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A Descriptive Study On The Challenges Of Urban Development In Nagaland

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Abstract:

The development of urban area is closely linked to modernization, industrialisation and the sociological process of the nation. However, urban governance and management has not been fruitful as expected. Various socio-economic, environmental and infrastructural problems act as a big hindrance to the state's overall development. Urban challenges such as urban poverty, poor infrastructure, unemployment, climate change, housing, population growth, health and sanitation etc need to be addressed in relation to urban development. The study is descriptive based on secondary data and the final analysis presents the possible steps to be undertaken in order to overcome these challenges and move forward towards development.

Key words: Urban, Development, Challenges, Nagaland, Policies.

Highlights:

- ❖ Urbanization is increasing at a fast pace in Nagaland but it faces many challenges and obstacles.
- ❖ The registered unemployed youth in the state is more than 80,000(2011) which indicates unemployment as a big challenge to urban development.
- ❖ Increasing population growth, poverty, climate change, poor sanitation and infrastructure etc are some challenges to urbanization.

Introduction:

Urbanization refers to improvement in living conditions through improvement in health, education and other indicators of development. Urbanization in Nagaland has evolved over the past decades which can be seen from the fact that in 2011, the state recorded the highest growth of urban population in the country with 69 percent as against the national growth rate of 21 per cent. However, urban development of the state faces many obstacles and challenges and issues which hinder urban development. Thus it is imperative to study and analyse these challenges and tackle them in order to take the economy forward.

Review of Literature:

Bhargava, G. (2001), in "Development of India's Urban, Rural and Regional Planning in 21st Century: Policy Perspective," asserts that an increasing urban population led to industrial growth, transportation problems, increase in slums, and lack of housing, healthcare, and educational facilities¹.

Mandal, R. K. (2011), in "Impact of Population, Urbanization and Globalization on Environment in the North East Region of India" argues that urbanization is important for the overall development of developing countries, as it has improved employment, income, or living standards in these countries. However, it has also led to several socio economic and environmental issues like unemployment, poverty, slums, traffic, overcrowding, housing, pollution etc².

Venkatesham (2015), in "The Problem and Issues of Urbanization in India", States that Urbanization is basically the physical growth of urban areas as a result of rural migration. It results in certain socio-economic problems such as overcrowding, housing and sanitation, unemployment, transport, poverty, beggary, thefts and other social evils. The urban population of India had already crossed the 285 million mark by 2001. By 2030, more than 50 percent of India's population is expected to live in urban areas³.

Ayemi and Kar (2020), in their research paper "Patterns of urbanization and associated infrastructure and socio-economic development in Nagaland India" states that lack of infrastructure base, resource mobilisation etc act as obstacles to socio-economic progress. Therefore there is a need for improvement of transport and communication system with good inter-state relations⁴.

¹ Bhargava, G. (2001). *Development of India's Urban, Rural and Regional Planning in 21st Century: Policy Perspective*. New Delhi: Gyan Publishing House.

² Mandal, R.K. (2011). *Impact of Population, Urbanization and Globalization on Environment in North East Region of India*. International Journal of Environment and Development Serials Publications, New Delhi. 8(1),39-46

³ Venkatesham, Venkatigalla(2015). *The Problem and Issues of Urbanization in India*. Indian Journal of Research. Vol. 4, Issue 8.

⁴ Ayemi, and Kar. (2020). *Patterns of Urbanization and Associated Infrastructure and Socio-Economic Development in Nagaland*. Demography of India Vol. 49, No. 1, 2020, pp 54-68.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the obstacles and challenges of urbanization in the state.
3. To suggest recommendations in order to solve the problems and take the state forward.

Methodology:

The study is descriptive study and based on secondary sources and observation.

Result and Discussion:

Urbanization is an index of transforming from traditional rural economies to modern industrial one. The sequel of urban growth and urbanisation has been numerous in Nagaland. Urbanisation has positive impacts such as employment, education and medical facilities, transport and other basic amenities that improve standard of living but consequently poverty, traffic congestion; violence and crime etc act as big challenges to urban development. According to 2011 census, urban population of India grew to 377 million showing a growth rate of 2.76 percent per annum during 2001 – 2011. By 2030, more than 50 percent of India's population is expected to live in urban areas. According to the Human Development Report (2009), the process of urbanisation in Nagaland has resulted in many social, economic and cultural changes which resulted in social unrest and unplanned and unsystematic economic development.

Challenges to Urban Development:

Urbanization is crucial for overall development of a nation. People migrate for economic security or employment opportunities to urban areas. But towns and cities of Nagaland face the long term challenges such as poor infrastructure, climate change, effect on major transport routes during monsoons due to landslides, improper drainage etc. Most towns have inadequate sewerage management systems. As a result it effects the overall development of the state. Some of the important challenges can be analysed as follows:

1. Population Increase:

Urban areas in Nagaland are overcrowded. Over the past three decades, number of people living in Dimapur and Kohima have increased manifold. Endless stream of migrants live in slum areas and colonies in large numbers. Besides, lakhs of migrant workers from different parts come to the state and stay back in worst sub-human and overcrowded conditions

Table 1: Sex Ratio and Decadal Growth Rate of Urban population in Nagaland

Sl No	Year	Urban population			Sex Ratio	Total population			Sex Ratio	Decadal Growth Rate		
		F	M	P		F	M	P		F	M	P
1	1971	1648	3491	5139	472	2403	27608	51644	871	34.9	44.5	39.8
		1	3	4		65	4	9		1	3	8
2	1981	4902	7121	1202	688	3590	41591	77493	863	49.3	50.6	50.0
		3	1	34		20	0	0		6	5	5
3	1991	8917	1190	2082	749	5682	64128	12095	886	58.2	54.1	56.0
		6	47	23		64	2	46		8	9	8
4	2001	1553	1874	3427	829	9428	10471	19900	900	65.9	63.2	64.5
		62	25	87		95	41	36		3	9	3
5	2011	2717	2991	5709	908	9538	10246	19785	931	1.16	-	-
		89	77	66		53	49	02		2.15		0.58

Source: Directorate of Census Operation, Nagaland: Kohima. (M=male, F=female, P=person)

The decadal growth rate of population increased from 39.88 percent in 1971 to 64.53 percent in 2001 but it showed a negative growth rate of - 0.58 percent in 2011. The urban population increased from 51394 to 570966 in same period. The growth rate of total population is recorded 2.83 per cent in 1971 to 2011 while in the same period urban population growth rate is 10.11 per cent.

2. Unemployment:

Nagaland with a population of 1978502 has a very high rate of unemployment among the youth as per 2011 census. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey the unemployment rate of the state in 2018-19 was 17.4 percent which jumped to 24.7 percent in 2019-20.

Table 2: Percentage of Main and Marginal Workers by Gender and residence in 2011

Rural/Urban population	Rural		Urban		Combined	
Gender	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males
Main workers per cent to total	70.5	78.3	67.8	87.7	67.8	80.8
Marginal workers per cent to total	29.5	21.7	39.2	12.3	29.9	19.2

Source: Directorate of Census Operations, Nagaland, Kohima.

Table 2 shows main female workers in rural and urban areas of the state constitute 67.8 percent of the total while males constitute 80.80 percent. In the marginal worker category, female workers constitute 29.90 per cent as compared to 19.20 per cent of the male.

Table 3: Number of Applicants Registered with Employment Exchanges 31st March, 2021

Sl No	Education	2021		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Post Graduate	2596	3606	6202
2	Graduate	12531	11063	23594
3	PU	8264	4930	13194
4	Matriculate	11438	3237	14675
5	Below Matric	20926	3776	24702
6	Degree (Tech)	1157	526	1683
7	Diploma	412	163	575
	Total	57324	27301	84625

Source: Directorate of Employment, Skill development and Entrepreneurship.

Table 3 reveals that the total unemployed youth registered in employment exchange as on March 2021 is 84625 with 57324 males and 27301 females. The highest number of unemployment is found among those whose educational level is below HSLC with an enrolment of 24702 in 2021. This is followed by Graduates which stand at 23594. There is less number of unemployed from among the post graduates which is 6202 followed by technical and diploma certificate holders with 1683 and 575.

3. Violence and Crime:

Urbanization encourages crimes as is evident from the fact that the rate of crime is higher in urbanized areas as has been proved by many empirical studies. Other socio economic problems like unemployment, poverty, income inequality etc often related to urbanization may also be the cause of violence and crime. However, urbanization is often said to be the root cause of this issue.

Table4: Persons arrested under Special and Local Laws (SSL) BY Crime Heads wise and Age group wise in Nagaland 2021-22

Sl No		Below 16 Years		16 – 18 Years		18 – 30 Years		30 – 50 Years		Above 50 Years		Total	
	Crime Heads	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Arms(210)	-	-	-	-	18	1	42	1	9	-	69	2
2	NDPS Act(220)	-	-	3	-	75	9	68	23	5	2	151	34
3	Explosive Act/ES Act(260)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Excise Act(240)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Immoral Traffic Act (240)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Dowry Prohibition Act(350)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Other SLL Crimes	-	-	1	-	102	4	57	5	4	-	164	9
	Total			4		195	14	167	29	18	2	384	45

Source: DGP, Nagaland 2021-22, Directorate of Economics and Statics

Total number of persons arrested under Special and Local Laws in 2021-2022 was 429 of which 384 were male and 45 were female. Total number of persons arrested under Arms was 71 of which 69 were male and 2 were female. Under the NDPS Act, the total persons arrested was 185 of which 151 were male and 34 were female. A total of 173 persons were arrested in other SLL crimes of which 164 were male and 9 were females. Thus the number of crimes committed is more among male and it is the highest under 'other SLL Crimes'

4. Urban Poverty:

Urban poverty is complex and multi dimensional. Large scale migration, lack of skill, indebtedness etc are some of the reasons leading to urban poverty.

Table 5: Number of Population below Poverty line in Nagaland (in Lakh):

Rural		Urban		Combined	
No. of Persons	Per cent	No. of Persons	Per cent	No. of Persons	Per cent
2.65	52.67	0.25	36.92	2.90	50.81

Source: Central Bureau of Health Intelligence. Government of India, 2019

Table 5, shows 2.90 lakhs of people are living below the poverty line in 2019 of which 2.65 lakhs are from rural areas and 0.25 lakhs are from urban areas. Thus the population of poor people below poverty line is higher in rural areas. However, the problem of urban poverty with 36.92 percent is a big challenge to urban development.

5. Climate Change:

In recent years, Nagaland has witnessed excess rainfall and soaring temperatures which has led to soil erosion. Two vital factors that contribute to global warming in Nagaland would be the huge increase in the number of vehicles and the rising level of deforestation. In the last 100 years, Nagaland has experienced increase in average annual temperature from 1.4 degree to 1.6 degree. This is projected to increase from 1.6 to 1.8 degrees between 2021 and 2050. The rainfall is also expected to increase in intensity by 20 percent. Large quantities of CO₂ produced by the traditional 'Jhum' cultivation, rampant deforestation, burning of fossil fuels in vehicles are some factors which made the state vulnerable to the phenomenon of climate change.

6. Housing:

Housing is one of the three basic necessities of life which is an arduous problem across the world especially in developing countries. Migrant population led to mushrooming of slums and unauthorized informal settlements in the urban areas. It has become a top priority for the government and the society at large to address this issue. This is particularly severe in cities because by 2050 more than 50 percent of the population is expected to live in urban settlements in search of stability and income. This would lead to a shortage of 25 million housing units 99 percent of it being in the economically weaker section and the low income housing space.⁵

⁵ Gangani et al(2016), "A critical review on making low cost urban housing in India"

7. Health and Sanitation:

Urban poor lived in unhealthy surroundings with poor sanitation which led to many diseases resulting in poor health. A survey conducted in Kohima and Dimapur, reported only 31 per cent from Kohima and 87.50 per cent in Dimapur have household exclusive toilets.⁶ The remaining households use common toilets. In urban areas, the PHED is able to supply tap water to about 20 to 40 per cent of the households and the remaining urban population relies on water from private suppliers and some of them dug wells in the plain areas.

8. Infrastructure:

The inundated roads during monsoons, traffic congestion, pollution, floods etc are a reflection of infrastructural drawbacks in urban areas. These problems indicate lack of adequate urban governance and planning. Poor state of urban roads without proper drainage affects life in urban areas. Non-black topping of roads and poor drainage have been found to be the two most important reasons for bad infrastructure in urban areas.

Recommendations and conclusion:

In order to tackle the urban challenges all stakeholders need to strive towards sustainable urbanization which requires a balance between the development of urban areas and protection of the environment along with increase in employment, provision of shelter, basic services and economic and social infrastructure in urban areas. The root causes of the problem such as improving the socio economic situation of the urban poor should be tackled in order to resolve the problems of the towns and cities. It has become imperative to focus on various elements that are essential for the survival of urban areas i.e. social, economic, environmental and urban governance. The government and NGOs and all stakeholders need to concentrate on combating the challenges faced by urbanization and the problems created by it while seeking to reduce unplanned urbanization.

To combat air pollution, encouraging the use of public transport, implementing emission control measures for industries, traffic control, use of suitable dumping sites etc are important steps that require urgent action. Responsible involvement of the general public and leaders is also essential to bring about lasting positive impact. In order to tackle the problem of unemployment, provision of necessary education, employment avenues, skill development and training to the youth should be the vision of the state. Government can implement policies to make housing more affordable such as rent control and affordable housing schemes and programmes. The Government can build parks, sustainable landscapes and recreation centres which will help to enhance quality of air and improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the people. Reforms in

⁶ Hulin, Jamir Kilangla B (2018); "Issues and Challenges of Urban growth in Nagaland" Indian Journal of Economics and Development. Vol 6(10), 1 October 2018.

planning need to be initiated since the process is irreversible. This has become crucial to ensure that the growth of cities is sustainable and inclusive in the future.

Urbanisation is a driving force as well as a source of development. Properly planned and managed urbanization can reduce poverty and inequality by improving employment opportunities and quality of life through better education and health. It increases the standard of living by increasing income and productivity. However, numerous problems such as urban poverty, poor infrastructure, unemployment, climate change etc are obstacles to the process of urban development. These problems can be solved when strong and practical urban planning and radical measures are undertaken. Effective policy measures i.e. skill development, credit facilities, trainings etc should be implemented. The need of the hour is the active participation of all stakeholders such as the Government, civil society organisations, NGOs and the citizens in order to take the state forward to a modernised, rationalistic and developed economy.

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