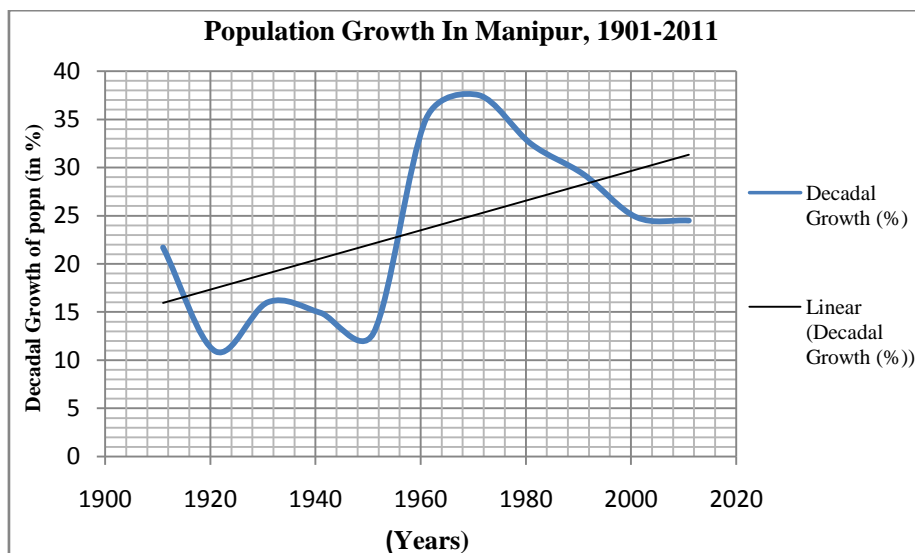


Fig.1

In 2001 Census of Manipur, the corresponding figures were 33 towns (5 census towns, 28 statutory towns) and 2391 villages. No change of 9 districts and 38 Sub-divisions but there is an increase of 18 census towns and 191 villages in census 2011 as compared to census 2001. Manipur witness the heat of the Second World War, which was fought between the Japanese army along with the INA soldiers and the British Indian soldiers under the British colonial rule. On 10th and 16th of May 1942, Imphal itself was bombarded for the first time in the history that led to the destruction of the city, civilian casualties and population of the city overrun and fleeing at safety zone. In April 1943, the Japanese Army started dropping bombs at various part of Manipur in an effort to wipe out the Allied forces. After the bombing, almost every house in Imphal had been abandoned with Manipuris fled for safety to outlying villages and almost the only local civilians to be seen. Due to these devastation of war, population growth in the state, particularly in Imphal, during 1941-51 were decrease from -1.12 in 1941 to -2.12 in 1951 (Table-3).

Table-4: Rural-Urban growth of population in Manipur, 1961-2011

Period	Average annual arithmetic growth rate of population in %			Rural-Urban Growth differential
	Rural	Urban	Total	
1961-71	3.07	10.89	3.75	(-) 7.82
1971-81	1.23	16.54	3.25	(-) 15.31
1981-91	2.74	3.47	2.93	(-) 0.73
1991-01	2.90	1.39	2.49	(+) 1.51
2001-11	1.77	4.48	2.45	(-) 2.71

Source: Economic Survey, Manipur, 2014-15

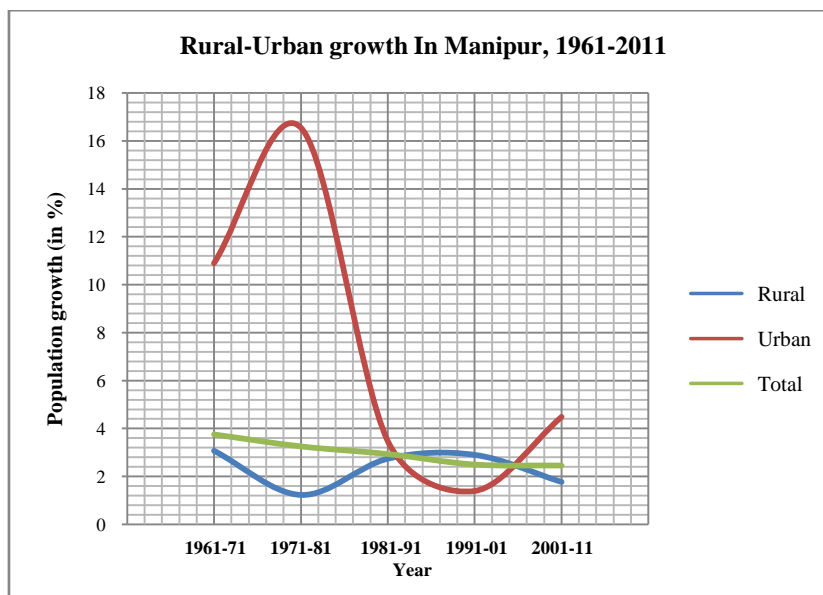


Fig.2

#### IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Urban growth and urbanization is sluggishly increasing in Manipur in the recent past decades as concomitant phenomenon involving the process of conglomeration approach. Decadal growth of population in the state during 1901-1951 were decreased mainly due affected by II WW in Manipur. During 1981-2011, the average annual arithmetic growth rate of population in percentage has been slowly decreasing from 3.75 in 1961-71 to 2.45 during 2001-2011 (Fig.2). It is mainly because of socially checked the illegal immigrations from the neighboring countries into the state and most educated people aware of small families. Regarding the growth of urban centers in the state, based on to the proportionate increase of the urban population in relation to the total population in the district headquarters and market centers as well as political pressures to the overgrown villages. Things have become from worse to worst because of the ill-conceived decision and planning of the lawmakers in Manipur, in the pretext of so-called Development. Unplanned urban growth has led to complexities in the sectors of urban services such as water supply, wastewater management, drainages, solid waste management and urban transport systems. About 18% of urban population is living in squatter settlements where access to basic services is very poor. About 80% of population living in urban areas has waiting for safe drinking water. Urban areas possess inequitable distribution of water and waste management. Urbanization Policy must be accompanied by a parallel effort in regional and area planning with helping hand venturous of policy making and co-ordination at the National, Regional and Municipal levels among the planners, administrators, academicians, politicians and Municipal councils. Urban Local Bodies are not able to cope up with the increasing demand of urban Infrastructure facilities.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Urbanization in Manipur is very recent phenomenon dating from 1951 and before this Census decade; there was only one town, Imphal, the capital of Manipur. Urbanization in the state, after 1961 number of towns in Manipur had been increasing in quantitative manner based on demographic criterion. These haphazard expansions of urban centers in the state has aggravated on the socio-economic conditions and administration in the state. Proper managements in settlement, drinking water, transport, waste, solid etc shall promote the urban status in the state in the near future. The infrastructure facilitated to the mushroom growth towns in the state are beyond satisfaction and need to improve through government and stakeholders.

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