

**AUTHORS**

**Dr. N. Tejmani Singh**

Reader, Dept, of

Commerce,

Manipur University,

Chanchipur

**Th. Jitendra Singh**

Research Scholar

# Urbanization and Poverty in Manipur

## Applying the Concept of PURA

### ABSTRACT

Population of a country is its most important asset. Hence, the present study attempts to highlight the relationship between urbanization and poverty. The study is based on secondary data which have been compiled personally from economic survey statistical year book of Manipur, Primary census abstract and other related research articles published in different journal of national and international. Urbanization in Manipur is very slow which might be slower in occupational shift and it will help to increase number of poor persons. In the year 1973 - 74, number of poor persons were 5.86 lacks which rose to 7.19 lacks in 1999-2000. Poverty is closely linked with unemployment and underemployment. Urbanization could hardly absorb a little more than the natural increase in urban population. As a result, a serious dent in terms of the shift of population from rural to urban areas could not be made. To tackle this problem India president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has proposed the concept of "PURA" (providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) in the vision - 2020 project initiated by him.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Manipur is one of the seven sister states in the North East India and occupies 24<sup>th</sup> position in terms of population size in 2001 census among the 35 states and union territories. The state has nine districts with 38 sub-divisions and 2,391 villages which are inhabited and 76 are uninhabited. The urban areas of the state in the 2001 census comprise 33 towns of which 28 are statutory towns.

Manipur is rich state in heritage, history, tradition, arts and culture, handloom and handicrafts, manpower, forest products and natural wealth etc. Yet, with all these convincing evidence of our being rich, we know well too that our state is one of the poorest state among the states of India. We are infect, confronting a plenty, paradoxical situation- Poverty in the land of deprivation in a democratic set up.

The problem of poverty is not a new concept but existed since numbers of ages. The rich and poor are just like a face of one coin. In rich countries, there are also having poor persons, what we are concerned is the large scale economic poverty that our own people are suffering from. This paper highlights the urbanization in Manipur and the prevailing current situation and its drop of dimensions of the poverty line which is being raised in our society today.

### 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study is to highlight the present scenario and identification of the numbers and percentages of population below poverty line, urbanization in Manipur and concept of PURA etc.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on

secondary data which have been compiled from economic survey statistical year book of Manipur, primary census abstract, different national and international journals and Govt. Officers etc. Data have been tabulated manually for the purpose of writing this research article and examined intensively with the help of different accounting, statistical technique such as percentage, ratio etc.

#### 4. POPULATION AND POVERTY DIMENSIONS

Population of a country is the most important asset and demographic indicator. Population in Manipur is found to be increasing day by day which constitutes nearly 0.21 percent according to 2001 census (excluding population of Mao, Maram, Paomata and Purul subdivisions of Senapati district of Manipur due to cancelled why because administrative and technical reason) of total population of India while geographical area is only 0.7 percent. With such a size of population to support on so small area, the state of Manipur find itself in great difficulty in making any significant dent on its poverty and economic backwardness. Poverty can be defined as a social phenomenon in which a section of the society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life. The planning commission has defined the poverty line on the basis of recommended nutritional requirements of 2400 calories per person per day for rural areas and 2100 calories for urban areas. A few important causes of poverty in Manipur are : i) Low per capita income, ii) Unemployment, iii) Large family size, iv) unproductive expenditure on marriage, festivals and other ceremonies etc., and v) adverse law and order situation which delay industrialisation, trade & commerce and any rural development programmes

taken by central and state Govt. etc.

But the development of our state means important in its social, educational, economic development and the elimination of rural poverty through the provision of rural employment, income generating activities, primary health care, public distribution system with distributive justice, safe drinking water, sanitary environment etc. It should also ensure social justice and eliminate gender discrimination. The real tragedy is that we do not know how many people under employed and the extent of their contribution to poverty.

Mass poverty is one of the major problems confronting planners in India. In fact, "poverty" to us is really an area of darkness and is the root cause of all other problems which lead unrest in society. When we speak of removing poverty or poverty related programmes, it is the segment of population below the level of normal consumption which can be considered the largest group. But poverty in Manipur, is a social product and not a natural phenomenon. It is socially generated and sustained. It is a by-product of social bases of power of different section of the population.

The percentage of population below poverty line is presented in the table No. 1.1 and the poverty ratio and the National and State level are shown in table 1.2 and 1.3. respectively Though the poverty ratio of the state declined, the number of poor has increased from 5.86 lakhs in 1973-74 to 7.19 lakhs in 1999-2000

The difficulty lies in the operational value structure in our society. The guiding ethics of our socio-psycho and economic behaviour are fulfillment of self-interests and maximization of private,

**Table No. 1.1**

**Population Below Poverty Line in Respect of Manipur ( No. in Lakhs )**

Year	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	No. of Persons	Percentage of Persons	No. of Persons	Percentage of Persons	No. of Persons	Percentage of Persons
1973-74	5.11	52.67	0.75	37.16	5.86	50.01
1977-78	6.09	59.82	1.11	37.58	7.20	54.83
1983-84	4.71	42.60	1.13	26.38	5.84	38.08
1987-88	4.68	39.35	0.85	17.34	5.53	32.93
1993-94	6.33	54.01	0.47	7.73	6.80	33.78
1999-2000	6.53	40.04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, (DES), Govt. of Manipur.

**Table No. 1.2**

**Population Below Poverty Line India vis-a-vis Manipur**

Year	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	Manipur	India	Manipur	India	Manipur	India
1973-74	52.67	56.44	37.16	49.23	50.01	54.93
1977-78	59.82	53.07	37.58	47.40	54.83	51.81
1983-84	42.60	45.61	26.38	42.15	38.08	44.76
1987-88	39.35	39.06	17.34	40.12	32.93	39.34
1993-94	45.01	37.27	7.73	32.36	33.78	35.97
1999-2000	40.04	27.09	7.47	23.62	28.54	26.10

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, (DES), Govt. of Manipur.

individual profits. Social concern is nowhere visible.

Material culture has taken an upper hand over humanitarian moves. There is essentially a struggle for power between ruling and non-ruling elites at the national, regional and local levels. Despite massive investment in public sector units, the hold of big business and monopoly houses on national economy is much

- 
- greater today than ever before. The urge
- to have power, position, popularity and
- property is inherent in most of us.
- Perhaps, it is human nature. Very few can
- resist the temptation. The dimension of
- poverty in our societal context, it
- manifests itself in its starves from as a
- visual of semi-starved, ill-clad, deprived
- millions of countrymen, thousands of them
- dying everyday from malnutrition, ill health
- and lack of basic amenities.

**Table No. 1.3**

**Population Below Poverty Line By States/UT (Based on URP-Consumption 04-05)**

(No. of Persons in Lakh )

States/ U.Ts.	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	Percentage of Persons	No. of Persons	Percentage of Persons	No. of Persons	Percentage of Persons	No. of Persons
1. Andhra Pradesh	11.2	64.70	28.0	61.40	15.8	126.10
2. Arunachal Pradesh	22.3	1.94	3.3	0.09	17.6	2.03
3. Assam	22.3	54.50	3.3	1.28	19.7	55.77
4. Bihar	42.1	336.72	34.6	32.42	41.4	369.15
5. Chhattisgarh	40.8	71.50	41.2	19.47	40.9	90.96
6. Delhi	6.9	0.63	15.2	22.30	14.7	22.93
7. Goa	5.4	0.36	21.3	1.64	13.8	2.01
8. Gujarat	19.1	63.49	13.0	27.19	16.8	90.69
9. Haryana	13.6	21.49	15.1	10.60	14.0	32.10
10. Himachal Pradesh	10.7	6.14	3.4	0.22	10.0	6.36
11. Jammu & Kashmir	4.6	3.66	7.9	2.19	5.4	5.85
12. Jharkhand	46.3	103.19	20.2	13.20	40.3	116.39
13. Karnataka	20.8	75.05	32.6	63.83	25.0	138.89
14. Kerala	13.2	32.43	20.2	17.17	15.0	49.60
15. Madhya Pradesh	36.9	175.65	42.1	74.03	38.3	249.68
16. Maharashtra	29.6	171.13	32.2	146.25	30.7	317.38
17. Manipur	22.3	3.76	3.3	0.20	17.3	3.95
18. Meghalaya	22.3	4.36	3.3	0.16	18.5	4.52
19. Mizoram	22.3	1.02	3.3	0.16	12.6	1.18
20. Nagaland	22.3	3.87	3.3	0.12	19.0	3.99
21. Orissa	46.8	151.75	44.3	26.74	46.4	178.49
22. Punjab	9.1	15.12	7.1	6.50	8.4	21.63
23. Rajasthan	18.7	87.38	32.9	47.51	22.1	134.89
24. Sikkim	22.3	1.12	3.3	0.02	20.1	1.14
25. Tamil Nadu	22.8	76.50	22.2	69.13	22.5	145.62
26. Tripura	22.3	6.18	3.3	0.20	18.9	6.38
27. Uttar Pradesh	33.4	473.00	30.6	117.03	32.8	590.03
28. Uttaranchal	40.8	27.11	36.5	8.85	39.6	35.96
29. West Bengal	28.6	173.22	14.8	35.14	24.7	208.36
30. A & N Island	22.9	0.60	22.2	0.32	22.6	0.92
31. Chandigarh	7.1	0.80	7.1	0.67	7.1	0.74
32. Dadra & N. Haveli	39.8	0.68	19.1	0.15	33.2	0.84
33. Daman & Diu	5.4	0.07	21.2	0.14	10.5	0.21
34. Lakshadweep	13.3	0.06	20.2	0.06	16.0	0.11
35. Pondicherry	22.9	0.78	22.2	1.59	22.4	2.37
<b>All India</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>2209.24</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>807.96</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>3017.20</b>

**URP Consumption -** Uniform Recall Period Consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30 day recall period.

**Source:** Kurukshetra, May 2007, Vol. 55, No. 7.

**Notes :**

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
4. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
5. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
6. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
7. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

**5. GROWTH OF URBANIZATION AND DIMENSIONS**

More than one fourth of the total population of Manipur is urban. In the year 1951 (census) the urban population was very small figures i.e. 2,862 persons which increased to 5,75,968 in the year 2001 (census). Such a rapid growth has been possible by migration of population to urban areas involves two major factors first is enlargement of urban centers and second one is emergence of new towns. Both have played a significant role in growing urban population and urbanization. In brief, the term urban and rural may be defined as "town" for urban areas and "village" for rural areas. In the census of India 2001, the definition of urban area adopted is as follows :-

a) All statutory places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified

town area committee etc.

b) A place satisfying the following three criteria simultaneously : i) a minimum population of 50,000. ii) at least 75 percent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and iii) a density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km. (1,000 per sq. mile)

Urbanization process relates to concentration of people engaged in non-agricultural occupations & concentration of non-agricultural land-use in a specialized area-a place-as a consequence of population, occupational and land use-shifts. Urbanization there involves population shift from rural to urban areas, occupational shift from agricultural to non-agricultural and land use shift from agricultural to non-agricultural. All such shifts should be accompanied by rise in income, improvement in standard of living, change in life style and in institutional framework.

In Manipur, it appears that the process of urbanization has been very slow which perhaps a slower occupational shift. The number of towns had grown at a low rate from 1 town in 1951 to 33 towns in 2001 during the last 50 years period. However, the urban population has increased from 2,862 thousands to around 5,75,96 over the said period. The table No. 1.4 shows the growth in urban population to the total population of Manipur.

A comparison may be made between Manipur and North East States of India, as regards urbanization. As matter of fact, Manipur ranks in second position among the North East States of India in the degree of urbanization according to 2001 census. Table No.1.5 presents the urban population of North East States of India.

**Table No. 1.4**

**Growth of Rural & Urban Population in Manipur (1951-2001)**

Years	No. of Towns	Population		Total	Percentage of Total Population	
		Rural	Urban		Rural	Urban
1951	1	5,74,773	1,862	5,77,635	99.50	0.50
1961	1	7,12,320	67,717	7,80,037	91.32	8.68
1971	8	9,31,261	1,41,492	10,72,752	86.81	13.19
1981	32	10,45,493	3,75,460	14,20,953	73.58	26.42
1991	31	13,31,504	5,05,645	18,37,194	72.48	27.52
2001	33	15,90,820	5,75,968	21,66,788	73.41	26.58

Source: Compiled personally from the Census Abstract -  
i) Government of India, 2001 & ii) Economic Survey, Manipur, 2004-05.

**Table No. 1.5**

**Urbanization in North East States according to the result of 2001 Census**

States	Urban Population	Percentage of Urban Population to total Population
Arunachal Pradesh	2,22,688	20.41
Assam	3,38,94,113	12.72
Manipur	5,75,968	26.58
Meghalaya	4,52,612	19.63
Mizoram	4,41,040	49.50
Nagaland	3,52,821	17.74
Tripura	5,43,094	17.02
Total	59,72,078	15.51
All India	28,53,54,954	27.78

Source: Compiled personally from the following- i) Government of India, 2001 & ii) Economic Survey, Manipur, 2004-05, and iii) Statistical Abstract of Manipur, 2004.

**6. PURA CONCEPT AND ITS MODEL**

Since independent, India development model has led to vast regional disparities. Urban areas are developed

- highly and having all the modern amenities
- whereas in rural areas are grossly
- underdeveloped and mainly dependent on
- agricultural activities but lacking in even
- basic requirements i.e. pure drinking water,
- electricity and good all weather roads.

More than seventy percent of our population lives in rural areas and their occupation based on agriculture being subjected to vagaries of nature cannot sustain such high of people are migrating from rural areas to urban areas in search of employment. It will lead to great strain on the civic infrastructure of the cities and root to arise many problems like congestion, unauthorized construction, slums, waste disposal and the like and it has also adversely affected the law and order situation. Cities have now reached their saturation limit and are unable to absorb for their migration. Quality of urban life has been degenerated and their entire urban system is on the verge of collapse.

To tackle such problems, India president Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has proposed the concept of "PURA" in the vision - 2020 project initiated by him. The main objective is to make rural areas are attractive to investor for as cities are. As result of it, rural area will generate urban - style employment to halt rural - urban migration. PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) is accorded in principle for execution in the cabinet meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2004. PURA concept will support for bridging the rural-urban divide and achieving balance socio-economic development. This scheme is proposed to be implemented in 4130 rural clusters across the country in the next five years. The North Eastern States, other special

category states and backwards areas, identified by the planning Commissioner would get priority under the scheme.

PURA consists of four connectivities : Physical, electronic, knowledge and thereby leading to economic connectivity to enhance the prosperity of cluster of villages in the rural areas.

PURA can be classified in three different categories, namely, Type A, Type B, and Type C. PURA clusters. Type A cluster is situated closer to an urban area and having minimal road connectivity, limited infrastructure, limited support school, primary health centre. Type B cluster is situated closer to urban area but has sparsely spread infrastructure and no connectivity. And Type C cluster located for interior with no infrastructure, no connectivity and no basic amenities.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Our only hope, then, is in raising level of individual consciousness; in strengthening the basic concept of individual action and societal good. We must become aware that an honest society can only be a sum of honest individuals. Thus urbanization and poverty alleviation in the short run is not going to be an easy task whichever, strategy we may select. Strategies requiring a prior social re-organization would be even more difficult as urbanization grows poverty increase.

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