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A Spatial-Temporal Analysis Of Urban Growth In Thoubal District During The Post Statehood

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Abstract: Urbanizations and its consequences are the global phenomena and by the turn of the century, almost half of the world population is expected to live in urban centers. The objectives of this paper are to know the spatial pattern and trend of the distribution of the urban population within the district in corporation of urban growth rate, sex ratio, dependency ratio, literacy rate, educational level and problems and prospects of urban growth. This paper is based on data collected from district census records of Manipur and field visits with keen observation of spatial distribution of urban centres in the district. These expansions of urban centres in the state has aggravated based on socio-economic conditions, improved infrastructure, rural-urban migration, sprung up market centres, advancement of transport and communication. The district is rich in agriculture-based industries that attracted large number of rural population and has high possibility of increasing business centres as the Indo-Myanmar Road (Asian Highway No-1) run through the district.

Index terms: Urbanizations, Concomitant Approach, Spatial Distribution, Migration, over-growth villages

I. INTRODUCTION

Thoubal was chosen as a District Headquarters in the year 1983, while its Municipality came into existence in the year 1981. It has grown as a collecting and distributing centre and is now becoming one of the most important urban centers in the state. Urbanization is relatively recent phenomenon dating from the beginning of nineteenth century (Singh.2018). Up until 1961, the state's urbanization movement was restricted to the area around Imphal town. The addition of Churachandpur, Thoubal, Moirang, Nambol, Bishnupur, and Lamlaï as Statutory Towns between 1961 and 1971 raised the total number of towns to 8 in that year. This indicates that in the early decades, the state as a whole was economically backward. The state's economy lagged a truth substantially behind other states until the 1970s. However, there was a noticeable increase in the growth of the urban population from 1971 to 1981, particularly in the years following the state's admission into the union (1972), because of the development of the state's growth of administrative units, industries, commercial activity, transportation and communication systems. The most encouraging aspect of the growth of urbanization in Manipur is the recent growth of a large number of rural service centers and markets which have essentially come up for carrying out commercial functions on a small scale basis and socio-cultural functions. In fact, these small service centers in the state might be considered as higher order rural service centers though they could not attain the status of small towns in the last census (2001). These service centers along with their catchment areas might be the potential urban centers of the district are not chance to facilitate to other rural areas except Thoubal Town till 1961. The district, carved out from the erstwhile Manipur Central District, came into existence officially in May 1983.while the Thoubal Municipality came into existence in the year 1981. It has grown as a collecting and distributing center and during the post statehood (21st February, 1972), the district has sprung up as single until 1981.

3.1. The Rationale of the Study

As per 2011 census of India, Thoubal has a population of 422,168 in 2011 out of which 210,845 are male and 211,323 are female. Literate people are 269,304 out of 152,617 are male and 116,687 are female. People living in Thoubal depend on multiple skills, total workers are 195,319 out of which men are 109,377 and women are 85,942. Total 59,090 Cultivators are depended on agriculture farming out of which men cultivate 40,813 and 18,277 are women. Total 12,151 people works in agricultural land as labor; men are 6,334 and 5,817 are women. Thoubal sex ratio is 1,002 females per 1000 of males. Manipur has now become a 16-district state, after 7 new districts were formed by dividing the 9 existing ones. The newly created districts are Tengenoupal, bifurcated from Channel district, Kampong from Ukhrul, Pherzawl from Churachandpur, Kangpokpi from Senapati and Jiribam from Imphal East districts

The number of central functions determines the importance of a central place. A place with a higher number of functions will tend to have a wider service area than a place of lower number of services. The quality of functions performed by settlements is likely to vary from place to place and for each level of functional hierarchy. It is possible to determine the centrality of settlements in any region by measuring the variety and level of the functions performed. To determine the hierarchy based on functions in the District, an attempt has been made to quantify these functions by giving appropriate weightages for each level. The numerical values have been awarded to central functions on the basis of two considerations; firstly the basis of their relative importance and secondly on the basis of common observations. An example will clarify the issue of relative importance of central functions. Out of 9 urban centers of the district, Thoubal may be assumed as first level of hierarchy which is the District Headquarter of the region. It holds the primate status over the regional centers of the Thoubal District. The second category of hierarchy is placed at Kakching. It is statistically proved that the influence of Kakching Municipality covers the whole of Kakching Sub-Division and Kakching Community Block. Third category of hierarchy includes the remaining 7 urban centres, i.e., Lilong (Thoubal), Kakching- Khunou, Yairipok, Wangjing, Sikhong-Sekmai, Sugnu and Heirol. The fourth urban category is formed by large villages, which by virtue of central locations in their respective regions have become the important service centers.

3.2. Objectives

1. To know the spatial pattern and trend of the distribution of the urban population within the district;
2. To know the trend and pattern of urban growth rate, sex ratio, dependency ratio, literacy rate, educational level and problems and prospects of urban growth;
3. To understand the towns and their personalities in the regional frame; and project the problems of urban-rural integration of the region under study.

II. DATABASE & METHODOLOGY

The study of the present paper is based on data collected from district census records of Manipur and field visits with keen observation of spatial distribution of urban centres in the district. The present study is an attempt to make some significant contribution to determine and location and structural patterns of urban centers of the Thoubal District of Manipur. This study has highlighted some of the basic issues like the process of the urban growth and the demographic structure as influenced by the geographical, economic and social factors. Here an attempt has been made to find out the actual problems for the future prospects of the urban settlements of the district after examining a number of factors applied for the purposes.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After attaining Independence in the year 1947 and for a period of fifty two years of constant striving for progress and prosperity of the country, the actual progress achieved so far for the urban and rural masses has, however, not been very encouraging. As a result of this, in India about 73.87 of its total population are living in the villages. These figures illustrate the backwardness of the country as a whole. According to the 2001 census of India, an overwhelming majority of population representing 72.48% of the total population of Manipur are scattered over 2,182 villages, and remaining 27.52% being concentrated in 33 urban centers. Hence, a detailed regional development plan for each district of the state of the country is a pre-requisite, if the desired goals of our national plans are to be achieved. Hence, necessity of the present venture arises. The population of Thoubal was 5,682 in the year 1971, and it rose to 18,568 in 1981 and 33,011 in 1991, 41,149 in 2001, respectively and 45,947 (11.59) in 2011, 127 villages, 2 sub divisions, 3 blocks (Lilong, Thoubal, Wangjing Cd Block); 2 sub divisions (Thoubal and Lilong) were developed in the district. Recently, it is observed that there are over-grown villages of Thoubal District, such as Khangabok, Tentha and Wabgai could not be a town because of administrative and other reasons; though these villages are attaining the requirement assets to be a town, based on Census of India.

IV. EVOLUTION OF URBAN CENTERS IN THE THOUBAL DISTRICT

“Urbanization is a relatively recent phenomenon dating essentially from the beginning of the nineteenth century” (Yeats, 1971). The study of urbanization trends and conditions of urban growth has never been more relevant and popular than it is today. There is high tendency of migration of people from the hills to valley areas but migration from the valley to the hill areas are very much less in general because of land-law in the state is that hills of Manipur are belongs to tribal people and valley areas are opened for all (Singh, 2017). The Manipur Land Reform and Land Revenue Act, 1960 (MLR Act, 1960) is extended to the whole valley but applies only to a negligible portion of the hill area. Over the years, the state government of Manipur has attempted to pass several land laws with certain amendments and the recent one being the New Land Use Policy, 2014. The progress of urbanization in the Thoubal District is relatively high when compared with those of Manipur (27.52%) and India (26.13%). In 1971, the degree of urbanism for the Thoubal district as a whole was 7.87 percent and it increased to 31.72 in 1981 and 36.56 percent in 1991, denoting a significant change. This is comparatively low, compared with the degree of urbanism for Imphal district (41 %) as a whole but slightly more when compared with that of Manipur State. For comparative purposes the trends of urbanization of Thoubal district and Manipur state as a whole can best be understood by looking at the following table:

Table.1:
Comparative Study of Degrees of Urbanization between Manipur and Thoubal District, 1971-2011

Year	Manipur		Thoubal District	
	Urban population	% of total urban Population	Urban population	% of total urban population
1971	1,41,492	13.19	14,293	7.89
1981	3,75,460	26.42	73,526	31.72
1991	5,05,645	27.52	1,07,454	36.56
2001	5,70,410	23.88	1,31,270	35.83
2011	8,34,154	29.21	1,51,333	64.15

Source: Census volumes of India, Manipur, 2011

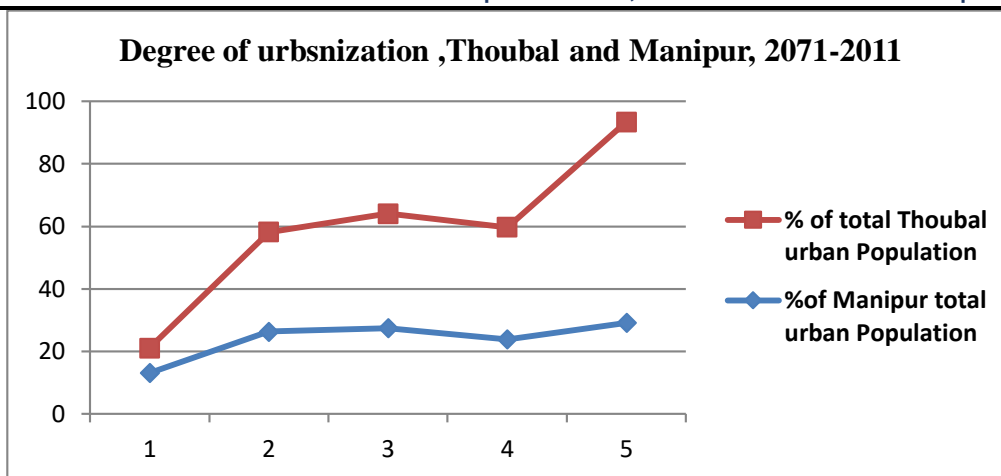


Fig.1

It is evident that due to the increasing urbanization, the merger of villages into towns has been observed. Due to this process, the small towns developed into major urban centers. This also helps in transforming rural way of life into urban economic and social organization. The transformation of rural service centers in both time and space, due to concentration of commercial, transportation and professional services leads to urbanization. The growth of urban centers also leads to changes in infrastructure, which in turn further affects regional development, transportation linkages, population distribution and the entire rural-urban continuum. Hence, urbanization and regional development are closely correlated and cannot be separated. In fact, urban growth is influenced by several socio-economic, demographic, cultural and technological factors. Hence, urbanization has become local focal points in the modern world. It is, therefore, essential to study the impact of these factors to accelerate the tempo of urban development. The population of the district which was 364,140 persons in 2001 census gain a net increase of 58,028 persons with decadal growth rate of 15.94 per cent during 2001-2011 censuses. There were 90 villages in the district which decreases to 87 in 2011 census but the number of towns of 10 remain same in both the censuses. Out of total 422,168 persons, 270,835 are residing in rural whereas remaining 151,333 persons reside in urban areas constituting 64.15 and 35.85 per cent respectively.

Census Year	Towns	Total Population	Total Urban Population	% of urban 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: Census volumes of India, Manipur, 2001

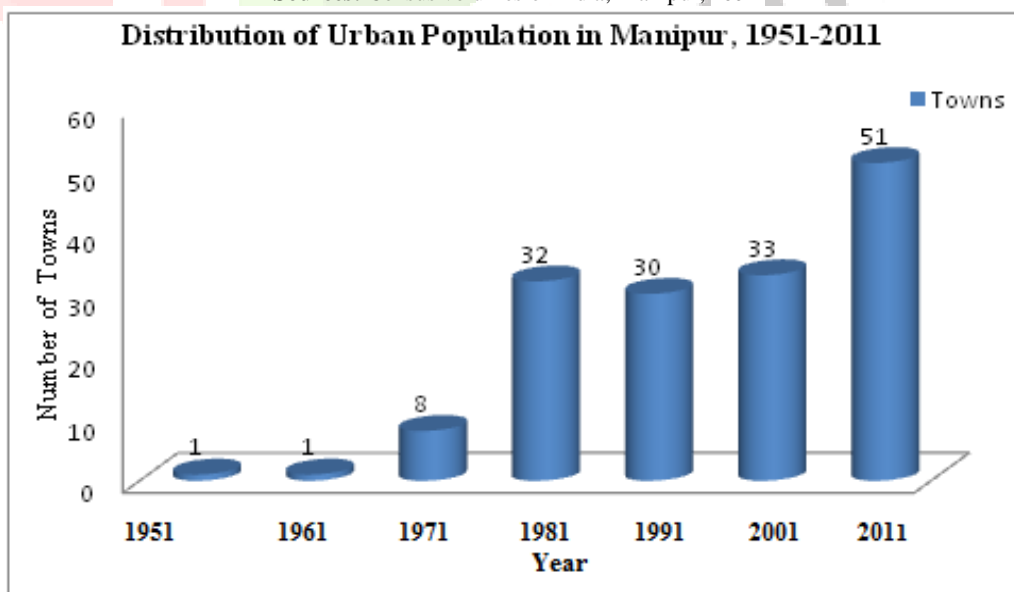


Fig.2

V. VARIATION IN THE NUMBER OF URBAN CENTRES

Since the progress of urbanisation is often proportional to the number of urban centres, it is relevant to study the temporal variation in the number of urban centres of the district. As stated earlier, there were only 2 urban centres in the entire district upto 1971. However, the number of towns in the district increased from 2 in 1971 to 8 in 1981. The number of urban centres in the Thoubal district was 8 in 1981 and 9 in 1991 and 2001. The following table will illustrate this phenomenon

Census Year	Number of urban centres	Decadal variation
1961	-	-
1971	2	-
1981	8	+6
1991	9	+1
2001	9	-
2011	10	+1

Sources: Census volume of India, 2011

It is very clear from the above table that upto 1961 there was no town in the entire district of Thoubal. But in due course, Thoubal and Kakching have been notified as small towns for the first time in 1971 census with a population of 5,682 and 8,611 respectively. Further, the number of towns in the District increased to 2 in 1971 to 8 in 1981 and 9 in 1991 in 2001 and 10 in 2011 respectively. The percentage of urban population in the district rose from 31.72 in 1981 to 36.56 in 1991 (table - III) as against the state's percentage of 27.52 in 1991 and 23.88 in 2001 respectively.

Sl.No	Name of Town & Type	Class	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
1	Lilong (Thoubal) (NP) (Major part),	III	0 (0)	11132 (0)	13822 (24.16)	18699 (35.28)	22888 (22.4)
2	Samurou (NP) (Minor part)	V	0 (0)	3098 (0)	4101 (32.37)	5048 (23.09)	5861 (16.05)
3	Heirok (NP)	VI	0 (0)	1239 (0)	1932 (55.93)	2450 (26.81)	2974 (21.38)
4	Wangjing (NP)	V	0 (0)	4660 (0)	5609 (20.36)	6970 (24.26)	8055 (15.56)
5	Thoubal (MCI)	111	5682 (0)	18568 (226.7)	33011 (77.78)	41174 (24.73)	45947 (11.59)
6	Sikhong Sekmai (NP)	V	0 (0)	4758 (0)	5339 (12.21)	6120 (14.62)	7390 (20.75)
7	Yairipok (NP)	V	0 (0)	4513 (0)	6911 (53.13)	8261 (19.53)	9569 (15.83)
8	Sugnu (NP)	V	0 (0)	4359 (0)	4058 (6.9)	4508 (11.88)	5132 (13.84)
9	Kakching Khunou (NP)	IV	0 (0)	0 (0)	8234 (0)	9318 (13.26)	11379 (22.12)
10	Kakching (M CI),	III	8611 (0)	21199 (146.1)	24437 (15.27)	28724 (17.54)	32128 (11.89)

Sources: Thoubal District Census Handbook, 2011

First level of hierarchy is formed by Thoubal Municipality which is the district headquarter of Thoubal District. Thoubal was chosen as a District Headquarters in the year 1983¹¹, while its Municipality came into existence in the year 1981. It has grown as a collecting and distributing centre and becoming one of the most important urban centers in the state. The population of Thoubal was 5,682 in the year 1971, and it rose to 18,568 in 1981 and 33,011 in 1991; 41,149 in 2001, respectively. Thoubal district's claim to fame rests in its gory history of the carnage of the Myanmar war. The district, carved out from the erstwhile Manipur Central District, came into existence officially in May 1983. The principal towns of Thoubal include the following:

- Shikhong Sekmai
- Yairipok
- Kakching Khunou
- Sugnu
- Thoubal
- Lilong
- Wangjing
- Kakching
- Heirok

VI. CONCLUSION

It is important to highlight that urbanisation in the Thoubal district has advanced consistently, particularly since 1971. The district is becoming increasingly urbanised, as seen by the growth in urban centres and the overall urban population. Urban Centres with favourable geographic locations have expanded more quickly than the others. The key characteristics of urbanism in the area include an increase in the average size of urban centres in the district and a change in the proportion of urban residents who reside in medium-sized towns. The number and makeup of the population might change significantly because of migration. Migration from rural to urban areas has significantly increased the urban population (Bhagat, 2011). The migration process affects both the places where migrants have moved in and the areas where they have left. Despite the possibility of natural population expansion, migration is also significantly to blame for the increase in urban populations. Despite being limited in number, the district's medium-sized urban centres are home to the majority of its urban residents. There is a strong possibility that many former rural communities will be upgraded to towns in the near future due to the categorization of settlements at various points when they reach a particular size or meet certain requirements. Such urbanisation of rural settlements will significantly advance the district's urbanisation process.

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The erstwhile Sub-Division of Thoubal became a full fledged District with effect from 25th May, 1993.

