

An Article on Impact of Urbanization on Economic Condition of citizens in Dibrugarh Town, Assam

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Urbanization is a product of demographic explosion and poverty induced rural-urban migration. It is occurring not only due to urban pull but also due to rural push. Urbanization in India has been relatively slow as compared to developing countries.

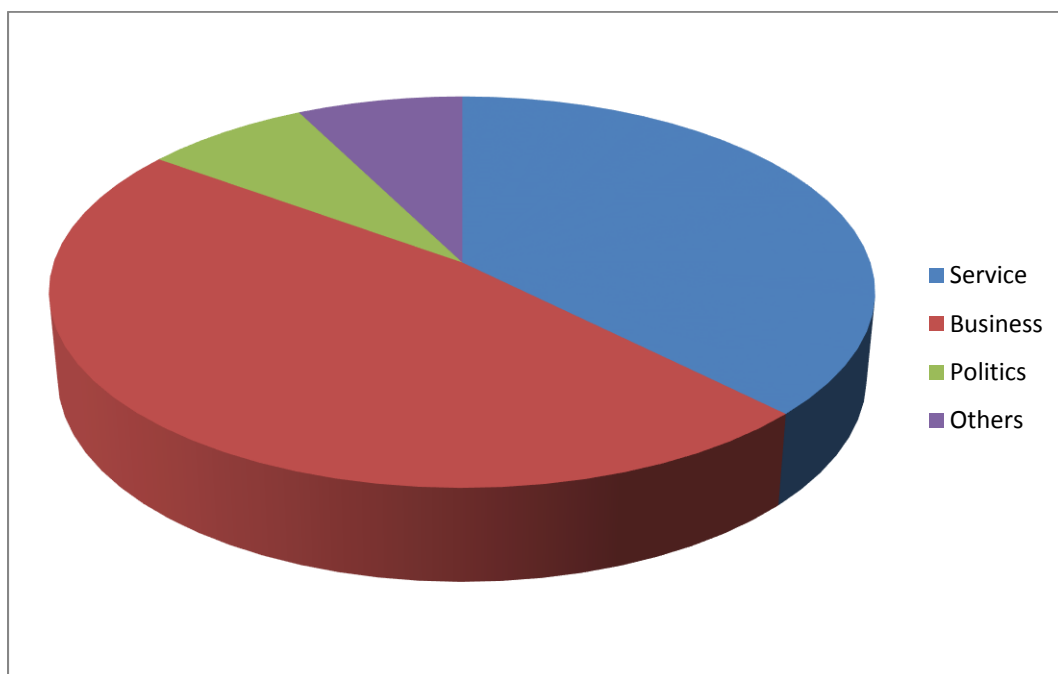
In the town of Dibrugarh, it has been noticed that most of urban people are engaged in trade and commerce. Some are engaged in services like doctors, engineers, lawyers, public servants, defence personnel, teachers, professors and , government service and other private service holders. In the district of Dibrugarh, there are different urban centres surrounded by Tea Gardens. Among these towns, Naharkatiya, Namrup and Duliajan are known as industrial towns. Rajgor, Tingkhong, Lahowal and some other part of Tengakhat have covered by tea garden. It would be said that these town have grown due to influence of tea and some government administrative centres. The main town of Dibrugarh has surrounded by the mighty Brahmaputra river. In this town, there are many big and small scale industries, government offices, numbers of shopkeepers, taxi drivers, auto and Tempo drivers, rickshaw pullers, hookers, daily labours and so on. All these have engaged due to heavy influence of urbanization. Urbanization have facilitated economic engagement and job opportunities which attracting people towards them. There is also another important thing that urban wages are generally higher as compared to rural wages. So, young men and women have been migrating to the cities. In the town of Dibrugarh, there have been living the people of Assam and other parts of the country. They have come basically trade and administrative purposes. It has to be noticed that the town of Dibrugarh is a centre of brisk economic, commercial, artistic, literacy, political, educational, technological, scientific and other activities. It has also seen that the urban economic life is better than rural life. Here, everyone can easily manage to do something, which is not easy in rural area. From this study, it has also observed that the city offers opportunities and facilities for making full use of one's abilities and talents.

In an urban centre, there is not fixed occupation. A man can do anything according to

his hard labour and ability. The urban centre has provided liberty to women for stand on an equal footing with men. Today, many urban women have engaged in services, business and other activities. In the town of Dibrugarh, many female are engaged in business like shopkeepers, tailoring, beauty parlour, tax consultant and others.

In Dibrugarh town, there are prevalent different types of business. These are shopkeepers, photo studio, cinema halls, transport business, cloth business, hotel business, several nursing homes, pharmacy, book seller and publishers, petrol pump, fish and meat shopkeepers, barbers, laundry, goldsmith, blacksmith, and so on. All these have been emerging due to influence of urbanization.

Figure No.01



From the field investigation of the town, it has seen that most of the urban people are economically sound rather than the rural people. It is also seen that majority of them comparatively educated. There are different interest groups like skilled, unskilled and semi-skilled workers, the artisans, the technicians, the ‘white-collar’ employees, the financiers, the businessman, administrators, the politicians etc. In urban centres, the work is divided among the people on the basis of interest, talent, efficiency, opportunities, hard labour etc.

There has been another remarkable fact that urban community is characterized by intense social mobility. “Social Mobility refers to the movement of people from one social status to another, from lower status to higher status or from poor position to rich position. Urban life in this way is highly competitive.

For effective urban planning one author said, “The cities will have to succeed on three policy dimensions to ensure all citizens have adequate living conditions as follows;

1. Urban planning by build adequate infrastructure, such as roads, houses, electricity, water and sanitation services, public transportation, schools and health clinics;
2. Urban development strategy, through tailoring their goals to their circumstances of their own regions to transform slums in to legitimate communities; and
3. Strengthen urban governance to improve the lives of poor people and promote equity.”

If urban policy makers ensure the above conditions, the spread of urbanization will be an enormously beneficial. In fact, people in urban area are much more economically productive and they have been a wellspring of innovation for many new ideas. The process of globalization and the death of boundaries increased the returns for being smart and even one becomes smart by associating with smart people. Therefore, cities are important forever as they create the intellectual connections that forge human capital and spur innovation. The problems like poverty, pollution, and disease, are not because of growing urbanization but lack of proper vision in planning and governing cities of policymakers.

Affordable Condition of the people in Dibrugarh Town and their Interest.

Urban way of life is very scientific and comfortable. Most of the urban people are affordable to buy radio, T.V, computer, vehicle, washing machine, sewing machine, modern furniture, aqua guard , caps etc. The people of the town have subscribed to the newspapers, magazine etc. The urban people are dependent on rationality and scientific outlook. They have neither believe in conservatism nor superstition. If they have been suffering any diseases, then they consult modern medical practitioner. Most of them are educated, but a partial part is illiterate. They prefer both general as well as technical education for their children.

Conclusion:

The urban way of life has its good as well as bad effect on the people. From the study, it has been noticed that urban life very materialistic and mechanical. This life encourages the hedonistic outlook. Secondly, there is lack of intimacy and not possibility to maintain privacy. It makes the people individualistic, selfish, rationalistic etc. Here, it has seen that both the husband and wife are self-dependent. Therefore, there may be possibility of divorce. City makes human life to become uncertain, insecure and competitive. New adventures, new inventions, new experiments, new plans and projects may yield materialistic benefits, but at the same time they may bring lot of pressure on the nervous system of the people.

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