



Issues of Urbanization and Economic Development in Nagaland: An Analysis of Dimapur Town

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Abstract

Urbanization is an important indicator of economic development. It brings development by fostering modernisation and industrialisation. However, it also generates various issues which are obstacles to the path of development. In Nagaland, Dimapur is the most urbanized town which contributes to the overall development of the state. But at the same time the urbanization process is accompanied by a host of socio-economic issues. Thus, this study is an attempt to highlight the important issues of urbanization and economic development in Dimapur town. The study is based on primary data conducted through a random sample survey of 200 persons in Dimapur. Krejcie-Morgan model has been used to calculate the population sample for the survey. Garret Ranking Analysis has been used in order to find out the most important issue from among the different issues of urbanization such as population increase, urban poverty, pollution, traffic congestion, unemployment, lack of proper infrastructure, violence and crime, environmental degradation, housing problem etc. The study found out that the problem of pollution is the most urgent issue of urbanization and economic development followed by the problem of unemployment. The least important issue is the increase in diseases or health hazards caused due to urbanization. A comprehensive approach by investing in infrastructure, education, environment, employment generation, provision of basic urban amenities, housing and sustainable urban growth is the need of the hour. Government, civil society, NGOs and private sector play a vital role in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic development.

Keywords: Economic Development; Garret Ranking; Issues; Urbanization.

1. Introduction

Urbanization is an important socio-economic process which is also one of the determinants of the level of economic development. It is the process through which cities grow, and higher and higher percentages of the population come to live in the city. According to the 2011 census, Nagaland has a total population of about 1978502 persons. Out of this 71.14% of the population lives in rural areas while in urban areas it is 28.85%. Urbanization is an important factor in changing the size and structure of the rural and urban areas which has both positive and negative impacts on its economic development. The population of

urban areas saw a decadal growth rate of 67.38% which is double the national average growth rate of 31.80% (census 2011). Urbanization as a concept is an integral part of the process of development. But, the urbanization process is also accompanied by number of problems, because of unmanageable [1] growth of population in urban areas (Maheshwari, 2006). In recent years it has become the leading cause of urban unemployment in many states besides a plethora of socio-economic issues such as over-population, pollution, unemployment, infrastructure, traffic congestion, road accidents, environmental



problems, increase in crime rates etc which can be an obstacle to economic development. Thus, it is imperative to recognize the most serious problems of urbanization faced by the society in order to bring out policy measures and implementation of the same. Therefore, the present study will dwell on the gravity of these issues in Dimapur town and suggest certain measures to tackle these problems.

2. Objectives

1. To study the different issues of urbanization and economic development in Dimapur town of Nagaland, India.
2. To analyse and rank the important issues and challenges of urbanization.

3. Literature Review

According to P Datta(2006), problems of urbanization is manifestation of lopsided urbanization, faulty urban planning and urbanization with poor economic base. Thus, India's urban problems like housing, slums, inadequate infrastructure etc degenerates the urban environment and hinders urban development. Longchar M (2014) in his published work, "Rural-Urban migration and its impact on the urban environment and life in Nagaland" highlights positive impacts[2] like health care, infrastructure and services, declining birth rates etc but at the same time gives emphasis on major problems of urbanization like water-borne diseases, improper solid waste management, conversion of agricultural land and forests for urban areas and infrastructure etc. According to Jaysawal and Saha(2014), India's urbanization is followed by some basic problems in the field of housing, slums, transport, water pollution, inadequate infrastructure etc. Uncontrolled urbanization leads to degradation in environment as well as in the quality of life. Ayemi and Kar (2020) in their research paper "Patterns of Urbanisation and Associated Infrastructure and Socio-Economic Development in Nagaland, India" states that the process of urbanisation in Nagaland has resulted in social-unrest, unplanned and unsystematic economic development, 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 relations. Kuddus et al (2020)

are of the view that urban areas are the heart of technological development and economic growth of many nations,[3] while at the same time it serves as a breeding ground for poverty, inequality, environmental hazards and communicable diseases. Sukanya and Tantia (2023) are of the view that Industrialization, closely linked to urbanization, drives economic growth but leads to environmental and social issues. Urbanization poses challenges in terms of strained infrastructure, inadequate housing, and social exclusion. Balancing the benefits of industrialization with sustainable development and social inclusion is therefore crucial.

4. Methodology

The study has been conducted in Dimapur town of Nagaland. Dimapur is the 8th district of Nagaland established in December 1997. The district is bounded by Assam on its North and West, Kohima on the east and Peren district in the south. It is located near the border with Assam state along the banks of Dhansiri River. Its population is 122,834(2011 census). The study is[4] based on primary data conducted through a random sample survey of 200 persons in Dimapur. Krejcie - Morgan model has been used to calculate the number of population sample for the survey. The primary data is collected through interview schedules and set of questionnaires. Garret Ranking technique is used in order to find out the important problems and issues of urbanization in Dimapur.

5. Results and Discussion

In order to analyse the issues faced by the public of Dimapur town, the respondents were asked to rank thirteen crucial issues of urbanization which effects economic development in general and the life of the people in particular. The outcome of the rankings given by the 200 respondents have been converted into score values by referring [5] the table (1) given by Garrett and Wood worth(1969) and by using the formula of Garrett ranking technique given as follows:-

$$\text{Per cent position} = 100(R_{ij} - 0.5)/N_j$$

Where R_{ij} = Rank given for i^{th} variable by the j^{th} respondent.

N_j = Number of variables ranked by the j^{th} respondent. The scores of the respondents for each factor has been



added together and divided by the total number of respondents. The mean scores of all the factors [5] are then arranged in descending order and ranks are given

which finally identifies the most important issues of urbanization. Issues of Urbanization in Dimapur Town values are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Issues of Urbanization in Dimapur Town

SI No	Problems/Issues	Ranking													Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1	Lack of proper infrastructure	11	22	11	15	16	24	15	15	15	15	13	11	17	200
2	Growth of urban poverty	5	6	11	8	15	18	16	18	17	29	32	13	12	200
3	Increasing population	48	31	12	20	12	12	11	9	8	11	13	7	5	200
4	Lack of efficient plans and policies of Government	32	13	15	17	12	17	17	16	17	10	16	7	11	200
5	Pollution	29	37	34	13	13	15	11	13	11	14	2	5	3	200
6	Unemployment	37	28	32	18	20	5	12	5	13	12	4	11	3	200
7	Environmental degradation	8	16	12	10	10	17	25	15	31	14	15	18	9	200
8	Displacement of people etc	1	3	9	12	11	13	11	21	26	14	19	25	35	200
9	Traffic congestion	15	20	27	28	24	13	19	16	10	9	13	2	4	200
10	Housing Problem	5	2	17	11	12	17	22	19	19	14	18	23	22	200
11	Increase in Violence and crime	2	3	8	16	26	23	17	19	10	17	11	22	26	200
12	Increase in diseases and health hazards	3	9	8	15	10	12	13	18	17	22	20	26	27	200
13	Lack of proper disposal of wastes	8	11	5	16	17	17	10	16	13	15	24	26	22	200

Source: Primary data (2023)

Based on the garret ranks (table 1), the garret value is ascertained in table 2 by using the above formula. The total garret score for each issue or problem is found out by multiplying the garret value and the scores of the respondents for each factor in table 3. Finally

average score is obtained by dividing the total garret score of each factor by the total number of respondents where the factor with the highest average score is ranked as the most important. [6]



Table 2 Garret Value

SI No	100(Rij-0.5)/Nj	Calculated Value	Garret Value
1	100(1-0.5)/13	3.9	86
2	100(2-0.5)/13	11.5	74
3	100(3-0.5)/13	19.2	67
4	100(4-0.5)/13	27	62
5	100(5-0.5)/13	35	58
6	100(6-0.5)/13	42.3	54
7	100(7-0.5)/13	50	50
8	100(8-0.5)/13	58	46
9	100(9-0.5)/13	65.3	42
10	100(10-0.5)/13	73	38
11	100(11-0.5)/13	80.7	33
12	100(12-0.5)/13	88.4	26
13	100(13-0.5)/13	96	16

Source: Calculation based on field study (2023)

Table 3 Calculated Garret Score of Issues of Urbanization in Dimapur

	Problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
1	Infrastructure	946	162 8	737	930	928	129 6	750	69 0	630	570	416	28 6	27 2	1007 9
2	Urban poverty	430	444	737	496	870	972	300	82 8	714	110 2	102 4	33 8	19 2	8447
3	Population	412 8	229 4	804	124 0	696	648	550	41 4	336	418	416	18 2	80	1220 6
4	Inefficient Govt policies	275 2	962	100 5	105 4	696	935	850	64	714	380	352	18 2	17 6	1012 2
5	Pollution	249 4	273 8	227 8	806	754	810	550	59 8	462	532	64	13 0	48	1226 4
6	Unemployment	318 2	207 2	214 4	111 6	116 0	270	600	23 0	546	456	128	28 6	48	1223 8
7	Environmental degradation	688	118 4	804	620	928	918	125 0	69 0	130 2	532	480	46 8	14 4	1000 8
8	Displacement	86	222	603	744	638	702	750	96 6	109 2	532	608	65 0	56 0	8153
9	Traffic Congestion	129 0	148 0	180 9	173 6	139 2	702	950	73 6	420	342	416	52	64	1038 9
10	Housing	430	148	113 9	682	696	918	110 0	87 4	798	532	576	59 8	35 2	8843
11	Violence and crime	172	222	536	992	150 8	124 2	850	87 4	420	646	352	57 2	41 6	8802
12	Diseases and health hazards	258	666	536	930	580	648	650	82 8	714	836	640	67 6	43 2	7784
13	Lack of proper disposal of wastes	688	814	335	992	986	918	500	27 6	546	570	768	67 6	35 2	8421

Source: Calculation based on field study (2023)



Table 4 Calculated Garret Score, Average Score and Rank of Issues of Urbanization in Dimapur

Problems	Garret Score	Average Score	Rank
Lack of proper infrastructure	10,079	50.39	VI
Growth of urban poverty	8,447	42.23	X
Increasing population	12,206	61.03	III
Lack of efficient plans and policies of the Government	10,122	50.61	V
Pollution	12,264	61.32	I
Unemployment	12,238	61.19	II
Environmental degradation	10,008	50.04	VII
Displacement of people etc	8,153	40.76	XII
Traffic congestion	10,389	51.94	IV
Housing problem	8,843	44.21	VIII
Increase in violence and crime	8,802	44.01	IX
Increase in diseases and health hazards	7,784	38.92	XIII
Lack of proper disposal of wastes	8,421	42.10	XI

Source: Computed from primary data (2023)

Table 4 reveals that the problem of pollution is the major problem with highest Garrett score of 12264 and average score of 61.32 percent. The second most important issue is unemployment with 12238 and average score of 61.19 percent. This is followed by increase in population and traffic[8] congestion with Garrett score of 12206 and 10389 respectively. The least problem is increase in diseases with Garrett score of 7784 and average score of 38.92. Thus, pollution is the most serious issue caused by urbanization which hinders economic development. Unemployment is the second most serious issue which could be due to the increasing population in the town mostly caused by migration within the state and from neighbouring states. Traffic congestion is another important issue which[7] is mostly due to narrow roads and increase in vehicles. Lack of efficient government policies is the fifth important issue. Increase in diseases and displacement of people are the least serious issues which stand at thirteenth and twelfth place respectively.

6. Conclusion

Urbanization is crucial for development of any region. Growth of industries, adequate infrastructure like transport and communication, advancement in [9]educational and medical sectors, expansion of

markets, increase in the standard of living, increase in income and employment etc are the ingredients of urbanization which further brings development. However, there are several issues caused due to urbanization. In Nagaland, Dimapur which is the most urbanized town also has these issues to be tackled with pollution and unemployment being the most serious ones. However, there are not much of diseases and health hazard concerns among the people with a Garrett score of only 7784 and average score of 38.92. Urbanization is important for economic[10] development but the problems that it brings along with it should be dealt with a pragmatic approach. An efficient administration with concrete policies and programmes need to be adopted and implemented. Moreover, all stakeholders such as the civil societies, NGOs, Government and the[11] citizens need to work together towards a progressive and developed economy.

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my research supervisor, Dr Debojit Konwar, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Economics, St Joseph University Nagaland. He has provided important inputs and ideas in writing this paper and has been a constant source of encouragement.



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