

# TRENDS OF URBANISATION IN MANIPUR FROM 1901-2011: A Socio-Economic Analysis

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**Abstract:** The present paper is the study in the nature on the historical growth of towns and their activities, variation growth in urbanisation, the pattern in the degrees of urbanism, rural-urban ratios, the pattern of variation in number of urban centres, the progress of urbanisation and the problems and prospects of the context. These indicators enunciated is ambitious and raised the present investigation. The scope of this exercise is rather limited. It can be taken as a prologue to the theme based on a perusal of the available literature and a preliminary analysis of the relevant data. The analysis is based on the temporal-spatial pattern of the urbanisation of the study area during 1901-2011 in Manipur. The major view in the study of urban geography has become a necessity and prerequisite in view of growing population and developing market. Thus, the trends of urbanisation are the real mark and index of development so as to ascertain the growth and level of towns as remarked by Smiles. Lambert also stressed, the progress of urbanisation is a cyclical process and involves three important aspects of elements-behaviour, structure and demography. Urbanisation itself is the result of evolution of human civilisation and an urban centre is the centre of evolution of civilisation. The study of the origin, trends of the urban settlements and their spatial distribution in terms evolution and growth reveals the entire history of human settlement in the state. As such, the study period has been traced out in the three chronological orders from pre British period to post independence period of the last census year.

**Key Words:** Pattern, urbanisation, urbanism, rural-urban ratio, temporal-spatial, market, towns, behaviour, structure, demography.

## Introduction:

The dominant theme of the present paper has been study, the pattern of urban settlements in both at regional level and settlement levels. It also throws light on the historical growth of towns and their functions and the analysis is a temporal-spatial pattern of the urbanisation of Manipur during 1901 to 2011. Thus, author approaches the present theme into five approaches 1)The identification of the pattern of variation growth of urban population, 2)The pattern in degree of urbanism and rural urban ratio, 3)The pattern of variation in number of urban centres, 4) The progress of urbanisation in the state and 5) Their problem and prospects.

## Pattern of variation growth of urban population:

Urbanisation is itself the result of evolution of human civilisation and an urban centre is itself the centre of evolution of civilisation. The study of the origin of urban settlements and their spatial distribution in terms of evolution reveals the entire history of the occupation of the land. As such, land occupancy in different time period has been trace out in the following chronological order, pertaining to the regional history-

1. Pre British period(1591-1890)
2. British period(1891-1947)
3. Post independence period(1947-2011)

## Pre British Period:

Khagemba the elder son of king Mungyamba was took up a number of development programmes for the welfare of the people. He established many educational heads, Improvement and repairing many of the inter- state roads, paths, bridges and water-ways etc, Before Khagemba there was no market or any central places and

practice only barter system. During his time(1597-1652A.D.), king Khagemba established 9(nine ) markets, such as 1) Kha Keithel, 2) Ahong Keithel, 3) Khumal Keithel, 4) Moirang Keithel, 5)Phabang Keithel, 6) Chairel Keithel, 7) Kondang Keithel, 8) Andro Keithel and 9) Sana Keithel or royal market (now the Imphal-City) become the only single city or town from 1881to 1961 census. In the period of (1819-1826) was one of the devastation period in the history of Manipur.During this 7 year devastation period by Burmese, they destroyed whole the Imphal-Valley including all the urban amenities of Imphal the royal capital town, burning the standing crops, driving cattle's and even Manipurians as slaves. In the British colonial period, the first census year recorded in 1881 and Captain Brown estimated the total population of Imphal city was 60,000 persons.

### **British Period:**

As stated earlier, the earliest available authentic census records are of 1901 and Imphal has been recognised as only single town since then up to 1960. As per census of 1901, there were 72,234 populations in Imphal the capital town. It again recorded 74,650 (in 1911), 80,003 (in 1921), 85,804(in 1931), and 99,716 in 1941. During this period the colonial government (Britishers) organised and improved the urban amenities and modernised the infrastructures like roads, buildings, schools and many others. It also revealed that a considerable influx of people entered the town in search of employment from the rural areas and outside the state e.g, Bengalis, Biharis and Marwari's entered for their trading centre.

The first half of the decade 1941-51 was dominated by the World War II which particularly closed to Manipur and for the first time on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1942 Manipur experienced the shock of the world war. As the result of the war many urban amenities of the capital town has been destroyed completely, thus the town has surprisingly decreased the population and recorded only 2,862 persons in the census record.

### **Post Independence Period:**

In 1961 the population of Imphal town jumped abruptly from 2862 persons in 1951 to 61,717 persons in 1961. These trends of neck to neck increase are largely because of the influx of refugees from Bangladesh, natural growth and inclusion of additional areas with the city limits in 1961 census. Another major factor is that after the war, most of the people who had fled to various remote villages returned at their original places and settled down in Imphal, the capital town. The decade 1961-1971 is the most remarkable stage of urbanisation in the state, because before 1971 census from the down of 1901 to 1961, Imphal has been the only single primate urban centre but it has change forever, and six more small towns also sprang up in 1971. The newly included towns are C.Cpur, Kakching, Thoubal, Moirang, Nambol, Bishnupur and Lamlai. As a result, the urban population of Manipur was 1, 41,492. These newly emerged places are simply over grown village's centres due to impact of Green Revolution and develop as agricultural production centres so; their functional character is function by high proportion of agricultural population. The process of urbanisation of the state recorded a further spurt during 1971-1981. The urban population increases from 1.41,492 in 1971 to 3, 75,460 in 1981 with decennial growth of 165.36%. The number towns grew 8 to 32. The growth of these small towns was related to large increase in transport network and a simultaneous raised the production in the irrigated areas particularly in the districts of Thoubal and Bishnupur. These tracts made tremendous gained in their agro- products as the result of promoted irrigation and other infra-structures. In 2001, Manipur has experienced a new phase of rapid urbanisation and registered 33 towns included 28 statutory towns and 5 census towns. In spatial terms this rapid expansion was typical of the resource rich Valley districts which, continued attracting high agriculture products and gained in their trade and improved transport and small industrial functions on agriculture. In 2011, the state has again registered highest number of 51 towns which were includes of 28 statutory towns, 23 census towns. This is the resultant factor of the hill development areas where towns expanded and they are functionalised in terms of their administrative as district head quarters, modernisation in education, improved network, urban amenities and health.

### **At Regional level:**

The growth trends of urban population in the state depicted some interesting features. The study of decennial variation of urban population of the region amply reveals that the progress of urbanisation has been accelerated from 1901 and maximum percentage growth of (2264.68%) was during 1951-1961. From the decade of 1971-81 both the fertile central valley region and hilly similar trends is discernible with 503.86% in hilly

districts and 182.76% valley districts respectively. This fact is the consequence of the abrupt growth in urban centres and population in the hilly region in 1981 census. It also observed, the period 1941-1951, the region had been a great retardation in the growth of urbanisation with -97.13% due to the result of 2<sup>nd</sup> world war. The region has an accelerated trend in the growth of urbanisation at the rate of 72,234 in 1901 to 6,36,625 (30.21%) in 2011. However, the growth of urban population during 2001-2011 of the region was 42.74% as against 18.125 of India.

### **Patterns in Degree of Urbanism and Rural – Urban Ratios:**

The conventional measure of degree of urbanism, the state in 1901 as a whole was 25.39% and it increases 27.52 in 1991 and again it was 30.21 in 2011. During this period, 1901-2011 the region falls in to two pattern of degrees of urbanism that is 1) Pattern of increasing in decreasing rate (1901-1941) and 2) Pattern of increasing in increasing rate (1961-2011).

#### **Pattern of increasing in decreasing rate:**

From 1901-1941 the urban population has been increasing in decreasing rate e.g. in 1901 the rate is 25.39% but towards the prevailing decades the percentage down with a rate of 19.47% in 1941. It means that the growth rate in percentage is decreased while in the growth of net total is increased thus, the pattern falls as “the pattern of increasing in decreasing rate.

#### **Pattern of increasing in increasing rate:**

However from 1961 the above pattern has been changed with a rate of 8.68% to 32.21% in 2011 and rise in percentage. But this trend is absolutely alternative in the rural population of the state. This is comparatively very high to compare in the degree of urbanism for North-East states of India as a whole 3.94% in 1901, 21.23% in 1991 and 27.39% in 2011. This comparison among the states of North-Eastern Region reveals that urbanisation in North-Eastern India is highly concentrated in a few regions like river valley of Assam and Manipur and highly educated state like Mizoram. Another observation also revealed, the progress of urbanisation in Manipur during 1941-1951 had received a setback due to general famine, lack of urban infra-structures, just the beginning of planned period as the result for the downs of independence and varies epidemic conditions and other natural Clara.

#### **Variation in the rural-urban disparity:**

The study of rural-urban ratios of the region confirms the pattern of variation in the degree of urbanism. The rural – urban ratio is highest in Imphal district (695.18%) in 1991, followed by Thoubal (576.15%) and Bishnupur (537.15).

#### **Pattern of variation in the number of urban centres:**

The number of urban centres in the state has not been increased significantly during the period of 1901-1961 only Imphal town has been existed as single primate town. The number of urban centres in the region was 7 in 1971, 32 in 1981, 30 in 1991 and 51 in 2011. Thus the increase in the number towns in the period of 1971 to 2011 provides a significant variation. It shows that the average rate of increase in terms of number of towns is only 3 towns each of decade. However during this period no single town is degraded in their urban status and no decreased in their number in the valley region is observed but many small towns degraded in the hilly region and also decreased in number. The progress of urbanisation in the valley region has been moderately high but in the hills region it has been fluctuated decade by decade.

In the period of 2001- 2011 the state has registered 33 towns in 2001 and 51 towns in 2011. The growth of these small towns is related to large increase in transport network, increased of market activities, liberal financial assistance from the central government, new planned in the hilly regions and good governance in the state. Another is the resultant factor of the hill development areas particularly in the tribal region where towns expanded in terms of their administrative, education, improved network and urban amenities, etc. In brief, the urbanisation process during the period was marked by many special features. First, there was distinct spurt in urban growth is responsible in response to overall development process. Secondly, there was a spatial diffusion of urbanisation, reflected in the narrowing down of regional disparities in urbanisation. Lastly, the difference in the growth rate of towns by their population size categories narrow down.

## **Progress of Urbanisation (1901-2011):**

Progress of urbanisation of a region is affected essentially by the cumulative effect of rural to urban migration as well as the fresh admission into the urban class of settlement (Reddy, N.B.K). The progress of urbanisation in Manipur is relatively high in comparison with that of other North-East states as well as a whole in the country in the period of 1901 to 2011. The state has increase from 340.36 ratio in 1911 to 379.8(29.69) in 1991 which was against the North-Eastern region 3.94 in 1901 to 13.90% in 1991. During the decade of 1981-1991 the five urban centres of Andro, Thongkhong Laxmi Bazar, kakching Khunou and Kwakta has attained the urban status in 1991, so they had no increase in their population. Another important features is also revealed that tamenglong, Mao-Maram, Karong Senapati, Loktak Hydro Electric project Town, Kangpokpi, Ukhrul and Singhat of these urban centres lost their urban character due to declassification of urban centres in 1991. In the decadal period of 2001-2011 there have been increased 5 towns in hilly region and 10 towns in the valley region.

## **Findings:**

### **1. Problems**

The remoteness of the region from the centre and her geographical location among the reasons, its economic development including transport has failed to keep pace with the tempo of progress in the rest of India. Difficult of terrain, a large number of rivers, shortage of skilled labour, cultural based on primary occupation, imbalance between export and import, poor education economy in the hilly region or tribal tract of the region, lack of proper transport network, unorganised sectors, lack of mineral exploitation, insurgency problems, neglected administration as broader state in view on centrality index are some of the major hindrances to the rapid growth of urbanisation in the state.

The low degree of urbanisation is obviously indicative of the relative backwardness of the state under study. The proportion of rural population of the state is 69.79% in 2011. Agriculture and other allied activities is the single largest source of livelihood of the people of the state. Another problem is its geographical situation, strategically most sensitive areas coupled with lack of adequate communication facilities, poor accessibility etc,. Moreover the region contains a diverse range of societies; usually in conflict with each other pave the way for mainland Indian culture penetration and expansion. The resultant socio-economic experience of the two diverse, VALLEY-REGION and HILLY –REGION were more variable and the urban consequences similarly diverse. The spatially strategy of urban growth is not supported by any theoretical text or conceptual- theoretical background. Without this, argument made in favour of growth centres appear sudden, slipshod and declines.

### **2. Prospects**

However a beginning was made towards the rapid urbanisation in the state in last few decades. After 1981 there was increase in urban sex ratio and decline in rural sex ration. The increase in urban sex ratio is a good symbol of social change in women's status. Urbanisation in the region has shown a continuous process, especially after 1961 and it shows that future growth of the urbanisation is bright. The proportionate increase in the number of urban centres and general increase in the urban population during the last two decades indicates that there would be a good progress of urbanisation in the state in the near future.

## **Suggestion:**

The most suggestive view for the future growth of urban settlement and urban centres may be handed over to the state and regional planning group for the minimization of regional disparities. Being district head quarters as well as having a good hinterland of agricultural resources, the towns-Thoubal, Kakching, Moirang, Mayang Imphal and Nambol in the valley region. Based on their location and function the towns like Senapati, Churhanpur, Moreh may growth very nearly. To sum up, in the light of the several aspects of the distribution of urbanism and urbanisation trends in the state studied so far it can be confidently observed as a line of conclusion that the state of Manipur has a bright future.

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**TABLE NUMBER-1**

**ASPECTS OF GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION (COMPARATIVE STUDY OF URBANISM  
1901-2011 MANIPUR**

| SL.NO. | CENSUS YEAR | TOTAL URBAN POPULATION | Percentage to the total population |
|--------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1      | 1901        | 72,234                 | 10.84                              |
| 2      | 1911        | 74,650                 | 10.29                              |
| 3      | 1921        | 80,003                 | 11.18                              |
| 4      | 1931        | 85,304                 | 11.99                              |
| 5      | 1941        | 99,716                 | 13.86                              |
| 6      | 1951        | 2,862                  | 17.29                              |
| 7      | 1961        | 67,717                 | 19.97                              |
| 8      | 1971        | 1,41,492               | 19.91                              |
| 9      | 1981        | 3,75,460               | 23.34                              |
| 10     | 1991        | 5,05,645               | 26.13                              |
| 11     | 2001        | 5,75,968               | 25.11                              |
| 12     | 2011        | 6,36,625               | 30.21                              |

Source: Census volumes of India, 2011, series-1, final population

**TABLE-2**

**DECENNIAL VARIATION IN PERCENTAGE OF RURAL-URBAN POPULATION IN MANIPUR  
(1901-2011)**

| SL.NO. | CENSUS YEARS | TOTAL POPULATION | TOTAL RURAL POPULATION | PERCENTAGE (%) | TOTAL URBAN POPULATION | P.C (%) |
|--------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------|
| 1      | 1901         | 2,84,465         | 212231                 | 74.61          | 72234                  | 25.39   |
| 2      | 1911         | 364222           | 271572                 | 78.61          | 74650                  | 21.56   |
| 3      | 1921         | 384016           | 304013                 | 79.17          | 80003                  | 20.83   |
| 4      | 1931         | 445605           | 359802                 | 80.75          | 85804                  | 19.25   |
| 5      | 1941         | 512069           | 412353                 | 80.53          | 99716                  | 19.47   |
| 6      | 1951         | 577635           | 574773                 | 99.50          | 2862                   | 0.50    |
| 7      | 1961         | 780037           | 712320                 | 91.32          | 67717                  | 8.68    |



|    |      |         |         |       |        |       |
|----|------|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 8  | 1971 | 1072753 | 931261  | 89.81 | 141492 | 13.19 |
| 9  | 1981 | 1420953 | 1045493 | 73.58 | 375460 | 26.42 |
| 10 | 1991 | 1837149 | 1331504 | 72.48 | 505645 | 27.52 |
| 11 | 2001 | 2293896 | 1717928 | 74.89 | 539844 | 23.53 |
| 12 | 2011 | 2722000 | 2085375 | 69.79 | 636625 | 30.21 |

**TABLE-3**  
**CITIES, TOWNS AND OUTGROWTH WARDS**  
**1991-2011**

| Name                 | Status | District      | City of outgrowth | Population census 1991-03-01 | Population census 2001-03-01 | Population census 2011-03-01 |
|----------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Andro                | N.P    | Imphal east   |                   | 6797                         | 8316                         | 8744                         |
| Bijoy Gobinda        | W.O    | Imphal West   | Imphal            | -----                        | 3710                         | 3897                         |
| Bishnupur            | M.C    | Bishnupur     |                   | 8040                         | 10264                        | 12167                        |
| Chingabam Leikai     | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   | -----                        | 4433                         | 4904                         |
| Heingang             | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   | ----                         | 5364                         | 6115                         |
| Heirok               | N.P    | Thoubal       |                   | 1932                         | 2450                         | 2974                         |
| Hill Town            | C.T    | Churachandpur |                   | -----                        | ----                         | 2293                         |
| Imphal               | M.C    | Imphal West   | Imphal            | 198535                       | 221492                       | 268243                       |
| Jiribam              | M.C    | Imphal East   |                   | 5969                         | 6423                         | 7343                         |
| Kakching             | M.C    | Thoubal       |                   | 24437                        | 28724                        | 32138                        |
| Kakching Khunou      | N.P    | Thoubal       |                   | 8234                         | 9318                         | 11379                        |
| Kangpokpi            | C.T    | Senapati      |                   | ----                         | 4584                         | 7476                         |
| Khongman             | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   | ----                         | 5465                         | 6096                         |
| Khurai Sajor Leikai  | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   | ----                         | 7239                         | 7987                         |
| Kiyamgei             | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   | ----                         | 4801                         | 5336                         |
| Kongkham Leikai      | W.O    | Imphal East   | Imphal            | ----                         | 790                          | 887                          |
| Khetrigao            | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   |                              | 8286                         | 10534                        |
| Kumbi                | N.P    | Bishnupur     |                   | 7251                         | 8725                         | 9546                         |
| Kwakta               | N.P    | Bishnupur     |                   | 5041                         | 6484                         | 8579                         |
| Laipham Siphai       | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   | ----                         | 5040                         | 5268                         |
| Lairicyengbam Leikai | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   | ----                         | ----                         | 4586                         |
| Lamjaotongba         | C.T    | Imphal West   |                   | 7340                         | 9067                         | 10593                        |
| Lamlai               | N.P    | Imphal East   |                   | 3606                         | 4085                         | 4601                         |
| Lamsang              | N.P    | Imphal West   |                   | 5635                         | 6260                         | 8130                         |
| Langjing             | C.T    | Imphal West   |                   | ----                         | ----                         | 5451                         |
| Langthabal Kunja     | W.O    | Imphal West   | Imphal            | ----                         | ----                         | 938                          |
| Langthabal Mantri    | W.O    | Imphal West   | Imphal            | ----                         | ----                         | 889                          |
| Lilong(I.W)          | N.P    | Imphal West   |                   | 9427                         | 10421                        | 12427                        |
| Lilong(Thbl)         | N.P    | Thoubal       |                   | 15211                        | 20257                        | 24900                        |
| Luwangsangbamm       | C.T    | Imphal East   |                   | ----                         | ----                         | 3458                         |
| Mayang Imphal        | M.C    | Imphal West   |                   | 16570                        | 20532                        | 24239                        |
| Moirang              | M.C    | Bishnupur     |                   | 15,443                       | 17178                        | 19893                        |
| Moreh                | S .T.C | Chandel       |                   | 9673                         | 14962                        | 16847                        |
| Nambol               | M.C    | Bishnupur     |                   | 16021                        | 18784                        | 22512                        |
| Naorem Leikai        | W.O    | Imphal West   | Imphal            | ----                         | ----                         | 3312                         |
| Naoriya Pakhanglakpa | C.T    | Imphal West   |                   | ----                         | 6631                         | 7501                         |

|                        |     |             |        |       |       |       |
|------------------------|-----|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Ningthoukhong          | M.C | Bishnupur   |        | 9458  | 10877 | 13078 |
| Oinam                  | N.P | Bishnupur   |        | 5307  | 6282  | 7161  |
| Oinam Thingel          | W.O | Imphal West | Imphal | ----  | ----  | 3024  |
| Porompat               | C.T | Imphal East |        | ----  | 5160  | 6191  |
| Rengkai                | C.T | C.Pur.      |        | ----  | 4403  | 8293  |
| Sagolband              | C.T | Imphal West |        | ----  | 4235  | 4969  |
| Samurou                | N.P | Thoubal     |        | 11858 | 14430 | 16582 |
| Sekmai                 | N.P | Imphal West |        | 4288  | 4314  | 5065  |
| Sikhong Sekmai         | N.P | Thoubal     |        | 5339  | 6120  | 7390  |
| Sugnu                  | N.P | Thoubal     |        | 4058  | 4508  | 5132  |
| Takyel Mapal           | C.T | Imphal West |        | ----  | 1370  | 5775  |
| Tamenglong             | C.T | Tmenglong   |        | ----  | 13130 | 19363 |
| Thongju                | C.T | Imphal East |        | ----  | 9539  | 10836 |
| Thongkhong Laxmi Bazar | N.P | Thoubal     |        | 9910  | 12680 | 14878 |
| Thoubal                | M.C | Thoubal     |        | 31011 | 41174 | 45947 |
| TorbanKshetri Leikai   | C.T | Imphal East |        | ----  | 4559  | 5459  |
| Wangjing               | N.P | Thoubal     |        | 5609  | 6970  | 8055  |
| Wangoi                 | N.P | Imphal West |        | 6764  | 7868  | 9106  |
| Yairipok               | N.P | Thoubal     |        | 6911  | 8261  | 9569  |
| Zenhang Lamka          | C.T | CC.Pur      |        | ----  | 7408  | 7771  |
| Ukhrul                 | C.T | Ukhrul      |        | ----  | 20156 | 27187 |

M.C-MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, C.T-CENSUS TOWN, W.O-WARD OUTGROUTH, N.P- NAGAR  
PANCHAYET,CC.PUR-CHURCHANDPUR, S.T.C-SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE