



Urbanization and Urban Growth A Case study on Jorhat, Sivasager, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia districts of Assam, India

KEYWORDS

Urbanization, upper Assam, Population Growth

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ABSTRACT Urbanization is the cyclic process, through which a nation pass from simple agricultural society to complex industrial society (G .Taylor). The process of urbanization in the study area is very rapid and this is due to over-all high population growth rate, large scale rural to urban and urban to urban flow of population. The urban population of the district of Jorhat, Sivasager, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia has become double in a short span of 40 years (1971-2011). Again in terms of percentage of urban population, the study area shows an increasing trend of urban population since 1991. But there we also found a negative trend of urban population growth between 2001 and 2011, and this can be possibly due to migration of urban population to the larger urban areas.

Introduction

Urbanization is the process of socio-economic transformation of society and economy from purely rural to purely urban form. Urbanization is the process by which large numbers of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas. In this process the numbers of people living in urban areas increases compared with the number of people in rural areas. A country, a state or a district are said to be urbanized when 50% of its population lives in urban areas (Long, 1998).

Urbanization in upper Assam , especially in the districts of Dibrugarh,Tinsukia, Jorhat and Sivsagar is not a new phenomena, it was started since the oil exploration during 1901, when Digboi oil refinery was build in the upper Brahmaputra valley. The Origin of Oil and Tea industries in upper Brahmaputra valley lead to the development of large urban agglomerations in these districts. Rapid growth of population and their demand for new market areas have significantly change the scenario of urbanization in upper Assam region.

Study Area:

The study area includes the districts of Jorhat, Sivsager, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia in Upper Assam, in the southern bank of river Brahmaputra. It has the longitudinal extension of 93degree 55 minute E to 96 degree 0 minute E and latitudinal extension of 26 degree 30 minute N to 28 degree 0 minute N (fig-2).

Data Base and Methodology:

The paper has been prepared with the data collected from the Town and country planning organization (TCPO), of Assam, Statistical handbook of Assam, census of India, 2011 and related journals, books along with some personal observation of the study area.

Findings and discussion:

Urban Population Pattern in Upper Assam

Assam is considered to be the least urbanized state in India, located in the north eastern region. however few large urban agglomeration have been developed, chiefly after the development of Oil and Tea industries in the lower as well as in upper Assam, mainly in the districts of Kamrup and Nagaon in the lower Assam and Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Jorhat and Sivsager in the upper Assam. Upper Assam mainly constitutes the districts of Jorhat, Sivasager, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, located in the southern Bank of River Brahmaputra. These districts altogether constitute a total population of 4486244(census, 2011), distributed over a combined area of 12961 km². The district of Jorhat, Sivsager, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia had total urban population of 45728 (excluding Titabor and Teok),

37910(excluding Simoluguri), 95005(excluding Moran) and 91209(excluding Makum), in the year 1971, which has increased to 92160, 95580,166373 and168899, in the year 2011, respectively. There is almost two fold increase of urban population within a short span of 40 years from 1971 to 2011.

Again the rate of change of percentage of urban population to total population is very rapid in the district of Jorhat, where the urban population was 15.3% in 1991, increases to 17.15% in 2001. And again increased to 20.1% in 2011. There is also a declining trend of percentage of urban population in Dibrugarh District, where urban population was 19.28% in the year 2001, which decreases down to 18.40% in 2011. At the same time Sivsager and Tinsukia District shows a slow positive growth of urban population of 7.2% and 16.5% in the year 1991, which increased to 9.24% and 19.47% in the year 2001, again increased slightly to 9.60% and 20.0% in 2011, respectively (table-1).

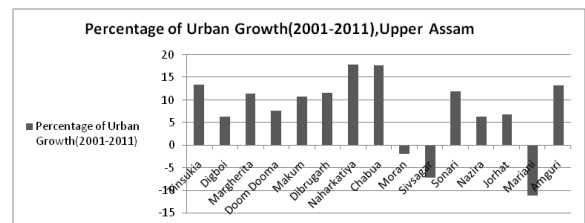


Figure-1, Source- Census of India, 2011

District	Percent of urban population to total population Year		
	1991	2001	2011
Jorhat	15.3	17.15	20.10
Sivsager	7.2	9.24	9.60
Dibrugarh	17.6	19.28	18.40
Tinsukia	16.5	19.47	20.00

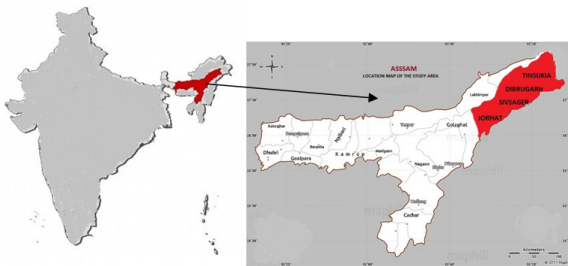
Table-1, source- Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO), Assam

Urbanization in Jorhat and Sivsager-

Jorhat has total population of 1091295, distributed over an area of 2852 km², Out of which urban population constitutes 218259, in the year 2011 (census 2011). It has few urban centers like Jorhat Municipal town, Mariani, Titabor and Teok. The Jorhat town and Mariani town had the total urban popula-

tion of 30674 and 15054 in the year 1971, which increased to 50030 and 21002 in 1991, again increased to 66450 and 23065 in 2001 and finally reached to 71398 and 20762, in the year 2011. There is a rapid increase in the size of the urban population since 1971.

The Sivsager district has a total population of 1150253 (census, 2011), distributed over a geographical area of 2668 km². The total urban population of Sivsager district is 110424, in 2011(census, 2011).The major urban agglomerations of Sivsager district is Sivsager municipal town, Sonari, Nazira and Amguri, which has the urban population of 27426, 2438, 5550 and 2496 in the year 1971, which increases rapidly to 37326, 12398, 8395 and 3583 in 1991, again increases to 54482,17430, 12466 and 6944 in 2001 and finally grown to the urban population size of 50595, 19792, 13299 and 8007 in the year 2011, respectively. However few urban centres of Jorhat and Sivsager district have shown a negative trend of urban population growth, such as Mariani town in Jorhat district and Sivsager town in Sivsager district (table-2).



Source- www.map of india.com fig-2

District	Size of the urban population(1971 – 2011)				
		1971	1991	2001	2011
Sivsager	1.Sivsager town	27426	37326	54482	50595
	2.Sonari	2438	12398	17430	19792
	3.Nazira	5550	8395	12466	13299
	4.Amguri	2496	3583	6944	8007
Jorhat	1.Jorhat town	30674	50030	66450	71398
	2.Mariani	15054	21002	23065	20762

Table-2, Source-Statistical handbook of Assam

Urbanization in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia

Dibrugarh district located in the bank of River Dibu has a total area of 3381 km². The total population of Dibrugarh is 1327748, out of which the size of the urban population is 244305 in 2011 (census, 2011). Dibrugarh has the several small urban centers,out of which the major urban areas are Dibrugarh municipal town, Naharkatiya, Chabua and Moranhat, which had the urban population of 80343, 10774, 3888 and 3530 in the year 1971, which have become 120127, 15052, 6104 and 4723 in 1991, and again increases to the population size of 122523, 15528, 7230 and 5779 in 2001, and finally these towns acquire the urban population of 138661, 18924, 8788 and 5669. Except the town of Moran, which has declining rate of population since 2001? All other town has grown very rapidly since 1971(table-3).

Tinsukia district is located in the western corner of Assam, which has the total area of 3790 km² and a total population of 1316948 in 2011 (census, 2011) and urban population of 263389. The major urban agglomeration of Tinsukia district is Tinsukia municipal town, Digboi, Margherita and Doom Doma. These towns were accommodated the urban population of 54911, 16538, 9250 and 10510 in the year 1971, which grown to the 73918, 19137, 21709 and 15121 in 1991. Again in the year 2001, the urban population of these towns increased to 85519, 20405, 23836 and 19822. And finally it reached to 98798, 21791, 26913 and 16875 in the year 2011,

respectively. Thus these towns have shown a very rapid positive growth of urban population in every decade, since 1971 (table-3).

District	Name of the towns	Urban population to the total population(1971-2011)			
		1971	1991	2001	2011
Tinsukia	1.Tinsukia municipal town	54911	73918	85519	98798
	2.Digboi	16538	19137	20405	21791
	3.Margherita	9250	21709	23836	26913
	4.Doom doma	10510	15121	19822	21469
Dibrugarh	1.Dibrugarh town	80343	120127	122523	138661
	2.Naharkatiya	10744	15052	15528	18924
	3.Chabua	3888*	6104*	7230	8788
	4.Moran	3530*	4723*	5779	5669

Table-3, source – Statistical handbook of Assam, 2011

*interpolated Data

Growth of urban population

Growth generally shows the change in the numbers or quantity between two definite time periods. The growth of urban population means change in the number of urban population between two time periods. The percentage of urban population in the districts of Jorhat, Sivsager, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia was 15.30, 7.30, 17.60 and 16.50 in the year 1991, which have become 17.15, 9.24, 19.28 and 19.47 in 2001, and again they increases to 20.1, 9.60,18.40 and 20.0 in the year 2011, respectively(table-1). At the same time, Assam had only 12.90 percent of urban population in the year 2001, which increase to 14.08 in 2011.

Again the Decadal growth of urban population of Assam and the Districts of Jorhat, Sivsager, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia shows a great variation. These districts had an average growth of urban population of 11.85 percent, between 2001 and 2011, where as the Assam has the urban population growth of 13.5 percent, during the same period. Thus there is a trend of very rapid urban population growth in the districts of upper Assam.

Causes of urbanization

- 1) Growth of population is the one of the most important factor of urbanization in Assam. Increasing Birth rate and decreasing death rate have tremendously increases the total population of the state. The total population of Assam was 26,655,528 in 2001, which have become 31,169,272 in the year 2011. Again density of population increases from 340 to 397 during the same period. But the decadal growth of population in Assam decreases from 18.93 to 16.93 during the same period.
- 2) Urban populations have increased tremendously since 2001. The urban population of Assam was 3,439,240 in 2001, which increases to 4,398,542 in the year 2011. On the other hand, the urban population of the study area has increases from 5, 007, 95 to 5, 802, 09 during the same period.
- 3) Large scale rural to urban migration is the major cause of urbanization in developing nations.
- 4) Immigration across the international borders have increases the pressure of population in the Brahmaputra valley and accelerated the process of urbanization in Assam.

Conclusion

1. The urbanization in upper Assam shows a very rapid positive growth, during a short span of 40 years. Most of the towns acquired almost double population since 1971.
2. Some towns have also shown a trend of negative growth of urban population, which might be due to movement

of urban population to some larger urban areas.

3. If the present rate of growth of urban population continues, then the study area would have the urban population of 0.670 million in the year 2021.
4. Again the average percentage of urban population of the study area can be increase up to 18.50% in the year 2021, if the present rate continues.
5. It can be noticed that the rate of change of urban population in the larger towns is more significant than the smaller towns. This is possibly due to high rural to urban and urban to urban migration.

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