CHAPTER 5
ANALYSES AND FINDINGS

5.1 Analyses:

Despite being located in a comparatively backward hilly region, the town of Diphu has acquired the class-II status in respect of its population size in 2001 Census. The growth-history of this urban center is not so old; it is just of half a century. It has been found clear from the observation that out of the three factors of population growth, the migration or mobility of population either in single or group or in the form of mass exodus from outside the area is responsible for the spatial growth of the town.

It is surprising to note that inhabitants originally belonged to this place or living generation-wise since time immemorial are not common at present. Only one household during the sample survey has been found to be native within the present town boundary. Many of the old inhabitants had came during the British period, or just prior to and after the India’s independence. It, from the study comes to light that few groups of people belonging to Dimasa and Karbi tribes had been living in this place in the remote past. But in course of time, these shy tribal people had left the place and settled down in the nearby forest areas following the arrival of the new faces from outside.

Although, the origin of Diphu town traces back to the establishment of the railway station at the very beginning of the 20th century, the actual process of
urbanization started after the creation of the district in 1951. The formation of town committee for Diphu in 1961 gave the pace of growth and development of the town.

Map – 5.1

SKETCH MAP OF DIPHU TOWN IN 1971

Source: Town Directory, Census of India, 1971, Series 3, Assam

Diphu was notified as town constituting a town committee of five members by the then Karbi Anglong District Council vide notification No. 3451 dated 24\textsuperscript{th} April, 1961; but it was recognized as an urban center only from the 1971 census.
year. That is why, no properly demarcated boundary of the town was found in the Sixties when total population was estimated at 3,117 (Map-5.1 & Table-5.1). By 1971, the total area of the town was only 5 (five) sq km. with a total population of 10,200. It expanded to 9.37 sq km. with 6 numbers of town committee wards (Map-4.3) as appeared in 1981 census records bearing a total of urbanites of 23,317. The authority of the Karbi Anglong District Council, by creating 10 (ten) wards under the Diphu Town Committee increased the town area up to 16.48 sq km. through a notification dated 4th June, 1984 (Map-5.2).

Despite the urban sprawl across the town boundary in the later periods the numerical figure of the urban area remained same having no change in both the census records of 1991 and 2001. Even after 25 years of the last addition, no significant efforts have been seen so far for inclusion of newly populated areas adjacent to the old town boundary by the concerned authority. Encompassing a total geographical area of 24.90 sq km., a Master Plan was designed and published on 5th December, 1996 by the then state’s Town and Country Planning Department (Map-2.3). This Final Master Plan and Zoning Regulation of Diphu urban area originally was planned and aimed for the year 2001. But no remarkable changes in respect of establishments or other ways as planned have been seen till date.
Map – 5.2

WARD MAP OF DIPHU TOWN
PRESENT TOWN COMMITTEE AREA

Legend
Town Committee Boundary
Ward Boundary

Source: Town and Country Planning Department &
Diphu Town Committee, Diphu
Haphazard and unplanned growth of buildings and other built-up areas has disproved the objectives of the Master Plan. It is revealed during the investigation that many settlement-pockets with higher population density have been growing up even outside the present Master Plan boundary (Map-4.4 and Plates-07, 08, 10, 13 & 14). Establishments of new educational institutions like Diphu Polytechnic at Cheksolangso of Disama area; Diphu Campus of the Assam University, Silchar at Panchkilo beside the Diphu-Lumding road; Hindi Training Centre at Mentila; Navodaya Vidyalaya and Cultural Complex at Taralangso area in the outskirts of the town are encouraging the urban growth.

Apart from the Diphu Town Committee and the Town and Country Planning Organization (presently known as Urban Development Department), Diphu, the Diphu Development Authority (DDA) has been set up by the government of Assam on May 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2003 for a better and well-planned town.

**Growth and Distribution of Population in Diphu Town:**

Since its inception in 1961, the general growth and distribution patterns of population in Diphu town have been significantly changing along with the process of urban sprawl.

The total population of the town stands at 52,310 in 2001 rising from 3117 in 1961 (Table-5.1). The decadal growth rate of population was noticeably higher (227.24\%) from the year 1961 to 1971 and was attributed to the influx of people to this newly established district’s headquarters. The growth rate was receded by about 100 from the previous position becoming 128.60\% in 1981. Despite the increase in
total population the decadal growth rates in 1991 and 2001 were moving in a declining way with 69.61% and 32.27% respectively (Figure-5.1-b).

Sex ratio on the other hand, is seen gradually increasing from 563 in 1971 to 876 in 2001. People’s movement taking place to this urban centre was male-dominated. They, from different places came without their family members especially to join the jobs in the government and government-undertaking sectors during the early periods of this young town.

| Table – 5.1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>3,117</td>
<td>10,200</td>
<td>23,317</td>
<td>39,547</td>
<td>52,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Population</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>6,526</td>
<td>13,979</td>
<td>22,326</td>
<td>27,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Population</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3,674</td>
<td>9,338</td>
<td>17,221</td>
<td>24,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decadal Growth (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>227.24</td>
<td>128.60</td>
<td>69.61</td>
<td>32.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (sq km.)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>9.37</td>
<td>16.48</td>
<td>16.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density of Population (per sq km.)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,040</td>
<td>2,488</td>
<td>2,399</td>
<td>3,174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: (a) The Assam Gazette Extraordinary, Final Master Plan and Zoning Regulation for Diphu, 5th December 1996, p.p. 1783-86
(b) Census of India 2001, Assam, Series 19, Primary Census Abstract
Decadal Growth of Population in Diphu Town, Assam (1961-2001)

Figure - 5.1-a

Growth of Population in Diphu Town, Assam (1971-2001)

- Total Population
- Male Population
- Female Population

Figure - 5.1-b

Decadal Growth of Population in Diphu Town, Assam (1961-2001)

- Total Population
- Decadal Growth Rate (%)
Table – 5.2
Ward-wise Households and Population in Diphu Town, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward No.</th>
<th>Total Household</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,054</td>
<td>4,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>2,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,056</td>
<td>9,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,675</td>
<td>8,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>7,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,402</td>
<td>6,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>3,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>5,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>4,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>1,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11,250</td>
<td>52,310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Report, Diphu Town Committee, Diphu

Figure – 5.2
Ward-wise Households and Population in Diphu Town, Assam, 2001
Density of Population in Diphu Town:

The overall population density of the town is seen gradually increasing from 2,040 in 1971 to 3,174 in 2001 (Table-5.1).

Ward-wise population density pattern based on the records in 1981 shows that maximum concentration was found in the Ward No. 1 with 16,688 persons per sq km. which was followed by Ward No. 2 with 11,277. Remaining four were less densely populated wards during that time (Table-5.3).

Table – 5.3
Ward-wise Density Pattern of Population in Diphu Town, 1981

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward No.</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area in sq km.</th>
<th>Density (persons per sq km.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,172</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>16,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,481</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>11,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5,300</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>1,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6,474</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>1,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,678</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>1,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,212</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>23,317</td>
<td>9.37</td>
<td>2,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Assam Gazette Extraordinary, Final Master Plan and Zoning Regulation for Diphu, 5th December, 1996, p. 1786

The 2001 population census records reveal that within the Diphu town, Ward No. 1 is the area having highest population density of 15,481 persons per sq km. followed by Ward No. 2 and 3 with densities 11,874 and 9,445 respectively (Table-5.4). It is because; these are the areas lying within the radius of the town core where
mostly business and commercial activities are taking place. The existence of slum areas accommodating huge labour-class population; compact settlement pattern in the market area including the railway station and railway colony; location of other public service complexes, etc. are the reasons for highest concentration of urban population in this CBD (Central Business District) area. Other areas under different wards despite having large number of population, the population density is low only because of the widespread residential complexes in extensive geographical area of the wards.

Table – 5.4

Ward-wise Density Pattern of Population in Diphu Town, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward No.</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area in sq km.</th>
<th>Density (persons per sq km.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,025</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>15,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,731</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>11,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9,256</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>9,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8,115</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>2,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7,298</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>2,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6,136</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>3,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3,468</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>2,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5,292</td>
<td>2.09</td>
<td>2,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4,212</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>2,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,777</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>52,310</td>
<td>16.48</td>
<td>3,174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 2001, Assam, Series 19, Primary Census Abstract
Map – 5.3

DIPHU TOWN
WARD-WISE POPULATION DENSITY, 2001

Legend
Persons per sq. km.
1 - 2000
2001 - 4000
4001 - 6000
6001 - 8000
8001 - 10000
10001 - 12000
12001 - 14000
14001 - 16000

Source: Town and Country Planning Department & Diphu Town Committee, Diphu
Distribution of Slums in Diphu Town:

Slums are a universal characteristic feature of towns and cities. It is closely associated with urban system and is an outcome of urbanization processes in toto.

In the town of Diphu, slum constitutes a considerable part of urban society (26.87% population). These are developing in the form of squatter settlements with comparatively lower-class people enjoying meager quantities of civic facilities and amenities.

As per the records incorporated in a project proposal for the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) submitted by Diphu Town Committee, there are as many as sixty (60) slum pockets distributed throughout the area in 2001 (Table-5.5).

Table - 5.5
Ward-wise Slum Pockets, Holdings and Population of Diphu Town, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward No.</th>
<th>Number of Slum Pockets</th>
<th>Number of Slum Holdings</th>
<th>Total Slum Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>1,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>1,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>1,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>1,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>1,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>1,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>2,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>1,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3,347</td>
<td>14,055</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Diphu Town Committee, Diphu
Higher concentrations of slum population out of the ten numbers are found to occur in the Ward No. 9, 8, 1, 4 and 3. On the contrary, the highest density of slum population is found in the Ward No. 1 with 5,665 persons per sq km. followed by the Wards 2, 3 and 9 with 2,634, 1,431 and 1,422 respectively. The density and concentration of slum population are normally higher in and around the core area of the town. The slums are growing mainly in the areas belonged to governmental/public lands. Therefore, large numbers of slums are developed especially in the railway lands along the track.

**Figure – 5.3**

The local urban bodies have been trying to uplift the level of living standard in these areas by eradicating the problems existed therein through various plans and programmes.
During investigation, it has come to light that continuous flow especially of rural Karbi people since 1980s to Diphu town in search of livelihood, to avail civic facilities and amenities or for other reasons pushes the boundary of the urban area outward without concerning the physical barriers of hills, rivers and forestlands.

It is also observed that new villages and so-called colonies have been growing up at the cost of the forestlands. These recent sub-urban and outskirt-growth of new settlement areas beyond the Master Plan boundary have witnessed the horizontal expansion of Diphu urban area.

5.2 Findings:

From the sample survey (household) conducted through questionnaires and also the interviews through direct contact with the people of Diphu urban and sub-urban areas formally and informally, the following information in the form of statistical figures have been derived for the purpose of the work.

The ethnic status in this urban area shows that out of the total households the Scheduled Tribe (S.T.) (Hills) population belonging to different communities including the Karbis- the dominant tribe of the district accounts for 41.75%, whereas S.T. (Plains) for only 4.85%. On the other hand, Scheduled Caste (S.C.), Other Backward Classes (O.B.C.) and More Other Backward Classes (M.O.B.C.) together, and General category population are found to be 5.34%, 16.50% and 31.55% respectively.
Since this Sixth Scheduled area from the legitimate point of view belongs to a few hill tribal groups under the purview of the constitution of India, and this is why higher concentration of S.T. (H) population is a common phenomenon. Moreover, the status of the political unit as an autonomous district pulls many Karbi people from outside the region as disclosed during interaction. The General category constituting 31.55% population of various communities originally migrated from different directions of the country and abroad.

Occupational status of the people displays some special characteristics. Primary activities are almost negligible, except the cultivation, which accounts for only 2.43%. Secondary occupation related to manufacturing industries are also very few in number which come under the umbrella of semi-governmental and governmental undertaking jobs (7.77%). Maximum weightage goes to governmental jobs with 28.64%, which is followed by business and commercial activities with 25.24%. Although this urban center was originally emerged as an administrative
town, in course of time business and commercial activities have become a major part of the occupational characteristics of the town. Self employment which constitutes about 12.14% is more or less related to business, of which some are found to be contractors, some are having rented house or having poultry and/or piggery. Daily wage with 11.17% and private job with 5.34% are some of the special characteristics of urban environment. Retired persons from govt. and semi-govt. departments/sectors account for 5.83% while housewives having no specific occupation constitute a small part (1.46%) of the structure.

Unlike other towns of the plain districts of Assam Diphu was emerged in a dense forest land with new migrants from outside the region. These people were engaged in the construction works of the railway line and commercial activities followed by administrative activities in the later periods. Therefore, the change in occupational structure is significantly less either from Primary to Secondary or from Secondary to Tertiary sectors.

Figure – 5.5

Population vis-à-vis Occupations in Diphu Urban Area, Assam
(As Percentage to Total Surveyed Population)
In case of settlement or living status, about 81.55% households are found to be permanent, whereas temporary residents account for only 18.45%. Those people, who, by leaving their original place of residence had come here, eventually settled down permanently. It has been revealed from the investigation that people who do not have their own lands or houses at present in Diphu are also permanent by nature. They have been residing either by occupying the railway lands and reserved forest areas unauthorizely or living on lease system and even in rented houses. On the other hand, a major section of the people having governmental and semi-governmental jobs as occupation is temporary dwellers. A portion of daily-wager coming from other districts of Assam and other states like Bihar, Jharkhand, etc., are also temporary settlers. The existence of commuters in the town is less than one per cent.

It has already been mentioned that the place of Diphu once was devoid of population. The process of peopling started during the construction of the railway line around 1900. It is, during the investigation found that out of the surveyed almost all the inhabitants presently living in Diphu, or their ancestors migrated from other places of origin. Within the present town boundary, only one household claims to be original to this place. On the other hand, about 6.31% households came from outside the present national boundary especially from Nepal and present Bangladesh. Some of them had come even much before India’s independence. Migrants from other states of India apart from the north-eastern region account for 11.65%. About 5.83% households’ places of origin are in the neighbouring states of Northeast India. The percentage of people coming from other districts of the state is about 36.41, while it is 38.35 who shifted their homes from different places of the district of Karbi.
Anglong itself. Among the surveyed population, only two households are found whose places of origin are just outside the present Diphu town area.

**Figure – 5.6**

![Population vis-à-vis Places of Origin in Diphu Urban Area, Assam (As Percentage to Total Surveyed Population)](image)

History of settlement and land occupation of the people in present Diphu urban area shows different living (residing) periods depending upon their arrival in this young urban center. Some of them are early settlers while others occupy very recently. About 1.94% households have a living period of less than one year. 8.74% have been living for 1-10 years, 31.07% for 10-25 years, 45.15% for 25-50 years, and 12.14% have been residing for 50-100 years. Only two households are found—one belongs to Karbis in the town, and the other is a Nepalese just outside the town boundary who have been residing here for a period of beyond remembrance.

Since migration is one of the major factors of population growth in the town, people from different locations ignoring geo-political boundaries have been coming
for various purposes. It has appeared in the investigation that about 58.25% families came to Diphu especially for employment purpose either in government, semi-government or in private sectors. Employment opportunities in this newly established district headquarters particularly in the government sector, attracted people from all around. The business activities accounts for 17.96%. As the population increase in due course, commercial activities started to grow. The non-tribal people especially from outside the Northeast came for this purpose. The town received 13.11% households for educating themselves or their children to get educated. The rural people even from the remote hills have chosen this urban center for availing social and civic amenities and facilities; their percentage is about 1.94. On the other hand, people (families) from other urban localities of the district itself have come to have better facilities- they constitute about 4.37%. Households accounting for 3.88% have come to settle here either temporarily or permanently behind which there are some socio-political reasons. A section of them are engaged in dissemination of religious beliefs. Some are found to be refugees resulting from the ethnic clashes occurred in and outside the district at different times.

Figure – 5.7
In case of possession of house, about 74.27% households have their purely own house. 5.34% live in their own house, but on lease system. 6.31% reside in the governmental and departmental quarters, while rented-house dwellers constitute about 14.08%. It is to be mentioned here that some people presently use to live in governmental or departmental quarters despite having their own land and house here in Diphu. On the other hand, there are many people having their own house, but they have neither their own land nor living on lease. They have encroached the railway lands and reserved forest areas. Some people are found living in rented house with their families and carrying out commercial activities by taking market complexes (shops/houses) on lease system.

Possession of land is practically a matter of special concern in this Sixth Scheduled area. The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 is not applicable here. The Constitution of India entrusts the management of land to the autonomous district. Therefore, the District Council (Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council) obtains full power to enact suitable legislation and also to formulate its own land settlement policy keeping in view the customary rights of the tribal people over their land. From the study it comes to light that about 66.50% of the households surveyed have their own land in the town, whereas 6.80% possess land but on lease for different tenures. The remaining 26.70% of households do not possess any land of their own and they are residing either in govt. and departmental quarters or in rented house. Further, some of the people having no own land have erected their own houses and buildings by encroaching public lands. Those of the households having their own lands are mostly belonged to tribal communities as specified in the Constitution of India; while the other non-tribal have been living in the town for
more than 45 years by acquiring the lands through the provisions as specified in ‘The Mikir Hills District (Transfer of Land) Act, 1959’.

As has been mentioned just in the previous discussion, it is not so easy at present to possess or obtain a land for permanent settlement to a non-tribal person. It is also difficult even to a tribal person belonging to any other plains tribes. Therefore, there have been found various ways of land alienation through which people obtained their lands for settlement purposes or for others. About 28.16% of the surveyed households acquired lands through ‘purchase’ either from the former landlords or from the District Council Authority by filling up the B-Form. ‘Lease’ system of various tenures accounts for 9.71%. Under this system, most of the non-tribal population is residing here temporarily or permanently. According to 3.40% households, they have acquired the lands through ‘transfer’ system. About 2.43% household possess land through ‘gift.’ The District Council Authority or any household belongs to bona fide hill-tribes can gift lands to any one provided some condition. ‘Donation’ system similar to that of ‘gift’ through which households have acquired land accounts for 5.83%. Occupation of fallow and un-used government lands and construction of new houses therein, is a very common phenomenon, taking place at a faster rate towards the peripheral areas and outskirts of Diphu town now-a-days. At many places like Langmili, Taralangso, Matipung, etc., it has been noticed that the scrub-lands (originally dense forest area under Reserved Forest) have been occupied particularly by the Karbi people. Many of them are even the old permanent residents possessing their own lands and houses in the town. Having been alert about importance of lands in urban areas and also the future prospects of urban environment, they are engaged themselves in such type of activities. Occupation,
according to the survey performed accounts for well above one-fourth (25.24%) of the households in the town.

The land holding/land alienation laws and acts prevailing in this Sixth Scheduled area of Karbi Anglong are in favour of a few local tribal (Hills) communities. But, owing to the encouraging socio-political environment, the people belonging chiefly to the Karbi tribe are taking this advantage. By constituting various committees, they select a large plot of land and divide it as per requirements. Plots for households are demarcated and then distributed amongst the members through a lottery system in general. At many times, some socio-politico-administrative factors are also responsible for such unauthorized process of urban area expansion.

Dispossession of land through encroachment is another notable characteristic feature easily seen in and around the town. It is apparent from the investigation that about 7.77% households have possessed lands through encroaching the railway lands, reserved forest lands and lands belonging even to public establishments and educational institutions. Encroachment of lands of the Northeast Frontier Railway on either side of the track is obviously seen around the Diphu railway station and away from it. Large quantities of land pertaining to Diphu Government College have already been encroached all around. Likewise, huge areas of the I.T.I. (Industrial Training Institute) of Diphu have also been illegally occupied by some people.

Only one household is identified during the investigation, which has acquired the land through inheritance. Out of the total households surveyed, about 17.48% are purely landless residing either in departmental and governmental
quarters or in rented houses. Most of them are non-permanent to the town and they are likely to leave the place after retirement from the job.

Apart from some encroached areas, which cannot easily be converted into 'patta' lands, all the individual/private land holdings are of two types. One is periodic or myadi patta, which accounts for 58.74% households, and the other, is temporary or non-myadi patta accounting for 23.79% households. It should however be mentioned here that the quick and easy land settlement processes in connection with the conversion in to periodic patta particularly for local indigenous tribal people accelerate the growth rate of urbanization.

However, a few pockets have been identified as semi-slum areas developed especially along the railway line and on the bank of the Diphu river. But considering the overall characteristics of the settlements these cannot be said as pure slums.

Quantity of land possessed varies from individual to individual. Though it depends, at many times upon the financial capability of purchasing, yet unauthorized occupation and encroachment are other important factors that affect the quantity of land possessed. Many households are found having more than two plots of land in different locations of the town. As per the survey conducted, about 7.77% households have lands less than 1 katha (0.027 hectare), 22.33% have land of 1 - 2 katha (0.027 - 0.055 hectare), 30.10% have 2 katha - 1 bigha (0.055 - 0.134 hectare), and 22.33% of households have their land more than 1 bigha (0.134 hectare).

Out of the sample survey, only 10.68% households have lands for cultivation although some of them have their other occupation or livelihood. From the
viewpoint of quantity of land for cultivation, 1.46% households have less than 2 bigha (0.268 hectare) and 9.22% have more than 2 bigha (0.268 hectare).

Many households in the town use their lands other than residential purposes. Business and shops account for 3.40%, animal husbandry/poultry farming/fishery deserve for 3.88%, rented house for 7.28% while about 3.40% households use their lands for some other purposes. Those people who use their lands for business and shops are mostly concentrated to the central part of the town, whereas farming and fisheries are located towards the peripheral areas of the town. Households having their lands for rented houses are found in the central and other parts of the town to accommodate the temporarily settled service HOLDERS or other business-holders.

It was sought to estimate through the questionnaire regarding any future plan of the people for permanent settlement who are basically temporary residents to this urban center. About 36.84% households out of the total ‘temporary’ have their future plan for permanent settlement here in Diphu. Households accounting for 57.89% do not have any plan, whereas 5.26% have not yet taken any concrete decision either to leave or to stay here permanently. Reasons behind this are of various kinds. A major section of the families having no any future plan for permanent settlement in Diphu have been experiencing some unexpected bitter situations, especially related to extortion by some so-called extremist groups. This has been disclosed in verbal conversation with the people who, in reality abstain from giving any written records. Insufficient civic facilities in the town too compel some temporary dwellers to look either for other urban localities outside the district or for their places of origin.
Since almost all the commercial activities of the town are concentrated at the center, people from different corners of the town are required to visit this regularly for various purposes. The market center of Diphu town in this study has been considered around ‘Roy Bakery’, near the police outpost. The residences of the surveyed population are located at various distances from the center. About 27.18% are within a radius of half of a kilometer, 25.24% from 0.5 to 1.0 km., 28.16% from 1.0 to 2.0 km., and the households, which are located more than 2.0 km. away from the market center account for 19.42% (Map-5.4).

Diphu is well connected by the railways. Maximum traffic movement to and from this area takes place through the Diphu railway station, and the station has also been considered as the mother of present Diphu. Regarding the distance of residences from the railway station, about 18.45% households are located within the radius of half kilometer from the station. 14.56% are living within 0.5 – 1.0 km., 33.50% in between 1.0 and 2.0 km., and about 33.50% of the households are located at a distance of more than 2.0 km. from the railway station (Map-5.5).
Map – 5.4

Source: Town and Country Planning Department, Diphu, and Sample Survey
Map – 5.5

DIPHU URBAN AREA
DISTANCE OF RESIDENCE FROM THE RAILWAY STATION

LEGEND
Boundary
Master Plan Area
Existing Town Committee Area
Present Town Committee Area
River & Stream
Radii of Distances Covered in Km.

SCALE
KILOMETRE

Source: Town and Country Planning Department, Diphu, and Sample Survey
The town, though expanding horizontally at a faster rate, is virtually lacking adequate public transportation service within the urban area. Auto-rickshaw on hire basis is the only medium of transportation upon which 62.62% of the households depend. The remaining 37.38% surveyed households have their own vehicles of any kind. Very recently, one passenger carrier vehicle (Trekker Service) has been introduced to serve the Disama suburban area, toward west of the town.

It is found that about 13.59% of the surveyed household does not have electricity connection to their residences. The reasons behind this are two. Firstly, most of them are economically very poor and secondly, they are residing mainly in the semi-slum areas where electricity connection cannot be legally provided.

The Diphu river, in the past, was the main source of water for the inhabitants of the area. But in the later periods, the unhygienic river water could not meet the demand for requirement of pure drinking water for the growing population of the town. The Public Health and Engineering (P.H.E.) Department, in due course has provided water through pipeline connection to the households.

The present survey provides a clear picture about the water-supply connection from the P.H.E. Department. About three-fourth, i.e. 74.76% households originally do not have any water-supply connection from the department. 2.91% have disconnected due to abnormal supply conditions. On the contrary, about 16.02% are getting supply-water almost at a regular interval while 6.31% are getting water very irregularly; some times the interval overcomes one month.

Since, a major part of the population cannot avail the pipeline water-supply facility provided by the government; people arrange alternative sources of water
individually or sometimes collectively. Of course, in some areas, government’s concerned departments provide ring-wells for public use.

About 81.55% households use ring-wells as their alternative source or the primary source of water. Households, having tube-well as their alternative source of water constitute 11.65%. About 1.94% households use both ring-well and tube-well. On the other hand, 4.85% of the surveyed households depend on stream-water and earth-well for their day-to-day uses.

It has already been discussed that possession of land in this Sixth Scheduled area especially for non-tribal people is a difficult task, as there stand constitutional restrictions. Such conditions are not applicable to the native scheduled hill-tribes like the Karbis, Dimasa Kacharis, Rengma Nagas, etc. It has been asked every respondent during investigation whether they have faced any obligation/hindrance/restriction from the concerned authority in holding lands here in Diphu in the past or at present. Negative replies were received from 93.69% in case of past and 89.81% in case of present situation. On the contrary, 6.31% of the households found problems in the past and 10.19% is still facing the same in holding lands in this town.

It should, however be mentioned that all the negative replies in this respect do not mean ‘No’ for all. Many of the respondents who are living on lease system or on rent basis never try to have a permanent land for own. Also, some of the old residents who had acquired lands in the past without any difficulties did not try again for having land-properties in the later periods.

As per responses received from the respondents how the town ‘Diphu’ is found for residential and working purposes, can be summarized as follows.
Diphu is ‘not so good’ for residential purpose to 4.37% and for working purpose to 2.91% households. It is ‘good but troublesome’ for residential purpose to 34.47% and for working purpose to 33.01%. About 35.44% respondents find this place ‘better’ for residential purpose and 44.17% respondents for working purpose. It is found ‘much better’ by 12.62% and 10.68% for residential and working purposes respectively. On the other hand, Diphu is considered as ‘best’ place for residential purpose to 13.11% and for working purpose to 9.22% households out of the total surveyed.

**Pattern of Migration in Diphu Urban Area:**

The movement of people for permanent settlement in Diphu town and its sub-urban areas exhibits an interesting picture. As per the survey conducted, about 99.95% households have been found to migrate from different places. Out of the total tribal population (households) in Diphu, S.T.-Hills accounts for 89.60%. About 92.22% population of the total hill-tribal is from this district of Karbi Anglong itself. The volumes of movement of the hill-tribal (originally rural) population show that it is 82.47% directly from rural areas to this urban centre whereas about 17.53% population has migrated from different small urban centres of the district in due course.

It is evident from the study in this hill area under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India that the premier urban centres especially the District Headquarters have received large number of rural migrants as dwellers, whereas the small townships emerged in due course, have attracted small number of the same because of comparatively less number of scopes and opportunities in various fields.
of urban environment. On the other hand, the movement of some of the urban dwellers in the small centres towards the larger ones is also a very common phenomenon.

This incidence of population migration explains itself that the vast rural area (remote hilly terrain of the districts) is the source of migrants, and there are some centres of momentary congregation of population in any form where mutual exchange of thoughts and feelings takes place. Thus, the situation of rural depopulation has been started at some selected pockets of the region.

**Summary Statement:**

It is established from the facts found out of the research work that immigration of population from different directions is one of the main factors of population growth in Diphu town. This in-migration is still in progress accelerating the pace of urbanization. As a result of which unprecedented urban growth is taking place followed by emergence of slum areas. Increments in the decadal population figures of the town reveal the positive population growth; although the trend of growth is in a declining way.

Diversities in various aspects like population structure, occupational pattern, ownership and alienation of lands, purpose of migration, etc. have been governed by the socio-politico-environmental conditions to a large extent. Unplanned haphazard growth of built-up areas breeds a lot of perennial problems for the town. As has been disclosed by the respondents during interactions, in many cases inhabitants are not satisfied enough with the activities performed by the concerned urban authorities/bodies in this urban centre.
The pattern of population migration taking place especially from rural to urban areas in this region has obviously been seen from the facts prevailing in Diphu town. This situation can be correlated with other small urban centres in regard to population growth and urbanization in the region.