



Urbanisation And Its Causes In Arunachal Pradesh: A Retrospective Study

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ABSTRACT: *Urbanisation searches all ways for the development of a region. There are many causes for which the urbanisation process can occur, and it is measured in terms of many demographic dimensions. Objective: The paper aims to explore the actual causes of urbanisation in the State. Method and Materials: The paper is an outcome of the research based on secondary data gathered from different official reports, Census Reports, books, articles and websites. Result and Discussion: Urbanisation is discussed from different angles based on census data from 1961 to 2011. Conclusion: Urbanisation in the State appears to be the outcome of complex interactions of the indigenous societies' internal socioeconomic and demographic forces and the arrival of outside people from different states of India for business and jobs.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Urbanisation is the process of people relocating from rural to urban areas, allowing cities and towns to expand. It is also known as the gradual growth in the number of people living in towns and cities. It is heavily inspired by the idea that cities and towns have accomplished greater economic, political, and social mileage than rural places. As a result, urbanisation is widespread in developing and developed nations as more and more people move closer to towns and cities to obtain “privileged” social and economic services and advantages. Among the socioeconomic benefits are better education, health care, sanitation, housing, business possibilities, and transportation. Most people relocate to cities and towns because they perceive rural regions as harsh and primitive. As a result, as people relocate to more developed places (towns and cities), the immediate result is urbanisation. This usually helps to develop land for commercial enterprises,

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social and economic support organisations, transportation, and residential constructions. Finally, these activities produce a number of urbanisation difficulties.

The urbanisation process has numerous facets. The aspects span from the physical distribution of land to the social processes that urbanisation instils in a people. Between these two extremes, there are dimensions of the urbanisation process such as: (i) the proportion of the population living in urban centres; (ii) the absolute number of urban dwellers; (iii) the growth of the proportion of people living in cities; and (iv) the rate of growth of the number of people living in cities (Clarke, 1972, p.49). Thus, urbanisation is a result of socioeconomic changes that occur throughout time. Economic, social, and demographic drivers are the three basic urbanisation determinants. The economically rooted determinants are the type of economy, the degree of commercialisation of agriculture, the extent of economic diversification, the changing size of agricultural landholdings, the stage of economic advancement, and the degree of development of means of transportation and communication. The degree of socioeconomic awakening, the social value system, the stage of technical growth, public policies, and government actions are the social elements that define the character and size of urbanisation. The pace of population increase, the quantity of migration, and population pressure are all critical demographic issues.

The degree of development of transportation modes is also an important aspect in the urbanisation of any location. Much of the interaction anticipated in urbanisation processes relies heavily on the degree of regional mobility. Regional mobility hastens the processes of economic development as well. In general, the prevalence of regional mobility has a two-way impact on the urbanisation process. Initially, the growth of means of transportation and communication may break rural seclusion, resulting in increased urban concentration. Later on, transportation and communication may aid in increasing commuting activities between big cities and small towns, as well as between rural and urban areas. When the region becomes heavily urbanised, transportation and communication infrastructure may encourage outward migration from major crowded metropolitan cities to the outskirts. Government policies and choices can have a significant impact on the urbanisation process. Such decisions like the installation of big industrial plants in backward areas and such policies like the development of focal point in the rural areas of a network of growth poles etc., all have their own bearing upon the nature and magnitude



of urbanisation. Regional disparities in the pace of natural growth and the resulting migratory tendencies offer a specific orientation to every area's urbanisation process. Above all, the influence of expanding population on the agricultural resource base in giving rise to urban settlements is well acknowledged. Thus, the kind and extent of urbanisation in every location are primarily determined by the characteristics of its economy, social life, and demographics. Tisdale (1942. pp. 311-16) considers the increasing degree of population concentration as one of the most conspicuous aspects of urbanisation process. Gibbs (1963, p.119) evolved the following five-staged process of population concentration:

Stage I: The urban settlements emerge, but the percentage increase in the urban population is either equal to or less than the percentage increase in the rural population.

Stage II: The increase in urban population exceeds the increase in rural population, largely because of rural–urban migration. Consequently, cities of fairly large size emerge on the scene.

Stage III: Rural depopulation takes place because of the increased magnitude of rural-urban migration. As a consequence of rural–urban migration, even the natural increase in the countryside gets wiped out. The rate of urban concentration excels further.

Stage IV: The requirements of big cities become more sophisticated and oriented towards specialisation. Big cities start attracting migrants from small towns. The volume of rural–urban migration dwindles.

Stage V: The concentration process does not persist so as to lead to the concentration of entire population in one huge urban centre. In fact, the process of more ubiquitous distribution of population begins. Improvements in transport and communication reduce the physical and time distance and enable the population to lie without a high degree of concentration. An outward movement from the core or residential dispersion from the areas of high degree of concentration becomes imperative. Satellite towns emerge on the periphery of huge metropolitan concentrations (Chandna, 2006). As a result, the two fundamental causes of urbanisation are natural population growth and rural-to-urban migration. Aside from these two factors, several more causes of urbanisation result in small villages becoming towns, cities, or megacities.



The objective of the Study: The study aims to discover the reasons for urbanisation in Arunachal Pradesh.

II. METHOD AND MATERIALS

This descriptive analysis is based on secondary sources of data on urbanisation in Arunachal Pradesh, India. Secondary source data are gathered from government offices, books, papers, websites, and web-based publications published at various times.

Analysis: The numerous materials obtained from diverse sources have been evaluated, validated, and systematically organised under important topics, and data are organised in systematic statistical tables to include the needed presentation and conclusion.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Topographical Characteristics of Arunachal Pradesh: Arunachal Pradesh, the country of the rising sun, is located in the north-eastern section of India and has a lengthy international border with Bhutan to the west (160 km), China to the north and north-east (1,030 km), and Myanmar to the east (440 km.). It also ranges from the northern snow-capped mountains to the southern lowlands of the Brahmaputra Valley (Assam). The State contains 51,540 square kilometres of forest cover, accounting for 62 per cent of its overall geographical area of 83, 743 square kilometres.

The percentage of arable plainland is quite low. This geographical position has a direct impact on the State's economy. From an economic standpoint, the entire State may be split into three lateral belts, each with a particular pattern of economic potential and economic development options. The top belt, whose area is the international border, has extremely little economic prospects and is limited to minor or no contemporary civilisation facilities. The lower belt, which consists primarily of foothills, has close economic relations with the Assam plains. The citizens of the lower belt have access to practically all contemporary conveniences. The middle belt served as a connection point between the upper and lower belts.

The individuals who live in the three belts are at various stages of economic growth. Because of regional and territorial disparities in terms of amenities and facilities provided depending on the degrees of economic development in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, the amount of population mobility is different and varies across and within the belts. Despite having one of the largest per capita abundance of natural resources, the State remains one of India's most economically underdeveloped regions.



Urbanisation in Arunachal Pradesh

In Arunachal Pradesh, the notion of urbanisation is relatively new. Only in the 1971 census was it included on the map of India's metropolitan centres, together with its four towns. Let's look at Arunachal Pradesh's urbanisation history. We can see that in the 1961 census, none of the localities in Arunachal Pradesh met the requirements for being declared a census town, and so the whole State was classified rural. However, in 1971, certain of the State's districts and sub-divisional headquarters were discovered to have unique urban features (Mitra, 2007). After that, urbanisation is going fast in the State. We aggregate Census Towns, Total Population, Total Urban Population, and Percentage of Urban Population by Census Year in a table for the State. Table-1 illustrates this.

Table- 1: Trend of Urbanisation in Arunachal Pradesh since

1961

Year	Total No. of Towns	Total Population	Total Urban Population	Percentage of Urban Population
1961	0	336558	0	0
1971	4	467511	17288	3.70
1981	6	631839	41428	6.56
1991	10	864558	110628	12.80
2001	17	1097968	227881	20.75
2011	27	1383727	317369	22.94

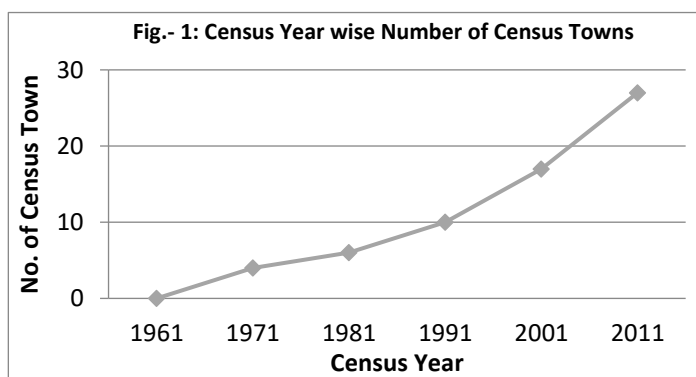
Source: 1. Statistical Handbook of Arunachal Pradesh 1971-72, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Arunachal Pradesh, Administration, Shillong. 2. Source: Statistical Atlas, Arunachal Pradesh 1984, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Shillong. 3. Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh 1998, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar. 4. Statistical Abstract of Arunachal Pradesh, 2008 and 2017, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.

All of these municipalities serve as administrative hubs. Prior to the creation of administrative cities, most of these areas were densely forested. According to Table-11, the State's urban population was zero in the 1961 Census. The Census has been conducted in the State since 1961, i.e., the first Census was conducted in 1961, when the State had no metropolitan towns. According to the 1971 census, 3.70 percent of people reside in four urban areas, while 6.56 percent dwell in six urban areas according to the 1981 census. Again, according to the 1991 census, 12.80 percent of the population lived in 10 urban areas, whereas 20.75 percent lived in seventeen urban areas in 2001, and 22.94 percent lived in twenty-seven urban areas in 2011. Since 1971, the urban population has gradually expanded and increased significantly. However, while the rate of urbanisation is increasing at a faster rate, this significant increase in urban

population and their livelihood strategies are spread across the State's three different belts (Upper, Middle, and Lower), which are territorially different and vary in terms of economic opportunities that the terrain provides. Furthermore, the region's rapid urbanisation has never drawn external investment or the attention of urban local governments to offer the basic services that are common in other regions of the country.

Graphical Presentation

We may create a variety of figures for census year wise trend of number of census towns, a relationship between total population and total urban population through time plot curves, trend of percentages of urban population, and trend of percentages of decennial growth based on the data in Table-1. We will now draw the curves.



The number of Census Towns by Census Year is displayed in Fig.-1. The time plot curve is increasing, beginning at zero in 1961 and reaching its peak in 2011.

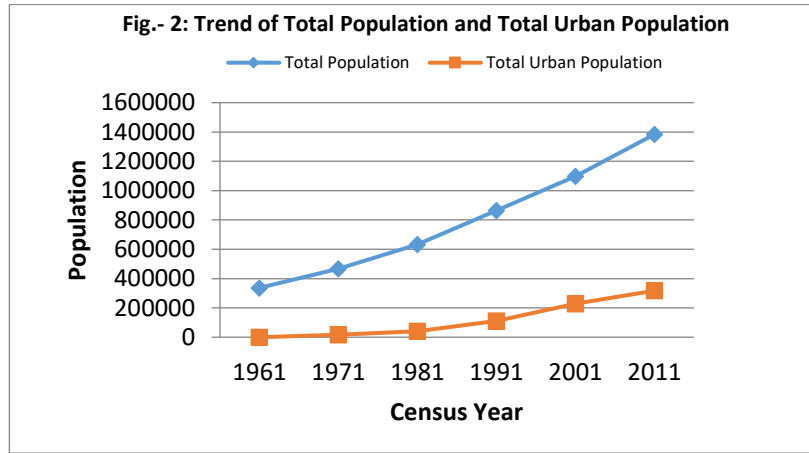


Figure 2 depicts the link between total population and total urban population using time plot curves. Both curves are growing since 1961 (the first census year), however the overall population curve is rising more gradually than the total urban population curve.

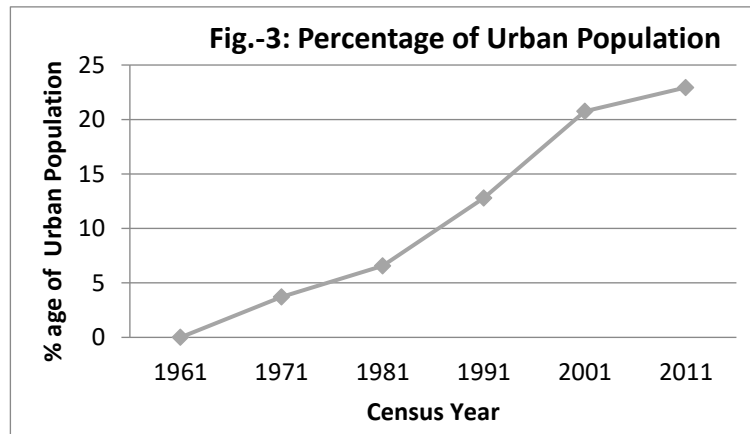
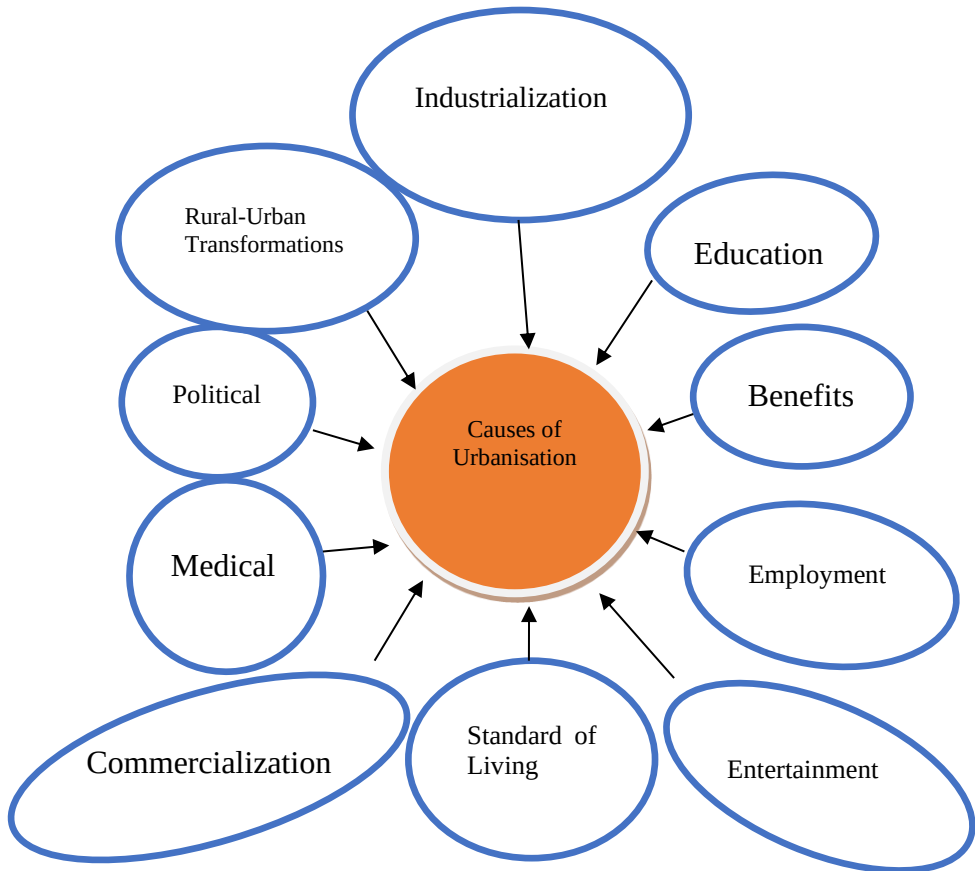


Table-3 displays a temporal map of the percentage of urban population. The curve rises higher throughout its journey, but not in a constant proportion.

Causes of urbanisation: Including the causes of urbanisation stated by Tisdale (1942) and Gibbs (1963), we are adding some other causes of

urbanisation discussed below and the main causes are also shown in this diagram below.



Now we discuss one by one.

1. **Industrialization:** One of the primary drivers of urbanisation is industrialization. Today's modern culture is based on an urban lifestyle. People are transitioning from an agrarian civilisation to non-agrarian jobs such as industrial and corporate. Such jobs routinely generate a higher wage. Most individuals have relocated from rural to urban regions in search of better job possibilities with expanding industries. People migrate from rural to urban regions as a result of industrialisation. In Arunachal Pradesh, industrialisation is going on in every district headquarter representing a shift from the rural



agricultural economy to non-agricultural economy. To work in industrial sector, the rural people or skilled personnel shift in industrial areas. As on 31st March, 2017, 1500 registered industrial units were functioning all over the State (Source: Directorate of Industries, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar). With the growth of more and more industrial units, more people have been attracted to move from rural to urban areas due to employment opportunities. Industrialisation has encouraged urbanisation.

2. Education: Better educational facilities, chances to study at prestigious schools, colleges, and universities, and higher educational quality all drive students to metropolitan areas. Their thinking says that getting a greater degree will improve their employment. It guarantees a safe and secure future. As a result, one of the many causes for rising urbanisation is the necessity for education. All either the poor or the rich are taking keen interest to educate their children. For some years, the quality of school education, especially primary education in rural areas is deteriorating due to engagement of huge local teachers. Government School education in urban areas is more or less better than that of rural areas. It is, therefore, imperative that necessary changes are made in the educational process so as to enable individuals and the society to cope with the change. To shift the perspective of diverse stakeholders regarding quality, governance, and accountability, systematic changes in education through community engagement as a form of decentralisation are necessary. The standard of schooling is deplorable. Schools Governance and accountability are popular themes not just in academic circles, but also in civil society. A large proportion of youngsters do not attend school on a regular basis, and teacher attendance is likewise low. Various federally funded schemes, programmes, and the Right to Education Act will be able to normalise these sorts of issues in primary education (Biswas, 2012). School enrolment in private schools is increasing day by day. The trend of more urban youngsters enrolling in private schools with superior infrastructure, such as bathrooms and drinking water facilities, than their government-run counterparts is strengthening. Therefore, for better education of children, the rural people are coming to urban areas.

Social Benefits: There are several social benefits and facilities available in the towns of the State, such as improved educational facilities, higher living standards, improved sanitation and housing, improved health care, improved leisure facilities, improved social life, and so on. As a result, more and more people are encouraged to be migrated from backward regions to more developed ones i.e., into towns from rural areas to enjoy the wide varieties of social benefits and services, which are not possible to avail in the rural areas. These are powerful factors for rural residents seeking improved means of subsistence.



Employment Opportunities: In the State the scope of service is very much limited because of limited number of private companies. Again the private companies are in the towns. The only Government sector is over saturated. For the hope of any type of service or to get preparation to face competitive entrance, almost of all educated unemployed candidates are staying in the towns. Most of them after being employed or non-employed live in town permanently in the towns. Because, there are ample job opportunities in urban areas in any field such as public health, education, transport, sports and recreation, industries, and business enterprises. People frequently relocate to towns and cities in search of well-paying work. This is especially true in developing communities where all educational, public health, transportation, sport, commercial, and recreation amenities are accessible. These positions pay well and come with various perks. More of these employments are being created in cities, promoting a shift from a rural to an urban lifestyle.

3. Entertainment: Town is the centre of entertainment. Many elite groups of people are willing to live in towns because of it. They do not prefer to live in the rural areas. There are so many entertainment centres such as cinema hall, theatre hall, play ground, indoor and outdoor games, etc.

6. Standard of Living: With the development of science and technology, the way of lives becomes more comfortable in all respects. Urban areas are the main centre of scientific development. Almost of all facilities of comfortable lives such as communication, infrastructure, medical facilities, enlightenment, and other social amenities are available in the urban areas. Rural people are attracted to the comfortability of lives. They believe that they can lead a happy life in urban areas. As a result, rural people are coming to live in towns and the number of people is increasing in towns day by day in the State.

7. Commercialisation: Exporting and importing products and services is a profitable business enterprise. The distribution and spread of products, services, and other business activities is a continual demand in modern civilisation. It has inspired individuals to establish several marketing institutions and contemporary exchange ways. Naturally, this has resulted in the fast expansion of towns and cities. People believe that commercialisation and commerce in cities provide far better chances than in rural areas. Furthermore, the technology required for productive trading is only available in cities. As a result, the pace of migration



rose. The two most important factors for urbanisation are industrialisation and commercialisation together. As a result, every urban region is a business centre, implying that commerce and trade play an important part in urbanisation. The transactions of goods and services take place in the market. Marketing is the first step of development of trade and commerce. Market institutions and exchange methods are developed tremendously with the growth of towns in the State. Commercialisation of goods and services are operated easily due to better commercial opportunities in the towns not in the rural areas.

8. Medical Facility: Surgical centres, birth centres, blood banks, clinics and medical offices, diabetes education centres, dialysis centres, diagnostic services, hospice homes, hospitals, and other modern forms of healthcare facilities are often found in towns and cities. There are several healthcare institutions that cater to a wide range of treatment specialties. A clinic is where many people go for routine doctor's visits and checks. These healthcare facilities may include a physician's individual office, a group practice setting, or a corporately owned clinic that is linked to a larger healthcare system or hospital. Clinics serve a wide range of medical services. If you need to visit a specialist for a certain health issue, chances are there is a clinic nearby that may help. The purpose of these clinics is to provide patients with preventative care and essential diagnoses in as convenient a setting as feasible. Diabetes is a very significant disease nowadays. Diabetes patients must control the condition and often adopt lifestyle changes to keep it from becoming life-threatening. Diabetes education centres arose as a result of the illness's broad prevalence to assist patients in managing their disease and, if possible, to help others at risk of diabetes prevent it. Dialysis is frequently required for patients with renal dysfunction. Some of the facilities are seen in towns or in State Hospital or TRIMS or R K Mission Hospital in the State. Naturally the people suffering from diseases and are able to bear the cost prefer to live in the urban areas.

9. Political Advancement: Political change occurs when society develops when rulers in a country lose power or the kind of administration in the country changes. Political change is a natural byproduct of both internal and exterior politics. While in power, rulers will be voted out, retire, or die, and the next leader will implement reforms. The way the government intervenes in the economy is influenced by political issues. Political influences include tax policy, labour legislation, environmental law, trade restrictions, tariffs, and so on. Political factors, such as government policies and administrative procedures, can have a significant influence on economic growth, or the transition from farming-



based cultures to industrialised societies. Political issues impact economic growth by either favourably or adversely influencing the development process. Towns are the source of political advancement in many cases. The major institutions of political advancement are situated in towns. Many people have to shift in the urban areas due to political factors.

10. Rural-Urban Transformations: Some rural areas may gain prominence and prosperity as a result of mineral discoveries, resource exploitation, or agricultural operations, which begin to emerge and convert into metropolitan areas. Productivity growth contributes to economic growth and higher-value-added job prospects. This brings the development of education, market facility, health facilities, establishment of banking institutions, better governance, housing and over all infrastructure like transportation, communications, etc. Thus rural area will be automatically converted in to urban centre.

11. Modernisation and Changed Lifestyle: Urban Centres offer various sophisticated technology and amenities. Cities have grown extremely technologically advanced, with sophisticated communication, medical facilities, infrastructure, enlightenment, dress code, social amenities, and liberalism. People believe that living in cities will provide them with a far higher quality of life.

IV. FINDINGS

The number of Census towns is expanding at a quicker rate due to natural urban population growth and large-scale movement of population from rural regions within the State and beyond the State to its urban areas due to the considerations stated above.

V. CONCLUSION

The rise of urban centres in Arunachal Pradesh does not appear to be the result of intricate interconnections of internal socioeconomic and demographic pressures in tribal civilisations, as is common elsewhere. Rather, it appears to be a direct result of the State's political and administrative evolution. If we look at the State's urbanisation history, we can see that in the 1961 Census, none of the localities met the criterion for being named a census town, and therefore the



whole State was deemed rural. However, in 1971, certain of the State's districts and sub-divisional headquarters were discovered to have unique urban features.

The settlements were designated as Census towns due to their distinct urban characteristics and occupational structure. Since the 1971 Census, the number of Census towns has increased at a faster rate due to natural growth of the urban population and large scale migration of population from rural areas within the State and outside the State to its urban areas due to employment opportunities during the previous liberalisation period.

The amount of inequality in the rate of urbanisation can be reduced by emphasising socioeconomic development in rural and urban regions. A broad-based policy is required to urbanise an impoverished state like Arunachal Pradesh in the interest of the State's overall economic growth. However, the present study raises a number of vital questions which can be answered more satisfactorily with the help of further research, preferably at more micro level, into this less explored but economically and socially important field of inquiry. Hence, it is expected that the present study will form the basis for future research work on this topic.

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