

Analysis of Socio economic factors towards urbanization in Golaghat district of Assam

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Abstract: Urbanization is a continuous path of progress and development which can lead a country to achieve growth of income, employment and productivity. Even though urbanization creates some socio-economic problems, the study highlights some of the important positive factors responsible for urbanization in Golaghat district of Assam. Garret ranking method has been used to analyse the socio-economic factors responsible for urbanization in the district. It has been found that increase in income in the urban area is the most important factor of urbanization which leads to economic development in the district with an average score of 62.21 and Garret score of 12442. Increase in employment opportunities with garret score of 11463 and average score of 57.31 is the second most important reason of urbanization. Increase in productivity is the third factor with Garret score of 11132 and average score of 55.6. This is followed by economic development, technology and capital equipments, emergence of new industries, medical and health care, good educational institutions, better housing, increase in the standard of living, agricultural development, training centres, developed infrastructure, banking and credit facilities. Improved sanitation and wastes disposal is the least important factor.

Keywords: *Positive factors, Development, Urbanization, Ranking, Socioeconomic*

Highlights:

- 1. Urbanization has played a crucial role in the development of the district.**
- 2. Generation of income, employment and productivity are important factors of urbanization on the district.**

Introduction:

Urbanization is an indication of modernization and transformation of the socio-economic, geo-political and cultural domain of a nation. It is a continuous process where migration of population happens along with the development of industries and transformation of the structure of the society. However, urbanization can also have negative impact on the natural environment, economic and social inequality, public health due to pollution, population increase etc. In spite of these negative impacts, urbanization is an important indicator of development. Its positive impacts

are diverse which plays a significant role in the development of a country. It accelerates the process of economic development and thereby improves the overall standard of the people and the economy. The state of Assam in general and Golaghat district in particular was basically a traditional and rural economy but it has shown an increase in urbanization after India's independence (Das and Bora, 2019). However, according to the 2011 census, with just 14 percent in the state and 9.2 percent in Golaghat district, the urbanization rate is still below the national average of 31 percent¹. But amongst the north eastern states of India, Assam has the largest urban population of 4.3 million (2011 census). And urbanization has played a crucial role in the development of the state in general and Golaghat district in particular. This paper is thus an attempt to study the advantages or the positive socioeconomic factors of urbanization on the society and the economy at large in Golaghat district of Assam.

Objectives:

The study has been carried out with the objective to find out the important positive factors of urbanization in Golaghat district of Assam.

Methodology:

The study is empirical with a sample of 200. The data has been collected randomly from the town and municipality area of the district by following well designed questionnaire. The secondary data has been collected from census reports, research articles in journals, websites, government reports etc. The respondents were asked to rank the important positive factors of urbanization which has played a crucial role in the development of the district. Krjeci - Morgan model has been used to calculate the number of population samples for the survey.

Garret Ranking is used to analyse some of the important positive impacts of urbanization in Golaghat district. The impact factors according to their importance as responded by the sample population are calculated by using this technique.

Based on Garret's technique, the responses were converted into score value and rank with the help of the following formula:-

$$\text{Percent position} = 100(R_{ij}-0.5)/N_j$$

Where R_{ij} = Rank given for i_{th} factor by the j_{th} individual.

N_j = Number of factors ranked by the j_{th} individual.

¹ Assam state portal.<https://tcp.assam.gov.in>

Profile of Study area:

The present study covers the district of Golaghat in Assam which is an administrative district since 1987. The district occupies an area of 3502 km and lies 100 meters above sea level. It is surrounded by the river Brahmaputra in the North, the state of Nagaland to the south, Jorhat district to the east and Karbi Anglong and Nagaon district to the west.² In 2011, Golaghat had population of 1,066,888 of which male and female were 543,161 and 523,727 respectively. Average literacy rate of Golaghat in 2011 were 77.43 percent. Male and female literacy were 83.56 and 71.09 percent respectively. As per 2011 census, 9.16 percent of the population lives in urban regions of the district which is 97,736 people with 50,036 males and 47,700 females. Sex Ratio in urban region of Golaghat district is 953 and child sex ratio was 930. Average literacy rate in Golaghat district as per census 2011 is 91.74 percent of which males and females are 94.25 percent and 89.11 percent literates respectively. Literacy rate in rural areas of Golaghat district is 75.94 percent with male and female literacy at 82.44 and 69.22 percent respectively. In total, 640,978 people were literate of which males and females were 354,039 and 286,939 respectively.

Result and discussion:

Table 1: Profile of Sample Population in Golaghat district

Heads	Sub heads	Persons	Percentage
Age	18-25 years	57	28.5%
	26-35 years	26	13.0%
	36-45 years	52	26.0%
	46-55 years	47	23.5%
	56 and above	18	9.0%
Occupation	Govt sector	45	22.5%
	Private sector	78	39.0%
	Self employed	55	27.5%
	Agricultural sector	18	9.0%
	Daily wage earner	4	2.0%
Education	Middle school	20	10.0%
	Matriculate	14	7.0%
	HSSLC	46	23.0%
	Graduate	99	49.5%
	Post graduate	21	10.5%

Source: Primary data 2023

Table 1 show that majority of the respondents are in the age group 18 to 25 years with 57 persons which is 28.5 percent followed by those in the age group of 36 to 45 years with 52 people which is 26.0 percent. The respondents in the age group 46 to 55 years is 47 which is 23.5 percent and

² Golaghat district-Assaminfo.Com

those who are 56 years and above is the least with only 9.0 percent with 18 persons. The number of people employed in the private sector is the highest with 78 respondents which is 39.0 percent. This is followed by 55 persons who are self employed comprising 27.5 percent. The number of respondents in the government sector is 45 which is 22.5 percent followed by 18 persons (9.0%) in the agriculture sector. Daily wage earners are the least with only 4 persons which is 2.0 percent. The number of graduates is the highest with 99 persons comprising 49.5 percent followed by 46 HSSLC passed which is 23.0 percent. Post graduates are only 21 persons which makes 10.5 percent of the total respondents followed by those who have studied till middle school with 20 respondents which comprises 10.0 percent. Matriculate is the least with 14 people which is 7.0 percent.

Table 2: Socio economic factors of urbanization in Golaghat district

Sl no	Impact factors	Ranks given by the respondents															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
1	Increase in income	33	47	25	9	4	16	22	6	3	9	1	1	11	5	8	200
2	Employment opportunities	11	12	23	42	19	16	17	9	15	7	3	14	8	1	3	200
3	Increase in productivity	5	14	26	13	26	45	8	10	11	9	5	12	6	8	2	200
4	Economic development	24	15	9	6	8	15	24	38	18	9	8	7	7	10	2	200
5	Educational institutions	8	19	8	8	20	10	8	9	23	39	23	11	4	6	4	200
6	Agricultural development	8	8	2	7	11	15	14	11	8	25	22	33	7	8	21	200
7	Developed infrastructure	6	9	8	12	7	8	12	13	12	14	12	15	22	44	6	200
8	Technology and capital	51	7	8	11	6	11	8	8	8	4	21	13	11	12	21	200
9	New industries	5	30	32	20	6	5	6	6	7	12	18	9	19	12	13	200
10	Medical and health care	7	7	13	20	30	10	8	27	18	10	9	15	11	7	8	200
11	Housing	2	6	11	8	24	21	32	19	17	10	8	11	11	11	9	200
12	Standard of living	7	9	14	17	12	9	9	20	35	15	9	6	13	9	16	200
13	Training centres	2	6	6	10	11	8	16	17	8	20	31	20	20	11	14	200
14	Sanitation and waste disposal	7	8	6	6	5	6	11	3	12	9	18	18	38	30	23	200
15	Banking and credit	28	7	12	11	8	4	7	5	7	8	10	11	10	22	50	200

Source: Field work 2023

Table 3: Percent position and Garret Value

Sl No	100(Rij – 0.5)/Nj	Calculated Value	Garret Value
1	100 (1 – 0.5)/15	3.33	85
2	100 (2 – 0.5)/15	10	75
3	100 (3 – 0.5)/15	16.6	69
4	100 (4 – 0.5)/15	23.3	64
5	100 (5 – 0.5)/15	30	60
6	100 (6 – 0.5)/15	36.6	57
7	100 (7 – 0.5)/15	43.3	53
8	100(8 – 0.5)/15	50	50
9	100(9 – 0.5)/15	56.6	47
10	100(10 – 0.5)/15	63.3	43
11	100(11 – 0.5)/15	70	40
12	100(12 – 0.5)/15	76.6	36
13	100(13 – 0.5)/15	83.3	31
14	100(14 – 0.5)/15	90	24
15	100(15 – 0.5)/15	96.6	16

Source: Primary data 2023

Table 4: Calculated Garret Value Score in Golaghat District

Pull factors	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
Increase in income	2805	3525	1725	576	240	912	1166	300	141	387	40	36	341	120	128	12442
Employment opportunities	935	900	1587	2688	1140	912	901	450	705	301	120	504	248	24	48	11463
Increase in Productivity	425	1050	174	832	1560	2565	424	500	517	423	200	432	186	192	32	10537
Economic development	2040	1125	621	384	480	855	1272	1900	846	387	320	252	217	240	32	10971
Educational institutions	680	1425	552	512	1200	570	424	450	1081	1677	920	396	124	144	64	10219
Agricultural development	680	600	138	448	660	855	742	550	376	1075	880	1188	217	192	336	8937
Developed Infrastructure	510	675	552	768	420	456	636	650	564	602	480	540	682	1056	96	8687
Technology and capital	4353	525	552	704	360	627	424	400	376	172	840	468	341	288	336	10748
New industries	425	2250	2208	1280	360	285	318	300	329	516	720	324	589	288	208	10400
Medical and health care	595	525	897	1280	1800	570	424	1350	846	430	360	540	341	168	128	10254
Housing	170	450	759	512	1440	1197	1696	950	799	430	320	396	341	264	144	9868
Standard of living	595	675	966	1088	720	513	477	1000	1645	645	360	216	403	216	256	9775
Training centres	170	450	414	640	660	456	848	850	376	860	1240	720	620	264	224	8792
Sanitation and waste disposal	595	600	414	384	300	342	583	150	564	387	720	648	1178	720	368	7953
Banking and credit facilities	2380	525	828	704	480	228	371	250	329	344	400	396	310	528	800	8873

Source: Data collected from field survey 2023

Table 5: Calculated Garret Score, Average Score and Rank of impact factors of Urbanization in Golaghat district

Sl No	Impact Factors	Garret Score	Average Score	Rank
1	Increase in income	12442	62.21	I
2	Increase in Employment opportunities	11463	57.31	II
3	Increase in Productivity	11132	55.66	III
4	Economic Development	10971	54.85	IV
5	Good educational institutions	10219	51.09	VIII
6	Agricultural Development	8937	44.68	XI
7	Developed Infrastructure	8687	43.43	XIII
8	Technology and Capital Equipments	10748	53.74	V
9	Emergence of new industries	10400	52	VI
10	Medical and Health care facilities	10254	51.27	VII
11	Better housing	9868	49.34	IX
12	Increase in Standard of living	9775	48.87	X
13	Availability of Training Centres	8792	43.96	XII
14	Improved Sanitation and wastes disposal	7953	39.76	XV
15	Developed Banking and Credit facilities	8873	44.36	XIV

Source: Primary data 2023

Table 5 reveals increase in income as the most important impact factor of urbanization which leads to economic development in the district with an average score of 62.21 and Garret score of 12442. Increase in employment opportunities with garret score of 11463 and average score of 57.31 is the second most important impact of urbanization in the district. Increase in productivity is the third important positive impact with Garret score of 11132 and average score of 55.6. The fourth impact is economic development with Garret score of 10971 and average score of 54.85. This is followed by technology and capital equipments, emergence of new industries, medical and health care, good educational institutions, better housing, increase in the standard of living, agricultural development, availability of training centres, developed infrastructure, banking and credit facilities. Improved sanitation and wastes disposal is the least important factor according to the respondents.

Recommendation and Conclusion:

Urbanization has definitely led to economic development of the district as can be seen from the fact that it leads to generation of more income, employment, production and productivity etc. Urbanization has been a positive and progressive agent of economic development of the district. Effective policies and schemes need to be properly planned and managed in order to successfully solve the different issues such as poverty, infrastructure, pollution, housing etc and improve upon the positive impact factors such as employment opportunities, standard of living, better education and medical facilities etc. Development of large and small scale industries, private firms and increased creation of jobs in diverse sectors can help in increasing employment, income,

production, standard of living etc. Provision of better roads, advanced medical and health care, educational institutions with better infrastructure etc require attention of policy makers. A well planned and judiciously implemented policy of urbanization is required to improve the society and the economy.

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