



Modernisation of The Mizo Society



R.N.Prasad
A.K.Agarwal



A MITTAL 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

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MODERNISATION OF THE MIZO SOCIETY

Imperatives and Perspectives

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

Foreword by

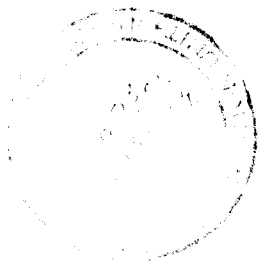
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INTEGRATED PLANNING FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT IN URBAN AREAS OF MIZORAM

— 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).

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.)**

<i>Name of Town/City</i>	<i>Area in Sq. km.</i>	<i>1995-96</i>	<i>1996-97</i>
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 dealt 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.

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