

TRENDS AND VARIATIONS IN THE LEVEL OF URBANISATION IN MANIPUR**Wangkhem Sunil Singh**

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Abstract

The growing population of urban areas is referred to as urbanization. It is the process that creates cities by permanently concentrating huge populations in very small areas. Up until the 1961 census, the state of Manipur's urbanization tendency was contained inside the boundaries of Imphal town. The state has seen an increase in the number of urban centers, as if the aggregation method were a related occurrence. Despite the state's modest economic and industrial development, there is a notable increase in urbanization as a result of natural population growth brought on by more births than deaths and rural-urban migration. The growth of urbanization in Manipur as a result of intra-state migration and the associated phenomenon, together with its issues and future prospects, have been attempted to be discussed in this study. The information utilized in this study was gathered through field visits to key town regions to examine the issues they faced and secondary census records. Even though the Census Department and state authorities established the town status based on certain criteria and assets, the majority of towns in the state fall short of the standards, with the exception of those that meet the demographic requirements. Urbanization is a global process that is seen in both developed and developing countries. Urbanization in the state has significantly expanded since the 2011 census, with the exception of 1991, when two hill towns were eliminated for failing to meet demographic requirements. One of the state's main issues is the division of land for the creation of districts in the hilly regions according to cultural and communal homogeneity. The state's socioeconomic situation and governance have gotten worse as a result of these uncontrolled urban center developments. In the near future, the state's urban status will be enhanced by effective management of solid waste, transportation, drinking water, settlement, and other areas.

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

Introduction

Increased commerce and other activity in the area, together with a greater spatial size and density of settlement, are all consequences of urbanization. While "urbanization" refers to the proportionate expansion of the urban population relative to the total population of a country, "urban growth" refers to the net population increase of towns and cities (Puri, 1981). The International Conference in Berkeley, California, in 1960 marked the beginning of the study of urban phenomena in India (Bhattacharjee, 2016). In the state, urbanization is a relatively new phenomenon that started at the turn of the nineteenth century. From a demographic perspective, urbanization is fundamentally a process of population concentration that proceeds in two ways: by multiplying the number of places of population concentration and by increasing the size of the population of those points. The process of urbanization is inherently dynamic and incorporates urban features that experience significant temporal and spatial

fluctuations. A useful metric for indicating the degree of urbanization is the ratio of the urban population to the total, which is frequently referred to as the "degree of urbanism." If the percentage of the population living in cities is rising, the process of urbanization is said to be underway.

Study Area

On India's far northeastern border is the gorgeous and remote state of Manipur, which is surrounded by hills. Imphal, a flower on the steep heights, serves as the state capital. It is situated near the Indo-Myanmar border on the far side of the Himalayan area, known as the Purbanchal (Chatterjee, 1965). It was bordered to the north by Nagaland, to the south by Mizoram, to the east by Myanmar, and to the west by the Cachar district of Assam. The state's overall size is 22,327 square kilometers, with the central plain consisting of 1,843 square kilometers, or only 8.3 percent of the state's total area. The state is located between 92°58"E and 94°45"E longitudes and 23°50"N and 25°42"N latitudes. 20,484 square kilometers (91.7 percent) are covered by hills and mountains, and the hill districts are home to a variety of tribes. The Manipur Valley is a stunning oval-shaped valley with a lush alluvial plain that is of lacustrine formation. It is situated between 790 and 2020 meters above mean sea level.

Objectives

The primary goals of the current study are to identify the key elements influencing urban expansion in the state and to give a general overview of the patterns and trends of urban growth in Manipur from 1941 to 2011.

Methodology

The present Study 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.

Components of Urban Population Growth

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

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

Urban Growth and Urbanization in Manipur

While "urbanization" refers to the proportionate expansion of the urban population relative to the total population of a country, "urban growth" refers to the net population increase of towns and cities in a state or region (Chand & Puri, 1983). Urbanization is an ongoing and intricate process in which the percentage of people living in areas designated as "urban" by a suitable conceptual authority rises relative to the rural component. The population of an urban unit is

gradually becoming more concentrated. When the overall population of a country is living in one area or when the urban population is expanding more quickly than the country's average rate of growth, this is known as urbanization (Davis, 1962).

Urbanization is a long-term process that is exceedingly difficult to quantify (Datta, 2006). The primary cause of urbanization is the movement of people from rural areas to urban areas (Banerjee, 1969). The reason for this migration is that workers relocate from regions with lower predicted incomes to those with higher ones. Rural-urban transfer has been the driving force behind the rapid pace of urbanization, even though the state's growing urban areas may be the result of increased urban population, rural-urban transfer, numerical proliferation of urban centers, and spatial expansion of existing urban areas.

Manipur was, in reality, economically underdeveloped as late as the 1960s. Up until 1971, the state was a single district area and maintained its autonomy as an administrative unit. On January 21, 1972, Manipur became a fully-fledged state in accordance with the terms of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971. Up until 1961, the state's urbanization movement was contained inside the boundaries of Imphal town. Due to the effects of World War II, the rate of urban expansion was somewhat curtailed between 1941 and 1961. April 1943.

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 Lamai 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). It was upgraded to a municipality in 1981, with a total area of 6.5 square kilometers and a population of 20,764 (11,054 men and 9710) women. The expanding town of Churachandpur was the third-largest town in Manipur in the 1981 census. However, on the advice of the Hill Areas Committee, the census authority declassified Churachandpur as a rural area in the 1991 census, which took effect on February 11, 1988, and put it under the jurisdiction of the Manipur South District Autonomous Council.

The next decade (1981–1991) had a notable shift, going from 3,75,460 (26.42%) in 1981 to 8,34,154 (29.21%) in 2011. Between 2001 and 2011, the urban population grew at the most remarkable rate (25.11% to 29.21%). Due to demographic factors, the number of urban centers increased from 30 in 1991 to 51 in 2011, and the proportion of the people living in urban areas decreased from 27.52 percent in 1991 to 23.88% in 2001 before increasing once again to 29.21

percent in 2011. According to the 1991 census, four new statutory towns—Kakching Khunou, Kwakta, Andro, and Thongkhong Laxmi Bazar—were classified as urban units.

From the start of the century (1901), when Manipur was a colony, to the current era of independence, which is characterized by significant stress and strain, the city's urban growth exhibits an intriguing tendency (Singh, 1996). However, due to a larger percentage of rural residents, especially in the state's hill districts, the state has continued to lag behind in the urbanization process. The state's total population and urban population decreased slightly from 27.52 in 1991 to 25.11 in 2001. It is important to note, nevertheless, that Manipur's steep areas have only just been exposed to the lights of civilization. Table 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

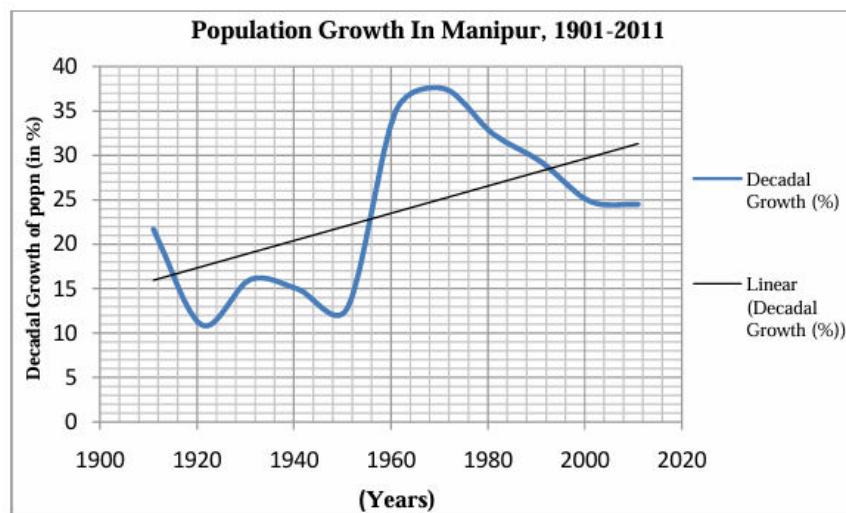
An interesting urban growth in the Hill districts of Manipur is shown in 2011 census where there were seven towns sprung up. Of which, one each in Senapati District (Kangpokpi CT), Ukhrul (Ukhrul CT), Tamenglong (Tamenglong CT), Moreh (STC), and three Census Towns in Churandpur district- Hill Town, Rengkai, 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 2: 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	-
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Source: Census of Manipur, 2011

**Figure 1: Population Growth in Manipur, 1901-2011**

According to the 2001 Manipur census, there were 2391 villages and 33 towns (five census towns and twenty-eight statutory towns). Nine districts and 38 subdivisions remained the same, however there were 18 more census cities and 191 more villages in 2011 than in 2001. The Second World War, which was fought between the Japanese army and INA forces and the British Indian soldiers under British colonial administration, was fought in Manipur. For the first time in its existence, Imphal was shelled on May 10 and 16, 1942, resulting in the city's destruction, human fatalities, and the evacuation of its inhabitants to a safe area. In an attempt to destroy the Allied forces, the Japanese Army began dropping bombs on different parts of Manipur in April 1943. Following the bombing, practically all of Imphal's homes had been abandoned, Manipuris had fled to other villages for safety, and the few remaining local residents were virtually nonexistent. The state's population growth, especially in Imphal, decreased from -1.12 in 1941 to -2.12 in 1951 as a result of the war's destruction (Table 3).

Table 3: Rural-Urban growth of population in Manipur, 1961-2011

Period	Average annual arithmetic growth rate of population in %			Rural- Growth differential	Urban
	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

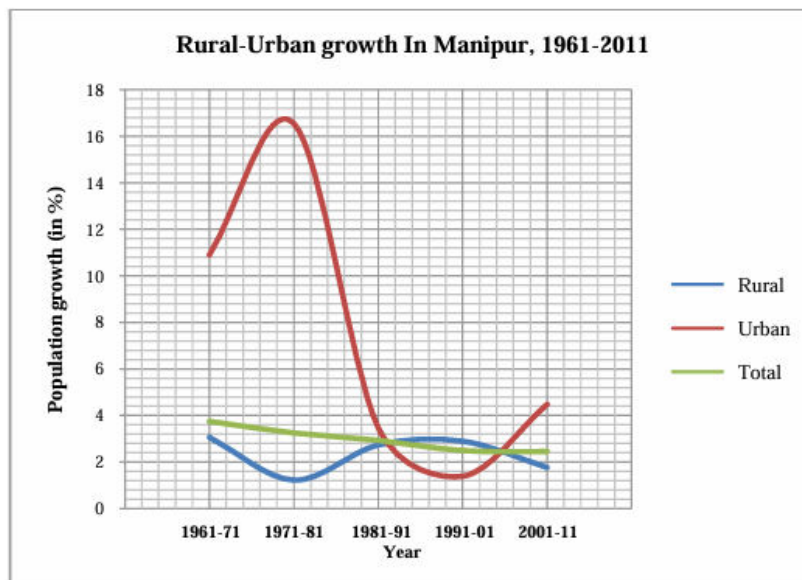


Figure 2: Rural-Urban growth In Manipur, 1961-2011

Findings and Discussion

In Manipur, urbanization and growth have been slowly accelerating in recent decades as a result of the aggregation approach process. The state's decadal population growth from 1901 to 1951 was primarily impacted by World War II in Manipur. The average annual population growth rate in percentage terms from 1981 to 2011 decreased gradually, from 3.75 in 1961–1971 to 2.45 in 2001–2011 (Fig. 2). The majority of educated individuals are aware of tiny families, and this is primarily due to social checks on illegal immigration from neighboring nations into the state. Political pressures on the overgrown villages and the proportionate expansion of the urban population in comparison to the overall population in the district headquarters and market towns are the main factors driving the state's urban center growth. Under the guise of so-called development, the politicians in Manipur made badly thought-out decisions and plans that have made matters worse. Urban transportation systems, drainage systems, solid waste management, wastewater treatment, and water supply have all become more complicated as a result of unplanned urban growth. Squatter colonies, where access to essential amenities is extremely limited, are home to about 18% of the urban population. Approximately 80% of people who live in cities are waiting for clean drinking water. Waste management and water distribution are unequal in urban areas. The implementation of urbanization policy must be supported by concurrent regional and area planning initiatives, as well as collaborative policymaking and coordination among planners, administrators, academics, legislators, and municipal councils at the national, regional, and local levels. The growing demand for urban infrastructure amenities is too much for urban local bodies to handle.

Conclusion

In Manipur, urbanization is a relatively new phenomena that began in the year 1951. Prior to this census decade, the state's capital, Imphal, was the sole town in the region. Urbanization in the state: According to demographic criteria, Manipur's town count has been growing

quantitatively since 1961. The state's socioeconomic situation and governance have gotten worse as a result of these uncontrolled urban center developments. In the near future, the state's urban status will be enhanced by effective management of solid waste, transportation, drinking water, settlement, and other areas. The state's mushroom growth towns lack enough infrastructure, which has to be improved by the government and interested parties.

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