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Trends and Variations in the level of urbanisation in Manipur

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Abstract

Urbanisation in a simple sense is the process of becoming urban. It is characterized by the transformation of a society, changing economic activities, better in the standard of living, access to better facilities and opportunities. The process is mostly associated and has a close link with industrialization and thus it is a process which is more associated with the developed and developing countries. The patterns and trends of Urbanisation in a country or state or a region are however not uniform throughout the region and it changes with space and time. Urbanisation, as perceived, is not only a better opportunity but it also becomes a problem for some. The study of variations in the level of urbanisation becomes an important part in the urban geography to understand the urban problems and prospects. The rapid growth of urban centres and urbanisation in the Imphal valley is largely controlled by its central location and topography of the region.

Keywords: Agglomeration, primate city, spatial patterns, urbanisation, variations,

Introduction

The concept of urbanisation has different connotations in a variety of aspects socially, economically, demographically and politically. It is simply a process of transforming rural population into urban population. Level of urbanisation is the percentage share of the population living in towns and cities to the total population of the country or region (Tiwari, 2001). It involves an increase in the proportion of the population living in urban areas as compared to the increase in the rural population of the country (Munshi, 1975, Krishan and Chandana, 1973). It might be said that urbanisation is accelerated form of urban growth when the rate of increase in urban population growth is equal to or less than the rate of increase of the population of the region, the condition of urban growth exists. In the case where the increase in the urban population exceeds the rate of increase of population of the region, the condition of urbanisation exists (Northam, 1979). The size of the urban population can be defined as the number of persons residing in the urban areas. However, some countries use different criteria to define an urban area. The most common criteria is a minimum number of persons residing in the area, but the minimum criteria differ from country to country, reflecting a variety of social and geographical conditions (U.N., 1989). In India, the concept of an urban area adopted in the 1991 census was to use a more accepted definition of urban.

Urbanisation by itself may not be a problem, what is alarming is the gross inequalities that characterise urbanisation in the third world countries. Urbanisation and growth of urban population in these countries have brought about the rise urban poor segments, characterised by the transformation of rural poverty to urban poverty. The inevitability of high increase in the level of urbanisation in the developing world, in recent times becomes ominous for this large mass of peasants migrating for the towns and cities with the failing infrastructural support and inability of the towns and cities to provide adequate employment and earning avenues and therefore, absorb these migrants to the city. High urban population growth and rapid urbanisation have accelerated

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the decline in essential urban basic services and infrastructure and distribution of basic services like drinking water, sanitary, transport, housing and healthcare etc. The inadequacy of drinking water supply and lack of sanitary facilities have led to increased number of diseases which severely affect the children and the urban poor sections and lead to increase Infant Mortality Rate and Morbidity Rate. It affects the low-income families in their health and hygiene (Planning Commission of India, 1988 and NIUA, 1988). In urban areas in large cities and towns, there is a great shortage of living space and house sites. According to United Nations Report 1988, the percentage share of world urban population increased from 37 percent in 1970 to 41 percent in 1985 and projected to reach more than 50 percent in 2010 A.D. The urban population at the mid-year of 2018 is 55.3 percent as per the United Nations Population Division, 2018. The urban population of the world is estimated to reach 5118 million by 2025. In the case of India, the percentage of the urban population was recorded as 19.9 percent in 1971 and 25 percent in 1991. As per the census 2011, the urban population of the country had gone up to 377 million persons which represent 31.16 percent of the Indian population. The UN population projections projected that 542 million will live in urban areas in India by 2025. The High Powered Expert Committee of Ministry of Urban Development, projection suggests that India's urban population will be closed to 598 million by 2031, more than double of that in 2001.

Objectives

The present endeavour encompasses the analysis of the process of urbanisation in Manipur with special reference to Imphal valley. The study is mainly based on the variations in changes in the level of urbanisation in the state.

Data Collection and Methods

To test the validity of facts as mentioned in the above objectives, the understanding of the variations in the level of urbanisation in Manipur with special reference to Imphal valley have been interpreted by taking into account on district-wise as areal units in the present study. The growth of urban population, urban centre, and level of urbanisation for the period of 1971-2011 have been assessed by using the standard formula for each and every districts. District-wise statistics of urban population, number of urban centres are available in secondary sources and have been collected from various district census handbooks and Census of India for the periods of 1971-2011.

Study Area

Manipur is situated in the north-eastern corner of India bordering Myanmar. It is a hillock state having a geographical area of 22,327 sq.km, extended between 23°50' N to 25°42' N latitudes and between 92°58' E to 94°45' E longitudes. The Imphal valley lies in the centre of the state in almost oval shaped surrounded by hills and mountains from all sides. It occupies a small portion of 2,238 sq. km (i.e. about 10 percent to the total area of the state) which comprises the four valley districts as per 2011 census; Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal and Bishnupur and the remaining i.e. about 90 percent of the total area comprises of five hill districts, they are: Senapati, Ukhrul, Chandel, Churachandpur and Tamenglong. In spite of small area of the state, it accommodates a large population of over 28 lakhs to the share of the country's population.

Variations of Urban Population Growth Rate in Manipur

The urban population rate considerably varied between the decades of 1901- 11 and 1931- 41 which recorded 3.34 percent and 16.2 percent respectively. It shows that average growth rate was low i.e. 3.4 percent over a year as compared to 257.5 percent during 1951-61 to 2001-11 decades. The negative growth rate during 1941-51 (-97.13 percent) can be accounted for by the differential changes which affected the enumeration of a large number of population hence classified as rural. The quick rise of the urban population by 2266.07 percent during 1951-61 decade was due to change in the area of Imphal town from 5.78 sq. Km in 1951 to 17.8 sq. Km in 1961 census and also

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due to rise in rural to urban migration. The urban population growth rate decelerated to 108.8 percent in 1960-71 and 165.4 percent during 1971-81. During 1981-91, the urban population growth rate declined to 34.7 percent only by the reasons that a large number of town in 1981 census were declassified in 1991 census. The growth rate of urban population has to be equilibrium either overtime or space, but it varied between the period of 1961-71 and 2001-11 in the state.

Table 1. Urban Population of Manipur since 1901

Sl. No.	Year	Urban Population	Growth Rate
1.	1901	72,234	
2.	1911	74,650	+ 3.34
3.	1921	80,003	+ 7.17
4.	1931	85,804	+ 7.25
5.	1941	99,716	+ 16.21
6.	1951	2,862	- 97.13
7.	1961	67,717	+ 2266.07
8.	1971	141,492	+ 108.95
9.	1981	375,480	+ 165.36
10.	1991	505,848	+ 34.73
11.	2001	575,968	+ 13.86
12.	2011	834,154	+ 44.82

Source: Director of Census Operation, Census of India 1991, provisional population totals series 15, p. 29. & Census of India 2011.

It can also be noted that during the 1981-91, Imphal, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Churachandpur and Chandel districts has registered urban population growth rate of 43.4percent, 34.03 percent, 46.4percent, 33.7percent and 25.9percent respectively, the other remaining three districts out of the eight districts of Manipur had no urban population. This was due to the declassification oftowns in 1991. During the 1971-81 decade, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Churachandpur and Imphal districts recorded growth rate of 414.4 percent, 210.3percent, 100.4 percent and 94.8percent respectively.

**Table 2. Variation in urbangrowth rate in districts of Manipur (1971-2011) in percent**

Districts	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Imphal West	52.6	96.92	40.38	14.20	33.64
Imphal East		92.79	46.44	41.21	71.12
Thoubal	-	414.42	44.41	23.64	15.28
Bishnupur	-	210.34	34.03	18.94	17.08
Ukhrul	-	-	-	-	-
Tamenglong	-	-	-	-	-
Chandel	-	-	25.98	54.68	12.60
Churachandpur	-	100.47	33.78	-	-
Senapati	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Director of Census Operation, provisional population totals series, Census of India 1991, Census of India 2011.

Variations in the level of Urbanisation in Manipur

In Manipur, it is recorded that the level of urbanisation as 13.2 percent, 26.4 percent and 27.5percent, 25.1percent and 29.2percent in 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. It is evident that the share of the urban population to the total population of the state is fairly higher than other North-eastern states except Mizoram. In 1981 census, the number of towns classified as urban areas increased to 32 from only 8 in 1971. According to 1991 census, the share of urban population to the total population of Imphal, Bishnupur, thoubal districts were recorded as 41.8 percent, 34.7 percent and 36.1percent respectively which accounted higher than the share of the state as whole 27.5 percent whereas Churachandpur and Chandel districts recorded urbanisation level at 19.1 percent and 13.6 percent during the same period of time, which is considerably lower than the state's average.

Table 3. Level of Urbanisation in Manipur by districts 1971-2011 in percent

District	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Imphal West	31.62	49.92	55.56	54.37	62.3the 3
Imphal East	14.16	20.27	22.94	27.11	40.17
Thoubal	7.83	31.60	36.12	36.05	35.85
Bishnupur	13.89	33.07	34.76	35.87	36.86
Ukhrul	-	7.02	-	-	14.78
Senapati	-	6.29	-	-	1.56
Tamenglong	-	6.87	-	-	13.77



Churachandpur	12.50	18.71	19.10	-	6.70
Chandel	-	13.60	13.62	12.64	11.68
Manipur	13.19	26.42	27.52	25.11	29.21

Source: Director of Census Operation, provisional population totals series, Census of India 1991, Census of India 2011.

As mentioned earlier, the hill districts like Senapati, Tamenglong and Ukhrul except Churachandpur and Chandel districts had no towns. In 1991 four hill districts: Senapati, Chandel, Tamenglong and Ukhrul were categorised as rural areas. During the period 1991-2001, Churachandpur district was also classified as rural, there was no change in the level of urbanisation during the same period of time. During this period, Imphal district was bifurcated into two districts viz. Imphal West and Imphal East districts. The negative changes in the level of urbanisation was found in Chandel and Thoubal districts whereas the highest change was recorded in Imphal East, Imphal West and Bishnupur districts. According to 2001 census, the share of the urban population to the total population of Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Thoubal districts were accounted as 27.1 percent, 54.3 percent 35.8 percent and 36.05 percent which recorded higher than the share of the urban population of the state i.e. 25.1 percent. Chandel district with 12.6 percent in 2001 was considerably lower than the state's share.

Table 4. Percentage of Urban Population according to Population Censuses (NE States)

Sl. No.	State/All India	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.70	6.56	12.80	20.75	22.94
2.	Assam	8.82	9.88	11.10	12.90	14.10
3.	Manipur	13.19	26.42	27.52	25.11	29.21
4.	Meghalaya	14.55	18.07	18.60	19.58	20.07
5.	Mizoram	11.36	24.67	46.10	49.63	52.11
6.	Nagaland	9.95	15.52	17.21	17.23	28.86
7.	Sikkim	9.37	16.15	9.10	11.07	25.15
8.	Tripura	10.43	10.99	15.30	17.06	26.17
9.	India	19.91	23.34	25.70	27.81	31.14

Source: Economic Survey 2015-2016, Manipur



Variations of growth of urban centres in Manipur

In 1971 census, there were only 8 towns in the state which rose to 32 towns in 1981 and fell to 31 in the 1991 census. In 1981, all the districts of Manipur had urban centres, against Thoubal (3 towns), Bishnupur (3 towns), Imphal (1 town), and Churachandpur (1 town) in 1971 which increased to 8 towns in Thoubal, 6 towns in Bishnupur, 9 towns in Imphal, 3 towns in Churachandpur, 1 town in Chandel, 3 towns in Senapati, 1 town in Tamenglong and 1 town in Ukhrul districts. According to 1991, as stated earlier, in Manipur state, hill districts like Senapati, Ukhrul and Tamenglong except for Churachandpur and Chandel districts, the small towns were declassified and the number of towns in valley districts had been increased out of the total of 31 towns in the state. According to 1991 census, six towns were notified and seven were denotified due to non-fulfilment of demographic criterion. It can also be clearly seen that Imphal town has maintained the premier status amongst the towns of Manipur from the beginning of the century and since 1971 it had been classified as a class I city, the current population of the Imphal city (2011) being 2.7 lakhs person. Imphal city, the capital of Manipur state is the main marketing and administrative centre of the state. Imphal city has also strategic importance own to its location, to its proximity of Indo- Myanmar International border. It covers an area of 29.57 sq. Km and situated on the banks of the Imphal and the Nambul rivers running at the middle of the Imphal valley. According to the 1991 census for the first time, Imphal city has been treated as an urban agglomeration. It is the largest urban centre with focal points of the road networks of Manipur state. It is also playing a role of 'Primate City', which serve the whole population of the state. As adequate infrastructural facilities like educational institutes, healthcare, market, trades, administrative facilities, transport and communication facilities available in Imphal city, people tends to migrate from rural to urban areas of Imphal city for searching works and earnings. It is also mentioned that the early political history of Manipur came into the prominence of supremacy amongst the principalities of 'Ningthouja', a principal clan of Meitei group with Kangla as its capital on the bank of the Imphal River in the early part of first century A.D. After the World War II, the capital Imphal was rebuilt and brought to the present shape of the town. The town management was done by Imphal Town Fund upto 1956 and Imphal Municipal Board was consolidated with the view of increasing importance of the town in 1956 under the provisions of the Assam Act, 1923 as extended to Manipur. In 1971 census, out of the eight towns, only one town was categorised as class I, one town in class IV, four towns in class V, and two towns in class VI categories. There were no towns under the category of class II, III towns in 1971. In 1981, however, there were two towns in class III, four towns in class IV, nine towns in class V and sixteen towns in class VI categories. In case of 1991, the number of towns had been decreased to 31 towns in the state, consisting of one, three, four, eighteen and six towns in classes I, III, IV, V and VI category of towns respectively in the state. It shows that the number of towns by size-class had been increased in classes III and V categories in 1991, due to the upward mobility of the people. It is also seen that in 1991 census the largest percentage of towns with 58.06percent was occupied in the category of class V town and 50 percent in class VI town during 1981. In 1991, 39.2percent of the population was inhabited in the category of class I town and 24.2 percent of the urban population live in the category of class V town in the state.



Table 5. Number of towns by Class size in districts of Manipur (1971-2011)

Sl. no.	Class	District	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
1.	Class I	Imphal	1	1	1	0	0
		Imphal City/UA (East & West)				1	1
2.	Class II	Nil	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Class III	Thoubal	0	1	2	2	3
		Churachandpur	0	1	1	0	0
		Imphal West	0	0	0	1	1
		Ukhrul	0	0	0	0	1
4.	Class IV	Thoubal	1	2	1	1	1
		Bighnupur	0	2	2	4	4
		Imphal	0	0	1	0	0
		Chandel	0	0	0	1	1
		Imphal West	0	0	0	2	4
		Imphal East	0	0	0	0	2
		Tamenglong	0	0	0	0	1
5.	Class V	Thoubal	2	0	4	5	5
		Bishnupur	1	3	5	3	3
		Churachandpur	1	0	0	0	2
		Chandel	0	1	1	0	0
		Imphal	0	4	8	0	0
		Ukhrul	0	1	0	0	0
		Imphal West	0	0	0	5	7
		Imphal East	0	0	0	4	9
		Senapati	0	0	0	0	1
6.	Class VI	Bishnupur	2	1	0	0	0
		Senapati	0	3	0	0	0
		Tamenglong	0	1	0	0	0



	Churachandpur	0	2	0	0	1
	Thoubal	0	5	2	2	1
	Imphal	0	4	4	0	0
	Imphal West	0	0	0	2	1
	Imphal East	0	0	0	2	5
All Class	Manipur	8	32	31	35	54

Source: Director of Census Operation, provisional population totals series, Census of India 1991, Census of India 2011.

*Imphal (MCI + OG) (Minor part), of Imphal East under Porompat Subdivision has been taken as one town under IMC/Imphal UA in Class I, thus total nos. of town reduced to 54 in actual, it is 55 towns as per census 2011.

**MCI= Municipal Council, OG= Outgrowth, UA= Urban Agglomeration, IMC=Imphal Municipal Council

***Imphal indicates the Imphal district before bifurcation into Imphal East and Imphal West districts.

Changes in the level of urbanisation in Manipur

It is seen that the change in the level of urbanisation during the period of 1981-91, a decrease as compared to 1971-81 (13.2 percent). This was due to reasons that during the 1981-91 decade the growth rate of the urban population suddenly declined to 34.7 percent from 165.4 percent in 1971-81 and largely due to the declassification of some urban centres during the 1991 census. The highest change in the level of urbanisation was recorded in Thoubal district 4.5percent that is higher than those of Imphal districts combine 4.1percent during 1981-91. During the same period of time, Churachandpur and Chandel districts were categorized as the lowest growth of urbanisation level as below 1.5 percent. Bishnupur district was found in the medium growth category between 1.5-3.5 percent and the highest changes above 3.5 percent were recorded in Imphal and Thoubal districts. According to 1991 census, Senapati, Tamenglong and Ukhul districts were categorized as rural areas. During the period between 1971 and 1981 census, the change in the level of urbanisation was recorded highest in Thoubal district with 23.8percent, followed by Bishnupur district 19.2percent. Imphal and Churachandpur districts were accounted 12.3 percent and 6.2percent respectively in the increasing level of urbanisation during the same period of time.



Table 6. Components of Imphal Urban Agglomeration (UA) with Population 2011

Sl. No.	Name of Urban Agglomeration and its constituent units	Whether city, town or out growth/status	2001 population of the city/town	2011 population of the city/town	Growth Rate (%)
(I)	Imphal U.A.		350777	414288	18.11
(A)	Imphal West District		207534	249163	20.06
1.	Imphal MCI (Major Part)	Core city	150595	184091	22.24
2.	Lamshang NP	Core Town	6260	8135	29.95
3.	Lilong (Imphal West) NP	Core Town	10421	12431	19.29
4.	Bijoy Govinda	Outgrowth (Old)	3710	3879	4.56
5.	Oinam Thingel	Outgrowth (New)	2796	3124	11.73
6.	Langthabal Kunja	Outgrowth (New)	1445	937	-35.16
7.	Lanthabal Mantrikhong (part)	Outgrowth (New)	N.A.	891	
8.	Naorem Leikai	Outgrowth (New)	2508	3309	31.94
9.	Naoria Pakhanglakpa	Census Town (Old)	6631	7495	13.03
10.	Lamjaotongba	Census Town (Old)	9067	10574	16.62
11.	Takyel Mapal +	Census Town (New)	4140	5762	39.18
12.	Sagolband (Part)	Census Town (New)	4235	4965	17.24
13.	Langjing	Census Town (New)	5726	3570	-37.65
(B)	Imphal East District		124544	142065	14.07
1.	Imphal MCI (Minor)	Core City	70897	81484	14.93



Part)					
2.	Porompat Plan Area	Outgrowth (Old)	1057	1145	8.33
3.	Kongkham Leikai	Outgrowth (Old)	790	886	12.15
4.	Porompat	Census Town (Old)	5160	6184	19.84
5.	Khongman	Census Town (Old)	5465	6099	11.60
6.	Torban (Kshetri Leikai)	Census Town (Old)	4559	5346	17.26
7.	Lairikyengbam Leikai	Census Town (New)	4006	4589	14.55
8.	Laipham Siphai	Census Town (New)	5040	5263	4.42
9.	Khurai Sajor Leikai	Census Town (New)	7239	7994	10.43
10.	Chingangbam Leikai	Census Town (New)	4433	4898	10.49
11.	Thongju	Census Town (New)	9539	10822	13.45
12.	Kiyamgei	Census Town (New)	4801	5349	11.41
13.	Lilong (Thoubal) NP (Minor Part)	Core Town	1558	2006	28.75
(C)	Thoubal District		18699	23060	23.32
1.	Lilong (Thoubal) NP*	Core Town	18699	23060	23.32

Source: Census of India 2011

+ Takyel Mapal Census Town includes Takyel OG of 2001 Census.

*Lilong (Thoubal) NP is under Thoubal district but it is contiguous to Imphal U. A. and the same may be included under Imphal U. A. and its boundary is provisional

N.A. – Data not available.



Results and Outcomes

Manipur has as many as 55 towns of which 48 towns are scattered in the valley districts of the state and only 7 towns in the hill districts as per the census 2011. The towns in the hill districts are mostly the district headquarters or the near to it, Moreh being an exception to its characteristics of a border town in the Indo-Myanmar international border. The valley districts are thickly populated with 57.2 percent of the total population of the state living in the 10.02 percent of total area of the state, which gives to a density of 730 person per square km. Its levelled terrain has made it possible for various infrastructural development. The urban centres tend to develop around the main city, Imphal. The patterns of urbanisation over the periods is more concentrated in the valley districts and slow growth is seen in the case of the hill districts and it bears the historical background for more development in the valley region. According to 1991 census, for the first time, Imphal city has been treated as an Urban Agglomeration consisting as much as 1 core city, 2 core towns, 5 outgrowths and 5 census towns of Imphal West, 1 core city, 2 outgrowths and 9 census towns of Imphal East and 1 core town of Thoubal District. Imphal, the capital city of the state is the largest urban concentration with a population of more than 2 lakhs. It is situated on the banks of the Imphal and the Nambul River. It is the largest urban centre with focal points of road networks in the state. It is the main marketing and administrative centre of the state playing the role of primate city which serves the whole population of the state. The worrying fact is that the expansion of urban centre and urban growth in the valley region happens at the cost of the very limited fertile cultivable land.

Conclusion

The present study addresses the differential pattern of urban growth and urbanisation in Manipur. This state also happens to be the second most urbanised state in the Northeastern region, after Mizoram. There is a continuum between the densely populated rural areas and the smaller towns. The economy of the state is largely dependent on agricultural activities concentrated in the valley region. The cultivable land is in short supply and due to the lack of opportunities for employment, people tend to migrate from rural to urban locations in search of work and earnings. The high growth rate of population of the state as a whole also generates the forces and processes towards service orientations and therefore, a higher level of urbanisation. The state has very limited availability of raw materials for industrialisation which could generate avenues of employment. The major employment given in the state is the government. Therefore, the process of urbanisation is a delineate balance between population pressure and push factors operating in rural areas and the service demand generated in the urban centres.

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