

# Analyzing the Emerging Social Problems of Ridiculous Increasing Urban Growth and Urbanization in Manipur

Dr. Kh. Jugindro Singh  
*Department of Geography*  
*Thoubal College, Thoubal, Manipur, (India)*  
*Author mail: drjugindrokh@gmail.com*

---

## **Abstract:**

The study of urban geography and urbanization is a relatively recent phenomenon in India dating essentially of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, Manipur is a small state in India, urban growth and urbanization trends in the state has been vigorously increasing in a concomitant phenomenon involving the process of conglomeration approach. The trend of urbanization in the state was confined within the limit of Imphal town till 1961 census and bringing the total number urban centers in the state has been increased from one town in 1961 to 51 towns in 2011. The present paper attempts to find the urbanization in the state and its impact on economic development. The findings indicate that the state as a whole was economically backward in the early decades and geographical elements that have had a significant impact on the growth of urban centers in the state. Because of socio-economic conditions, increased infrastructure, rural-urban migration, the emergence of market centers, and advancements in transportation and communication, the state's urbanization has accelerated. It is concluded that, these ever-increasing number of towns in the state is quantitative mode but less qualitative as a whole with less assets.

**Keyword:** Concomitant phenomenon, conglomeration approach, urban sprawl, urbanization, immigration

---

Date of Submission: 20-02-2022

Date of Acceptance: 05-03-2022

---

## **I. Introduction**

Urban growth' denotes the net population increase of the towns and cities while 'urbanization' refers to the proportionate increase of the urban population in relation to the total population in a given country (Puri,1981). It is obvious that urban growth and urbanization are not identical. For example, it is possible that on account of natural increase, urban population registers a substantial increase. If, however, the rate of growth of urban population is the same as that of rural population so that the actual percentage of urban population remains stable, urban growth has occurred but not urbanization. If, on the other hand, urban population increases at a faster rate than rural population so that the percentage of urban population in the total population of the country or state increases continuously, it is a clear indication that urbanization is taking place.

Manipur is a poor state in terms of economic development and categorized in the economically backward state in the country. Despite the fact that the state is highly endowed with natural resources that have the potential to construct a variety of local and large-scale companies, the state's industrial sector has not expanded significantly. There are no other sources of income except government aids. Lacks of assets in mushroom growth towns, as well as the current unorganized character of markets, sanitations, transportation, and communications cause the ugliness of the overgrown villages, so-called towns in the state. As a result, the few wealthy people always have an advantage over the poor. In such a situation, using the 'conglomeration strategy' to classify towns without attain the required criteria can lead to unfavorable results.

## **Study Area**

Manipur is located in the extreme corner of the Indian Union, along the Indo-Myanmar border with Imphal, a flower on the lofty height as the state capital. The meaning of Manipur is derived from two words of Hindi, 'Mani' meaning of jewel and 'Pur' means land, a land of jewels. Nagaland bound it in the north, Mizoram in the south, Myanmar in the east and Cachar district of Assam in the west. The state lies between 92°58' E to 94°45' E longitudes and 23° 50'N to 25° 42'N latitudes with a total geographical area of 22,327 sq. km. of which an important plain of 1843 sq. km. being only about 8.3 percent of the total area of the state, constitutes the central plain. The hill and mountains cover 20,484 sq. km. (91.7 percent) where various tribes inhabited nine hill ranges surround the oval shape valley.

## II. Methodology:

The present paper is the outcome of secondary sources collected from Census of Manipur, Economic Survey of Manipur, Statistical Handbook of Manipur and Basic Statistics of North Eastern Region and field visited. The finding data are exercise and Calculated the district wise trend of urban growth in the state from the available data and visited the important towns to analyse the problems where they encountered. Data are also extracted from books, thesis and other e-journals.

### Objectives:

- To provide an overview of the patterns and trends of urban growth in Manipur since 1951-2011
- To examine the geographical factors that have been very much influence to the growth of urban centres in the state
- To examine the present district level trends and pattern of urbanisation in the state

### Finding of the Study

To know the growth rate of urban population as well as district level exponential growth rate is calculated with the help of the following formula:

**Absolute growth:**  $A_g = P_2 - P_1$

Where,

$P_1$  and  $P_2$  are the population at the initial and later periods, and

$A_g$  is the net increase.

**Percentage of growth:**  $X = \frac{(P_2 - P_1)/t}{P_1} \times 100$

Where,

'X' is the net percentage increase growth of population,

$P_1$  and  $P_2$  are the population at the initial and later period and

't' is the number of years or decades. It reveals that the percentage increase over a given period.

**Rate of growth:**  $X = \frac{(P_2 - P_1)/t}{(P_2 - P_1)/t} \times 100$

Where, 'X' is the rate of growth of population'

$P_1$  and  $P_2$  are the population at the initial and later period and, 't' is the number of years.

## III. Discussion

Urbanization is the growing number of people in a society living in urban areas, or cities. It is a spatial scale and density of settlement as well as business and other activities in the area. Urban areas tend to attract businesses and becoming central Business District (CBD) because of their variable facilities for livelihood. This in turn attracts and concentration more people to the area, embanked facilities of employment, earning, working in a kind of circular process etc. Urbanization could occur because of natural expansion of the existing population, however most commonly it results from a large influx of people from outside.

Urbanization in Manipur is a relatively recent phenomenon (R. L. Singh, 1955) pioneer of urban studies in India worked urbanization in the Middle Ganga Valley (Richard A.1962) elaborately discussed the City Hinterland relationship; (M. Balaram Singh 1980) studied the urban growth in Imphal Valley and (S.M. Alam, 1965). The study of urbanization trends and a condition of urban growth has never been more relevant and popular than it is today. The progress of urbanization in Manipur seen from a demographic point of view is a conglomeration approach. The adoption of the conglomeration approach in the process of urbanization alone simplifies but can lead to misleading conclusion. It is found in some villages where population is greater than the minimum prescribed limit but no urban status are remarkably found and is termed overgrown village. It is a relatively new phenomena that began at the turn of the nineteenth century (Yeats, et al.,1971). From a demographic standpoint, urbanisation progress is fundamentally a process of population concentration that occurs in two ways: the multiplication of points of population concentration and the increase in the population size of such points (Eldridge, 1956). The process of urbanisation is very dynamic in nature, involving urban features that are subject to significant spatial and temporal fluctuation. Urbanization refers to the expansion of cities and non-agricultural activity. It is commonly linked to the advancement of industrialisation, trade, and commerce. 'Urbanization' refers to the proportionate expansion of the urban population in comparison to the overall population in a given country, whereas 'urban growth' refers to the net population increase of towns and cities in a state or region (Chand & Puri, 1983). Urbanization is a continuous and complex process in which the proportion of people living in places designated as "urban" by a fictitious authority rises in comparison to the rural component. It is a gradual population concentration in a single urban unit. When the population of total population live in locations or the urban population grows at a quicker rate than the average rate of growth for a

country, it is referred to as urbanisation (Davis, 1962). Urbanization is difficult to quantify because it is a long-term process (Datta, 2006). The migration of the rural people to urban areas is the primary source of urbanisation (Banerjee, 1969).

The trend of urbanization in the state was confined only one within the limit of Imphal town until 1961. As per census 1951, Churachandpur had only 6 houses and 30 persons. According to 1961 census, as well it was a village. In 1971, as per census return, it was an NAC (Notified Area Committee) with an area of 1.51 sq km and population of 8706 (comprising 4471 males and 4235 females). In 1981 it was up gradated to municipality encompassing 6.5 sq km area and inhabiting 20,764 persons (11,054 males and 9710) females). The growing town of Churachandpur was the third biggest town in Manipur during 1981 whereas Churachandpur census town of 1981 was declassified by census authority as rural area in 1991 census with effect from 11th February, 1988 owing to the recommendation of the Hill Areas Committee and was placed under the control of Manipur South District Autonomous Council. During the period from 1961-1971, Churachandpur, Thoubal, Moirang, Nambol, Bishnupur and Lamalai were notified as Statutory town bringing the total number of towns in 1971 to 8. This means that the state as a whole was economically backward in the early decades.

**Table-1**  
**Profile of Urbanization in Manipur (1911 - 2011)**

| Manipur Population (1901-2011) |            |            |          |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Year                           | Population | Growth     |          |
|                                |            | Net Change | rate (%) |
| 2011                           | 2,855,794  | 561,898    | 24.50    |
| 2001                           | 2,293,896  | 456,747    | 24.86    |
| 1991                           | 1,837,149  | 416,196    | 29.29    |
| 1981                           | 1,420,953  | 348,200    | 32.46    |
| 1971                           | 1,072,753  | 292,716    | 37.53    |
| 1961                           | 780,037    | 202,402    | 35.04    |
| 1951                           | 577,635    | 65,566     | 12.80    |
| 1941                           | 512,069    | 66,463     | 14.92    |
| 1931                           | 445,606    | 61,590     | 16.04    |
| 1921                           | 384,016    | 37,794     | 10.92    |
| 1911                           | 346,222    | 61,757     | 21.71    |

Source: Census, 2011

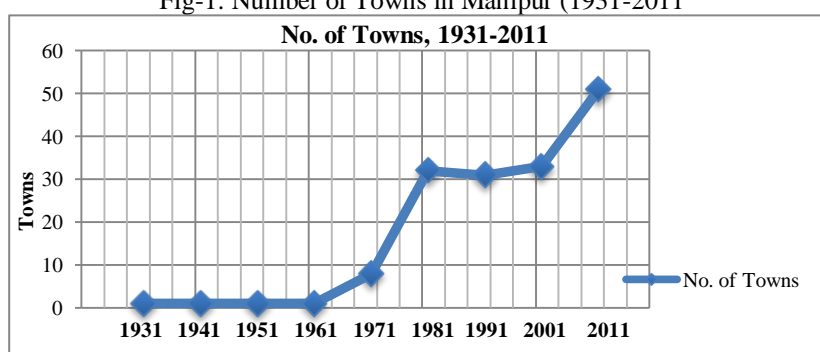
Table no 1 shows that the number of population in the state in 1911 census was only 34,622 (21.71%) to 1,072,753(37.53%) in 1971 and 2,855,794(24.5%) in 2011 respectively (Table-1). The trend of urbanization in the state was confined within the limit of Imphal town till 1961 with one town, an urban population of 85,804 (Table-2). The most spectacular increase of urban population took place in the current decades 2001-2011 (25.11%-29.21%). The number of urban centers shot up from 30 in 1991 to 51 in 2011 and percentages of urban population went down (23.88%) in 2001 from 27.52 percent in 1991 and again jump up to 29.21 in 2011 (Table-2). There are four new statutory towns namely Kakching Khunou, Kwakta, Andro and Thongkhong Laxmi Bazar treated as urban units at the 1991 census. The urban development in Manipur shows an interesting trend from the beginning of the century (1901) when it was under the colonial rule to the present era of independence which is experiencing great stress and strain (Singh, 1996).

**Table -2: Profile of Urbanization in Manipur (1951 - 2011)**

| Year | No. of Town | Urban population | Percentage to total Population |       |
|------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
|      |             |                  | Urba                           | Rural |
| 1931 | 1           | 85,804           | 19.26                          | 80.74 |
| 1941 | 1           | 99,716           | 19.47                          | 80.53 |
| 1951 | 1           | 2,862            | 0.50                           | 99.50 |
| 1961 | 1           | 67,717           | 8.68                           | 91.32 |
| 1971 | 8           | 1,41,492         | 13.19                          | 86.81 |
| 1981 | 32          | 3,75,460         | 26.42                          | 73.58 |
| 1991 | 31          | 5,05,645         | 27.52                          | 72.48 |
| 2001 | 33          | 5,75,968         | 25.11                          | 74.89 |
| 2011 | 51          | 8,34,154         | 29.21                          | 70.79 |

Sources: Economic Survey, Manipur, 2014-15, Table2.13 &2.14

**Fig-1: Number of Towns in Manipur (1931-2011)**



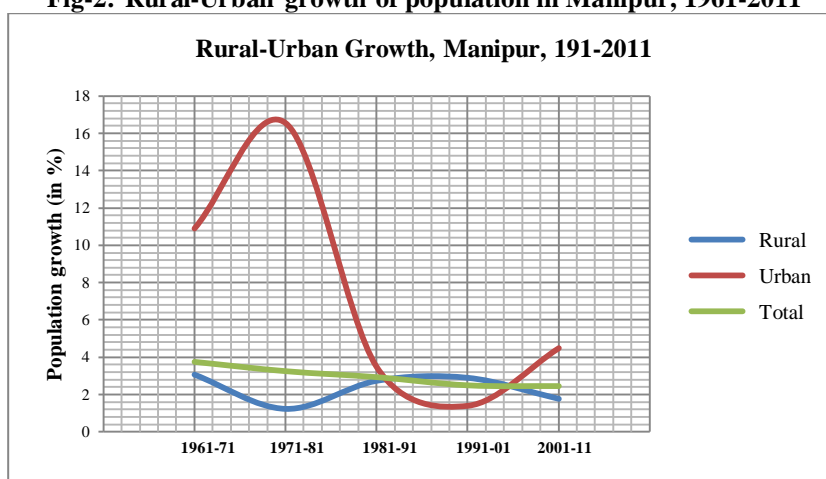
A closer look reveals that the state is largely rural, with 72.48 percent of the population living in 2,182 villages in 2001 and 2,588 villages in 2011. Agriculture, together with its related activities, is Manipur's single largest source of income. Despite the fact that the number of urban centres in Manipur is fast expanding, there was only one in 1961 and there are now 33 in the state in recent decades. The state continues to be one of the country's most backward regions. The question now is whether our cities have enough capacity to handle this rate of urban population expansion. This question has a negative answer. The state's current urbanisation is a result of the state's growing population, migration of people from rural to urban areas, immigration, and the merging of rural and urban areas.

**Table-3: Rural-Urban growth of population in Manipur, 1961-2011**

| Period  | Average annual arithmetic growth rate of population in % |       |       | Rural-Urban Growth differential |
|---------|--|-------|-------|---------------------------------|
|         | Rural  | Urban | Total |                                 |
| 1961-71 | 3.07   | 10.89 | 3.75  | (-) 7.82                        |
| 1971-81 | 1.23   | 16.54 | 3.25  | (-)15.31                        |
| 1981-91 | 2.74   | 3.47  | 2.93  | (-) 0.73                        |
| 1991-01 | 2.90   | 1.39  | 2.49  | (+) 1.51                        |
| 2001-11 | 1.77   | 4.48  | 2.45  | (-) 2.71                        |

Source: Economic Survey, Manipur, 2014-15

**Fig-2: Rural-Urban growth of population in Manipur, 1961-2011**



However, the state has continued to lag a behind in the urbanization process mainly because of higher proportion of rural population particularly in the Hill districts of the state (total population and urban population) registered a small decrease to 25.11 in 2001 from 27.52 in 1991. However, it is significant to know that the rays of civilization have recently been penetrated into the hilly regions of Manipur. Table No.4.2 reveals that growth of urban centers in the State increases from 1951 - 2011 censuses.

An interesting urban growth in the Hill districts of Manipur is shown in 2011 census where there were seven towns sprung up. Of which, one each in Senapati Distrit (kangpokpi CT), Ukhrul (Ukhrul CT), Tamenglong (Tamenglong CT), Moreh (STC), and three Census Towns in Churandpur district- Hill Town, Rengkai, and Lamkang. According to the census 2011, the state constitutes 9 districts, 38 Sub-districts, 51 towns (28 statutory towns, 23 census towns) and 2582 villages. In census 2001, the corresponding figures were 33 towns (5 census towns, 28 statutory towns) and 2391 villages. No change of 9 districts and 38 Sub-divisions but there is an increase of 18 census towns and 191 villages in census 2011 as compared to census 2001.

The sizable urban population in the Manipur valley and the growth of urban population of the state as a whole from 3,22,823 persons in 1981 to 5,05,848 in 1991 are remarkable demographic features. Loktak Hydro Project which was a Census town of 1981 and 6 towns in 1981 namely Karong, Senapati, Tamenglong, Singhat, Ukhrul, Kangpokpi in Sadar Hill, West Sub-Division of Senapati and Mao were denotified by the State Government have been classified as rural areas as they do not fulfil all the prescribed demographic criteria of urban areas. The most interesting aspect of the present distributional pattern of urban centres in the Manipur valley is the recent growth of a large number of market towns, which have essentially appeared for discharging commercial functions including collection and distribution works in addition to some small-scale industrial activities and other socio-cultural functions. The fact is that most of these centres could not attain the status of township in the last census, 2011. They have been receiving greater urban impulse for the last few years, owing to increasing commercial activities obtaining in them and the increasing pressure of population on agricultural land, on the one hand, and developing road communication system connecting such centres, on the other. These rural market centres can be potential urban settlements, forming comparatively low orders in the hierarchy of urban centres in the Manipur Valley.

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. A decrease in the average growth rate of total population recorded 2.45 percent in 2001-2011 and over 2.49 percent in 1991-2001 is observed from A close examination highlights that the state is being predominantly rural in character with 72.48% of its people living in 2,182 villages in 2001 and 2,588 in 2011. Agriculture with its allied activities is the single largest sources of livelihood of the people of Manipur. During recent decades, Manipur is rapidly increasing urban centers. There was only one urban centre in 1961 and at present, there are 33 urban centers in 2001 and 51 towns in 2011. The state is still remaining as one of the most backward regions of the country. Now the question is, do our towns have adequate capacity to serve this rate of urban population growth? The answer to this question is negative. The present urbanization in the state is a product of the ever-increasing population, migration of people from rural to urban areas, immigrants, and merges of rural areas to urban. In addition to the natural urban population growth, the concomitant growth and transportation facilities have all resulted in rapid growth of urban centres.

This rapid increase of urban population was also mainly due to the migration of rural population to the towns, development of trade and commerce and higher level of socio-cultural facilities enjoyed by the people. The extension of urban functions and creation of new townships in the remote rural areas are also, largely, responsible for increase in the process of rapid development. Thus, the urban development in the state shows an interesting trend from the beginning of this century when our country was under the colonial rule to the present era of independence, which is experiencing great stresses and strains in spatial organisation of economic activities. The most populous district of the State according to 2011 Census is Imphal West District (5,17,992) while the least populated is Tamenglong District (1,40,651). The valley districts accounts for 61.54 % of State population in 2001 while the Hill Districts constitutes 38.46 %. In 2011 Census, the valley area of the State shares 57.2 percent of the State total population whereas the hill area account for 42.8 %.

#### **IV. Findings**

Urban areas are growing faster in Less Economic Development Countries (LEDCs) than anywhere else in the world, but this growth brings problems and challenges, all of which require good management and solutions. According to 1991 census, the level of the percentage of population living in urban areas of Manipur is 27.52percent, which is quite higher than that of the North Eastern States (21.23%). A close examination highlights that the state is being predominantly rural in character with 72.48% of its people living in 2,182 villages in 2001 and 2,588 in 2011. Agriculture with its allied activities is the single largest sources of livelihood of the people of Manipur. Even though Manipur is rapidly increasing in urban centers there was only one urban centre in 1961 and at present there are 33 urban centers in the state in the recent decades. The state is still remaining as one of the most backward regions of the country. Now the question is, do our towns have adequate capacity to serve this rate of urban population growth? The answer to this question is negative. The present urbanization in the state is a product of the ever-increasing population, migration of people from rural to urban areas, immigrates, and merges of rural areas to urban. In addition to the natural urban population growth, the concomitant growth and transportation facilities have all resulted in rapid growth of urban centres.

It is quite clear that Manipur awaits some concrete plan and suggestions for its future development to procure urban needs. It also urgently needs some major and minor improvements and corrections in the existing pattern of urban growth in the state. It can be remarked that the present pattern of distribution of urban centers in the state during the period 1971- 2001 is vague. The unequal distributions of the urban centers and their unplanned growth have brought numerous mistakes and problems. In fact, the existing towns of the state have encountered several problems of different magnitudes in the forms of appallingly human congestion, traffic congestion, unsatisfactory health and medical services, undesirable and misuses of urban lands, lack of civic amenities, lung hollowing pollution, tension creating uncertain and unpredictable crimes, issues, and corruption prone city sphere.

#### **V. Suggestion**

The trend in urbanization reflects not only the demographic analysis of a particular area but also to the environment, ecology, socio-economic and physiological aspects. The trend of urbanization in Manipur is gradually increasing from 1971 census based on size of population with the lowest levels of economic development and it involves the people in the towns have encountered the lowest levels of education, expectancy of life, nutrition, health care system, garbage disposal system, underemployment, civic amenities, etc. Therefore, a systematic development of the fast growing urban centres with higher-level long vision district level planning providing urban assets will be more prominent.

#### **VI. Conclusion**

Despite the fact that the state is lagging behind in terms of economic and industrial development, there is a considerable increase in urbanization due to natural population growth due to high births, immigration and rural-urban migration. Until the 1961 census, Manipur's urbanization tendency was contained inside the city limits of Imphal. The number of urban centres in the state has been growing, as though there is a parallel phenomenon involving a conglomeration process.

However, most towns in the state fall short of the Census Department's and state authority's criteria for determining a town's status, with the exception of qualifying demographic parameters. Land fragmentation for the construction of districts in hill areas based on cultural and community homogeneity is one of the state's significant issues. The state's socio-economic situation and administration have been exacerbated by these chaotic urban centre developments. Proper management of settlements, drinking water, transportation, trash, and solid waste, among other things, will encourage in towns and cities. The classification of towns solely on the basis of population size without regard for the criterion can lead to unfavorable results.

### **Acknowledgement**

The author expresses high gratitude to the principal of Thoubal College, Thoubal, for financial support, as well as all members of the College Research Committee for their complete cooperation to publish the current paper in the College.

### **References**

- [1]. Bhattacharyya (2006): Manipur: Land people and Economy. Rajesh publication, New Delhi, Pp16-17.
- [2]. Bluraj (2009): Poknapham, Manipuri daily local news paper, 19th October, 2009.
- [3]. Borthakur, D.N. (1976) : Improving productivity of jhum cultivation with special reference to the North-eastern Hill Regions, Indian science congress Assn, 63rd Annual Session, Walter, January 3-7
- [4]. Chatterjee, S.P. ( 1965) :‘Physiography’ The Gazetteer of India,Vol. 1, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India, Delhi.
- [5]. Ch. Mangi khuman<sup>1</sup>, L.Romendro Singh<sup>2</sup> and S.Ibotombi<sup>3</sup> (2015): Rocks and landforms of Manipur: An Insight into the Origin and Evolution, Understanding Multidisciplinary Research Works: A New Aspects Relievable publication, Paona Bazar,Imphal, Pp.122-126 &, p.134
- [6]. Chaudhuri, B.L. (1919): Report on a small collection of fish from Putao (Hkamti Long) on the northern frontier of Burma. Rec. Indian Mus., 16 (40): Pp. 271-282.Col Ved Prakash (2007) Encyclopaedia of North east India, Vol-3, Atlanta Publishers & Distributers (p) Ltd,Pp1384-1385
- [7]. Dr. M. Balaram Singh (1980): “Imphal Valley: A Study in Urban Geography”, unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Pp.30-55.
- [8]. Dr. N. Lokendro Singh (1993) Ithai Barrage and popular Resistance, Ithai Barrage: A Boon or Scourge for Manipur, Edited by Prof. Gangumei Kamei, p.16.
- [9]. Economic Survey Manipur, (2014-15): Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Gov.of Manipur p.71.
- [10]. ICAR (1987): Research Complex for North-Eastern Hill Region(1983): Shifting cultivation in North East -India
- [11]. Indira Devi (2008): Sangai Express, Manipuri Daily Local News Paper, February 16, 2008.
- [12]. K..Rama Rao (1993): Reading Material of a Seminar in “Rice Production Technology for rain fed Upland Ecosystem,”P.36. Published by Directorate of Rice Research, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad.
- [13]. K.R. Dikshit, Jutta K. Dikshit (2014): North East India: Land, people and Economics, Springer Publication, New York London, P. 70.P-110
- [14]. K.R. Dikshit, Jutta K. Dikshit (2014): North- East India: Land, people and economy, Springer Publication , New York London
- [15]. Manipur (2013): Statistic Year Book, Manipur, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of Manipur, 2013 Pp-195-98.
- [16]. M.T. Laiba (1992):“The Geography of Manipur” Revised and Enlarged Edition,1992, p85.
- [17]. Nabachandra (2011): Geography of Manipur, Rajesh Publication, New Delhi, P.2.
- [18]. N.N. Bhattacharjya: (2006): Manipur Land, people and economy, Rajesh Publication, New Delhi,p.13
- [19]. N.R.Kar (1960): “The urban Hierarchy of Central Functions around the city of Calcutta and its significance”, I.G.U. Symposium in Urban Geography, Pp. 253-274
- [20]. NTDPC (2013): National Transport Development Policy Committee, 2013 Transport Development in the north East,
- [21]. Planning Department, Government of Manipur (1997): Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002 and Annual Plan 1997-98, p.82
- [22]. Reddy,N.B.K.(1970) : “The Krishna and Godavari Deltas as a macro – region: A preface to regional geography “ Journal of the Karnataka University, Science, 1970 (15), Pp.135-165
- [23]. Raju AV (1989-90):Assam-Meghalaya geological mapping: an overview.GSI,Rec.126:13
- [24]. S. M. Alam, (1965) : Hyderabad - Secunderabad (Twin cities) : A study in urban Geography, Hyderabad

Dr. Kh. Jugindro Singh. “Analyzing the Emerging Social Problems of Ridiculous Increasing Urban Growth and Urbanization in Manipur.” *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 27(03), 2022, pp. 39-45.