

URBANIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Dr. W. Pradip Kumar Singh*

Abstract :

Urbanization today has become one of the most important factors of development and change in the society. In the poor state of our country like Manipur, urbanization does not have a long history. It is true that the recent decades witnessed urbanization trends. The main objective of the study was to analyse the trends of urbanization and its impact on the structural aspects of society in general. For the present study an exploratory cum descriptive research design based on multi stage random sample has been made. Accordingly from 27 Wards in Imphal Municipality 383 households have been extracted through lottery method for convenient of the study. A pre-tested interview schedule has been used for collecting primary data. From the study it can be said that urbanization is taking place in the area under study resulting in urbanism and development of modern mentality.

Keywords : Urbanization, Society, Imphal City.

* Department of Sociology, Liberal College, Imphal East-795002, Manipur, India.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this study was to analyze the impact of Urbanization in Imphal valley with special reference to Imphal City. The impact of urbanization in rural life, the interaction between the rural and the urban ways of life and the impact of urbanization in the structural aspect of society in general are some of the important dimensions of urban studies. But as the cities and town till very recently, have been a phenomena manifest exclusively in the larger advanced countries, urban studies naturally began in Europe and in the United States of America. A considerable number of works appeared on Urbanization among Negor Africa like Lay burn's study in South Africa, McCall's general study of urbanized African, Scott's study of Cape town, Buscom's study of urbanization among the Yorubas and all these studies came out in the fifties of the last century. Recently there have been a considerable number of studies on African urbanization like Epstein's study on urbanization and social change in Africa which came out in the current Anthropology in 1967(8/4). Kennett and Addition's study of African urbanization in south of Sahara (1972). In Asian countries, Wilkinson's study in Korea, Keyes's study in China, Copper's study in Malay also came out in the fifties. Joint UN/UNESCO seminar held in 1956 highlighted the phenomena of urbanization in Asia and far East. Some work has also been done on Latin American countries like Leonard's work on Bolivia, Anna Casis's and Kingsley Davis's article on trait of the urban and rural population in Latin America. In most of these studies whether on Africa, Asia or Latin America we find that the stress is on rural urban differences, race relations, urban migration and mobility and so on. However, Buscom's, Epstein's, Kenneth's and Addition's studies lay stress on the social dimension. There are four aspects of urbanization (1) behavioural (2) structural (3) demographic and (4) spatial (TCPO, 1974). Hauser has made an important contribution to the study of urbanization. In his introduction to the seminar on urbanization in the ECAFE region, Hauser has expressed the opinion that urbanization is closely related to economic development and social change. Nel Anderson (1957) has also said that urbanization is more or less than a shifting of people from country to city from land bound to urban type of work. Urbanization involves basic changes in the thinking and behaviour of the people and changes in their social values. In one of the U N report it is emphasized that the process of urbanization is today but part of a larger process of economic and social change which is affecting the countryside as well.... The influence of the city, for good or ill, must therefore, be viewed in relation to the total process of change taking place within the country. Kingsley

Davis has analysed the term urbanization in demographic and economic senses. From demographic view point Davis has emphasised the analysis of urban population. In his opinion those countries are highly urbanized which have 25 % of their population living in agglomeration of 20,000 and more inhabitants and at least 15 % in agglomeration of 1,00,000 and more inhabitants. He has also emphasized industrialization in the analysis of urbanization which he calls a movement away from employment in agriculture. The demographic aspects of urbanization have also been largely emphasized by the Indian scholars. In the study of urbanization, Ashish Bose has mainly explained the growth of urban population and the growth of different classes of towns and cities. In his analysis of urbanization Sovani has adopted more or less the same approach. P.N. Prabhu has analysed the nature and extent of impact of city life and condition on the rural migrants who came to Bombay in search of employment. In his study the main emphasis is on the city's impact upon the socio- cultural habits of the migrants. Radha Kamal Mukherjee has also underlined the point that the process of urbanization is neither necessarily co- related with the process of industrialization nor are both these processes synonymous. It is quite possible that the process of urbanization might have accelerated to a great extent without even the advent of industrialization.

Objectives : The main objectives of the present study was to investigate the impact of urban growth on socio-cultural transformation, economic life, to see the association between urbanization and the growth of modern norms and values. To analyse the growth of the urban way of life with special reference to the types of relations, patterns of behaviour, economic and political participation. Accordingly, we began with a brief review of the basic concept, showing how different aspects of urbanization and urbanism have been emphasized by different thinkers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The state of Manipur lies between 23.83° to 25.68° north latitude and 93.03° to 94.78° east longitude. Its total Geographical area is 22,327 sq. km out of which 22,181.67 sq. km. has been leveled as rural area and the rest 145.33 sq. km as urban area. The capital of Manipur is Imphal which is at the heart of valley and is almost intersected by the 25^{th} parallel north latitude and 94° East longitude. It is at a level of 790 metres above sea level. The present study is based on primary and secondary data and has an exploratory cum descriptive research design. From the exploratory view point we tried to investigate the urbanization process in the following sphere:

economic, social, religious, political and cultural. We have also tried to investigate attitude of our respondent on the development impact of urbanization restricting on occupational structure, family, marriage, and social values. We have also tried to investigate the way of life of the urbanites in Imphal city. For the study multi stage random sample has been used and accordingly 383 households have been extracted through lottery method. The heads of the households automatically becomes our respondent. For the collection of primary data, a pre-tested interview schedule has been used.

RESULT

The sample size of 383 respondents from the study area shows that majority of them were Hindu and tertiary occupation employment predominates our primary and secondary industry employment in Imphal city as 92.17% of the respondents were engaged in tertiary sector. The people of the city of Imphal were attracted towards nuclear family as majority of the respondents lived in nuclear family (55.10 %). It is very interesting to note that 93.47 % of the respondents were urban born and the remaining 06.53 % were born in rural areas and migrated to city. Generally two generation families are a norm in city. We also found that 68.93 % of the respondents have one to two generations in the family. In Imphal both types of family system are prevalent. Our respondents show that people prefer more nuclear to joint family. Preference for nuclear family by a large majority of the respondents indicates their positive orientation towards urbanization, which may well be treated as indication of growing urbanization and urbanism in the area under study. Although majority of the respondents have shown preference for nuclear family yet it is interesting to see that majority of the respondents (66.06 %) keep close relationship with their extended joint family. It shows that the ethos of Joint family is still dominant. Our study reveals that 7.31% of the respondents were migrants and the rest 92.69 % were natives. In our analysis we see that majority of the respondents migrated to the city for the purpose of employment and education. This shows a positive trend of migration from the perspective of urbanization. In our study we found a high degree of freedom regarding mate selection. It was found that in the case of boys 83.55 % respondents reported that decision regarding marriage is taken by the boy himself and in the case of girls this percentage were 76.50. The percentage of such respondents in whose families such decisions were taken by the head of the family were negligible, which indicates that in the matter of mate selection degree of

individual freedom, is very high. It may well be treated as a trend towards urbanization as well as urbanism and modernization. Regarding marriage we found that our respondents were more inclined towards love marriage. Urbanization results in loosening of relations between family members and other kinship resulting in importance of individualism. It is noteworthy that most of the respondents consider marriage as relation of two individuals (89.82%). In Manipur marriage is almost done in the traditional ways as cent percent of our respondents get their marriage done in traditional ways. Here urbanization did not seem to have any impact of the traditional of aspect of marriage performance. It is interesting to note that despite high degree of individual freedom in the mate selection the form of marriage is still traditional. Although, dowry system in local language *Awunpot* (a gift) exists in Manipur, there is no hard and fast rule of practicing it. We found that in 55.87 % of the respondents' family dowry was given by the wish of the parents and 27.68 % families of the respondents were against dowry. Thus regarding dowry in Imphal the system is not a big problem in the society. It indicates a good impact of urbanization in the area under study. Caste plays an important role in mate selection and it is supposed to be an endogamous group. It is interesting to note that the caste restrictions regarding marriage has weakened, as majority of the respondents were not inclined towards caste restrictions. The respondents had full freedom of mate selection from any caste. Urbanization and caste system do not go together. Normally urbanization results in loosening of the caste restrictions. Our study also supports this view. In our study a good percent of the respondent's family practice inter caste marriage, out of which 65.52% were boys and 34.48 % were girls. This shows that the traditional caste rigid society is moving towards urban open society which is an indication of urbanization. Majority of our respondents were of the view that 25 to 30 years of age was the ideal age of marriage for boys and girls. Nobody supported early marriage or child marriage. It indicates that our respondents have a matured outlook regarding the age of marriage. Inviting people in the family marriages seemed to have an open mind as majority of the respondents do not practiced the restriction of caste, class, occupation and community in extending invitation (99%). Regarding the freedom of women it was interesting to find that majority of the respondents were totally disagreed with the view that girls should be kept within four walls after marriage. This shows that women's participation in the outside activities even after marriage was favoured. It also indicates that the traditional gender bias is on its way out. It may be treated as a healthy trend for the viewpoint of urbanization. In urban areas friendship is

supposed to be a personal matter. People are generally choosy about friends. But majority give total acceptance for friendship to the people of their own caste, class, occupation and community (92%). This shows that the respondents do not generally want to restrict their friendship circle. Neighbourhood plays an important role in one's life. Normally people want to live among their own people. Although majority of the respondents were ready to welcome any family in their neighbourhood and they also have close/very close relationship with their neighbours. But the traditional system of always helping their neighbours is breaking as majority of the respondents (70.76%) were in favour of helping their neighbours occasionally. In a traditional society like Manipur it may well be treated as an indication of urbanization. But in the case of interaction within the neighbourhood, the trends show an opposite direction. We found that majority of the respondents (72.59%) exchange domestic goods with their neighbours without any consideration of caste, creed etc. An analysis of the occupational structure of our respondents indicates a healthy trend towards urbanization. Majority of our respondents belonged to service sector followed by business. Our study shows that the maximum percentage (84.23 %) of the respondents was not satisfied with their present economic conditions. And it is also noteworthy that 72.45 % of them did either side businesses or work extra hours to raise income. From the viewpoint of urbanism it was also healthy to note that 90.08% of the respondents had a saving orientation. This indicates that the people of Imphal City have an urge to earn more and more money. In modern times the attitude towards working outside is gradually changing for the betterment. In this regard majority of the respondents was disagreed with the view that married women should work only at home (96%). This indicates an urban mentality among the respondents. It was also note worthy to find that nearly 93 % of the respondents were to the view that women should be given the freedom of remarriage after divorce whereas nearly 95 % respondents showed a positive attitude towards widow remarriage. It denotes a healthy trend towards modern urbanism. This trend is further supported by the analysis of freedom given to girls in the families of the respondents. We found that in the case of 96.87 % of our respondents girls were free to undertake service, 86.16 % were free to go alone to the city, 41.51 % were free to go outside town, 6.27 % were free to come late at night. We also found that 99.22 % girls were free to get education of their choice, 84.60 % girls were free to dress according to their choice. While analysing the freedom of decision taking in our respondents regarding certain important social activities, we found that urbanization is taking place in the social sphere also. It

is interesting to note that 69.93 % of our respondents' families were free to eat and drink according to their choice. Likewise 77.54 % of the respondents were free in clothing of their choice, 62.66 % were free to choose recreation of their choice. A very large percentage more than 90 % of the respondents was free to plan future and to get married according to their choice. In making friendship 86.68 % of the respondents were free and 66.84 % were also free to invite and visit anyone. It shows that urban family does not exercise much control on the members even in some important matter. It may well be treated as in impact of urbanization on the one hand and growing urbanism on the other. The acceptance of the culture of others for raising their social status by a large majority (93.73 %) of the respondents is an indication of urban orientation. In the area wise analysis of the culture it is also interesting thing to be noted that in material culture we found a high level of acceptance of culture of others by the respondents where as in the case of non-material culture the acceptance level was low. In short it may be said that respondents exhibit characteristics of urbanism in the area of education, economy and work habit and they may be said to have an urban mentality in cultural field.

DISCUSSION

In support to the definition of urbanization, Gerald Breeze says that the term means the process of becoming urban, a movement from village to cities, a change from agricultural pursuit to other pursuits common to cities and a corresponding change in behaviour pattern. In the study it shows that tertiary occupation employment predominates our primary and secondary industry employment in Imphal city as 92.17% of the respondents were engaged in tertiary sector, 06.79 % in secondary sector and only 01.04 % in primary sector. Hauser has made an important contribution to the study of urbanization. In his introduction to the seminar on urbanization in the ECAFE region, Hauser has expressed the opinion that urbanization is closely related to economic development and social change. Our study shows that the maximum percentage (84.23 %) of the respondents was not satisfied with their present economic conditions and 72.45 % of them did either side businesses or work extra hours to raise income. It was also healthy to note that 90.08% of the respondents had a saving orientation. This indicates that the people of Imphal City have an urge to earn more and more money. Lerner was probably the first scholar to investigate the relationship between urbanization and some non-economic variables. In his pioneering study of the Middle East, Lerner tried to show how increasing urbanization had tented

to raise literacy, how raising literacy had tented to media exposure and increasing media exposure had gone with wider economic and political participation. In this study we also found that 99.22 % girls were free to get education of their choice. The above table shows that 33.51 percent of respondents prefer newspaper as a means of communication, 25.32 % prefer to telephone, 19.06 % of them prefer television as a means of communication. 18.02 % of the respondents prefer E-mail while the remaining 02.09 % of them prefer radio as a means of communication. Although newspaper and telephone are the most preferred means of communication yet it is important to note that 18.02 percent respondents have given preference to E-mail. This indicates that modernization is taking place in the field of communication though slowly. The positive attitude of the respondents for the city life is further supported by their desire to have more cities in Manipur as 92.17 % respondents were in favour of developing more and more cities in Manipur showing a clear indication of welcoming urbanization and development of urban centres.

CONCLUSION

From the above analysis it may be said that urbanization is taking place in the area under study resulting in urbanism and the growth and development of modern mentality. Thus the study of the trends of urbanization becomes important not only sociologically but from the view point of planning also. Before closing the discussion we feel that a comparative study of two different areas will be an interesting study.

References:

- Geerald Breeze, 'Urbanization in Newly Developing Countries', Yale University Press, 1969, p.3.
- Philip M. Hauser, edited, "Urbanization in Asia and Far East". Proceeding of the joint UN./ UNESCO Seminar, UNESCO Research Centre on the Social Implication of Industrialization in Southern Asia, Calcutta, 1957.
- Nels Anderson and K. Ishwaran, 'Urban Sociology', Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1965. pp-17-18.
- Bert, F. Hoselitz, "Sociological aspect of Economic growth", The Free Press of Glenco- 1962, pp. 187-89.

- Kingsley Davis and Hilda Hertz, 'The World Distribution of Urbanization', Bulletin of the International Statistical Institute; vol. XXXIII, part IV.
- CF. Paper by Kinsley Davis and Hilda Hertz, 'Urbanization and the development of pre-industrial Areas' in 'Economic Development and Cultural Change', Vol. III, No. 1, October, 1954, p.8.
- Ashish Bose; 'The process of Urbanization In India' 1901- 51 Delhi. University of Delhi; 1959. Patterns of population Change in India – 1951-61; New Delhi; Allied Publication.
- N. V. Sovani , 'Urbanization and Urban India'. Asia Publication House, Bombay, 1966
- Desai, Neera, 'Women in Modern India' Vora & Co., Bombay, 1957, p-237.
- Donald J. Bogue and K.C. Zachariah, 'Urbanization and Migration in India' in Roy Turner (ed.) 'India's Urban Future', Berkley, University of California Press, 1962, pp. 27-56
- P.N. Prabhu, Bombay, 'A Study on the social effects of Urbanization 'in' The Social Implication of Industrialization and Urbanization', UNESCO Research Centre on the social Implications of Industrialization in southern Asia, 1964, p. 46.
- R.K. Mukherjee, 'Man and his habitation' A study of Social Ecology, London, Longman, Green and Co., 1940 pp-102-104.
- P.A Sorokin and C.C Zimmerman, "Principles of Rural Urban Sociology", Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1930; pp. 56-57
- Nels Anderson and K Ishwaran : 'Urban Sociology', Asia publishing House, Bombay 1965,pp.6-7.
- Louis Worth, 'Urbanism as a way of life', Americana Journal of Sociology, 1938.
- Nels Anderson and K.Ishwaran, 'Urban sociology', Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1965, pp.9-18.
- Daniel Lerner. 'The Passing of Traditional Society', Free Press, Glencoe, 1958, p-48.
- Kuppuswamy B, 'Social Change in India', Vani Educatrional Book, 1986 Edition, New Delhi, p. 55.
- Dubey. S.C., 'Men's and women's Role in India' Women in Asia, Barbara E. Ward(ed.) paris UNESCO. P.56.
- Ganguli, S.N. 'Tradition, Modernity and Development', The Mac Millan Co. of India Ltd. 1977, p- .

- Aiyer, S.P., 'Modernization of Traditional society', Mac Millan, Indian 1973, P-4.
- Singh, Yogendra, 'Historicity of Modernization', in Narain D., (ed.) Explorations in Family and other Essays, Thacker & Co. Ltd., Bombay, 1975, P-648.
- M.N. Srinivas, 'Social Change in Modern India', Berkley, University of California Press, 1971. p-5.

