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Decadal Disparity in the Growth of Population in Aizawl District from 1981 to 2011

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Abstract

This paper examines disparities of population growth from 1981-2011 censuses, which covers the period of most extraordinary Aizawl district demographic transformation. Significant differences of growth are revealed in each census, and this directly influences all the demographic structure in Mizoram. The study provides the characteristics of density rural and urban population. The outcomes recommend that the disparities in the growth of population in Aizawl district will bring about issues in future land use and development which in turn can influence the entire state as largest concentration of population is constantly found in Aizawl, the state capital where all the significant administrative focuses are found.

Keywords: *Population growth, density, rural, urban population*

Introduction

Population growth refers to change in the size of a population over an area. Population growth is one of the main concerns of the modern world, as it is growing at an extremely exasperating rate, whatever advance made in the fields of agriculture and industry could scarcely adapt to the requirements of a rapidly growing population. There exists a great concern about the outcome of population growth for

environment and economic development particularly in underdeveloped countries, as it results in uncontrolled growth of urbanization and destruction of natural habitats. But this growth is not same in the district as well as around the world, the number of inhabitants in Aizawl District is continually changing, growing at an exponential rate. These disparities in the growth of population are related with the way of the attraction of the area in terms of resources and living condition. In fact, the

disparities in the growth of population within Aizawl District happen in an indistinguishable way as economic development occurs unequally across a country. The present paper is an attempt to study how much dissimilarity has happened in the growth of population at the biggest district in Mizoram in terms of population, as it influences every one of the general populations in Mizoram through its effect on the economy. It is hoped that the study will lead to better understanding of population growth pattern in Aizawl district to anticipate the future scenario.

There are various composed works related to population studies available at different levels which demonstrate that population and its growth have been given awesome significance all through the world's history. Many scholars have expressed concern about the current growth of population. The world population increased at an average annual rate of 1.75% doubling every 40 years (Chopra, 2006). If the present rate of growth were to continue, it will not be long until there would be standing room only (McKelvey, 1959). In case of India, Chandra (1996) opined that the growth rate of India's population will rapidly outnumber the means of subsistence resulting into inevitable poverty.

The study of population growth is of crucial imperative both from the perspective of economic development and social welfare. It is the fundamental factors influencing the course of economic development (Sinha, 1959; Agarwala, 1972; Bhattacharjee and Shastri, 1976; Gupta, 1990; Dhuri *et al.*, 2012). It is, therefore,

important to know the quantity of individuals living in a country at a particular time and especially the rate at which the number is growing (Kurani, 2012.) The study of population growth is also highly significant for planning at the local and regional levels (Nanaware and Magar, 2012).

However, there exists a sharp contrast in the growth from region to region and amongst rural and urban population as Goswami (2000) pointed out that our urban areas has been changing and deteriorating rapidly during the last decades on account of rapid growth of population and migration of rural people to urban areas for employment, education and business. Singh (1997) likewise opined that, the rapid growth of population and migration of rural people to urban areas has brings about changing and worsening our environment rapidly during the last few decades. The Census of India data and greater availability of reliable statistics on vital events during the recent decades provide information on this characteristic.

Kar and Sharma (1997) after studying the population growth in Northeast India found that the annual exponential population growth rate in the region has always been found to be much higher than the national average. Marked variation in population growth however exists from one state to another in the region and it becomes clearer at the district level. In the decade of (1981-1991) the population growth has been high in Chhimtuipui district in Mizoram and low in Lunglei due to both natural increase and migration (Sen, 1992). After analyzing

different characteristics of population in Mizoram using different components Pachuau (1991) maintained that increasing population growth and density has put increasing pressure on physical and economic resources. As indicated by Jeermison (2011), high growth rate in urban areas of Mizoram during 1981-91 was due to large-scale migration from rural areas. With a combined population proportion of 11% at two urban centers of Aizawl and Lunglei in 1971, the state claimed to have the highest urban population in the country in the census of 2001. Aizawl town alone accommodates 56.26% of the total state urban population due to availability of comparative better infrastructure facilities. But only 50% of the inhabitants in Aizawl city are having their own houses, remaining 50% stay on rented houses (Laskar 2010).

Study Area

Of all the eight Districts in Mizoram, Aizawl District is the second biggest district in area next to Lunglei (4,536 sq km) with an area of 3,576 sq km, occupying 16.96% of the whole area of Mizoram. It is situated between $92^{\circ}37'03''\text{E}$ to $93^{\circ}11'45''\text{E}$ longitudes and $23^{\circ}18'17''\text{N}$ to $24^{\circ}25'16''\text{N}$ latitudes. The District is situated in the north of the Tropic of cancer in the northern part of Mizoram, bounded on the North by Kolasib District, on the west by Mamit District, on the south by Serchhip District, and on the east by Champhai District. Its headquarter, Aizawl city, also the state capital, is the largest city in the state. It is the most populated district with a total population amounting to 400,309 with males numbering 1 99,270 and females numbering

2 01,039. What's more a rate of growth of population is found to be 22.92% amid 2001-2011 census. The density is higher than the state in all the enumeration decade, and relentlessly expanded starting with one decade then onto the next to achieve 112 in 2011, from just twenty seven persons in 1981 census, to demonstrate that eighty five more individuals are added within a span of just 40 years in a square kilometer area. It consists of twelve blocks in 1981 and 1991 census, and five in 2001 and 2011 census due to reorganization and creation of five new districts in the state of Mizoram, covering 104 villages, with inhabited villages of ninety four, and 82,524 households. The population in the rural and urban areas is 85,555 and 314,754 respectively, and a sex ratio of 1009 females per one thousand males, also recording highest literacy rate of 97.87% among the entire district of Mizoram. The work participation rate is 43.63% in the latest census of 2011.

Data Base and Methodology

The study was carried out with the help of Secondary data. Data were chiefly acquired from District Census Handbook, Primary Census Abstracts, General Population Tables Mizoram, published by the Directorate of Census Operations Mizoram, and also from the Statistical Abstract of Mizoram, Statistical Handbook of Mizoram for various years published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Mizoram. For calculation of growth of district population in all censuses, it was given by-

$$DGR = \left(\frac{P_n - P_o}{P_o} \right) \times 100$$

Where DGR = Decadal Growth Rate

P_n = Present population

P_o = Population Originally

P_n and P_o are ten years apart. The gathered information is presented by utilizing cartographic techniques like bar graphs, line graphs and so on.

Result and Discussion

Aizawl District stands as the most populated, and most urbanized among all the eight districts of the state. An extraordinary difference has seen from 1981 to 2011 census, as it is clear from below table. The District has recorded large number of populations, in 1981 census in which her share in total population of Mizoram amounted to 69.02%. The following census of 1991 records an expansion in population by adding a population of 137,639 within a span of just 10 years and had 69.36% share to total population. The decadal rate of growth of population of Aizawl District during the intervening period i.e., between 1981 and 1991 is higher, which is 40.38%, than the growth rate for the state overall while the state is just 39.70%.

In 2001 census, the population in the district gave off an impression of being less in numbers and the share percentage to total population turned out to be 37%, and the growth rate of population between 1991-2001 was 31.93% as against the state growth rate of 28.82%. The reasons the population demonstrate a lesser number in 2001 census compared to the past ones are because of the

creation of 5 new districts and 2 new blocks in the year 1998 in Mizoram. Thus, reorganization happens and makes it necessary to shift entire block namely North Thingdawl and 8 villages of Tlangnuam Block to recently created Kolasib District. In the same way, 6 villages which used to be available in Thingsulthliah R.D. Block, entire block of Serchhip, 14 villages of East Lungdar Block and 1 town North Vanlaiphai, shifted from Aizawl District to recently framed Serchhip District. Once more, entire block like Khawzawl, 16 villages of Ngopa block, 27 villages of East Lungdar, and 1 town Biate shifted from Aizawl District to newly formed Champhai District. Not only this, entire blocks like Zawlnuam, West Phaileng and Reiek from Aizawl District are shifted to the newly formed Mamit District makes the total population in the district of being less in this census. Additionally, this progression cause reduction in the share area of the district to 3,576 (16.96%) from 12,588 sq km (59.71%) in 1981 and 1991 census. The most recent census of 2011 showed the district in having share of 36.48% in Mizoram population. The percentage growth of population in Aizawl district amid 2001-2011 censuses is 22.92%, against the average decadal growth of 23.48% for the whole eight districts of Mizoram.

The existing district high population growth can be credited to disparities in living standard and economic activities among the districts in the state which are directly related to the size of its population. As living condition and economic activities are greatly improved in Aizawl District compared to other districts of the State. Not

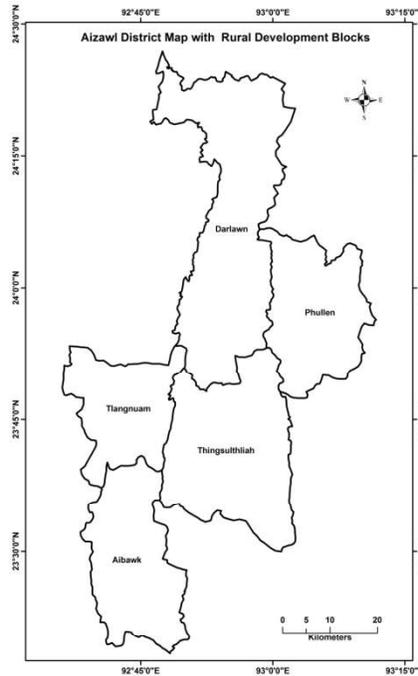


Figure 1: Map of study area

Table 1: Population Variation in Aizawl District from 1981-2011 censuses

Census/Years	Persons	Males	Females	Share % to total population
1981	340,826	1,76,242	1,64,584	69.02
1991	478,465	248,343	230,122	69.36
2001	325,676	166,877	158,799	37.00
2011	400,309	199,270	201,039	36.48

Source: Census of India, various years

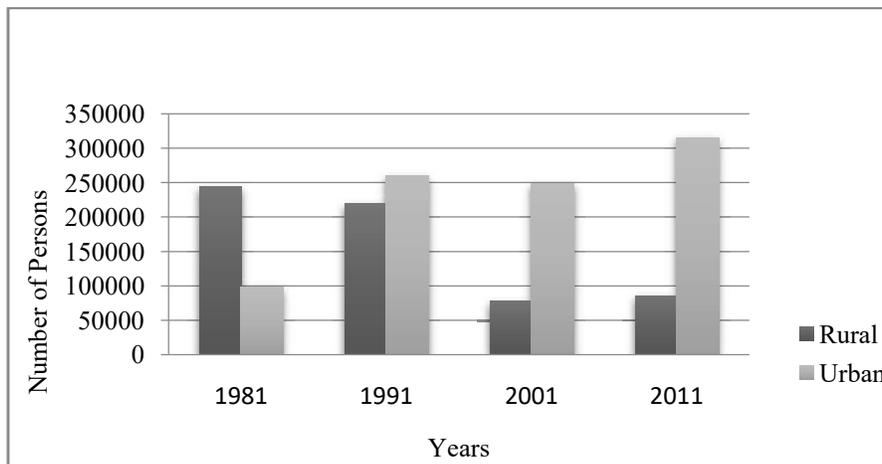


Figure 2: Progress in Rural & Urban population of Aizawl District

only this, the people within the district prefer to live in the towns as more than half of the population in Aizawl District lives in town. Aizawl city, within the district which is also the state capital alone holds a population of 293,416 in 2011 census. This is because of substantial relocation of individuals from village to town looking for open doors for work and better conveniences of life. However, if the development rate and the growth rate don't coordinate in the district, all efforts for planning and whatever little investments will end up plainly futile. Continuing migration from rural areas into the town, high birth rate coupled with enhanced wellbeing and medicinal facilities can push the economy towards the state of financial difficulties.

There exists a substantial difference in the proportion of rural and urban population in all the decades. The comparison of the progress of rural and urban population demonstrates the faster growth in urban population than that of rural population. In fact, the rate of growth of the urban population has consistently exceeded that of the rural population, however in the early years, such a large part of the population was rural. It is obvious from the fact that only 28.63% lives in urban, whereas 71.37% lives in the rural areas in 1981 census. Champhai, Kolasib and Serchhip were treated as a town for the first time during this census.

However, during the 1991 census, urban growth was so rapid to the point that it transformed Aizawl district from a predominantly rural to one predominantly urban, the growth was significantly even

higher than the state growth amid the ten years time recording an expansion number of 162,130 populations. Furthermore, the decrease in rural population added up to 24,491. So, we have a greater part of the number of inhabitants in the district lives in Aizawl town and the rate of urban population to total population added up to 54.28% in the district. However, rural decadal growth is seen low because of the increased number of urban units as 14 new towns are added, and in view of the expansion of Aizawl, Champhai, Serchhip and Kolasib towns in area, additionally, larger numbers of population migrate to those units for livelihood during the decade, comprising 45.72%.

Then came the 2001 census where the quantity of population living in urban areas kept on being as yet higher than the quantity of population living in rural areas, recording 76.19 % while the rural areas records only 23.81 %, the difference in the number between the rural and urban population is 170,614, that is the urban population was increased by 11,576 in number than the previous Census, and the rural diminished by 141,213 in number than the previous Census. The most recent Census of 2011 showed further increase of population to 78.63% in the urban, an increased number of 66,609 than the previous Census whereas the rural population constitutes only 21.37%, a diminished in the number by 8,024 during the last ten years, and the difference between rural and urban population in the district amounted to 2,29,199.

The fundamental reasons apart from the increase of population in towns may be attributed to the agricultural systems, as it is the biggest and a standout amongst the sectors of the rural economy, in which a large proportion of the rural workforce is engaged and consists of small marginal farmers. There is considerable under-work among these people; both wages and productivity are low, and these in turn result in poverty. In spite of the fact that poverty has declined over the last decades, the quantity of rural poor has in actuality increased due to the population growth. Besides, a large portion of the poor have a tendency to have bigger families which puts enormous burden on their little assets, and keep them from breaking out the chains of poverty. At that point, they began moving to the urban areas as living conditions are much easier and better than the rural areas, which is clearly demonstrated by a concentration of 73.29% in Aizawl city alone as indicated by 2011 census. This high concentration of population, results in pressure on land and land fragmentation.

Conclusion

Any region with high population growth threatens the local availability of resources like land and water, and affects the quality of life. As more human means the use of more resources, provided they generate contaminants such as air and water pollution, and increase larger quantities of waste, thus putting heavy stresses on our environment. The problem faced by high population growth in the district especially in Aizawl, the capital of the state is overcrowding in traffic movements,

increasing automobiles add to air pollution, and water demand largely exceeds water supply especially during the dry season. This scarcity of water can lead to diseases like diarrhea by drinking impure water. Another important issue confronted by the District is large-scale unemployment, which degrade the morals of the educated young people. The time has almost come when they have to compete for space, and since they are not self-sufficient in food production, the food security could become critical in future. On the other hand, slower population growth would be beneficial to economic development, as slower growth will bring about a slower rate of resource depletion. This slower population growth relies on upon the effectiveness of the family planning program, recently renamed the 'Family Welfare Program' is implemented, as it is the most important instrument of Government Population Policy. This program enhances the lives of the general population.

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