

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF URBANIZATION IN APATANI COMMUNITY OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH.**

Mr. Padi Hana

Ph.D Scholar Dept. of Sociology, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills,  
Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh- 791112, India.

### **ABSTRACT**

Urbanization is a process of change that has brought multiple and broad areas of structural change in any society that is experiencing or undergoing it. To understand the process of urbanization in Ziro valley it is pertinent to consider the administrative establishment as the engine of the process that has brought the changes and another functional system. The socio-economic impact of urbanization is found in the areas of the rising value of land, the growth of markets, modern occupations, and the rise of the economic class group. The purpose of the paper is to present the information regarding the socio-economic change due to urbanization process happening in Apatani society in Ziro valley of Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh since the inception of state's administrative system. The following description of the findings and conclusion is derived from the research finding took in Apatani community of Ziro valley.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Migration, Tradition Culture, Modernization, Administration, Village, Economic class.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Urbanization is a process of change that has brought multiple and broad areas of structural change in any society that is experiencing or undergoing it. The process involves physical movements of an individuals or a group into a new territorial area – rural to urban. The high concentration of population led to the differentiation of urban areas and the division of labor. The levels of differentiation in the urban depend upon the degree and number of the population and categorized into metros, city, and town. Statistics on the urban population are based on administrative boundaries while in others they are based on territorial units delimited in terms of ecological criteria (Peter Gibbs, 1966). Urbanization is a recent phenomenon for the people of Arunachal Pradesh in general. Ziro the district headquarters of Lower Subansiri District was declared as a urban in the year 1991.

The urbanization as a process and engine of change has brought transformative changes at the structural and institutional level. Every society is directly and indirectly affected by the presence of the urban center. The urban center is becoming a distribution platform for global markets and a place for culture mixture. Basically, urbanization is driven by the force of several factors that need to be emphasized and interpreted. To understand the socio-economic impact explorative and descriptive research method was used.

## **2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Apatani community resides in the districts of lower Subansiri of Arunachal Pradesh. Ziro valley is the inhabitant place of the Apatani community. The total area under cultivation and settlement area is about 32 Sqkm. Apatani is an indigenous tribe and one of the majority tribe of the Arunachal Pradesh. The valley lies at an altitude which lies at 1564 meter above sea level. The longitude of the valley is about 27°32' to 27°37'.

According to the oral history and folktales, the Apatani community has migrated from the southern part of the Tibet a place called *Iipyo Supung*. There is no particular written record when and how did the migration occur. The history is told through the medium of folktales and folklore during the time of community festivals and gatherings. There are several remains of the tools used by the Apatani tribe in a different part of the Subansiri district during their migration period. Ultimately they reached *Talley* valley, due to severe cold they came to *Biiri* the main center of the Ziro valley (Kani, 2012).

Apatani community is distributed into major seven villages and each village has their origin of migration route to come at the present place from the Talley valley. Prior to Apatani, there was already a community named Ziro settled in the valley. Later the Ziro tribe was driven off from the valley.

The Apatani valley was visited by many colonial officials in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. One of the purposes of the visits was not for the congenial purpose it was turned to be a punitive expedition against those Apatani men who have raided and capture the Miri workers and gun of H.M. Crowe from North Lakhimpur district in 1897. Haimendorf and his wife Elizabeth Barnado visited the valley in 1944, Lt. Col. Frederick Nicholson Betts and his wife Ursula Graham Bower came in 1946 are some of the popular visits that have left the anthropological records of the community.

The first modern administration was founded by David Scott in 1825. The first outpost of the administration was opened at Papii in mid-forties (Kani, 2012). The headquarter of the district was located at North Lakhimpur and it was shifted to Kimin in 1950. The headquarter was shifted to Ziro in 1952 with the direction of tribal Administration notification.

The first line of change was found in the construction of modern building structures in the valley for office purpose and emergence of the nontribal population. The political institution was interfered by introducing and appointing Kotokis, Gaon Buras, and Village level Workers (VLW) from different villages. This has led to the sharing of power and authority with the traditional village councils (*Builyang*) during the initial period of transition of modern administration. The traditional political structure of the community was altered with the introduction of the *Panchayat Raj* system in 1967 at four tiers system. The power and authority were ceased from the *Builyang* by Panchayat elected bodies and the function has remained only to socio-cultural.

There was frequent commutation between village and administrative post at Hapoli by the political appointee to take the services and developmental schemes for village and community developmental activities. Besides administrative, there also emerged other social infrastructures like modern education infrastructure, health center, library, club, commercial center, residential areas, electrification, water supply, road and communication, entertainment hall, recreational center and prayer place that shall be discussed in the essay. To understand the process of urbanization in Ziro valley it is pertinent to consider the administrative establishment as the engine of the process that has brought the changes and another functional system. I would like to bring the impact that is found in social context level due to urbanization in the Ziro valley.

In order to understand the urbanization impacts, it is necessary to bring the contribution of administrative establishment for bringing the modernization and materials directly into the valley to cause a change in every aspect of community life. Because there was the creation of town and many different people from different background have migrated into the valley to work in different lines to provide services to the community. We can discuss the significant aspects of structural change that have occurred due to urbanization.

**Table 1: Distribution of Apatani population in the Ziro Valley.**

Sl.No.	Name of the circle	Population	Schedule Tribe(ST)	Others
1.	Ziro(Sadar)	22747	17742	5005
	Urban	12806	8537	4265
	Rural	9941	9305	736
2.	Old Ziro	19605	18177	1428

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2014-15.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

The study is based on the fieldwork survey by using several techniques of data collections tools. The explorative method was adopted because as no such work has been conducted earlier to study the urbanization process and secondary data is also not available in any form. The data collected for the study was done by the process of stratified random sampling method of a sample size forming 4.06% of the total urban population which is 12806 of Ziro (Hapoli). The survey was conducted by the use of interview schedules containing both structured and unstructured questions for those respondents residing in Ziro (Hapoli) town.

**Table 2: Sex composition of sample respondents**

Area	Female	Male	Total	Percentage
Hapoli	80	182	262	50.38%
Old Ziro	48	110	158	30.38%
Seven Main Villages	28	72	100	19.23%
Total	156 (30%)	364 (70%)	520	100%

Source based on a household survey of the study area.

### **4. ECONOMIC CHANGE**

Ziro town becomes the center of everything and anything that is required by the local community which could be reached and access at earliest than any other community of the district. Ziro town is acting as both market and administrative center and instead, it is becoming a place for marketing for any requirement of machinery parts, services of tools and machines and a place for marketing its productions. The Ziro town becomes the hub of distribution of goods and services to the local and its neighboring tribe. Since the inception of administration, it has brought and given a large scope for development and progress both by the department and private enterprises.

Apatani community is an agriculturist community and they practice the permanent type of cultivation based on wet rice cultivation. The method of agriculture of the Apatani is scientific and systematic. The water for paddy fields is supplied by the construction of a canal system connecting from the *Kiile* (River). The far distance paddy fields from the canal system, water are supplied from the attached fields which are connected to other fields through *Siicho* (draining pipe) which drained water during the fishing or drying up of the field, to supply water to next field and also when there is an overflow of water.

In the following decades, the community and valley have experienced a lot of change in their agriculture practices. The draining pipe (*Siicho*) is replaced by a plastic pipe or iron pipe. The

small dam is being constructed in the river for regulation of water supply in the fields abundantly. The pattern of agriculture system is being modified with the intervention from the government department by introducing fish cum paddy in the year 1960s. The Pisciculture was introduced in the valley as a source and self-employment for the local people. The river is broadened, the riverside path is concretized for using motor vehicles and pedestrian mobility. Using of mini tractors are found in few places and carrying of cultivated rice are transported by trackers and Tata mobiles to granary stores.

Public Distribution System (PDS) the initiation from the government in a very subsidized rate for the basic commodities have added a new relief in the tribal life. The landless and poor family can now afford to buy and have their regular meal from the cooperative stores and Multipurpose Cooperative stalls. The cooperative stores are run by the local businessman beside there are many other enterprises were run by local inhabitants in- watch and radio shops, hotel, restaurant, video parlor, etc. this has transformed the acquiring attitude of the people and improved their income and broadened their scope of doing business. Besides, there is an increasing number of government employee populations in the tribe ranging from group 'A' to 'D' category. Basically, the majority of the employees engaged in modern occupation were male in the beginning.

**Table 3: Types of Occupation of the Respondents**

Type of occupation	Frequency	Percent
Professional	11	2.1
Agriculture	19	3.7
Business	108	20.8
Govt. employee	303	58.3
Others	79	15.2
Total	520	100.0

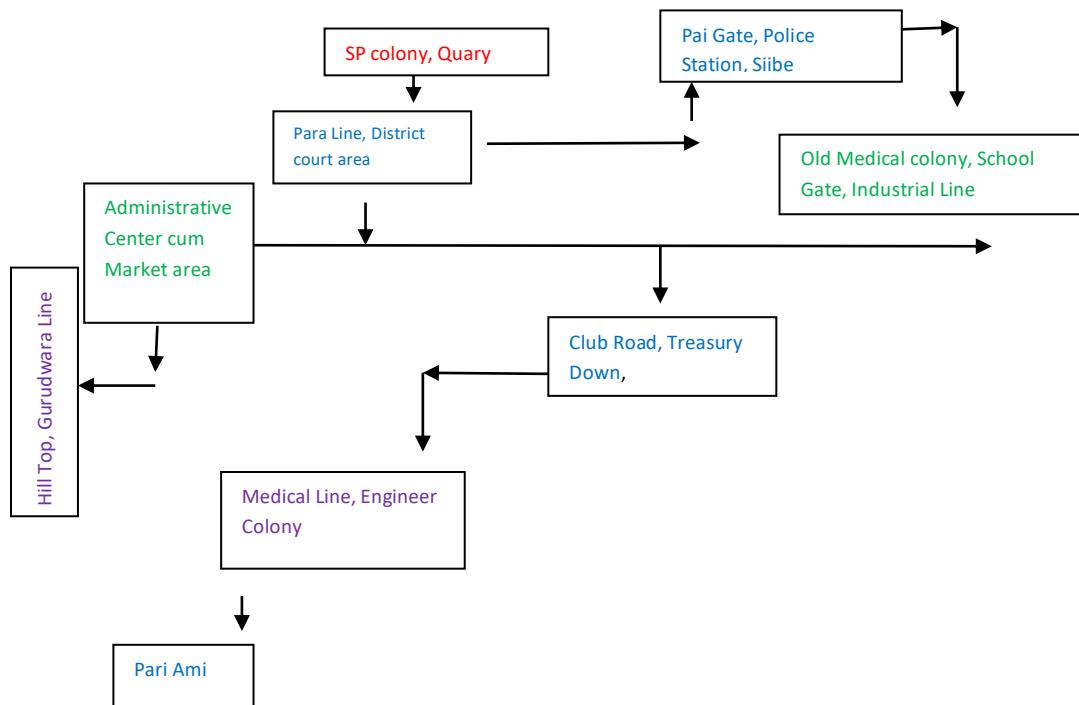
## 5. THE RISE OF MARKETS

The growth of Ziro markets is related to the administrative establishment. The main market is attached to the main administrative office. The market comprises of a separate section for marketing the goods and services. The area can be divided into the main market, grocery vendor stalls, automobiles service and repairing center, transport stand, and poultry and slaughterhouse.

The shops of the main market of Ziro valley is mostly run by nontribal population from the license owned by local people and there are few local businessmen who are having a number of wholesale shops and capital invested shops like hardware stores, an automobile showroom, and

home appliance showroom, enterprises competing with those outside business community people. Even then there is also an increasing number of small and medium-size retail shops run by the local individuals' as their main occupation. The business activity is taken up by man and women, young and elder, due to high competition for location in the center of the market area this type of retail shops tend to be in the corner of the urban area, colonies, and villages.

**Figure 1: Sketch diagram of Ziro (Hapoli) Town and its colonies/ sectors.**



## 6. THE RISE OF MODERN BASED OCCUPATION

The recruitment of local people into modern organization began since the British period. The colonial had inducted many local young men from different tribes as a translator cum guide during their expedition and exploration of the Subansiri region. After the independence, there was a change in political institution whereby village councils were brought under the state administrative umbrella and converted it into *Gaonbura*, the process is referred to be the first sign of occupational change and later part of independence the community was introduced by a new democratized institution; *Panchayat Raj* system that took up the political machinery for a holistic development. The new political machinery has brought down the power and function of the traditional *Builyang* system.

With the help and growth of the modern education system in the valley, only a few families could dare to send their siblings to a school which was quite an awkward situation for the villagers in the beginning. By sending to schools they thought they could lose a working individual and helping hand in the family. Gradually people knew the significance of modern education, knowledge, and science then started sending their children to schools. Today Apatani community remains to be one of the advance tribe with respect to literacy rate and employment in government sectors. In almost every government departments there is a presence of Apatani person working in various post and position located in different parts of the state's districts and across the state.

Due to lack of vacancy post in public sectors and the absence of large private companies and industries, there are ever growing educated unemployment issues among the Apatani youth. The youths are gradually engaging themselves in private organizations and firms. The private organization and firms could be listed as schools, college, business, shops, banking, construction, NGOs, etc. The private organizations are recruiting youths from a different educational background and even drop out to work in their endeavors. A good number of youth populations are being engaged in non-primary occupation indicating the urbanization process in the Apatani community.

**Table 2: Distribution of Government education institution in Lower Subansiri.**

Education Institution	District	Ziro valley
Primary	160	42
Middle	78	19
secondary school	11	5
Higher secondary school	6	2
College	1	0
Non-Formal Education	195	127

Sources: District Statistical Hand Book, 2013-14.

**Table 3: Distribution of Private Education Institutions in Lower Subansiri district.**

Education Institution	District	Ziro valley
Primary	22	11
Middle	17	10
secondary school	10	8
Higher school	5	3
College	2	2

Sources: District Statistical Hand Book, 2013-14.

## **7. THE RISE OF ECONOMIC CLASS**

The modern and urban base occupation is creating a class-based distinction and stratification among the Apatani community. Urbanization has created a greater scope for social mobility and physical mobility. The traditional society which was based on common mythical-historical social stratification of *Gyuchii* (Plebian) and *Gyutii* (Patrician) and *Miiti* (Master) and *Miira* (Slave) is gradually diminishing with the impact of urbanization.

The traditional based social stratification is replaced by the differential in occupational, inequalities of income and wealth. The society is now broadly categorical groups found in different layers of economic classes- Upper-class group are those occupying the positions in the officers/ bureaucratic rank, state-national level political leaders, A- grade contractors owning their personal firms. The middle-class groups are those group which can be classified from the groups of clerical, professional, businessman and Lower class can be grouped from those occupation group working under contract job and contingency in the government sector, private sectors, running a petty business, farmers, etc.

## **8. THE RISING LAND VALUES**

The pattern of land use in Apatani society is very unique and systematic. The traditional pattern of land use and economic value is changing in recent time. The changing pattern of land use and land value is owing to the growth of urbanization and improvement of the economic life of the people. The landowning and use system can be broadly classified into the following components:

- i) Settlement area
- ii) Agriculture fields
- iii) Bamboo groves and grazing land
- iv) Forest land.

The settlement areas are highly valued and priced in town and villages. Then moving away from a distance from settlement and market area the paddy fields are located, it is privately owned property, its value increases with nearness to the roadside and settlement area. The quantity and quality of the soil to produce rice are not taken into consideration for the values rather the size of the plot does matter. Dry upland or gardening land is another significant area for agriculture, plantation, and construction of the houses, it fetches a good economic value. Bamboo grooves values also depend on area, distance and location sometimes the content of commercial plant and density of bamboos led to a variation of the economic values. Bamboo groves can be classified

into private, and lineage property. Grazing land belongs to a particular clan it is not for disposable to anybody but it can be used for clan developmental purpose.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

Urbanization in Apatani valley is induced and planned. The intensity of the urbanization process is measured from the growth and extensions of settlement area in the town areas. The changing occupation, consumption pattern, use of modern electronic gadgets and materials found in the household use is an indicator of modernization and effect of urbanization came through culture contacts with other communities of the Indian population in the urban area. To understand the effects of urbanization in Apatani society and culture one has to take the account of influences of modern culture/other cultural elements that are causing a change in traditional culture and practices.

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