

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN KHATAR SHNONG



*"Poverty is like being caught in a net
with so many complicated knots.
Every poor woman or man is trying to unknot
but the knot seems to be growing everyday"*

– A woman from Khatar shnong

NE

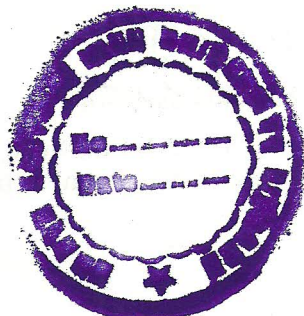
309.154164

NON:6

A. KYRHAM NONGKYNRIH

F234
486

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN KHATAR SHNONG



A. KYRHAM NONGKYNRIH

Published by :
FREDDY NONGKYNRIH
Cleve Colony, Shillong 793 003
Meghalaya - India

Socio

Research Sponsored by
Department Research Scheme
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION, NEW DELHI

NE

309.154164
NON-6

Publication Supported by

NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL,
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Shillong

NEHU LIBRARY

Acc. No. 215827
Acc. by
Date 12/23/10
Class by
Sub. Heading by
Enter by
Transcribed by

© Copyright by the Author
First Edition 2002

Computer
COMPUTERISED

2C 260

Don Bosco Press,
Don Bosco Technical School
Shillong - 793 003

CONTENTS

	Page
1. PREFACE :	5
2. MAPS :	9-10
3. PART I : INTRODUCTION	11
PART II : DESCRIPTION OF VILLAGES	27
PART III : EDUCATION AND HEALTH	35
PART IV : LAND AND ECONOMY	49
PART V : INFRASTRUCTURE	59
PART VI : GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE	67
PART VII : GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT	77
4. SUMMARY :	86
5. TABLES :	99
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	
7. INDEX	

PREFACE

This study of Human Development in *Khatar Shnong* has developed out of the discussion with *Khatar Shnong* Socio Organisation (KSO). The organization had been thinking of presenting their realities by way of a study of this nature. When the author suggested that there is a possibility they were more than happy. Due to which this study was supported by them and the people of the area from the initial stages onwards. The purpose of this study is to understand and analyse the state of development in the area. Unlike conventional research, this particular study did not try to preconceive the issues but the community was involved in the identification of issues concerning them. Out of this emerged indicators formulated for investigation. Another important aspect of the study was that the final manuscript was being examined by KSO before publication. This is considered important because the community has the right to know about the data collected and the analyses derived.

A study of this nature was possible because of the research grant support by the Department of Sociology, NEHU, under the Department Research Scheme, sponsored by the University Grants Commission New Delhi. There are various individuals who have contributed to the study in various ways: Prof. M.N. Karna; Prof. A.C. Sinha; Prof. C. Nunthura; Prof. P.M. Chacko; Prof. C.L. Imchen; Dr. I.L. Aier; Mr. Mansan W. Phira; Mr. Abraham Nongbet; and Mr. Sainbor. I am grateful to the team from KSO and the people of *Khatar Shnong* for their collective efforts and support during and after the research investigation. I am thankful to Prof. Nikhlesh Kumar for his generosity to read and suggest necessary corrections. The publication of this work would not have been possible if not for the support from the North

Eastern Council and its Secretary, Mr. H.W.T.Syiem. The suggestions for presentation of this work I thank my friend Julian Hamilton Peach, Technical Adviser of IFAD. The editing and other necessary corrections is the contribution of Dr. A.S.Guha. I cannot forget the Don Bosco Press and the Manager Bro. Valeri Nello SDB, for the typography and printing.

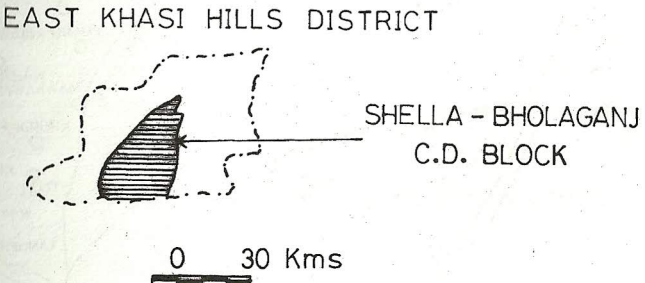
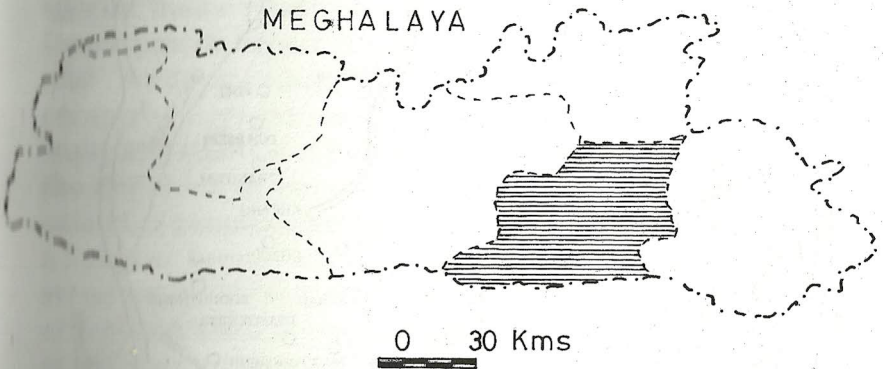
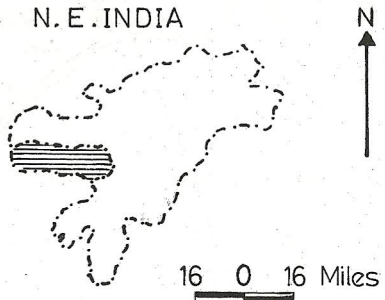
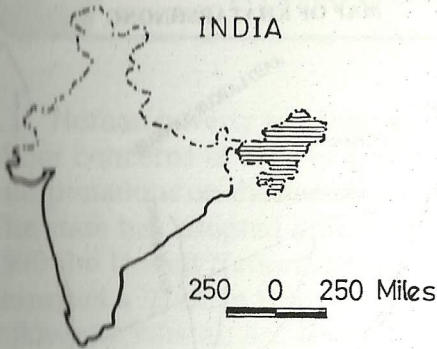
I do sincerely hope that this work which is a contribution of many friends will be useful to policy makers, institutions and developmental organizations.

AKN

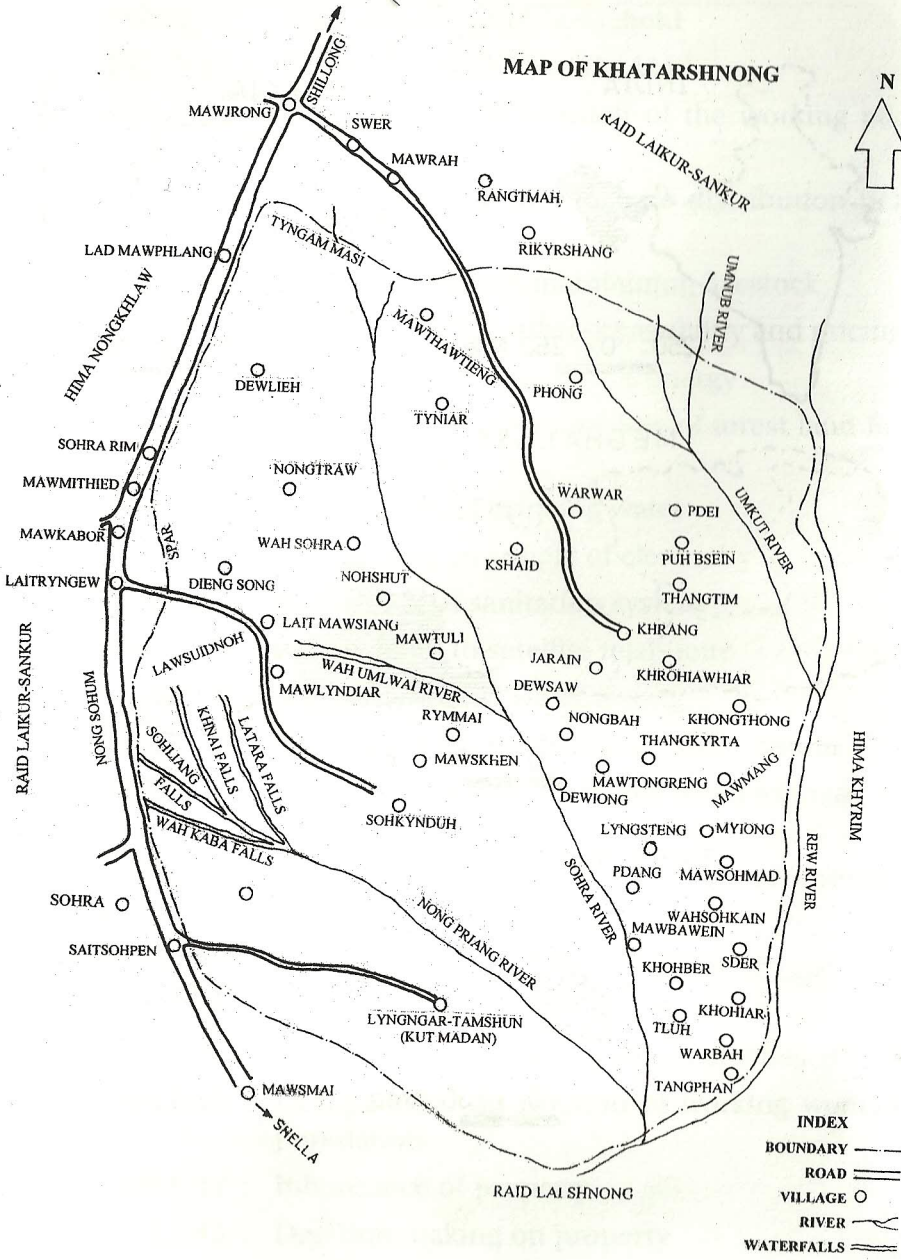
LIST OF TABLES

- TABLE 1 : Distance in Kms
- TABLE 2 : No. of houses
- TABLE 3 : Housing structure
- TABLE 4 : Population size
- TABLE 5 : No. of persons per household
- TABLE 6 : Age distribution of the population
- TABLE 7 : Distribution of the population
- TABLE 8 : Distribution of religious followers of households
- TABLE 9 : Educational distribution of the population
- TABLE 10 : Distribution of school
- TABLE 11 : No. of Teachers in educational institutions
- TABLE 12 : Distribution of dropouts
- TABLE 13 : Management of educational institution
- TABLE 14 : Financial support of educational institution
- TABLE 15 : Types of building of educational institution
- TABLE 16 : Educational background of teachers
- TABLE 17 : Accessibility to health care
- TABLE 18 : Availability of medical practitioner and medicine in PHCs
- TABLE 19 : Availability of health worker
- TABLE 20 : Accessibility of women to health care
- TABLE 21 : Distribution of disability
- TABLE 22 : Government health education programme
- TABLE 23 : Maintenance of a birth and death rate register

- TABLE 24 : Land ownership of household
- TABLE 25 : Availability of community land
- TABLE 26 : Occupational distribution of the working per household
- TABLE 27 : Approximate annual income distribution per household
- TABLE 28 : No. of households maintaining livestock
- TABLE 29 : Local products market accessibility and pricing
- TABLE 30 : Consumption of domestic energy
- TABLE 31 : Afforestation and availability of forest land for domestic fuel
- TABLE 32 : Accessibility to drinking water
- TABLE 33 : Accessibility to supply of electricity
- TABLE 34 : Availability of sanitation system
- TABLE 35 : Accessibility to satellite telephone
- TABLE 36 : Soil analysis and water testing
- TABLE 37 : Accessibility to public distribution system
- TABLE 38 : No. of governmental schemes implemented per village
- TABLE 39 : No. of individuals received governmental schemes
- TABLE 40 : Accessibility to training programmes
- TABLE 41 : No. of unemployed
- TABLE 42 : Expected type of employment activities
- TABLE 43 : Occupational distribution of working women population
- TABLE 44 : Inheritance of property
- TABLE 45 : Decision making on property
- TABLE 46 : Problems faced by women



MAP OF KHATARSHNONG



- INDEX**
- BOUNDARY ———
 - ROAD = = =
 - VILLAGE ○
 - RIVER ~ ~ ~
 - WATERFALLS ≡ ≡ ≡

Human poverty and human development have been the major concerns of society and the state. There are different interpretations on the factors contributing to human poverty. The state has adopted different methods of alleviating it. In 1990 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a "Human Development Report" and subsequently followed it with an Annual Report. Each annual report has a specific theme relating to human development. The Human Development Report (HDR) has integrated the approaches and understanding of human development. The comprehensive perspective provided the methodology of study and analysis of human development. As per the HDRs the definition of human development is "...the process of enlarging people's choices. The most critical ones are to lead a long and healthy life, to be educated and to enjoy a decent standard of living", (HDR-15, 1997). The definition has articulated three important elements of study and analysis of the status of human life and human dignity:

(i) being vulnerable to death at a relatively early age; (ii) in-accessibility and exclusion from the world of reading and communication; and (iii) a decent standard of living. These three elements above formed the basis of Human Development Index (HDI).¹

In the same manner the India Human Development Report – 1999 was prepared and published by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The method is similar as to that of the HDRs of the United Nations Development Programme. The core Human Development Index (HDI) has been added with indicators specific to India. In one of the chapters on India, Human Development Report is the selection of few Indian Villages

as part of the study. This has contributed to the understanding of Human Development at the village level. For our study on the state of Meghalaya we have selected a cluster of 40 villages. It was found difficult to draw a broad comparison from the Indian Human Development Report because the 7 states of North-East India (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura) have been aggregated into a single unit of study and analysis: due to this factor it does not: (i) provide an in-depth picture of any particular state; (ii) the state of Assam selected as the universe does not represent the distinctive Human Development of 7 states; and (iii) the findings from a single state are too generalized to present the correct picture of the North-Eastern Region. ²

Meghalaya was first carved-out as an autonomous state with the Districts of Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills from the erstwhile composite state of Assam in 1970. It became a full-fledged state in 1972. The total area is 22,429 sq. kms and has a population of 17,74,778 persons (1991 census). There are three major tribes in the state: (i) Khasis (ii) Jaintias and (iii) the Garos. Other tribes of the state are the Karbis Hajongs, Lalungs, Kochs and the Rabhas. The principal languages of the state are Khasi, Garo, Hindi and English. The dominant economic activity of the state is agriculture and other types of occupational activities are government service, trading, mining and the service sector. Religious following is the indigenous faith, Christianity and others. Within the state as per the Sixth Schedule of the constitution of India there are two types of political institutions: (i) the traditional political institutions; and (ii) the modern bureaucratic institution. Socially, the state of Meghalaya has three major tribes (Khasi, Jaintia and Garo) following the principle of matrilineal descent.

Since 1972 the state of Meghalaya has been implementing the Five Year Plan programme of the Nation-state (India). These Five-Year Plans are conscious efforts

directed to bring-about socio-economic transformation. In the last 28 years the state of Meghalaya too has been executing these programmes. The level of achievement can be analysed from the basic statistical information provided by the state. Presented below is a brief development status of Meghalaya.

ACHIEVEMENT	DRAWBACKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of and improvement of basic physical and social infrastructure - Promotion of a literate population equipped with various skills. - Literacy rate of 77 percent - Road density is 31.73 km/100 sq. km - One primary Health Centre for a population of 21,643 - 93.51 percent of the existing villages are provided with potable water - 48 percent of the villages are connected with roads. - 49.1 percent of villages are electrified - There has been a gradual economic growth in the state. The Five Year Plans as the induced factor. - Rise of landless labour and poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate infrastructural facilities - Very low industrial development - At the national level it is only 52.11 percent - Far below the national average of about 60 km/100 sq. km. - 763 new inhabitations identified having no safe drinking water - (52 percent without) - (50 percent without) - Lack of Human Resource development - Sharp increase of literate youth seeking for employment opportunities. - Implementing programmes without evolving a comprehensive state economic policy

Note: Many of the points cited above are from the Government of Meghalaya, Annual Plan 2001 – 2002, Draft Proposals, Planning Department.

MEGHALAYA : DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR(s)

Administrative Divisions

Area (sq. kms)	:	22,429
Population (1991)	:	1774778
Decadal Growth rate	:	32.83
No. of District Hqs	:	7
No. of Sub-Divisions	:	8
No. of towns	:	12
No. of villages	:	5780
No. of C.D. Blocks	:	32
No. of Police Stations	:	34
No. of Police-Outpost	:	24

EDUCATION

Number of Educational Institutions

1. Primary and Junior Basic	:	4295
2. Middle and Senior Basic	:	922
3. High & Higher Secondary	:	448
4. Basic & Non Basic Training School	:	10
5. Teachers Training College	:	1

6. Polytechnic	:	1
7. College for Arts, Science & Commerce	:	32
8. University	:	1
TOTAL	:	5710

*NOTE: Drop-out rate in Meghalaya = 73% (1997-1998)
source of information North East Sun, No. 12, Vol. 4,
Jan, 1999.*

: No. Of villages without a school = 60% out of the total number of villages, Mawphor dated 25/3/1999.

HEALTH

No. of Hospitals	:	10
No. of Dispensaries	:	38
No. of Family Welfare Clinics	:	552
No. of Primary Health Centers	:	88
No. of Community Health Centers	:	12
No. of Sub-centres	:	413
No. of Doctors	:	389
No. of Nurses	:	384



WATER

No. of problem villages covered (1996-1997) = 455

AGRICULTURE

Land use statistics (hectares) 1998-1999

1. Forest	:	950000
2. Not available for cultivation	:	220245
3. Other uncultivated land including fallow land	:	620670
4. Fallow land	:	231600
5. Net area sown	:	218385
6. Area sown more than once	:	44445
7. Total cropped area	:	262830

FOREST

Area under forest (1000 Hectares) 1998-1999

1. Reserve forest	:	71.27
2. Protected Forest	:	1.24
3. National park	:	26.74
4. Unclassed forest	:	850.30

ELECTRICITY (1998-1999)

1. Generation (MKWH)	-	555.79
2. No. of villages electrified	-	2510

**NUMBER OF WORKERS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING
TO CATEGORY OF ACTIVITIES, 2000**

A.	MAIN WORKERS	-	798568
1.	Cultivator	-	427896
2.	Agricultural labourers	-	132430
3.	Livestock, fishing, forestry, hunting & plantation orchards and allied activities	-	54177
4.	Mining and Quarrying	-	4534
5.	Manufacturing processing servicing and repairs in other than household industry	-	16010
6.	Manufacturing processing servicing and repairs in household industry	-	1806
7.	Construction	-	12523
8.	Trade and Commerce	-	61590
9.	Transport and Communication	-	4489
10.	Other services	-	73113
B.	MARGINAL WORKERS	-	51258
C.	NON-WORKERS	-	1384278

ROADS

Road length maintained by Public Works Department (1996-97)

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|------|
| 1. Surfaced (km) | - | 3355 |
| 2. Unsurfaced (km) | - | 3136 |

INDUSTRY AND MINING

- | | | |
|--|---|------|
| 1. Number of registered factories (1998) | - | 69 |
| No. of Employees | - | 3079 |

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY (1998-1999)

- | | | |
|--|---|-------|
| 1. No. of Regd. Small Scale Industries | - | 3270 |
| No. of persons employed | - | 18585 |

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRY (1998-1999)

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1. No. of KVIs | - | 42 |
| No. of persons employed | - | 246 |
| PER CAPITA INCOME 1999-2000 (AE) = Rs. 124661 | | |
| (AE = Advanced Estimates) | | |

DISTRIBUTION OF TYPES OF SOCIETY

- A. **TRIBALS** : Khasi, Jaintia, Garo, Karbi, Hajong, Lalung, Rabha, Baite
- B. **OTHERS** : Bengalee, Nepalese, Assamese, North-Indians, South-Indians, Nagas, Mizos, Adivasis, etc.

Number of job seekers as per the live register (in thousands) : 34.4

Source : *Basic statistics of North Eastern Region 2001, North Eastern Council, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Shillong.*

KHATAR SHNONG : AREA OF STUDY

The area of study to understand Human Development at the village-level is *Khatar Shnong*. *Khatar Shnong* is located in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya. It lies to the south of Shillong the state capital of Meghalaya. The word *Khatar* means 'twelve' while *shnong* means 'village'. Within *Khatar Shnong* there are 40 villages traditionally clustered into 12 units by the traditional political institutions. Each unit is composed of more than one village. These villages are spread over the deep gorges below the Cherrapunjee upland plateau. The area can be reached partially by road (metalled as well as Kacha) and partially by walking. The population is predominantly Khasi.

Sl. No.	Name of the Village		Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Sl. No.
1.	Puhbsein	(V1)	21.	Kshaid + Mawtuli	(V21)
2.	Mawthawtieng	(V2)	22.	Rikyrshang	(V22)

3. Phong	(V3)	23. Jarain	(V23)
4. Shongjadei	(V4)	24. Mawsohmad	(V24)
5. Lyngstang	(V5)	25. Dewiong	(V25)
6. Nongbah	(V6)	26. Thangkyrta	(V26)
7. Khrang	(V7)	27. Nohshud	(V27)
8. Sder	(V8)	28. Mawtuli	(V28)
9. Kongthong	(V9)	29. Laitmawsiang	(V29)
10. Krohiawhiar	(V10)	30. Sohkynduh	(V30)
11. War-War	(V11)	31. Mawbawein	(V31)
12. Dew saw	(V12)	32. Mawskhen	(V32)
13. Pdang	(V13)	33. Nongpriang	(V33)
14. Tyniar	(V14)	34. Kutmadan	(V34)
15. Mawmang	(V15)	35. Dewlieh	(V35)
16. Warbah	(V16)	36. Wahsohra	(V36)
17. Mawtongreng	(V17)	37. Diengsong	(V37)
18. Thangtim	(V18)	38. Nongtraw	(V38)
19. Myiong	(V19)	39. Mawlyndiar	(V39)
20. Khohber-Tluh	(V20)	40. Rymmai	(V40)

These 40 villages are matrilineal villages with many clans (kur). Each village has more than one clan within the domestic group (iing) as the basic unit of membership in the village. Marrying males from outside the village and outside Khatar-Shnong are referred to as Shongkha (an outsider-affine). Kinship relations play an important role in the life of the people of the villages. Traditionally, these villages are followers of the indigenous faith but today there are members who belong to different Christian denominations. The change in the pattern of belief has not changed the matrilineal rule of descent and practice.

The political organization of *Khatar Shnong* is two tiered :

- (i) The traditional political institution. This is sub-divided into three levels. At the lowest is the Shnong (village) managed and controlled by a Dorbar Shnong (Village Council) and represented by a Tymmen Shnong (Headman). The middle is the Raid (a unit with the composition of more than one village) managed and controlled by Dorbar Raid (Unit-Council of clustered villages) and represented by Sordar Raid (Head of the unit). At the upper level is the Hima (a traditional state with the composition of villages and Raid). The Syiem (a chief on the basis of hereditary rights belonging to a clan known as Syiem) acts as the representative while the management of political affairs is conducted by Dorbar Hima (Council of the State). In all the three levels as per customary beliefs and practices only adult male members are active participants in the decision making process.

Khatar Shnong with the 12 Raid forms an important constituent of Hima Sohra. According to oral traditions they were one of the founding members of the Hima. Their role is the keeper of rites and rituals of the Hima.

- (ii) The 40 villages are administered within the modern political system of the constitution of India. One aspect of the relationship between the above two types of political institutions is Development. Any community development programmes and individual-based programmes require the sanction of the village council. The village council is the highest authority in the village and thus its participation is crucial

Land ownership and practices are divided into two categories: (i) Land owned by the community for community purposes; and (ii) land owned by a clan, a domestic group, or an individual as private ownership.

The economic activities are confined to agriculture and few villages are also involved in coal mining and stone-quarrying. The area is rich in flora and fauna. There are different types of economic activities, which sustain employment generation and income generation. Agriculture and basket weaving are other types of economic activities. The produce from the villages is transferred to the local market by human carriers and the local-bazaar bus. Through the local market the villagers sell their own produce and purchase their basic essential items – match box, sugar, kerosene, mustard oil, soap, tea leaves, basic clothing, etc.

The history of modern education in these villages is very recent. Accessibility to developmental programmes started in the last 20 years or so. As per the Community Block Development Office category the area is considered as developmentally backward.

THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The state of Meghalaya has completed 28 years since its statehood in 1972. The present study has been initiated as a micro analysis on Human Development in Meghalaya. It is not possible to study the entire state because of certain constraints. Within the given limitation the choice is to select a cluster of villages in one area. *Khatar Shnong* with 40 villages is found to be feasible. The basic objective is to analyse Human Development in *Khatar Shnong*.

SELECTION OF THE AREA

- The people of *Khatar Shnong* through the *Khatar Shnong* Socio-Organisation (A CBOs of the area) desired a documentation on the area. They had requested the researcher to take up the task. When this proposal was discussed with them they expressed happiness. The

whole study was being discussed and shared with them at every stage.

- The time and financial resources was limited. It was desirable to select an area, which has a cluster of villages.
- The area is classified as “backward”.
- The clustered area has 40 villages;
- The investigator has been involved in research and community development in this area for the last 10 years. This has assisted the study with direct accessibility to the villages. Besides, it is easier to investigate the subject-matter in-depth because of mutual trust and support between both sides.
- Due to limited time and financial support.
- Action Aid India and KSO are initiating Community Participatory Development programmes in the area. The study is not extractive in nature but complements the on-going developmental initiatives.

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS

The study is village-based and micro in character. The design has been made simple, direct and participatory. The process was carried-out in the following stages.

1. Consultation of Secondary data.
2. Collection of Primary data from the field was done in the following manner:
 - 1 Pilot visits to all the 40 villages. During these visits informal interaction was conducted with the village council members, village elders, women and youth.

They were made aware of the purpose of the visit and the objective of the study;

- The Research team with trained personnel of *Khatar Shnong* Socio Organisation (KSO) community based organization of the area conducted on fixed dates village-based semi-participatory research. The villagers were asked to share their views on two aspects – identification of village problems that affects development and the strengths of the village and the people;
- The identified factors from the 40 villages were collected, analysed and a selection of indicators were drawn for further investigation.
- Every village was asked to prepare a team of participants composing of village council members, elders, women, youth and teachers. A simple specific questionnaire was prepared with the indicators as cited by the people and indicators from the Human Development Report; and
- Gender as an issue was selected as a separate indicator. The informants were only women from the villages. They were asked to identify their problems and prioritize them.

SELECTION OF INDICATOR

The indicators of this particular study are a combination of both the indicator from the Human Development Report and indicator as selected by the people of *Khatar Shnong*. It has been done so because the objective is village Human Development. The study will not be able to provide an in-depth and correct analysis unless there is a combination of the two. To serve the purpose and the objective this was felt necessary. The aggregation and compounding of both types of indicators is an academic exercise of contextual Human Development Study. The entire

research exercise was conceptualized and designed within these parameters.

It must be clear and understood that the present study has limitations. The articulation of contextual Human Development study is to serve our specific purpose. It is hoped that it will be able to provoke further intellectual studies both at the micro and macro level.

MAIN INDICATORS :

- Village profile
- Education and health
- Land and economy
- Infrastructure
- Government programmes
- Community response
- Gender and development

Note: Each of the tables cited in the study is an indicator along with other explanations which are qualitative in nature and yet are important to understand other dimensions linked with Human Development of the 40 villages.

THE AUTHOR

Dr. A.K. NONGKYNRIH

is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

He is the co-ordinator of

Community Development Extension

Programme (CDEP) of the same department.

He is actively involved in facilitating Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations, SHGs, Co-operative Societies and Village Councils in Community Development in Meghalaya and other North Eastern States.

His areas of Interests are Sociology of Development and Sociology of Entrepreneurship and Management. Besides, he is a facilitator of Participatory Learning and Action and Sustainable Livelihoods Approach.

He is a consultant of national and international organizations.

Rs. 250.00

\$ 10.00