



Modernisation of The Mizo Society



R.N.Prasad
A.K.Agarwal



A MITTIA PUBLICATION

Modernisation/Development is a process of societal transformation from a traditional society to a modern society, emphasising the elimination of poverty, unemployment, social and economic inequality. Modernisation on capitalist lines, which the country has pursued, has led to the growth of unknown phenomena in Mizo society like stratification—the rich and the poor—, alienation by well-off natives, absentee landlordism, intermediary rights, money lending, encroachment of community land, exploitative groups based on antagonistic relationships of production and property, land mortgage and perpetuation of the existing disparities of wealth. The emerging well off natives/middle class in the state are neither opposed to the landed gentry nor to the Indian capitalist class.

The book, which includes nineteen scholarly and research papers, deals objectively with a theoretical concept of modernisation and various issues, challenges, problems and constraints concerning the modernisation/development of the Mizo society and suggests to resolve the degrading socio-economic situations, affecting the poor tribesmen adversely, who are the victims of poverty and unemployment owing to unequal production and property relations. It provides policy insights for the future and will be highly useful and valuable.

Rs. 450

R.N. PRASAD (b. 1941) is Professor, Head of the Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University (Central), Aizawl, and Dean, School of Social Sciences.

He has participated in several local, regional, national and international seminars/workshops/conferences and contributed many scholarly and research papers.

He has more than 75 research papers and book reviews published in academic/professional journals of national and international repute and edited volumes to his credit. He has also authored, co-authored and edited a number of books.

He is a member of different academic bodies of several universities, research institutes/councils and also a life member of professional associations/bodies.

He is an Hony. Secretary of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, Mizoram Regional Branch, and the editor of its annual journal, *Administrative Review*.

A.K. AGARWAL (b. 1949) is Professor in the Department of Economics, Mizoram University, Aizawl. He is one of the editors of *Political Economy Journal of India* and *Administrative Review*. He has published about eighty articles in various national journals and also authored, co-authored and edited eight books. He was a member of Mizoram Taxation and Resource Mobilisation Committee.

ISBN 81-7099-889-1

MODERNISATION OF THE MIZO SOCIETY

THE EDITORS

R.N. PRASAD (b. 1941) is Professor, Head of the Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University (Central), Aizawl and Dean, School of Social Sciences.

He has participated in several local, regional, national and international seminars/workshops/conferences and contributed many scholarly and research papers.

He has more than 75 research papers and book reviews published in academic/professional journals of national and international repute and edited volumes to his credit. He has also authored, co-authored and edited a number of books.

He is a member of different academic bodies of several universities, research institutes/councils and also a life member of professional associations/bodies.

He is an Honorary Secretary of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, Mizoram Regional Branch, and the editor of its annual journal, *Administrative Review*.

A.K. AGARWAL (b. 1949) is Professor in the Department of Economics, Mizoram University, Aizawl. He is one of the editors of *Political Economy Journal of India* and *Administrative Review*. He has published about eighty articles in various national journals and also authored, co-authored and edited eight books. He was a member of Mizoram Taxation and Resource Mobilisation Committee.

MODERNISATION OF THE MIZO SOCIETY

Imperatives and Perspectives

**R.N. PRASAD
A.K. AGARWAL**



Foreword by

PROF. ARVIND K. SHARMA

Founder Vice-Chancellor
MIZORAM UNIVERSITY
AIZAWL



MITTAL PUBLICATIONS

NEW DELHI-110059 [INDIA]

iew

S/10-11

F242
1565

No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner and the publishers.

NEHU LIBRARY
 Acc. N. 213578
 Acc. by
 Date 4-8-05
 Class by 14/2/05
 Sub. Heading by
 Enter by
 Transcribed by

First Edition 2003
© The Editors
All rights reserved

COMPUTERISED

ISBN 81-7099-889-1

NE
954.166
MOD; 2

Editorial Office:

H-13, Bali Nagar,
New Delhi - 110015
Phones: 25163610, 25431361

Showroom:

4594/9, Daryaganj,
New Delhi - 110002
Phone: 23250398

Published and printed by Naurang Rai for Mittal Publications,
A-110, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059, India.
Tel.: 25351493, 25351976 Telefax: 91-11-25351521
E-Mail : mittalp@ndf.vsnl.net.in Gram : Mittalbox
website : www.mittalpublications.com

Dedicated to

PROF. ARVIND K. SHARMA

Founder Vice-Chancellor
MIZORAM UNIVERSITY, AIZAWL
*with warmest affection
and most respectful regards*

FOREWORD

The present anthology by, Prof. R.N. Prasad and Prof. A.K. Agarwal, brings together an invaluable collection of papers on a pre-eminent theme under the title *Modernisation of the Mizo Society: Imperatives and Perspectives*. A large number of papers appearing in the collection have been drawn from the 1996 and 1997 issues of *Administrative Review*, which is an annual journal of the Aizawl-based Mizoram Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration headquarters in New Delhi. A few others have been solicited from individual scholars for the present volume, which permits a welcome enlargement of the scope of the discourse.

The terms "modernisation" and "development" have, since the rise in the mid-seventies of the alternative development paradigm, shed their predominantly economic content and flavour – reflected patently in concern with achieving quantum jumps in GNP and instead come to acquire a distinct egalitarian aroma. Equity emerged as a prime value in the development discourse, since this period. This would mean, by the practitioners of state-craft, a conscious recourse to the principles of justice and fairness designed to supplement or modify law; advocated on the ground that law may recognise social and economic inequalities which may nevertheless be indefensible on moral and ethical grounds. An era of moral rectitude was, thus, beginning to dawn. Mass poverty, in terms of this position, was shown to arise from exclusion of the society's oppressed from the political arenas where battles for resources and opportunities were fought. The earlier explanation, which attributed poverty to an uneven distribution of economic sources, was dropped in favour of an alternative formulation that viewed poverty of the

overwhelming majority as stemming from an uneven distribution of political power. The contention, in other words, was that the capital-centred development process, which was concomitantly technology dominated and bureaucracy controlled, was characteristically non-participatory. That the contours, contents and consequences of development were being dictated by an infinitesimal minority comprising of the political elite, the bureaucracy, the large peasants, the entrepreneurs, the professionals, and so on; and that this pattern of development was needlessly; in fact, offensively, exclusionary in character. That there was, in this, no scope for participation, in the choice of goals and means, by the masses who would be affected by those decisions. This, in essence, was an argument for the empowerment of the localities where people actually lived; also, by the same token, against a continued concentration of power at the central and state levels. This, to put it differently, was an advocacy of political devolution as a means to bridge the gulf between the *people*, who lived in the localities, and the *power*, which was concentrated at the state and central levels. In plain words, a robust local government, which would allow the excluded and the oppressed opportunities of political engagement (participation in the society's power structure), was emerging as the main plank of strategy against the scourge of centralisation-induced poverty. The local government reform, that the country witnessed during the Nineties, was thus an outgrowth of the academic orientations of the Seventies, which projected politics as the key to reverse a violently inequitable pattern of development.

It is the considerations arising from the foregoing that lend topicality and an enduring relevance to the discrete themes presented in this Reader. The two editors demonstrate a remarkable discretion in the choice of specific papers that figure in the volume; each contributes in unique ways in building a complete picture. And each contributor commands a standing in the area of his own exploration, which underscores the authenticity of the documentation. The result is a collection that provides a well-rounded view of the issues involved and of what is at stake in the particular domains.

The state of Mizoram, with its literacy rate amongst the highest in the country and endowed as it is with a rich tradition of gender equality, almost defines what it would take one to march towards modernisation. A robust network of NGOs, a deep-rooted egalitarian ethos (typical of the tribal societies), and a proud heritage of community participation promise to further catalyse the modernisation process. Besides, the half-a-century of exposure to the Schedule VI institutions has been a valuable prop towards strengthening the culture of political participation in the state. All this, together with the complete peace that has prevailed in the state since the spectacularly successful Peace-Accord of 1986, a relative political stability that the state commands, and the state's good showing on the country's Human Development Index heighten expectations from and interest in the Mizo affairs.

And towards a fuller understanding of those Mizo affairs, the present volume contributes in an enormous way. I convey most sincere congratulations to Prof. R.N. Prasad and Prof. A.K. Agarwal for the painstaking care they have brought to bear upon the present enterprise. The book would be of interest to the practitioners as much as to the academics and the intelligent layman. I hope it will bring enrichment to the debate that rages on the subject. I thank the editors for the honour they have done to me in asking me to contribute this foreword to the anthology.

ARVIND K. SHARMA
Founder Vice-Chancellor
MIZORAM UNIVERSITY
AIZAWL

PREFACE

We find great pleasure in placing before the readers the book 'Modernisation of the Mizo Society : Imperatives and Perspectives' which is substantially the outcome of most published scholarly papers in the Indian Institute of Public Administration, Mizoram Regional Branch-Annual Journal-Administrative Review 1996 and 1997 (Two Issues) and some other writings of some scholars written for some other occasion earlier, who are gracious enough to allow us to use their writings.

'Modernisation' being essentially a socio-economic concept is not only associated with particular things or individuals or fields of activity, but carries a total transformation of society such as the social, the political, the economic, the technological, the cultural, the psychological, the increasing literacy and the intellectual. Modernisation also means to modernise the traditional pattern/system, which includes habits, customs, attitudes, ways of life. These get embodied in institutions and then tend to get frozen because of the stability and autonomous existence of these institutions. However, tradition is always being created a new. Tradition does not mean blind adherence to the old eyes. Modernisation is the result of the impact of the new system over the old, and not the substitution of the new system by the elimination of the old one. It covers everything that development stands for and entails. Development means movement from one stage to another, a process of change over a period of time. It also signifies the capacity of a political system to sustain continuous growth. Briefly, development means an improvement in the well-being of the masses and their quality of life. Development is fundamentally an equalitarian goal. The essential theme of development is to eliminate poverty, social and economic inequality and unemployment. Development is, thus, a process

of societal transformation from a traditional society to a modern society, and such a transformation is also known as modernisation. The minimal level of well-being must include the satisfaction of the basic needs. Conversely, underdevelopment involves denial of basic needs to the people while enhancing the material returns to the dominant groups. It deprives the majority of their survival and sustenance. Because modernisation based on the liberal democratic process has its material base-capitalism. The liberal democratic political system of India like many other underdeveloped countries based on the capitalist model of modernisation/development or market economy framework and constitutionalism suiting to capitalist society has been following since independence, which has many contradictions, giving rise to social, political and economic conflicts/tensions.

The process of modernisation/development in Mizoram or any other part of India cannot be autonomous or independent of the development/modernisation strategy of the national level. The fact is that the modernisation process in any part of the country will be a mirror image and a reproduction of the possibilities and limitations inherent in the modernisation/development strategy of the national level. The basic premises have been changed radically since mid 1991 in the name of economic reform, when the slogan has become "let the market decide". Now the state withdraws and allows the market to play a dominant role in all economic matters. In other words, New Economic Policy (NEP) emphasises a market led development instead of a state led development. True development should essentially result in enlarging the capabilities of the people and their choice. Looking back, the liberal democratic state of India has failed in this task during the last fifty-three years of freedom. Thus, the nature of the development/modernisation strategy sets the parameters for the modernisation effort in any federating unit including Mizoram. In other words, the parameters for the possibilities and potentialities of the modernisation/development of tradition oriented society like Mizoram are determined by the problems in the Indian modernisation/development strategy. As a result, gradually the egalitarian/social bases/values of the Mizo society have given way to a

stratified structure/system, where land has emerged as the most precious possession and the hitherto unknown process of land alienation on one hand and land concentration on the other have appeared as natural phenomena in the Mizo society. All this has happened because the country has consciously pursued the capitalist path of modernisation. So the capitalist system of land management in Mizoram is an unavoidable phase towards privatisation of land. These have generated a process of progressive concentration of landed property in the hands of emerging local middle class or a small group of well-off-natives and tended to aggravate the situation of rural poverty by pushing an increasingly larger section of the small and marginal farmers to the status of landless peasants, landless agricultural labourers and share-croppers. Thus the privatisation of land and changing property relations lead to the growth of unknown phenomena like land alienation by well-off-natives, uneven distribution of land among individual households, absentee-landlordism, intermediary rights, money lending, encroachment of community land, exploitative groups based on antagonistic relationships of production, land mortgage and perpetuation of the existing disparities of wealth. Briefly, a land owning class has already come into being in the state. Social and economic stratification based on private ownership of land and property has already become reality. The emerging middle class in Mizoram is neither opposed to the landed gentry nor to Indian capitalist class. They, therefore, are consolidating the emerging socio-economic stratification. Because inequality and social stratification have obvious connections with property and that has again direct bearing on the political system. In other words, this social stratification is not simply status and prestige oriented as found in a very simple society, but is guided by economic and political factors.

Since the possession of power is the source of riches, the well-off-natives in Mizoram have not given consideration so far the crucial question of changing property relations and its consequences to the people. This process of privatisation not a dominant trend in such a traditional society until recently has now taken firm root in every domain of economic life. The Mizo people that were able to maintain their original

egalitarian ethos in their socio-economic structure, where inequality and exploitation were unknown and village authority provided strong ties of social harmony, are now differentiated not only in terms of power and prestige but also in terms of wealth and income. The gap between the rich and poor was never big in the past. The gulf-between the rich/propertied class and the poor is presently widening due to modernisation based on capitalist lines. In terms of political economy, what is taking place, is anti-development/modernisation through development. This, in turn, has led to the extent of poverty in Mizoram, which can be gauged from the fact that 79834 families live below the poverty line presently. Since poverty question is a power question, it is rooted in the model development, the country has adopted, and the socio-economic power structure that obtains in the country. So the benefits of the planned development in the existing power structure, unequal production and property relations in the country can neither percolate to the poor/weaker/disadvantaged sections, nor their socio-economic uplift is possible. In brief, a non-exploitative development and equitable distribution of benefits in the country (including Mizoram) within a market economy framework cannot be expected/achieved. A development process that marginalises majority of the Indian masses into semi-starvation an economic genocide, loses any claim to legitimacy. The socio-economic model of development on capitalist lines accentuates polarisation between affluence and deprivation. There cannot be any improvement in the life of the peripharised masses without institutional change, change in the distribution of assets and incomes in favour of the poor, which is not possible without genuine and determined political will. This, in turn, depends on a change in the correlation of inter-class forces in favour of the deprived masses. In other words, the socio-politico economic power structure, unequal production and property relations and exploitative elements in agrarian structure, generating large scale disparities have to be radically restructured, otherwise, the weaker/deprived sections will not only be deprived of the development programmes but in most of the cases, they will be kept out of the development process.

As is true, there has been the population growth in a stagnant economy in the north-eastern states (including Mizoram), which has led to the decline of capital formation and increase the unemployment and poverty. In such a situation as in Mizoram and other states in the region, it has led to an adverse situation on land-man ratio. As a result of immobility of the people of the region, both in respect of space and occupation, the economy is over burdened, particularly agriculture is overcrowded. While the population in Mizoram is soaring high, the area of arable land remains static, which has resulted in an increase in the number of families living below poverty line because almost 80 p.c. of rural population depend on agriculture. All this has helped a faster growth of a larger number of landless agricultural workers in a tiny state of Mizoram. The cultivable land and other traditional rural enterprises have a limited scopes to support the fast growing population. This has forced more people to seek jobs in the urban areas, which has its own adverse impact on the economy of the state. The growth of urban population in Mizoram currently 46 per cent as compared to 27% for all India average means a high pressure of job seekers. Almost half of the total urban population live in Aizawl and other towns. But the basic civic services like housing, sanitation, potable water and electricity supply, roads, health-care, primary education, and sewages are deplorable. The rural scenario is no better. The environment hygiene is appalling in both rural and urban areas. The urban areas in Mizoram and other hill states offer a misleading picture. The towns are fortresses of wealth, surrounded by hungry people, the victims of poverty due to unequal production and property relations. The towns are unable to offer them gainful employment. There is no worthwhile employment to sustain urban growth in a stagnant economy.

Therefore, it is important to analyse and suggest some possible remedies for the degrading socio-economic situations. The papers included in the volume are an attempt to study the Issues concerning the modernisation/development of Mizoram. The paper writers have discussed/ analysed various problems and constraints of socio-economic development

such as urbanisation; utilisation of local resources by a maximum participation of local people; improvement of infrastructure facilities for health care services; policies and suggestions for human resource development infrastructures for development of mizoram in the domains of industries, forest and agriculture/communications/power etc.; role of state finances in economic development; an adverse impact of fast enlarging money economy owing to development activities, unhealthy and negative role of the church on the tradition/religious oriented Mizo society, leading to corruption of all sorts; agrarian and social changes, leading to the growth of individualisation of land and their adverse/degrading impact, adoption of the capitalist model of modernisation/development for the tradition oriented Mizo society, leading to the integration of tribal economy to capitalist economy and thereby to stratification of the Mizo society - the rich and poor, emergence of middle class/well-off-natives in the classless society of the Mizos and generation of degrading social and economic effects on the society. State lead development and community based participative development instead of market led development has been suggested. Change in social values, social attitudes and social institutions to achieve social goals is suggested. Restructuring of unequal production and property relations causing the victims of poverty and unemployment needs to be considered. The reason/factors for growing poverty and unemployment in Mizoram and suggestions to eradicate these social cancers have been also highlighted/emphasised. Besides, democratic decentralised governance should be regarded as a necessary condition of rural and urban development especially in social, political and economic spheres by implementing the provisions of the 73rd and the 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992-devolving both political and financial powers from the centre to states, states to districts and districts to local self-governing institutions. Centralised activities in both the rural and the urban areas must be reduced. In the end, it is relevant to mention that transformed bureaucracy called development/socially responsive bureaucracy with proper training and motivation is the primary need. Besides, goal and result oriented administration and people/poor oriented

approach - less of rule of law and process are the primary needs.

We are thankful to all the contributors, who responded with such sincerity to our request for the volume on the state of Mizoram.

We express our profound sense of gratefulness and respectful regards to Prof. Arvind K. Sharma, Founder Vice-Chancellor, Mizoram University, Aizawl for writing a very befitting and thoughtful foreword to this book.

We also accord our thanks in our hearts to our wives Shanti Prasad and Sumati Agarwal, who observed very helping attitudes and adjusted a lot without time and pre-occupations with this modest study.

**R.N. PRASAD
A.K. AGARWAL**

CONTRIBUTORS

- A.K. AGARWAL**, Professor, Department of Economics, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796007.
- V.L. CHHAWNA**, Lecturer in Economics, Hrangbana College, Aizawl-796007.
- A. DAS GUPTA**, Reader in Economics, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl-796001.
- S. HOMCHAUDHURI**, Reader in Education, Pachhunga University College Aizawl-796001.
- G. KUMAR**, Reader in Geography, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl-796001.
- F. LALHMINGLIANA**, Town and Country Planner, Department of Local Administration and Town and Country Planning, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl-796001.
- C. LALKIMA**, Reader, Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796012.
- M. LALMANZUALA**, Former Chairman, Mizoram Public Service Commission Chaltlang, Aizawl-796012.
- T. LAWMA**, Professor, Department of Economics, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796007.
- LIANZELA**, Reader, Department of Economics, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796007.
- R.N. PRASAD**, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796012.
- R.K. PYARI GOPAL SINGHA**, Lecturer in Commerce, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, 796001.
- THANGCHUNGNUNGA**, Reader, Department of Economics, Mizoram University, Aizawl, 796007.
- B. THANGDAILOVA**, Director, Medical and Health Services, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl-796001.

H. THANSANGA, Former Education Minister of Mizoram
Chanmari, Aizawl-796007.

MARIE ZODINPUII, Junior Research Fellowship, Department of
Public Administration, Mizoram University, Aizawl-
796012.

CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Contributors</i>	<i>xix</i>
1. Integrated Planning for Human Settlement in Urban Areas of Mizoram – <i>F. Lalhmingliana</i>	1
2. Resource Association Regions-Quest for a Development Strategy – A Case Study of Mizoram – <i>G. Kumar</i>	13
3. Modernisation of Health Care Services in Mizoram – <i>B. Thangdailova</i>	27
4. Educational Costs Analysis – A Case Study of Mizoram – <i>T.Lawma and V.L. Chhawna</i>	47
5. Educational Policy of Mizoram – An Analysis – <i>S. Homchaudhuri</i>	61
6. Infrastructure for Development – A Case of Mizoram – <i>A.K. Agarwal</i>	75
7. Forest Management in Mizoram – Some Issues – <i>Lianzela</i>	81
8. Industrial Development in Mizoram – Towards Sustainable Development – <i>R.K. Pyari Gopal Singha and A. Dasgupta</i>	91
9. Development in Mizoram – Issues and Perspectives – <i>A.K. Agarwal</i>	101
10. Mizoram at the Crossroads – <i>M. Lalmanzuala</i>	115

11. Agrarian Change and Social Transformation 137
Among the Mizos
– *Thangchungnunga*
12. Implementation of New Land Use Policy in Mizoram 145
– *Lianzela*
13. Modernisation of the Mizo Society 151
– Strategic Problems and Futuristic
Introspection
– *R.N. Prasad*
14. Changing Socio-Economic Dimensions in Mizoram 177
– *A.K. Agarwal*
15. Restructuring and Reform of Rural Administrative 187
Institutions in Mizoram – A Study in the New
Panchayati Raj System
– *R.N. Prasad*
16. Need for Urban Local Self-Government 205
in Mizoram
– *C. Lalkima*
17. Poverty and Unemployment in Mizoram 213
– *H. Thansanga*
18. Economic Development in Mizoram 221
– Role of State Finances
– *Vanlalchhawna*
19. The Seventy-Fourth Constitutional Amendment 243
Act, 1992 and Urban Local Government
Perspectives in Mizoram
– *R.N. Prasad and Marie Zodinpuii*

INTEGRATED PLANNING FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT IN URBAN AREAS OF MIZORAM

— F. LALHMINGLIANA

Urbanisation in Mizoram

Mizoram is the most urbanised state in the country followed by Goa and Maharashtra as per 1991 census. The facts below indicated rapid urbanisation process where urban pull is manifested. Further the 49.50% of Urban population and 50.50% rural population show that almost half of the state population are living in Urban Centres (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1 : Urban-Rural Relationship, 1951-1991

Year	No. of Towns	% urban popn. to total popn.	No. of villages	% of village popn. to total popn.
1951	1	3.54	631	96.45
1961	1	5.36	730	94.64
1971	2	11.36	229	88.64
1981	6	24.67	721	75.33
1991	22	46.20	701	53.80
2001	22	49.50		50.50

Source : Census of India 1951-2001 Mizoram Urbanisation Strategy for 8th Plan prepared by the State Town and Country Planning, Govt. of Mizoram

Further the rank size relationship and distribution is illustrated as Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 : Rank Size Class of Towns in 2001

Class	No. of Towns in 2001	Population 2001	% of popn. in each size class Town to total popn.
Class I (Aizawl) (100000 & above)	1	229714	52.08%
Class II (50000-99998)	—	—	—
Class III (20000-49999)	2	73785	16.72%
Class IV (10000-19999)	4	67011	15.19%
Class V (5000-9999)	7	46240	10.48%
Class VI (Below 5000)	18	24290	5.50%
All Classes	22	317040	100.00%

Source : Census of India 2001 and Urban Statistics (A spatial issue on 1991 census).
Central Town and Country Planning Organisation, Govt. of India, Ministry of Urban Development Jan. 1992.

As seen from the above, out of the total Urban population in the State Aizawl City alone share 32.08% and rest of the 21 townships share is 47.92%.

Increasing Population Resulted Horizontal Expansion

Due to fragile topographical condition and landscape threshold the growth of hill towns and cities can not be in a continuous manner. As a result, the growth of population has resulted rapid horizontal which repures the development cost and its maintenance extremely high. Therefore there is close-correlation, for instance :

Table 1.3 : Population Increase vs. Horizontal Expansion of the City, 1950-2001

Year	Population	Class	Size in sq. km	% of progressive growth rate over 1951	% to total urban population
1951	6950	V	4.0	—	3.54
1961	14257	IV	12.95	105.14	5.36
1971	31740	III	18.35	164.84	11.36
1981	74493	II	110.00	222.61	24.67
1991	154343	I	128.98	161.01	46.10
2001	224714	I	12898	38.72	49.50

Sources : 1. Census of India 1951-2001.

2. Land Revenue & Settlement Department, Govt. of Mizoram

If the present trend is continued about 3 lakhs population (including floating population) will be living in Aizawl city alone by the year 2001 A.D.

Why do Rapid Urbanisation Take Place ?

Rapid Urbanisation takes place due to the following reasons :

1. The 1960 Government policy of grouping and resettling Villages near the road and over 35% of the state population was shifted to the periphery of the capital and new sites for security reason during 1966-70.
2. Due to availability of high concentration of various amenities and facilities and quality at Aizawl Urban, for instance : Commercial and Shopping, Linkages, Health - Services, Water, Electricity, Employment opportunities etc.
3. High differential development investment of Aizawl city as compared to other Urban Centre.
4. Birth rate is higher than death rate in Aizawl Urban area, due to the availability of various amenities and medical facilities.
5. Due to increase of immigration and less outmigration from the urban areas.
6. Declaration of Aizawl as Capital town alongwith the creation of U.T. in 1972 and statehood in 1987 which became the seat of State Government and district headquarters of Aizawl alongwith location of all important Government offices which provide employment opportunities and other avenues of earning income quickly.

Role of Towns/Cities for Economic Development

It has been said and, rightly so, that town/cities are centre of economic development of nations/states and are the engines of growth which support and nurture the respective hinterland. While cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai have recognised role so as the cities of Aizawl (Mizoram), Agartala, Guwahati, Meghalaya, Imphal and Kohima have recognised great role for their respective states.

Towns and Cities contribute in a large measure to economic growth and to the process of modernisation because of availability of better infrastructure services, and markets as compare to rural areas which offer opportunities for economies of scale, both in production and consumption . It is these features which enable to serve as centres for administration, transportation and communication and finance; as entrepots, industrial centres and markets, as centres of arts, services, and recreation. Though concentration and specialisation of labour, cities promote accumulation and distribution of capital. Hence, they are identified with the growth of financial institutions and the development of entrepreneurial and managerial ability.

About 60% of the Indian Urban population is generating of the GDP. Although the towns/cities economic base at all India level cannot be compared with that of towns and city in the state of Mizoram. However since almost half of the total State population are living in Urban centres. The contribution of the Mizoram Urban population will surely be substantial toward economic development of the state.

As a matter of fact, the towns and the city of Aizawl has been emerging as the centre of the whole movement of industrial and commercial, educational institutions, medical facilities, and so on.

Illustration of the Role of Towns/City

In order to illustrate the dominant role of towns/cities for economic development, it may be analysed few activities in the capital town of Mizoram, Aizawl.

(a) Commercial and Shopping Activities

1. There are eight organised commercial centre where more than 2793 persons earn their livelihood and generate state revenue income of more than 16,59,150/- per year as shown in Table 1.4. However, all market centres requires financial support to develop infrastructure.

Sr No.	Name of Market	Revenue (1993-94) in Rs.
1.	New Market	15,91,500
2.	Bawngkawn	22,500
3.	Vaivakawn	41,100
4.	Sihphir	1,900
5.	College veng	2,150
6.	Khatla	N.A.
7.	Thakthing	N.A.
8.	Chaltlang	N.A.
Total		16,59,150

Source : Deputy Director, Land Revenue & Settlement, Govt. of Mizoram dt. 23.8.1994

2. Number of shops has been doubled during 1991-1999 (Table 1.5):

Town	Year	No. of shops
Aizawl	1991	1930
	1997	2901
	1999	3475

Source : Superintendent of Taxes, Aizawl Circle I & II (on dt. 5 and 17.2.1997).

- (b) **Industrial Activities** : There are more than 1439 number of Small Scale and Cottage Industries which generate employment opportunities for many people. In addition, a mini-industrial estate at Luangmual and Zuangtui are to include more than 6 units of medium, 130 units of small and 12 units of village industries which is expecting to generate substantial employment generation as in table below :

Year	No. of Unit	No. of Workers	% of Growth
1971-1980	89	593	59.3
1981-1990	967	6377	578.4
1990-1996	1439	8809	405.0

Source : General Manager, DIC Aizawl District, Aizawl as on 30.10.96.

- (c) **Occupational Pattern** : The sectorwise occupation pattern indicate diversified activities for economic development of the city.

Table 1.7 : Sectorwise Occupational Distribution of Workers (1961-1991).

Year	Primary sector	% to Total Workers	Secondary sector	% to total workers	Tertiary sector	% to total workers
1961	1031	17.78	368	0.15	1526	26.79
1971	4717	49.10	405	4.4	4467	46.50
1981	3755	15.7	787	3.4	19324	80.90
1991	7430	12.98	1403	2.42	48375	84.56

Source : Census of India, Mizoram (1961-1991).

As above, the decadal trend indicate the dominance of tertiary sector over Secondary and Primary Sectors. At the same time the percentage share of primary sector workers is decreasing drastically.

(d) Employment in Govt. Sector : Due to the administrative and commercial/functions many people earn their livelihood as government employees.

Table 1.8 : No. of Government Employees

Particulars	Year	No. of Worker	% of Growth
Govt. employee	1981	23864	—
	1991	38070	1420.6
	1994	47148	2269.5

Source : Census of Govt. Employees 1981-1994 conducted by the Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Govt. of Mizoram.

Inadequacies of the Economic Planning System

The whole framework is not comprehensive enough to cover all the needed aspects and areas for effective economic planning. The following are major inadequacies :

1. Insufficient inter-sectoral coordination;
2. Absence of working relationship between the State Planning Board and the Spatial Planning Agencies;
3. Lack of a 'Spatial outlook' in development planning
4. Emphasis on planning 'from top to bottom' instead of planning 'from bottom to top';
5. Inadequate appreciation of the spatial (ground) problem dimensions in the development process where spatial planning is the ground/land base planning as important as economic and social planning;

6. Too much emphasis on fixing targets to be achieved during the plan period and too little attention to find ways and means of achieving targets and operational strategies;
7. Lack of realisation of fund/investment to be made to develop necessary infrastructure.

Mis-Match of Resource Allocation

Mizoram is the most Urbanised State in India and almost half (1/2) of the state population are living in Urban areas. As mentioned earlier there are 22 towns and one city that is, Aizawl the capital of Mizoram and 2 nos. class III town, 4 no. class IV towns, 7 no. class V town, and 8 no. class VI towns. Although Mizoram towns are comparatively small in population size yet they cover extensive areas, for example – Aizawl cover 128,96 sq. kms, Lunglei 85 sq. km and Saiha 53 sq. km respectively. As the size and the number of population has increased there is huge backlog on supply and demand in respect of infrastructure provisions like housing, Urban water supply, traffic and transportation, street lighting, shopping centre, drainage and solid waste/garbage disposal etc.

The budget allocated for the last 5 years are so poor and has declined over the period which is alarming in light of the magnitude of problems.

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1402.90	1415.00	472.00

Source : State Planning Board Approved Annual Plan 1994-97.

Again the share of fund for individual township/city for the last two years is more aggravated as given in Table 1.10.

As per approved Annual Plan for 1995-96 and 1996-97 rest of the 15 townships are without fund to generate local economy and improve their living condition.

Need for Integration of Spatial and Economic Planning

The fact is that, cash investment, whatever it may be called, has a definite spatial (physical) manifestation and geographic location. In other words, no development can take place without land-space. Therefore, it generates a chain of

**Table 1.10 : Selected Township/City-wise Allotment of Fund
(Including Works and D & A in Rs. Approx.)**

Name of Town/City	Area in Sq. km.	1995-96	1996-97
Aizawl	128.98	1302.54	210.60
Lunglei	85.00	50.00	64.69
Saiha	53.00	9.50	8.00
Champhai	52.00	-	0.60
Serchhip	22.00	8.00	7.00
Kolasib	36.00	8.00	8.00
Lengpui	17.00	-	1.10

developmental impulses effecting, in almost all cases, the activities of other sectors and result/in a related spatial dimensions. For example –

- (a) Agriculture and Irrigation project/schemes;
- (b) Industrial sector;
- (c) Transports sector;
- (d) Road sector;
- (e) Housing sector;
- (f) Recreation sector;
- (g) Civic amenities; and so on.

The Spatial planning at state and district levels involve identification, estimate/costing and development hierarchy of urban and rural settlements where, depending upon their potentials and prosperity, relevant investment has to be made in different sectors to be directed or attracted in a rational manner, such planning will effectively plays a vital role in investment decisions. Since spatial planning deals with a hierarchical system of infrastructure at settlements. It guides the identification of efficient costing and buildings, road, railways, waterways and airways.

As a physical development process, spatial planning plays a significant role in identification and working out necessary investment disaster prone for mitigation and development of new areas, new resources and a new spatial-economic order; leading to rational useful land and other resources and improvement of living standards of the people.

Thus, Spatial planning has not only aims at identifying actual geographic locations for investment but also probes into the future impact of the investment on various constituent sub-systems of the settlement and the region of its setting.

Problem of Integration

It may be pertinent to state on spatial planning that the subjects offered by Delhi School of Planning and Architecture (Deemed University) and various Planning institutions in the country include varieties of subject like Economics, Geography, Civil Engineering, Architecture and so on. Hence once a person is qualified for Spatial Planning (degree) he could accustom with the procedure used to followed by the economist in the State Planning Board whereas, the economist who has not trained on spatial planning discipline (who used to drew up plan and estimate cost for the area/town/city) will not be in a position to address/assess the spatial dimensions and physical infrastructure requirements, limitation of land for development and thereby the allocation of fund without fruitful products. Therefore, while there is strong and important points for economic base and spatial dependency in our urban scenario, unfortunately both the eyes do not see each other. Hence lack of integration arise.

Point for Deliberation

With introduction of the Indian Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1972, the Union Government had committed fulfilment of the aspiration of Urban Citizen in the country and recognised the need of Spatial Planning at local and district level where it has been set as pointer and make mandatory to establish Town/City/Metropolitan Planning Committee and also District Planning Committee. Therefore, the following points are recommended for deliberation and decide thereon.

1. After realisation of the 'Engine of Growth of Urban Centres' immediate need is strengthening of the Spatial Planning and Administrative functions to support the State (Economic) Planning Board on one hand, and harvesting resources and maintaining infrastructure on the other;

2. To remove bottle-neck on realisation of Areas/Town/City problems the Spatial Town Planner should be given due place in the State Planning Board to enable to assess/point the infrastructure proposed (base on ground facts), feasibility including cost of the schemes, benefit and limitations within the priority set by the Board.
3. To promote dynamic and potential Urban Centres in Mizoram the State Planning Board should have a Wing for Mizoram Urban Development Strategy/Policy.
4. Considering the alarming urban areas problems coupled with highly inadequate areas, the State Planning Board should allocate more funds on Urban Development Sector to enable to deal with Urban Centres in term of settlement hierarchy.
5. The NEC (Regional Planning Body) should make provision to assist Urban Centres in the North Eastern States by giving fund separately.
6. To assist the NEC Spatial Planning Experts from the Union Government/State should be made as one of the member to feedback/assess Urban infrastructure requirements.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Approach Paper to the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002)*, 1997; Nabhi Publications, New Delhi.
- Formulation of Urban Development Plans and Implementation, Guideline*, Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Govt. of India, 1996.
- Report of the National Commission on Urbanisation Vol. II*, August, 1988, Govt. of India.
- Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development in Asia (1996)*, Edited by Kulwant Singh etc., published by Oxford and IBH Co. Ltd., New Delhi.
- Indian Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992*, as passed by Lok Sabha on the 22nd December, 1992.
- The State Planning Board (re-constituted)*, Govt. of Mizoram, Notification dated 31st Oct. 1994.
- Lunglei District High Power Committee*, Govt. of Mizoram Notification dated 6.9.90.

The Annual Plan 1995-96 and 1996-97; Planning and Programme Implementation Department, Govt of Mizoram, Aizawl.

The North Eastern Council Act, 1971: A Critical Appraisal; F. Lalhmingliana, FITP, India (paper submitted on the Seminar on Potentiality and Problems of Small Towns in North East India organised by the North East India Council for Social Science Research, Nov. 1995).

From Plan to Market, World Development Report 1996; published for the World Bank, Oxford University Press.

World Resources (The Urban Environment) 1996-97; Oxford University Press, 1996.

The Problems and Science of Human Settlements (EKISTICS), 1992; Athens Technological Organisation, Greece.

The Planner, February 1985, *Journal of Royal Town Planning Institute* (U.K.).

Politics, Planning and the City; Michael Goldsmith Hutchinson, London, U.K.

More books from Mittal

- ▷ Communities of North East India
* F. A. DAS and I. BARUA Rs. 295
- ▷ Diaries of Two Tours in the Unadministered Area East of the
Naga Hills * J.H. Hutton Rs. 180
- ▷ The Eastern Frontier of India * R. B. PEMBERTON Rs. 295
- ▷ Encyclopaedia of North-East India (8 vols.)
* H. M. BAREH Rs. 6000 (set)
- ▷ Ethnic Groups, Cultural Continuities and Social Change in North
East India * INDIRA BARUA (et al.) Rs. 695
- ▷ From Phizo to Muivah-The Naga National Question in North East
India * A. LANUNUNGSANG Ao Rs. 500
- ▷ Gazetteer of Bengal and North-East India
* B. C. ALLEN (et al.) Rs. 500
- ▷ Gazetteer of Naga Hills and Manipur * B. C. ALLEN Rs. 295
- ▷ History of the Christian Missions in Manipur and Other
Neighbouring States * K. M. SINGH Rs. 300
- ▷ In Abor Jungles of North-East India * A. HAMILTON Rs. 395
- ▷ The Kachins : Religion and Customs * C. GILHODES Rs. 350
- ▷ Mizoram : Historical, Geographical, Social, Economic, Political
and Administrative * S. N. SINGH Rs. 365
- ▷ Mizoram Under the British Rule * SUHAS CHATTERJEE Rs. 110
- ▷ The Music and Musical Instruments of North Eastern India
* D.R. BORTHAKUR Rs. 695
- ▷ The North-East Frontier of India * ALEXANDER MACKENZIE *prefatory*
introduction B. K. ROY BURMAN Rs. 360
- ▷ Public Governance and Decentralisation—*Essays in Honour of*
T.N. Chaturvedi (2 Parts) * S.N. MISHRA et. al. Rs. 2500 (set)
- ▷ Report on the Administration of North East India Rs. 195
- ▷ South Asia's Fractured Frontier — Armed Conflict, Nacro-Trafficking
and Small Arms Proliferation in India's North East Region and
Myanmar * BINALAKSHMI NEPRAM Rs. 595



Mittal Publications

PUBLISHERS OF SCHOLARLY BOOKS

A-110, Mohan Garden
NEW DELHI - 110 059 (INDIA)

Tel.: 25351493, 25351976, Telefax : 91-11-25351521,

E-Mail : Mittalp@ndf.vsnl.net.in, Website : www.mittalpublications.com

ISBN 81-7099-889-1



9 788170 998891

SHOWROOM : 4594/9, Daryaganj, NEW DELHI- 110002 Tel.: 23250398