

Understanding Urbanisation in Northeast India

Issues and Challenges

Edited By

M. Amarjeet Singh and Komol Singha



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URBANISATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

A study of Itanagar municipality area

Ajit Debnath and Amitava Mitra

Introduction

Urbanisation can be defined as an increase in the proportion of urban population to total population over a period of time. It is an indicator of economic development. Simon Kuznets (1966), in his Nobel Prize-winning work on measurement and analysis of historical growth of national income of developed countries, has identified high-rate structural transformation as one of the six basic characteristics of modern economic growth. According to Micheal P. Todaro:

some of the major components of his structural change include the gradual shift away from agricultural to non-agricultural activities and, more recently away from industries to services, and a corresponding shift in the spatial location and occupational status of the labour forces away from rural agricultural and related non-agricultural activities towards urban oriented and service pursuits.

(Todaro 1985, p. 52)

Thus, urban development is no doubt a natural outcome of economic development. But it has a number of adverse effects. For example, rapid urbanisation may lead to the rapid growth of slums and informal sectors, as well as environmental problems like solid waste accumulation. Literally, the solid waste can be defined as non-liquid waste materials arising from domestic, trade, commercial, agricultural and industrial activities and public services. It is a combination of various heterogeneous waste materials. It is also commonly known as garbage, refuse, rubbish or trash, and its main sources are residential premises, business establishments, street sweepings,