

**POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION
AND
URBANIZATION IN MIZORAM**

ABSTRACT



**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT
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BY

B. VANLALTHLANA

TO

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The present research is an attempt to understand population redistribution and committant urbanization in Mizoram- a tiny state in the eastern margin of the Indian sub-continent located in the eastern offshoot of the Himalayas in the Indo-Myanmar borderland. The state of late has been characterized by unprecedented growth in urban population indicating acceleration in the process of population redistribution. This redistribution, however, is taking place in the state unaccompanied by any noticeable transformation in the rural socio-economic order or significant transfer of people from outside the state. There is hardly any indication of a significant difference in fertility or mortality patterns across the rural and urban areas. The fact that a corresponding depopulation in the rural areas and changes in the spatial patterns of rural settlements also accompany the unprecedented rise in urban population is sufficient to indicate the process of internal redistribution of population- either voluntary or involuntary. The main objectives placed before the study are- to get an insight into the differential growth rates of population in the rural and urban areas, to examine the changes in the rural population, to analyze broad trends in the patterns of urbanization, and to identify the causes and consequences of the redistribution of population in Mizoram. Much of the data required for this research has been obtained from secondary sources particularly those published by successive census enumeration. The secondary data has been supplemented with a field investigation in the Aizawl town- the capital of Mizoram.

The study of the distribution of population in Mizoram reveals that the low density of population is due to the remote location of the state in the north-east corner with a physical setting dominated by mountainous terrain and with a low carrying capacity of land. At the district level, the concentration of population decreases toward the south. Generally, the altitude of the northern part of the state is lower than the

southern part, which contains some flat lands and this probably explains larger concentration of people in the north. Chhimtuipui district had experienced a high density in 1991 as compared to the preceding year. This is perhaps due to the recent migration of the Chakmas from the neighbouring country of Bangladesh into the district as well as due to high average birth rate. At the block level, the study of population distribution reveals striking spatial variation in population concentration. Sangaui block has the lowest population concentration which accounted for less than 2 per cent of the state's total population whereas Tlangnuam block has as high as one-fourth of the state's total population in 1991. In this block, the state's capital Aizawl City is located. The highest density of population is found in Tlangnuam block, and this is due to the inclusion of Aizawl city, the capital of Mizoram and Sairang town while the lowest density of population is in West Bunglemun block.

A study of the changes in the number of rural population in the state as a whole shows a rise in the rural population until 1981 after which it marginally declined. The share of rural population, however, registered a continuous decline over time with the maximum decline confined to the last decade. At the district level, Aizawl district, which supported 71.37 per cent of its population in rural areas in 1981, registered a sharp decline in this proportion in 1991. Less than half of its population lived in rural areas in 1991.

A study of the rural population based on the size of population in rural settlements reveals that in sharp contrast with the other two districts, Chhimtuipui district registered either an increase or the position remained unchanged in all the size classes except in extremely tiny villages (below 50) which decreased in number. This may be related to the smaller or tiny villages merging with other villages or urban centres or due to natural growth of their population. At the block level, the large sized village (above

1000) are few in all blocks. This may be due to the fact that some large sized villages are registered as urban centres by the census in 1981 and 1991.

The urban population continues to be largely confined to the northern part of the state. Around 65 per cent of the urban population is confined to the cluster of six blocks in the north bordering Tripura and Assam plains. It is pertinent to note that the urban development until 1981 had an essentially administrative character. In the period after 1981, while the administrative character continued to dominate, non-administrative reasons seem to be associated with urban growth in the northern part of the state as indicated by the presence of more than one town in these blocks.

The study of the growth of population in Mizoram clearly reveals that the population growth trends in the state level has generally an alteration of ups and downs after every decade in terms of percentage, excepting 1941-1951 and 1951-1961. The growth rates in all the decades have been a positive. During 1911-1921 decade, the population growth rate decreased to 7.90 per cent only, which is due to the natural famine called *Mautam* in 1912 that retarded the progress of population growth. Another declining growth trend was witnessed during 1961-1971 decade. This was probably due to the M.N.F. insurgency. During this period many Mizo youths joined the M.N.F. movement and went underground and hence were not enumerated in the census and many Mizo were killed due to the same movement.

The rural population in Mizoram registered a negative growth rate during the period 1981-1991. The maximum decline took place in Aizawl district, which contains the largest urban centre, i.e. Aizawl City, followed by Lunglei district. On the other hand, the Chhimtuipui district registered a significant rise in its rural population. At the block level, however, the decline was phenomenal in those that contained large

sized urban centres. The peripheral areas, particularly in the western ridge and valley areas as well as in the south experienced large increase in their rural population.

At the village level a little less than one-third inhabited villages have registered a net decline in their population showing massive outmigration from among these villages. On the other hand, a very large population of villages have only marginally added to their total population. This means more than half of all villages have either experienced a decline in their population or added little to their population.

The villages, which have experienced positive as well as negative growth in their population are widespread all over the state indicating a dispersed pattern covering the entire state rather than any specific areas. What is however evident that the villages of negative growth are far more numerous in the interior areas, away from the main arteries of roads and away from the major urban centres.

Almost all the villages having excessive positive growth of the population are generally found along the main arteries of roads and near the urban centres. Villages experiencing excessively negative growth in their population are found in the interior areas away from the main roads and urban centres of the state. Generally both the pattern of the growth are spread almost throughout the state.

The growth of urban population has been extremely high during 1971-1981 period after which there has been a slowing down in the rate in spite of a great multiplicity of towns in the following decade. This indicates addition of smaller size of urban settlements in the 1981-1991 decade. The largest growth in urban population has been witnessed in the northern most district of Aizawl. At the block level, however, the largest increase in urban population has taken place in Khawzawl and North Thingdawl blocks. While the former is characterized by greater agricultural potential the latter is located in the ridge and valley areas.

The differential patterns of population growth in the rural and urban areas unmistakably reveal an intense process of redistribution taking place in the state. The process undoubtedly is linked to a strong stream of rural to urban migration and cannot be merely attributed to differences in natural increase.

The analysis of index of dissimilarity indicates that the overall redistribution of population is not very significant, though there are interesting inter-district variations. It is true that redistribution of population across the districts is only of marginal importance, but is of some consequence when the data is analysed across the developmental blocks. It is likely that the redistribution of population is more intra-district than inter-district. Consequently, the extent of inter-block redistribution is more.

This fact is substantiated by the evidence of a greater redistribution of rural population than the overall. This pattern suggests small distance migration causing redistribution often taking place within an administrative boundary.

The study of structure of rural settlements made an attempt to understand the demographic situation in the rural areas of Mizoram with the assumption that the pattern of urbanization in this fragile eco-system is intricately interwoven with the patterns in rural areas. Since the region experiences little inter-state migration, urbanization process seems to be directly related to the internal redistribution of population as reflected in the transformation of large villages into urban centres as well as migration of rural people into the existing urban centres.

The state as a whole has been experiencing a net decline in the number of inhabited rural settlements over the period of investigation with a corresponding rise in the number of uninhabited or deserted villages. The increase in the number of uninhabited villages is phenomenal in the 1981-1991 decade, a period, which incidentally is characterized by an equally striking rise in the level of urbanization.

However, the extent of rural depopulation is not spatially uniform. Although the increase in uninhabited villages took place uniformly in all areas, the decline in the number of inhabited villages is very high in the northern part of the state whereas the southern part actually witnessed an increase in the number of inhabited villages. This kind of a pattern provides sufficient clue to the merger and/or transformation of many rural settlements into urban centres in the north.

It is interesting to note that the extent of desertion of villages is far more striking in the western ridge and valley areas compared to the eastern highland region which offers marginally better agricultural potential in the few flat lands located in this region. The fact that the blocks located close to the two urban centres namely- Aizawl and Lunglei too contained a large number of uninhabited villages indicate their en masse movement to these large townships. Another significant point that emerges from the study relates to a significant decline in the share of smaller sized settlements. It is quite probable that many small sized settlements have either merged into urban centres or it is these villages which are getting depopulated or they are adding to their population at a faster rate to move into medium sized settlements. On the other hand, a decline in the number of very large sized rural settlements may be due to their attaining urban status.

It is pertinent to note here that the distribution of rural settlements was greatly affected by the efforts to group them in select grouping centres in the wake of M.N.F. led insurgent activity. This effort explains the increase in the number of uninhabited village after 1971. The process continued for quite sometime in spite of the fact that many villagers returned to the remote habitats after the insurgency was contained. It is quite obvious that the western and northern part of the state was much more affected by such desertions of villages of grouping centres. Incidentally these

areas have experienced considerable decline in the number of rural settlements as well as in their population. It is possible to guess a hazard that this politically sponsored redistribution of rural people may have had significant impact in the decline in the small sized settlements as well as providing an impetus for urban growth.

The uninhabited villages are spread all over the state except the eastern mountainous area. Most of them are confined to the western ridge and valley region particularly in the north and south. The uninhabited villages are generally found in the interior areas away from the main arteries of roads and urban centres of the state. But some of the uninhabited villages are also located in the main arteries of roads and close to urban centres. Interestingly, the uninhabited villages are found in group of three or four or even more in close spatial proximity to each other.

The present pattern of distribution of towns is highly dispersed over most parts of the state though the western ridge and valley areas seem to have attracted more towns of varying sizes than the eastern mountainous region. The distribution of towns is unrelated to the factor of altitude. At a very broad level, it may be safely concluded that the growth of urbanization as well as the proliferation in the number of towns is largely governed by non-physical factors. Moreover, regional variation in the ecological and economic potential too do not show any correspondence to the distribution of towns as towns, both large and small, are widely dispersed all over the state. Thus, the distribution of towns does not appear to be related in any significant manner to the economic factors.

It appears that, proliferation in the number of towns is a major cause for the unusual increase in the level of urbanization. But much of this proliferation is taking place through the classification of relatively large sized villages which do not conform to the prescribed criteria adopted by the Indian Census i.e. population size and density.

The great increase in the number of urban settlements has developed a balanced structure of urbanization in the state. The towns are now found in most size classes of population unlike in the past. The structure has a very broad base with large number of lower order towns and a very narrow apex with just a single large-sized town. But primacy of a single town continues to characterize the structure of urbanization as only a few towns, mostly the larger ones, are growing at a faster rate. This is suggestive of the fact that due to historical, political, economic and social reasons, it is these few urban centres which attract the rural people in great numbers and thus may be directly linked to the process of rural depopulation observed in many pockets. As regards the other towns with smaller sizes of population, the growth appears to be based on the natural increase taking place in these towns.

There is little evidence of structural shift in the economy of the people living in urban areas. However, such a shift is clearly visible in the few larger order towns. Urban growth in Mizoram thus appears to be mostly guided by demographic, political and administrative factors.

The study reveals that out of the total migrants of the state, internal migrants constitutes the highest proportion of the migrants. The immigration from the outside the state is of marginal consequence. It is clear that the re-distribution of population is more intra-regional rather than trans-regional. Much of the redistribution of population takes place within the district.

There has been a substantial decrease in the internal migration across the rural areas after 1981. This has been accompanied by an equally striking redistribution of population through an accelerated rural to urban migration. However, the area in Chhimtuipui district appears to be an exception where the population re-distribution continues to be dominantly a rural phenomenon unlike the other two

districts. That the population re-distribution is strongly associated with the growth of urbanization is conclusively proved by the migration data available in Census records.

Much of the population re-distribution is taking place within the district involving short distance migration. Movement involving crossing of district boundaries is highly negligible. By implication, it may be said that the proliferation of urban centres within the districts has been responsible for sudden shifts of rural people from around the urban centres. This fact explains the large-scale desertion of many villages around these urban centres and/or negative growth of population observed in many villages located near the urban areas.

The main reasons of migration continues to be the movement of family though in recent years employment seems to be an increasingly major force in causing migration and population re-distribution. This is true of both rural and urban areas and of all categories of migrants.

The field data generated from sample households in Aizawl revealed that most households contained migrant people though only 11 per cent households fully consisted of migrants. The proportion of migrants from longer distances was more than those who came from nearby areas. The fully migrant households had a much balanced sex-ratio.

An interesting fact about the marital status of the sample households relates to the greater proportion of separated and/or divorced people- a fact of tremendous sociological importance in a tribal dominated area. As expected, the age composition of the fully migrant households is largely in favour of adult and old population. The literacy rate among the migrant segment is much better, but fewer migrants have gone for higher education compared to the non- migrant segment.

Migration to this capital city has been a long drawn process, but there has been an acceleration in the process in the 1980's. Indeed the process to city-ward migration has diminished its strength during the last five years i.e. after 1995.

A great majority of the fully migrant households lived in rented accommodations.

It is interesting that government service appears to be the main attraction for the migrant people. Most of them are employed in group C and D services. Apart from government services, only trade and business absorbs the working force belonging to the migrant people.

Contrary to expectation, the migrant segment retains fewer links with the villages which they left, though many of their nearest relations are left behind. This is what explains their occasional visits during social functions only. Another reason may be the character of Aizawl town, which is only town of significance and size. Moreover, as is already mentioned, migrants to this town come from farther distances and it may be difficult for many to keep continuous links with their villages.

Most of the migrants came to Aizawl when they were young or young adults. A majority of the migrants came from outside rural areas of the state. Few came from outside the state. Employment in government services and business apart from education were found to be the major causes of migration.

It is imperative at this stage to summarize some of the major findings with respect to the problem initially posed. The study provides valuable clues regarding the nature of urban development and redistribution of population. It is clear that Mizoram has experienced phenomenal population redistribution in the two decades of 1971-81 and 1981-91. The population has redistributed itself in a manner that baffles easy explanation, i.e. moving into urban centres in large numbers. This phenomenon is very

strongly evident in the northern two districts than in the south which remains by and large resistant to the phenomenon of population redistribution. The fact that the MNF led insurgent activity which forced the Central Government to resort to Grouping of Villages along the main arteries of the roads was confined to the northern two districts, comes out as a possible explanation to this unprecedented population redistribution. While the grouping exercise was completed by the year 1970, the effect of it has been felt in the subsequent period, the return of many villages to their original sites in mid-seventies notwithstanding. Although the grouping exercise which was primarily intended to combat insurgency was resented by the villagers in the initial period, it seemed to be accepted by a large number of people at a later date which gave a boost to population redistribution and consequent urbanization. Perhaps the advantages of relocation nearer the roads and the facility of many urban amenities in the grouping centres found many relocated people to stick to the newly emerged sites for a final settlement.

Much of the redistribution thus has taken place between the rural to urban areas than across the rural space. The most important aspect of this redistribution is linked to a rural depopulation, desertion and abandonment of villages for an urban location and the smaller, interior villages are the ones which experienced this kind of a redistribution. The earlier pattern of a dispersed population distribution has undergone a substantial transformation to a concentrated pattern having its own consequences in a tribal setting and in a physical setting which is very fragile.

Another interesting aspect of this redistribution refers to the intensity of this process confined to just two decades. It is remarkable that a substantial proportion of people moved out of their original villages within a span of twenty years which has its own socio-economic implications. It is not clear how they sustained themselves in the urban areas. The nature of the smaller order urban areas show that bulk of the working

force is still tied to agriculture indicating a strong agricultural base of the population and continuation of rural life in spite of an urban residence. But the field data from Aizawl town reveals that most of the working force is employed in government services and in business. This means that Government has been active in generation of employment for the redistributed people in the post insurgency period. But it may be noted here that this employment generation cannot continue for very long as the state is precariously dependent on central funding in the absence of sound economic base of the state. This is evident from the recent data on redistribution which reveals that the urban growth has significantly slowed down by the year 2001 and rural to urban migration has declined substantially after 1981.

The most important aspect of the process of redistribution refers to its all-pervasive nature. The population has redistributed from across all the areas and is not confined to any select places, though the intensity is much stronger in the northern part than in the south. Moreover the people have redistributed themselves much more around the major towns than going to far off places. This is why the index of dissimilarity is much higher within the district than across districts. This is not unexpected as the state is characterized by extremely difficult terrain and problems of long distance communication.

The process of urban growth seems to be intricately associated with the process of redistribution of rural population and *visé versa*. There is a distinct declining trend in the process of both urbanization and redistribution and in the years to come it is expected that there shall be stability in the distribution pattern of the population and a consequent slow growth of urban population. The recently concluded Census count of the population in the state too substantiates this point. The process of urban growth in Mizoram seems to have been accelerated by the redistribution of rural people moving

into the urban areas and the entire process is linked to the socio-political changes in the 1970s and 1980s. Once the political turmoil has settled down, both urban development and associated redistribution has come to a sudden stop. The imperatives of containing insurgency necessitated better administrative control that led to proliferation of administrative towns and consequent proliferation in the number of towns. Now that the situation has improved no more redistribution is expected.

All the hypothesis presented in the introductory part of the dissertation have been proved except for the one that the people in the urban areas maintain strong links with the rural areas they left. This aspect could not be conclusively proved from the field data generated in Aizawl. On the contrary, it was found that the migrant segment maintains fewer links with the ancestral villages than expected. This is in spite of the fact that many of them have their blood relations left behind in the villages they left. This deviation can be explained by a reference to the migrants who reported to have come from far off distances and distance appeared to be a major constraint for them to maintain better links. However, it is still expected that the hypothesis may be valid for towns of smaller sizes where agriculture continues to be the dominant economic activity. Lack of time did not permit the testing of the hypothesis in smaller order towns. It is expected that this does not constitute a serious lapse in this research.

This research made an attempt to understand the ongoing process of urban growth in Mizoram that has invited scholarly attention and considered the process of redistribution of population as a necessary concomitant to the process. Some questions have been answered and many remain unanswered while new questions have emerged with regard to both the processes. It is yet not known as to how such a large urban growth has sustained itself and is going to sustain. It is equally intriguing as to know the economic opportunities available to the people who have come to the urban

areas. Has it increased the disparities among the people? A major research problem that lies ahead relates to privatization particularly to urban land. These and many other research questions may be meaningfully taken up as problems of further research.

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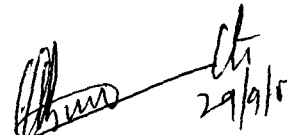
This is being submitted to the North-Eastern Hill University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in GEOGRAPHY.


(A.C. MOHAPATRA)
(Head)

Department of Geography
North-Eastern Hill University
Shillong - 795014.


(D.K. NAYAK)
(Supervisor)

Dept. of Geography
North-Eastern Hill University


(B. VANLALTHLANA)
(Candidate)

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(B. VANLALTHLANA)

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Generalities:

The mutual relationship between change in population distribution and its determinants and consequences on one hand, and social and economic development on the other, is becoming an increasingly important area of concern for researchers, policy makers and planners alike.¹ The redistribution of population has resulted mainly from differential natural increase since external migration was of minor importance compared to overall growth. Nevertheless, some migration flows do take place both within and without the region.² The south Asian sub- continent long experienced virtually uninterrupted demographic mobility, which was reflected in the almost unchecked transfer and resettlement of population in a number of places. Such population mobility was due to both environmental and socio- economic causes.³

A remarkable fact about India's population is that it continues to subsume within it a fairly sizeable tribal component. The tribal segment is far from homogeneous and displays a fairly high degree of diversity in its socio-cultural traits and the stage of social evolution. An element of commonality is, however, seen in the tribal tendency to cluster and concentrate in a few enclaves in the hilly and the forested part of the country. The areas of tribal concentration have historically remained away from the main foci of population agglomeration and seem to have suffered from varying degrees of isolation. The restricted nature of interaction with the non-tribal groups and the operation of endogenetic processes of change at low key have permitted the continuation of the

¹ Kosinski, L. A. and K.M. Elahi (1991), *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Rawat Publications, New Delhi, p.

² *Ibid.*, p. 3.

³ Elahi, K. M. and Sabiha Sulten (1991), "Population Redistribution and Settlement Change in South Asia: A Historical Evaluation", in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, L. A. Kosinski and K. M. Elahi (Edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi, p.15

old tribal order in varying degree of intensity. While anthropologists emphasise that the spatial pattern of population in the sub-continent suggest 'a bridge and buffer role' which the tribes were supposed to play separating politically organized territories from one another, the level of economic development witnessed in the tribal enclaves does not suggest their deeper involvement in this process of interaction.

A very large concentration of scheduled tribes is seen on the north-eastern periphery of India. "Nestled within the complex of the sub-Himalayan ranges, the Indo-Myanmar hills of Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, and the erosion surfaces of the Meghalayan plateau, the tribes of North-East India have a world of their own. Having lived in the marchland between India and China and in the triangle where the Indian and the Chinese worlds meet, they have picked up the impression that they belong to none. The boundaries of the British Empire as they were defined in the north-east left the tribal question as an irrelevant adjunct of the territorial question"⁴.

The region as whole remained awfully backward both economically and technologically. The ethnic situation prevailing in the region did not permit, in the past; adequate interaction among various communities who lived in their little habitats often characterized by knife-edged boundaries between them. Low density of population coupled with subsistence, but often self-sufficient agriculture did not necessitate much of a population transfer within the region or to outside. The ecology of tropical rainforest in most parts permitted the people to eke out a living in close association with the nature eventhough occasional food scarcity could be overcome by a combination of shifting cultivation on manageable slopes and collection of food freely available in the forest and water. Such an economy did not permit much of a difference in population growth in the

⁴ Ahmad, A, 1983, "Education of Scheduled Tribes: Some Aspects of Inequality", workshop on Indicators of Equity in Education. Oct. 24-28, NIEPA (Mimeo), New Delhi

tribal areas nor was any urban development consequent upon migration and/ or industrialization.

The situation underwent drastic changes after Independence. Not only the geo-political conditions were different from the pre-Independence era, the imperatives of administration and slow infiltration of democratic process exposed these communities to a variety of influences. The period also witnessed substantial rise in the population on account of death control measures, which were available to the people through improved health infrastructure. There were phenomenal changes in improving transport and communication network. Extraordinary increase in population rendered the earlier economic practices largely unviable. Hence began a phase of population redistribution and urbanization played a key role in this process of redistribution of otherwise land-bounded people. However, it must be noted that this process of redistribution was more intra-regional and tribe specific than otherwise.

Urbanization in Mizoram- a state in North-Eastern India is a recent phenomenon guided mostly by socio-political considerations rather than economic ones.⁵ Urbanization and Urban development has been perhaps most spectacular and remarkable in this tiny hilly state. Till the year 1961, there has been only one urban centre in the state i.e. the capital town of Aizawl. This solitary town contained only 5.4 per cent of urban population of the whole state, which was far below the national average (i.e.18.4 per cent). In 1971 however the share of urban population increased in the state to 11.4 per cent. By the year 1981, Mizoram's urban population rose to a staggering 24.7 per cent of its total population which was a little higher than the national

⁵ Kumar, G. (1993), "Urban Growth of Aizawl", in *Hill Cities of Eastern Himalayas- Ethnicity, Land Relations and Urbanization*, Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi, p. 122.

average of 23.3 per cent. The latest census (1991) enumerated only a little less than half of the total population (i.e. 46.2 per cent) in the state living in urban areas. The level of urbanization picked up a higher pitch particularly during the 1981-1991 decade.

In any case, degree of urbanization in a region does provide a fair measure of its social and economic progress. Urban development as the cumulative historical evidences suggest, takes place as a consequence of structural transformation of the economy from subsistent peasant based production to a surplus generating economy wherein a substantial segment of the working population gets engaged in non-agricultural pursuits. The degree and functional quality of towns get closely associated with the stage of socio-economic development. The geographical patterning of urbanization therefore is seen as a vital clue to the understanding of the degree of socio-economic transformation in any region.⁶

However, this generalization needs to be treated with caution. There are evidences, particularly in the under-developed countries, which suggest that urbanization may not truly reflect the socio-economic transformation in any region if it tends to be the unrelated to the regional economy and is not accompanied by structural changes in the economy.⁷

1.2 Statement of the Problem:

Considerable movement of population, both spontaneous and directed is taking place in many third world countries. This mobility which leads to changes in the distribution of population and the patterns of settlements, has recently attracted the

⁶ Nayak, Debendra Kumar et. al. (1995), "Pattern of Urbanization in the North-East", in *Urbanization and Development in North-East India: Trends and Policy Implications*, J. B. Ganguly (edited), Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, p. 1.

⁷ *Ibid*, p.4

attention, not only of scholars, but also of planners and decision makers who feel obliged to intervene in the process of population redistribution.

Population redistribution is a continuous process in response to voluntary decisions of the population itself to relocate or due to definite government policies directed towards spatial shifting of population for the purpose of development or in response to specific socio-economic or political demands. Redistribution of population also occurs due to differential growth rate arising out of fertility or mortality differences and/ or migration. The factor of migration is perhaps the most important determinant which may be voluntary or induced causing major shifts in population.

The present research is an attempt to understand population redistribution and concomitant urbanization in Mizoram- a tiny state in the eastern margins of the Indian sub-continent located in the eastern offshoot of the Himalayas in the Indo-Myanmar borderland. The state of late has been characterized by unprecedented growth in urban population indicating acceleration in the process of population redistribution. This redistribution, however, is taking place in the state unaccompanied by any noticeable transformation in the rural socio-economic order or significant transfers of people from outside the state. There is hardly any indication of a significant difference in fertility or mortality patterns across the rural and urban areas. The fact that a corresponding depopulation in the rural areas and changes in the spatial patterns of rural settlements also accompany the unprecedented rise in urban population is sufficient to indicate the process of internal redistribution of population- either voluntary or involuntary.

It is abundantly clear that the redistribution of population is taking place from the rural areas to the urban locations leading to a fast transformation of the geographical patterning of population distribution. The population is increasingly getting

LOCATION OF MIZORAM

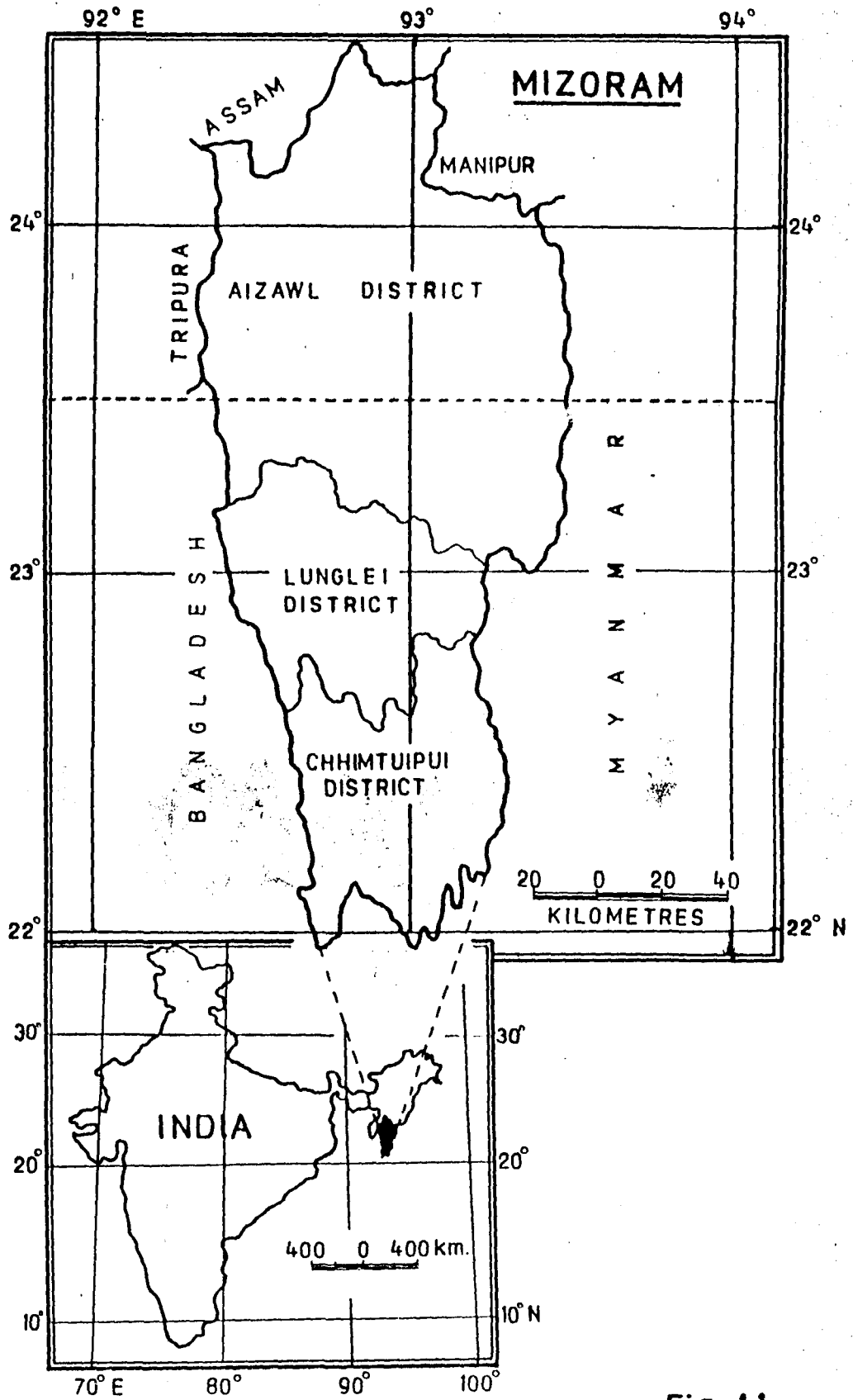


Fig. 1.1

concentrated in a few urban centres accompanied by dwindling and desertion of many rural habitats. This kind of development is contrary to the understanding of a population distribution so characteristic features of hilly economies with low agricultural potential supporting a dispersed population in tiny hamlets.

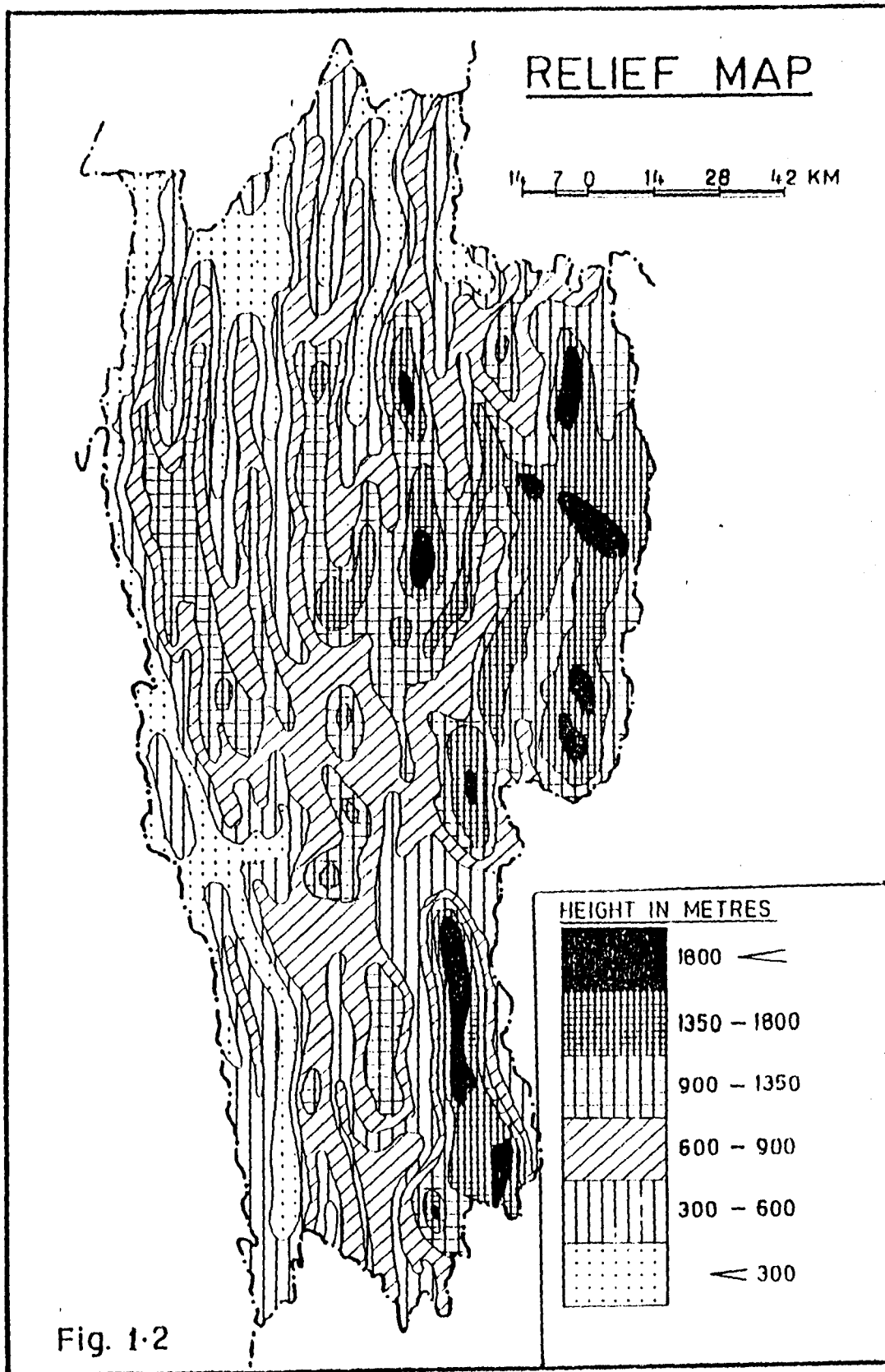
It is imperative to get an insight into the causes of this transfer of people to urban areas and the possible consequences of this redistribution particularly in the context of the low level of socio-economic development of the region concerned. An objective analyses of this tendency for redistribution may invite suitable policy interventions to attain a desirable goal of achieving socio-economic development.

1.3 Choice of the Study Area:

As mentioned earlier the study area (fig. 1.1) is chosen primarily due to its unexpected level of urban growth achieved in this hilly and tribal region.

Mizoram is located in the north-eastern part of the country. It is a part of the Himalayan borderland in the Indo-Myanmar marchland. The mountains of Mizoram are infact an extension of the Himalayas with modifications introduced in the erosional features by much heavier rainfall. The Indo-Myanmar hill ranges are, therefore, much less imposing as a relief feature. The physiography of Mizoram is very rugged and consists of sinuous mountain ridges running in a north-south direction. Parts of these rises to an altitude of over 6,000 feet and fast flowing rivers run between the ridges with intervening parallel valleys. Most of them are unnavigable and may rise rapidly by about forty feet at any time during the five monsoon months. This is a season of prolonged and heavy rain.⁸

⁸ Lloyd, J. Meirion (1991), *History of the Church in Mizoram (Harvest in the Hills)*, Gospel Centenary Series No. 1, Synod Publication Board for the Gospel Centenary Committee, Mizoram Presbyterian Church, Aizawl, p. 2



The physical set-up (fig. 1.2) of Mizoram is composed predominantly of Mountainous terrain of tertiary origin, but of considerably low relief and therefore are less imposing. The mountain ranges are aligned in the north-south direction in parallel series. The ranges are separated from one another by narrow deep river valleys. The elevation ranges from 40 metres at Bairabi to 2,157 metres at Phawngpui. There are only few and small patches of flat lands, which are mostly intermont-plains.⁹

The terrain of Mizoram is young and immature. It shows prominent relief features with steep slopes, and is still undergoing denudation in response to various exogenetic (isostatic gravity) processes. Since the terrain is young, the geomorphic features of the state do not show much diversity in the formations of landforms. But one distinct feature observed in Mizoram is that the western slopes of the mountain ranges generally have higher degree of slopes. Most of the landforms observed are erosional in nature. The most dominant process in evolution of these forms is the action of running water, and is operating from upper tertiary period onwards, till today.¹⁰

The physiography of Mizoram can be broadly divided into the following units (fig. 1.3).

Mountainous terrain area :

The eastern half of the state can be classified as Mountainous terrain province. The overall relief in this province is much higher and is characterized by much steeper slopes than in the western half. The altitudes here range between 400 and

⁹ Pachuau, Lalrintluanga (1991), *Population Structure and Settlement Patterns in Mizoram- A Geographical Analysis*, Ph.D. Thesis (Unpublished); Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong, p. 31

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 31

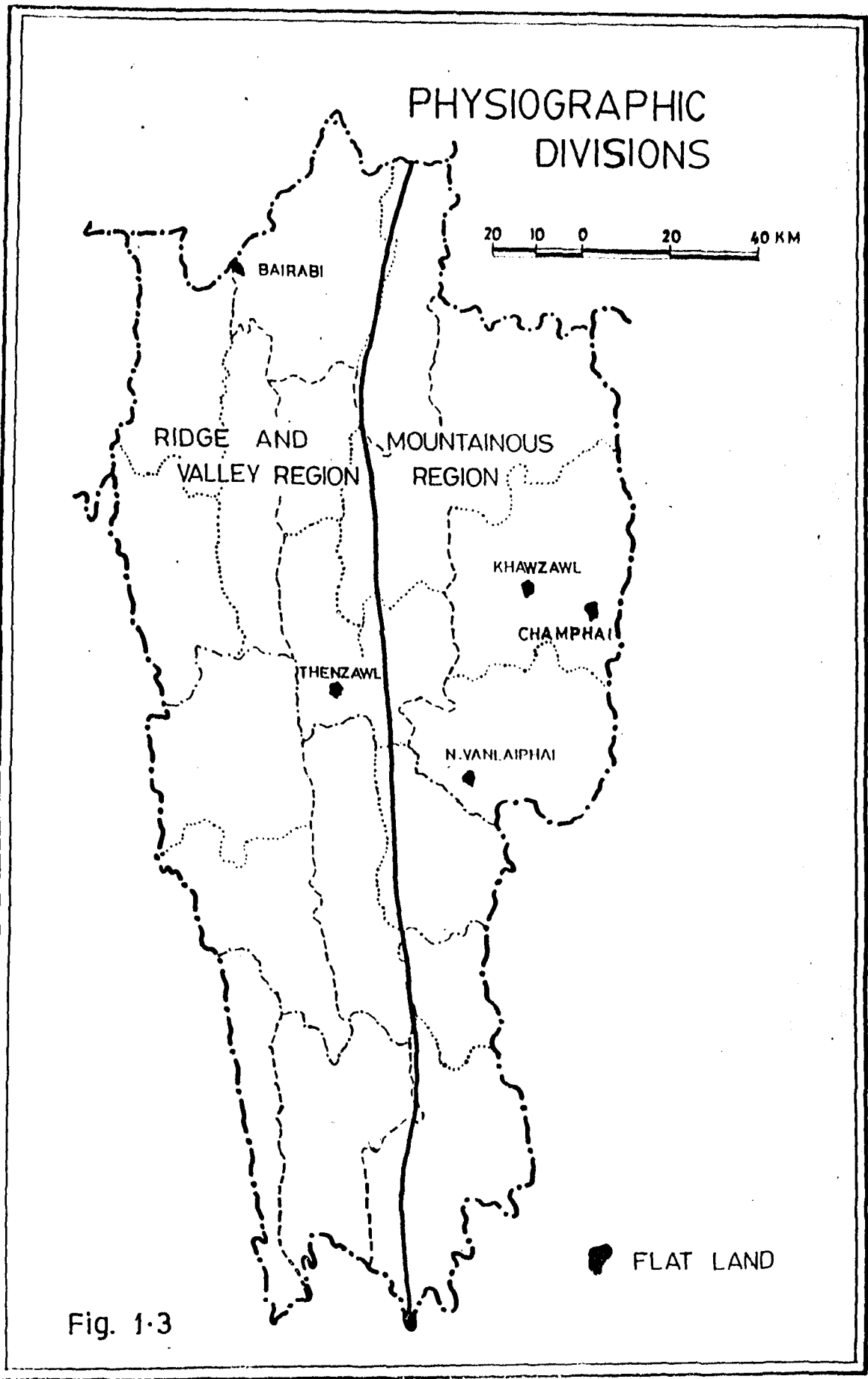


Fig. 1-3

2,157 metres. The high points are generally over 1,000 metres. Average elevation in this province is in the order of 1,500 metres.¹¹

Ridge and Valley area :

The western part of the state depicts characteristic ridge and valley type of topography. Nearly half of the area of the state is covered by this areas and the altitude varies between 40-1550 meters with an average elevation of 700 meters. The relief is low in the western part and increases towards the east. The hill trend is approximately NNW-SSE to NNE-NNE direction, higher in the central part and tapering towards north and south. The slopes are generally steep and elevation differs between valley floor and hill top and is in the order of 100-200 meters. The conspicuous mountain ranges in this area are Mamit and Hachhek in the western part of Aizawl district¹².

The economy of the Mizo society is by and large agricultural. Cultivation constitutes the mainstay of the people. Besides this, cottage and small-scale industries, fishing and rearing of domestic animals formed a part of the Mizo's economic life. In fact, the Mizo economy in olden days was basically primitive and rural and was simply to meet the demands of the basic needs of day-to-day life¹³. The economy of the Mizo is dominated by subsistence agricultural of shifting cultivation in the hill slopes and settled cultivation in the limited river valleys.

In Mizoram, largest group of the inhabitant is the Mizo tribe. The Mizo tribe includes several clans like Lusei, Hmar, Ralte, Lai and Mara etc. "They are highly cultured and sociable people without class or caste distinctions and have a unique and

¹¹ *Ibid*, pp. 31-34

¹² *Ibid*, p. 42

¹³ Nag, Chitta Ranjan (1993), *The Mizo Society in Transition*, Published by Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, p. 22

colourful culture, which set them apart from the others"¹⁴. There are also a few non-tribal groups, which have come from outside the state. The state supports only 691 persons belonging to the scheduled caste population out of a total population of 6,89,756 persons. The tribal population consists of 6,53,565 persons (i.e. 94.75 per cent). The main language spoken by the vast majority of the population of the state is Mizo language although certain dialects are also spoken in specific areas. There is no other common language in Mizoram. The official languages are Mizo and English¹⁵.

The British annexed the territory in 1891 and divided the area into two districts which were later amalgamated to form one district called Lushai Hills District in 1898 and was made a part of Assam. In 1954, the district was given a new District Council of its own under a new name Mizo District which resulted in the later years in the abolition of the traditional chieftainship. With the implementation of the North Eastern Reorganization Act (1971) the Mizo District was renamed 'Mizoram'¹⁶. The advent of Christianity in Mizoram took place in January 1894 under the aegis of the Wales Missionaries- J.H. Lorrain and F. W. Savidge. Till the advent of British, the Mizo had no written language. In 1895, J.H. Lorrain and F. W. Savidge reduced the hitherto unwritten Lushai language to writing in Roman Script. The growth of Lushai literature since then is admirable. They also established schools. About 1902, Colonel J. Shakespeare published a Magazine called *Mizo leh Vai Chanchin Bu* in the Lushai language to acquaint the people with some world news and also the order of the government. In 1898, J.H. Lorrain and F.W. Savidge prepared "Grammar and Dictionary

¹⁴ *Mizoram in Brief* (1992), Issued by Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Mizoram, p. 8

¹⁵ *Ibid*, p. 4

¹⁶ *Ibid*, pp. 1-2

of the Lushai language”¹⁷. The advent of Christianity had significant impact on the socio-cultural life of the Mizo people. Their mode of life was changed and their social structure was completely transformed. The Christianity spread education in the state, gave them lessons of love, sympathy and a sense of value. Christianity taught the tribes the value of peace, tolerance, co-existence and universal brotherhood. It paved the way for modernity in Mizoram. As a result, the life style, the way of thinking and doing, were radically metamorphosed. Their mental horizon widened by its teaching and the superstitious faith in spirit vanished. In fact, the Christianity made them adaptable to western culture. Its impact on socio-economic activity is also significant. A sense of individualism and individualistic approach to life was inspired by Christianity¹⁸.

As a tribe they have undergone what is tantamount to a complete conversion within a space of half a century. Yet the change does not correspond to the well-known Mass Movement characterizing many villages in South India. Nor the changes came about pressures from above, e.g. chief or village elder. On the contrary, the chief was often the last to be converted. According to the Mizo themselves they are now 95 per cent Christian. Animism their old religion is virtually extinct. From being totally illiterate they have become the second most literate state in the whole of India¹⁹.

Besides Christians, there are also some religious groups like Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains etc. There are 4,62,246 literate persons in Mizoram out of the total population of 6,86,217 in 1991 and the literacy rate of 81.23 per cent is the second highest in the country.

¹⁷ *Mizoram District Gazetteers* (1989), Published by Director of Art and Culture, Government of Mizoram, pp. 48-70

¹⁸ Singh, S.N. (1994), *Mizoram- Historical, Geographical, Social, Economic, Political and Administrative*, Mittal Publications, New Delhi, p. 60.

¹⁹ Lloyd, J. Meiroin (1991), *Opcit* p. ii

Mizo society is a well-knit society. There is no caste or class system. The community life is comprehensive and free from any rank or status consciousness. They participate in all social or religious function without any consideration of social hierarchy. The festivals have promoted community feeling and have helped in influencing the altitude of the Mizo people. Every festival is accompanied with dance and music that is the symbol of their love and fellow feeling. The community feasts and festivals have widened the boundary of community life²⁰. The Mizo code of ethics moved round *Tlawmngaihna*, an untranslatable term meaning; on the part of a man to be hospitable, kind, unselfish, courageous and helpful to others. *Tlawmngaihna* to a Mizo stands for that compelling moral force which finds expression in self-sacrifice for service of others. It is the core of their philosophy of life. Certain practical principles have been evolved in Mizo society involving among others, voluntary works called *Hnatlang*. The same spirit of *Hnatlang* punctuated with *Tlawmngaihna* enjoined the Mizo to participate and render all possible helps whenever there is an occasion of death or marriage or community feast in the village²¹.

The region has experienced large-scale violence and the problems of insurgency in the past. This has resulted in a restricted interaction with the rest of the country as reflected in its social composition, which is, by and large, of a monolithic nature. Tribal institutions remain more or less intact, though it has had to cope with the problems of insurgency and revolts against any possible external impacts. However, recent years have witnessed a relative peace and increased support from the Central Government for rapid infrastructural development of this politically volatile region. Grouping of villages were introduced under the provision of the Defence of India

²⁰ Singh, S.N. (1994), *Opcit* pp. 60 – 61

²¹ Mizoram in Brief (1992), *Opcit* p. 8.

Rule, 1962 and the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1953. It has four distinct categories. The first category of grouping was called Protected and Progressive Villages introduced in 1967. It consisted of 106 villages, which were grouped together in 18 grouping centres. The second category was carried out in 1969 and was called New Grouping centres. It involved the shifting of about 184 villages and grouped together into 40 New Grouping Centres. The third category of grouping was called Voluntary Grouping Centres, which was ordered in 1970. These involved the shifting of 110 villages and were grouped together into 26 centres. The fourth and last category of grouping was called Extended Loop Area, which was ordered in 1970. It involved the shifting of 63 villages and grouped together into 17 grouping centres. Grouping of villages roughly involved 75 per cent of the population of Mizoram. Of the 764 villages in rural areas, 516 villages were evacuated and grouped together into 110 grouping centres. Grouping of villages was more extensively carried out in Aizawl district and Lunglei district than in Chhimituipui district. This was mainly due to the less active movement of the Mizo National Front (M.N.F.) Volunteers in Chhimituipui district. Thus, after normalcy of the condition, some of them had been re-established as *Thlawhbawks*, at their original place or villages. This clearly shows the inability of many of the grouping centres to afford large population, and more than half of the grouped population had already gone back to their original village sites.

Mizoram is an agricultural state and more than half of its population is engaged in agricultural activity. In 1971, as much as 83.53 per cent of the main workers was engaged in cultivation. However, in 1981 and 1991, the proportion of cultivators in this state registered a decline to 70.63 per cent and 60.89 per cent respectively. The proportion of cultivators among the main workers in Mizoram has declined substantially since 1971. This is indicative of a significant structural change in Mizo economy and

society. Interestingly, these changes are coterminous with unprecedented rise in the proportion of urban population and great proliferation in the number of towns in Mizoram. The increase in working population generally in non-agricultural sector indicates a greater diversification of the Mizo economy of the state. The proportion of non-agricultural working population increased from 15.78 per cent in 1971 to 34.13 per cent in 1991. The change is much faster than such changes in the country as a whole.

Distribution of population in Mizoram is closely controlled by physical, socio-cultural and demographic factors. The state supports as many as 6,89,756 persons as per 1991 census. The rural settlements in Mizoram support 3,71,810 persons and 3,17,946 persons now live in urban areas according to 1991 census figures. Bulk of the population i.e. 4,78,465 persons is concentrated in Aizawl district alone accounting for nearly 70 (69.37) per cent of the total population of the state. Lunglei district supports 16.15 per cent while Chhimtuipui has a share of 14.48 per cent of the state's population. This indicates that the concentration of population at the district level decreases toward the south.

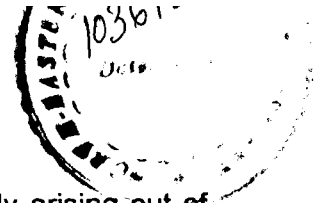
1.4 Objectives:

The following broad objectives are placed before the research:

- (i) to get an insight into the differential growth rates of population in the rural and urban areas with a specific reference to rural-to-urban migration
- (ii) to examine the changes in the rural population through an understanding of the changes in the rural settlement structure
- (iii) to analyze broad trends in the patterns of urbanization, and
- (iv) to identify the causes and consequences of the redistribution of population in Mizoram.

1.5 Hypothesis:

The broad hypotheses of this research may now be stated as follows:



A. Redistribution of population in Mizoram is primarily arising out of mass transfer of rural people into urban areas.

(i) Redistribution of population within the rural space is of marginal importance.

(ii) Likewise, redistribution of population within the urban space is also of marginal importance.

B. Redistribution of population in Mizoram results in a restructuring of the rural settlement patterns.

(i) Rural settlements of small population size located in areas of low agricultural potential are far more likely to be depopulated leading to a decline in the proportion of smaller order settlements.

(ii) Villages located in spatial proximity to larger order urban centre get deserted in favour of an urban location.

C. A large chunk of the urban residents maintains strong socio - economic links with the rural areas they have left.

1.6 Data Base:

Much of the data required for this research is obtained from secondary sources particularly those published by successive census enumeration.

Census publications pertaining to population data are used to analyse patterns in the distribution and growth of population at district, block and village level. Census enumeration on internal migration published in the form of migration tables will constitute a major data source for analyzing rural to rural, and rural to urban stream of migration.

Another important source of data is National Sample Survey data pertaining to fertility and mortality behavior. There is a wealth of demographic data pertaining to fertility and mortality behavior of Mizoram population contained in National

family health survey (1992-1993) by International Institute for Population Sciences, which has been profitably utilized as a data source for the present research.

In order to get an insight on the past population distribution (prior to 1961) in Mizoram, help has been also be sought (apart from census) from published books, articles and Gazetteers.

Apart from the secondary sources, primary source of data consists of information collected from sample households residing in an urban area i.e. Aizawl through a structured questionnaire. Such information pertains to their economic structure and links with the rural areas.

1.7 Methodology:

The methodology adopted for the present research is outlined below:

- i) The study is confined to the administrative boundary of Mizoram as defined by the survey of India.
- ii) The analysis is confined mostly to a period between 1961 and 1991. The choice of the period is based on convenience of data availability as well as for reasons that the urban growth picked up its momentum only during this period as a consequence of population redistribution.
- iii) Patterns of population distribution has been analysed at different levels of spatial aggregation, i.e., at district and block levels. The distribution of population has been disaggregated for rural and urban population separately. Concentration index and density measures are used to show spatial patterns that are cartographically represented by choropleth maps as well as other suitable techniques.
- iv) The redistribution of population is analysed by a reference to the changing patterns of population concentration at different levels of spatial aggregation during the period 1961-1991 and with the help of index of dissimilarity as defined by one

half of the sum of absolute differences in the proportion of population residing in all districts/ development blocks- between two censuses²³.

v) The rate of change in rural population has been analysed at district/ development block levels by measuring it in terms of absolute change as well as through different measures of population growth. The rates of population change has been cartographically represented to identify areas of declining population.

vi) Changes in the structure of rural settlements are analysed by a specific reference to the changes in the size distribution of rural settlements during the period of 1961-1991.

vii) An attempt has been made to identify the spatial patterns in the distribution of rural settlements, which were depopulated or deserted during the period of investigation. The distribution of such villages shall be compared with (i) locational characteristics (ii) period of M.N.F led insurgency.

viii) The redistributational tendency in the population is further examined by selecting rural settlements around major urban centres and measuring the change in the population size in such villages.

ix) Structure of urban settlements has been examined by analyzing changes in the population size of individual towns and cities over the period of investigation.

x) Migration data are analysed at development block level by a reference to the proportion of migrants in the rural to rural and to urban population.

²³ Abayasekara, A.W.A.D.G. (1991), "Population Growth and Redistribution in Sri Lanka, 1901-1981", in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, L.A. Kosinski and K.M. Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi, p. 139-154

xi) Causes and consequences of redistribution of population are examined by field investigation and by eliciting responses from individual households in a selected urban centre by a structured questionnaire.

1.8 Organization of the Manuscript:

The manuscript is organized into eight broad chapters.

The first chapter outlines the design of the research.

The second chapter deals with the spatial patterns in distribution of population at the different levels such as the state, districts and blocks levels. The distribution of population is also disaggregated for rural and urban population separately, and also at different levels of spatial aggregation such as the state, district and block.

The third chapter deals with the spatial patterns in population growth at different the state, district and block level. The growth of population is also disaggregated for rural and urban population separately, and also at different levels of spatial aggregation such as the state, districts and blocks levels.

The fourth chapter deals with the structure of rural settlements at different levels of spatial aggregation i.e. state, district and block levels.

The fifth chapter is devoted to an analysis of the structure of urbanization.

The sixth chapter deals with the analyses of rural to urban migration in Mizoram.

The seventh chapter includes the analyses of the population redistribution in Mizoram and its causes and consequences.

The final chapter provides a brief summary of the major findings of the research.

1.9 An Overview of Literature:

Studies on redistribution of population are of recent origin and the available literatures in this field are rather few. However, much of the studies are confined to areas outside the northeast. Secondly, such studies are inherent in analyses pertaining to population distribution itself. A large number of studies on population redistribution relate to displacement of population due to various developmental activities in India as well as in whole of South Asia.

Leszek. A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi ²⁴ focus on three aspects of population redistribution in the region: internal migration (considered in absolute numbers but significant in comparison with overall population change), the urbanization process (in which migration is quite important), and governments' perceptions and policies. K. Maudood Elahi and Sabiha Sultana ²⁵ discussed major and minor population shifts in South Asia in different historical periods: pre-British, British and post-Independence. The second part of their paper deals with general patterns of population redistribution on each country of the South Asia. Ronald Skeldon ²⁶ observed that the migration in South Asia is concerned with contemporary mobility of population as reflected in population census and survey reaching back to the 1950s. The discussion is divided into five sections: overall spatial patterns of flows, rural transfers, movement to

²⁴ Kosinski, Leszek A. and K. Maudood Elahi, (1991), "Introduction" in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Leszek A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi. Pp. 3-14.

²⁵ Elahi, K. Maudood and Sabiha Sultana, (1991), "Population Redistribution and Settlement Change in South Asia: A Historical Evaluation", in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Leszek A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi. Pp. 15-35

²⁶ Skeldon, Ronald, (1991), "Migration in South Asia: An Overview" in *Population and Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Leszek A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi. Pp. 37-122

urban destinations, circulation and characteristics of migrants. The author expects migration to be of great importance in the coming decades.

C. B. Shrestha,²⁷ analysed general trends in change and redistribution of population in Nepal for the country as a whole and for the main ecological zones. According to him international and internal migration, both permanent and seasonal, have left their impact upon the pattern and density of settlement and the ethnic mix and social character of the population in various parts of Nepal. Abayasekara²⁸ pointed out that the population of Sri Lanka increased substantially during the eight decades of this century mainly due to rapid decline in mortality. Colonial development of the wet zone, where foreign controlled plantations were located, has since been replaced by an emphasis on the dry zone where a number of development projects were initiated by the government. Past migration trends resulted in a complex ethnic composition of population, which is discussed in the latter part of the paper.

R. S. Gunawardena²⁹ discussed various population related policies and their impact in the paper on "Evolution of Population Policies in Sri Lanka". Some of these policies had a definite spatial bias and population redistribution resulted from them. The author focused on the resettlement of the dry zone, accelerated urbanization, and migration of the Indian Tamils, and general policies affecting fertility and mortality

²⁷ C.B. Shrestha, (1991), "Trends of the Redistrubution of Population in Nepal" in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Leszek A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi. Pp. 123-138

²⁸ Abayasekara, (1991), "Population Growth and Redistribution in Sri Lanka, 1901-1981" in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Leszek A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi. pp. 139-154

²⁹ Gunawardena, R.S. (1991), "Evolution of Population Policies in Sri Lanka" in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Leszek A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi. Pp. 155-168

are also deal with. P. Puvanarajam³⁰ focuses the level of urbanization in Sri Lanka as very uneven with the large metropolies of Colombo coexisting with a predominantly rural population. Urban growth has continued and the period of 1953-71 was particularly conspicuous. During the 1970s, the process of urbanization slowed down, undoubtedly under the impact of various rural development schemes. According to him the spatial pattern of economic opportunities will affect population distribution in future. Qazi Shakil Amad³¹ discussed the size, character and distribution of population in Pakistan and held the view that it was very much influenced by the 1947 Partition of the subcontinent. This paper deals with population trends in Pakistan and discusses the impact of the early refugee influx as well as of internal migration and urbanization of the country during the three recent decades.

According to Richard Rhoda³² the process of urbanization in the third world countries is linked with the processes giving rise to spatial variation in the levels of development which are commonly referred to as 'polarized development'. He further said that migration forms an important link between these spatial theories and polarized development.

A.K. Baggchi³³ observed that the growth of towns and the growth of the economy (tertiary sector) have gone hand in hand in many third world countries. The changes of the economy have played an important role in the growth of urban centres.

³⁰ Puvanarajam, P. (1991), "Urbanization and Development Strategies in Sri Lanka" in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Leszek A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi. Pp.- 169-184

³¹ Ahmad, Qazi Shakil, (1991), "Some Aspects of Population Redistribution in Pakistan : 1951 - 1981" in *Population Redistribution and Development in South Asia*, Leszek A. Kosinski and K. Maudood Elahi (edited), Rawat Publications, New Delhi. Pp. 185-190

³² Rhoda, Richard, "Viewing Third World Development in the Context of Geographic Theory".

³³ Baggchi, Amiya Kumar, (1982), *The Political Economy of Underdevelopment*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Richard Hay, JR ³⁴ described two patterns with regard to urbanization: one is a period of rapid socio-economic change, which has been objectified in the build environment of today's urban society and their constituent cities. The other is the process of urbanization that denotes a complex interplay of socio-economic, political, technological, geographical and cultural factors. He further said that the variations in the level and growth of urbanization and economic development are strongly related to cross sectional and historical variations in the socio-economic development of the world system.

Mc Gee ³⁵ after examining the traditional theories concerning the nature and functions of rural to urban migration stated that a more fruitful approach to explore the impact of the penetration of the world capitalist system rests upon the pattern of migration in that part of the world. He developed a number of categories of migration from which he built several models of alternative development.

According to L.P. Vidyarthi and B.K. Rai ³⁶ the process of urbanization and industrialization were inter-linked together. Chotanagpur according to them has been in the grip of an Industrial Revolution, and this had led to a too rapid urbanization, comparatively in a short span of time, leading this region to an 'industry-based urban explosion'. Mahesh Chand and Puri ³⁷ discussed the process of urbanization in India as due to the migration with special emphasis on rural to urban migration, and also the

³⁴ J.R., Richard Hay, (1979), "Patterns of Urbanization and Socio-Economic Development in the Third World : An Overview", *Third World Urbanization*, Janet Abu-Lughod et.al. (edited), Methuen, New York, pp. 71-101.

³⁵ Gee, T.G. Mc (1979), "Rural-Urban Mobility in South and South East Asia. Different Formulations ... Different Answers?" in *Third World Urbanization*, Janet Abu-Lughod et.al. (edited), Methuen, New York, pp.196-212.

³⁶ Vidyarthi, L.P., and Binay Kumar Rai (1985), *The Tribal Culture of India*, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi.

³⁷ Chand, Mahesh and Vinay Kumar Puri (1983), *Regional Planning in India*, Allied Publishers Ltd., New Delhi.

relationship between urbanization and economic development. Victor Petrov ³⁸ examined the urbanization in India as depending on the socio-economic system of society and the level and the rates of its development. The urbanization is inter-linked with the process of the changing of the economic structure of the society from agricultural labour to non-agricultural labour. Urbanization in India according to him is connected with the development of capitalism.

Pariyaram M. Chacko ³⁹ discussed the process of urbanization in North-Eastern Region of India as based on the better economic, literacy and migration. He also emphasised the role of administration, education and also migration from rural to urban areas. P.S. Datta ⁴⁰ examined the emergence of urban settlements in Arunachal Pradesh as linked up with the process of administrative evolution. Wherever administrative centres were established a push towards these areas away from traditional village settings was available. As such the so-called urban settlements in Arunachal are basically administrative from the functional point of view than commercial or otherwise.

Debendra Kumar Nayak, Sukla Chakravorty and Subrata Chakravorty ⁴¹ have pointed out that the pattern of urbanization in the North Eastern region presents a paradoxical situation. While the hilly areas, with their quasi-subsistent tribal economies have been going through the phase of an urban explosion in the recent years, the valley areas having surplus producing peasant economy have been experiencing stagnation in

³⁸ Petrov, Victor (1985), *India-Spotlight on Population*, Progress Publishers, Moscow.

³⁹ Chako, Pariyam M (1993), "Urban Studies: An over view", in *Hill Cities of Eastern Himalayas- Ethnicity, Land Relations and Urbanization*, A.C. Sinha et.al. (edited), Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi. Pp. 23-37.

⁴⁰ Dutta, P.S. (1993), "Urban Experience of Arunachal at Itanagar", in *Hill Cities of Eastern Himalayas- Ethnicity, Land Relations and Urbanization*, A.C. Sinha et. al. (edited), Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi. Pp. 195-201.

⁴¹ Nayak, Debendra Kumar et. al. (1995), *Op cit.* Pp. 1-14.

respect of the growth of urban areas. P.R. Bhattacharjee ⁴² in his paper shows that in the initial phase inter-state migration of population acted as the exogenous impetus for the urbanization process in the North Eastern region. Of late, however, the endogenous factors of urban growth, i.e., natural growths of urban population, increased flow of intra-state rural population, are becoming more significant in contributing to the pace of urban growth.

B.S. Butola ⁴³ has noted that the development of the modern urban centres as the process of the plunder of the rural areas which has increased manifold. Urbanization in the region was introduced by the British to promote the colonial interests and they were not only successful in doing so but they also succeeded in creating an urban structure that would always remain active in reproducing the same relations. He further said that the hypertropic growth of the service sector activities is another characteristic feature of the urban centres in the region, and almost all the towns have specialization in the export of the primary products of the light branches of industries.

Madhurya Prasad Bezbaruah⁴⁴ observes that the low level of urbanization and the industrial and economic backwardness of the region can be taken as a blessing in disguise for launching development programmes to achieve balanced expansion of rural and urban sectors. Authors like A.C. Sinha, J.B. Bhattacharjee, D.R. Syiemlieh, Imbad Hussain, M.S. Sangma, L.S. Assah, A. Lanunungsang Ao, P. M.

⁴² Bhattacharjee, P.R. (1995), "Features of Urbanization in North-East India as Reflected in Migration Statistic" in *Urbanization and Development in North-East India-Trends and Policy Implications*, J.B. Ganguly (edited), Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi. Pp. 23 - 38.

⁴³ Butola, B. S. (1995), "Urbanization and Underdevelopment in the North-Eastern India", in *Urbanization and Development in North-East India- Trends and Policy Implications*, J.B. Ganguly (edited), Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, pp. 39- 47 .

⁴⁴ Bezbaruah, Madhurya Prasad (1995), "Post-war Urban Growth in Third World Countries: Its Lessons for India's North-Eastern Region" in *Urbanization and Development in North-East India- Trends and Policy Implications*, J.B. Ganguly (edited), Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, pp. 82-85.

Chacko and I. L. Aier, and A.C.Sinha⁴⁵ have observed that the emergence of urban settlements in North-East Region has been linked with the process of administrative evolution. Thus the administrative centres attract the people away from traditional villages. They further observed that the urban centres in the North-Eastern Region were the centres of Administrative, Education. They also examined the impact of migration from rural to urban areas as a factor in urban growth.

Danny. D. Nengnong, Debedra. K. Nayak and A.C. Mohapatra⁴⁶ have analysed the spatial patterns of migration in Meghalaya. The extent of redistribution of population in this hilly state according to them, is yet to pick up momentum as over three-fourths of the population remains bound to the places of their birth. Urban areas seem to have been able to accelerate the process of redistribution as evident from higher proportion of migrants in districts with higher level of urbanization. Bulk of the migration take place within the state, the origin being either within the district or between the districts.

G. Kumar⁴⁷ noted that the urbanization in Mizoram is a recent phenomenon guided mostly by socio-political considerations rather than economic ones. He further noted the other features of the urban centres growth being the administrative centres and the location i.e., situated on the National Highway. A.K. Agarwal⁴⁸ in his study of the urbanization pattern in Mizoram has cited the disquieting feature of

⁴⁵ Sinha, A.C. et al. (edited) (1993), *Hill Cities of Eastern Himalayas- Ethnicity, Land Relations and Urbanization*, Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi.

⁴⁶ Nengnong, Danny D., et. al. (1995), "Process of Urbanization in Meghalaya: Evidences of Rural to Urban Migration", in *Urbanization and Development in North-East India-Trends and Policy Implications*, J. B. Ganguly (edited), Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, pp. 237-252.

⁴⁷ Kumar, G. (1993), *Op cit.* Pp. 119-142.

⁴⁸ Agarwal, A. K. (1995), "A Study in Urbanization Pattern in Mizoram", in *Urbanization and Development in North-East India- Trends and Policy Implications*, J. B. Ganguly (edited), Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, pp. 265-276.

exorbitantly higher rate of growth of the large urban centres without any proportionate increase in housing and infrastructural facilities. Mizoram has now become a highly urbanized state in India due to declaration of 16 new statutory towns in 1991. Prior to that the towns were the administrative headquarters. Occupational pattern of newly created towns is more or less in the rural area's pattern whereas the district headquarters provide employment opportunities mainly in government offices, schools and in other secondary or tertiary sectors.

D. K. Nayak and B. Vanlalhlana ⁴⁹ have analysed the urban growth as linked to a process of rural depopulation in certain pockets and transformation of some villages into urban status. Moreover, there is a striking decline in the number of small sized settlements indicating their merger into urban areas or depopulation of these villages. As far as the urban growth is concerned, it is noticed that there is a great concentration in the spatial variation in the process of urban development. The patterns of development reveals that it is unrelated to physiographic and/ or economic development of the state.

G. Kumar ⁵⁰ laying the theoretical foundation in respect of urbanization in a developing region, concentrates not only on the economic relationship between the rural hinterland and urban 'growth poles' but also on the demographic attributes of the two and perceptible anomalies therein. It also attempted to examine the sustainability of townships in a region lacking in sound urban economic base.

⁴⁹ Nayak, D. K. and B. Vanlalhlana (1996), "Geographical Patterning of Urbanization in North-East India: A Case Study of Mizoram", in *Resource, Environment and Development with special Reference to North - East India, Souvenir and Abstracts*, XVIII Indian Geography Congress-National Association of Geographers, India (October 29-31, 1996), organized by Department of Geography, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong. p. 181.

⁵⁰ Kumar, G. (1999), "Urbanization in Mizoram: The Emerging Trend", in *Urbanization in Mizoram- Retrospect and Prospects*, Girindra Kumar (edited), Linkman Publications, Titagarh, pp. 41- 54

B. Vanlalhlana ⁵¹ analysed the process of Urbanization keeping in view the locational, regional and spatio-structural attributes. He attempted to analyse the distribution pattern of urban centres in Mizoram in the light of different components that are considered to make a settlement urban in the accepted sense of the term.

R. Ramthara ⁵² studied the various impact of village grouping on the social life of the people in Mizoram in general and comparative study of grouped and ungrouped village according to their sex composition, level of literacy, age structure, social organization and the traditional work - partnership in agricultural works. The economic impact of village grouping in terms of their occupational structure, amenities, land use pattern and work force in the grouping centres and traditional village or ungrouped village were discussed.

B. Vanlalhlana ⁵³ in his study focused on the total urban population at various levels of spatial aggregation. According to him it is imperative to turn the attention more narrowly on the individual towns, which is expected to unravel the clues to the structure of urban development taking place in this tiny hilly state of Mizoram.

⁵¹ Vanlalhlana, B. (1999), "Pattern of Urbanization in Mizoram", in *Urbanization in Mizoram: Retrospect and Prospects*, Girindra Kumar (edited), Linkman Publications, Titagarh, pp. 15-30

⁵² Ramthara, R., (1998), *Socio-Economic Impact of Village Grouping In Mizoram: A Geographical Analysis*, Ph. D. Thesis (Unpublished), Department of Geography, N.E.H.U., Shillong.

⁵³ Vanlalhlana, B., (1995), *Urbanization in Mizoram: A Geographical Analysis*, M. Phil. Thesis (Unpublished), Department of Geography, N.E.H.U. , Shillong.

CHAPTER - II

SPATIAL PATTERNS IN DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

2.1 Introductory Statement:

Analysis of the distribution of rural population is of immense importance in the context of urban development in Mizoram because of its dominance and fast transformation, which is experienced in the study area during the last three decades especially after 1961. The development and transformation is fairly at a progressive pace due to socio-political enlightenment and urbanization. A number of rural settlements originally associated with traditional jhuming and forests are undergoing change towards urbanization. The study of rural settlements/ rural population provides valuable insights about the transformation of rural areas into urban areas.

Process of urbanization manifests unevenly over space. This chapter deals with the spatial patterns in distribution of rural as well as urban population. The analysis is based on the proportion of urban population during the period of 1961-1991. The primary objective of this chapter is to get an insight into the demographic changes taking place in the rural areas of Mizoram, which may through significant light on the pattern of urbanization in the state. It is assumed here that the urban development in Mizoram is associated with redistribution of rural population. It is the change in the spatial patterns of the rural population composition, which holds the key to an understanding of the urban development.

2.2 Distribution of Population:

Demographic characteristics of the population in Mizoram shows striking variation across different regions. The spatial distribution of population as well as the density is getting highly accentuated with the urban development. The state also has a highly fluctuating growth rate in recent years.

2.2.1 State Level Patterns:

Distribution of population in Mizoram is closely controlled by factors such as physical, socio-cultural and demographic. The 1961 census enumerated 2,66,063 persons in Mizoram as a whole with an overall density of 13 persons per square kilometre. By the year 1971, the population increased to 3,32,390 persons and the density too increased to 16 persons per square kilometre. The population of Mizoram, according to 1981 census was 4,93,757 persons. By the year 1991, Mizoram enumerated 6,89,756 persons. The density of population in Mizoram in 1981 was only 23 persons per square kilometres, and rose to 33 persons in 1991. Such a low density

Table - 2.1
Mizoram: Distribution of Population

YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	DENSITY
1961	2,66,063	13
1971	3,32,390	16
1981	4,93,757	23
1991	6,89,756	33

of population is due to the remote location of the state in the north east corner with a physical setting dominated by mountainous terrain and with a low carrying capacity of land. The inhospitable terrain and the prevailing environment of insurgency too have been largely repulsive to immigration of people from outside the state[#].

2.2.2 District Level Patterns:

The analysis of distribution of population of Mizoram at district level (table-2.2) reveals striking spatial variation in population concentration. In 1981 and 1991 census years, Aizawl district has recorded 3,40,826 and 4,78,465 persons respectively accounting for nearly 70 (69.03 and 69.37 respectively) per cent of the total

[#] According to Census of India 2001, Mizoram Provisional Population Total, the total population of the state is 8,91,058 persons and the density is 42 persons per square kilometer.

population of the state. Lunglei district enumerated 86,511 persons in 1981 and 1,11,415 persons in 1991 and it supports 17.52 (1981) and 16.15 (1991) per cent of the total population of the state. Chhimtuipui district has recorded 66,420 persons in 1981 and 99,876 persons in 1991. It has a share of 13.45 (1981) and 14.48 (1991) per cent of the state's population. This indicates that the concentration of population at the district level decreases toward the south. The general altitude in the north is lower than the south. The topography in the northern part, which contains some flat lands probably, explains larger concentration of people in the north.

Table - 2.2

Mizoram: Inter District Variation in Distribution of Population

District	Total Population		Density	
	1981	1991	1981	1991
Aizawl	3,40,826 (69.03)	4,78,465 (69.37)	27	38
Lunglei	86,511 (17.52)	1,11,415 (16.15)	19	24
Chhimtuipui	66,420 (13.45)	99,876 (14.48)	17	25
Mizoram	4,93,757 (100)	6,89,756 (100)	23	33

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

The density of population is the highest in Aizawl district with 27 persons in 1981 and 38 persons per square kilometre in 1991. In 1981, Lunglei district supported 19 persons per square kilometre and Chhimtuipui district had only 17 persons to support per square kilometre. By the year 1991, Chhimtuipui district increased the density to 25 persons while in Lunglei district it rose to 24 persons per square kilometre. Chhimtuipui district had a density of only 10 persons in 1971, which increased to 17 persons per square kilometre in 1981. The density increased to 25 persons per square kilometre in 1991. This sudden increase in density has been possibly due to the recent migration of *Chakmas* from Bangladesh into the district as well as due to high average birth rate.

2.2.3 Block Level Patterns:

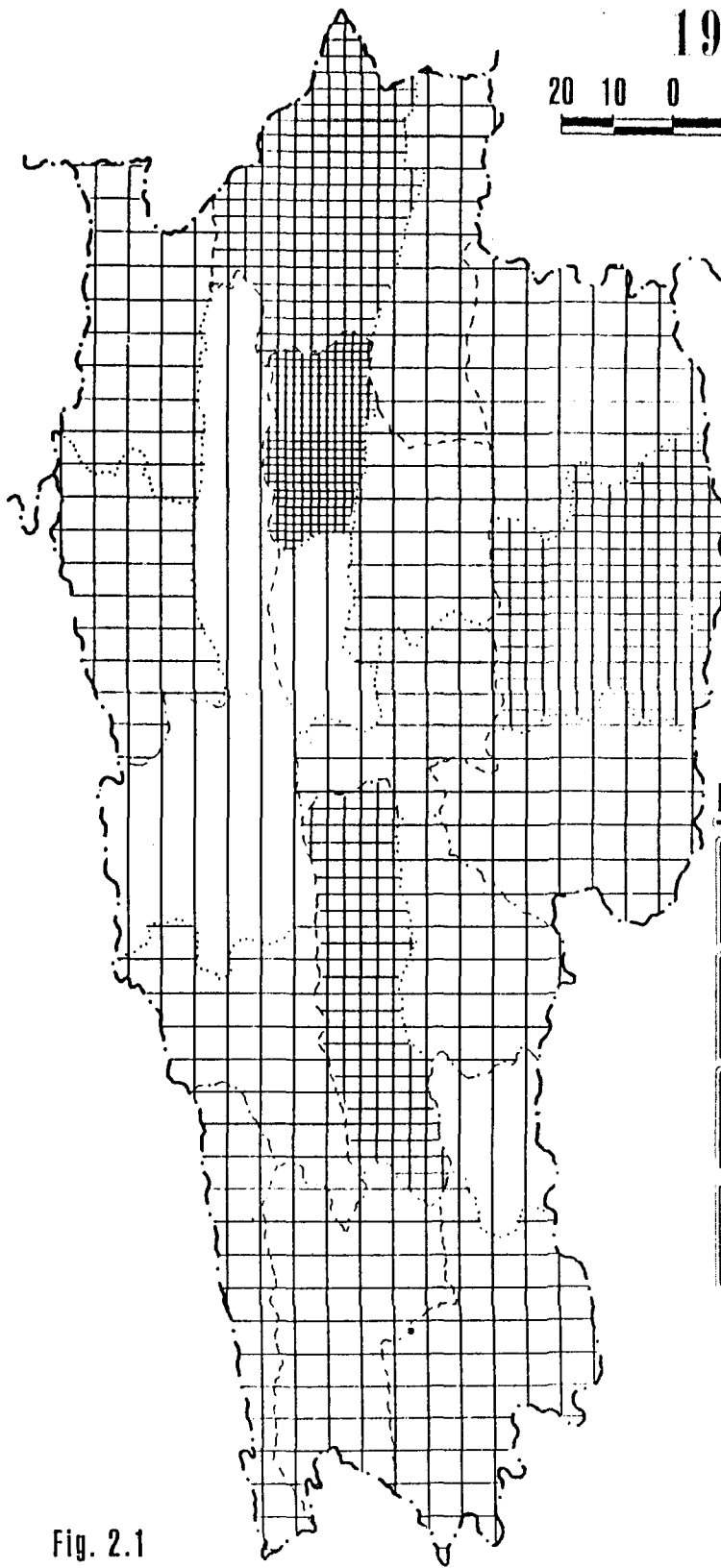
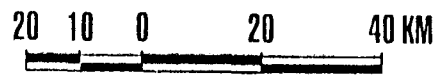
The analyses of population distribution in 1981 and 1991 censuses at block level (table- 2.3) reveals striking spatial variation in population concentration. For instance, Sangau block has only 1.78 per cent (in 1981) and 1.56 per cent (in 1991) of the state's total population whereas Tlangnuam block has as high as one-fourth (i.e. 24.74 per cent) of the state's total population in 1991, and 18.99 per cent in 1981.

The unevenness in the distribution (table 2.3) of population (fig. 2.1 and fig. 2.2) in Mizoram is borne out by the fact that as many as three blocks, namely Khawzawl, Lunglei and North Thingdawl dispersed in the north, east and Central parts of the state support 6 to 9 per cent of the state's population each in 1981 and 1991 censuses, while most of the blocks numbering 12, have a population concentration each of 3 to 6 per cent of the state's total in the years of 1981 and 1991. All these blocks are found dispersed all over the state. On the other hand, there is very low population concentration in four blocks, namely West Bunglei, Aibawk, Reiek and Sangau- each one supporting less than 3 per cent of the population of the state in both the census years. Interestingly, three of these blocks are found in ridge and valley areas located in the western part of the state. The highest concentration of population (i.e. above 9 per cent) is found in only one block, namely Tlangnuam block. In this block, the state's capital Aizawl Town is located.

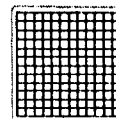
As shown in the tables- 2.3, the changes of population concentration are high in the Tlangnuam block at the block level. This may be due to the location of Aizawl city in this block. The other blocks such as Lunglei, Tuipang, Lawngtlai, Chawngte and Khawzawl have experienced marginal increase in their population. This may be due to the inclusion of Lunglei town in Lunglei block, Saiha town in Tuipang block, Khawzawl and Champhai towns in Khawzawl block. Lawngtlai block and Chawngte block may be

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

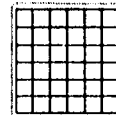
1981



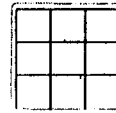
POPULATION IN PERCENTAGE



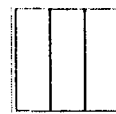
ABOVE 9



6 - 9



3 - 6

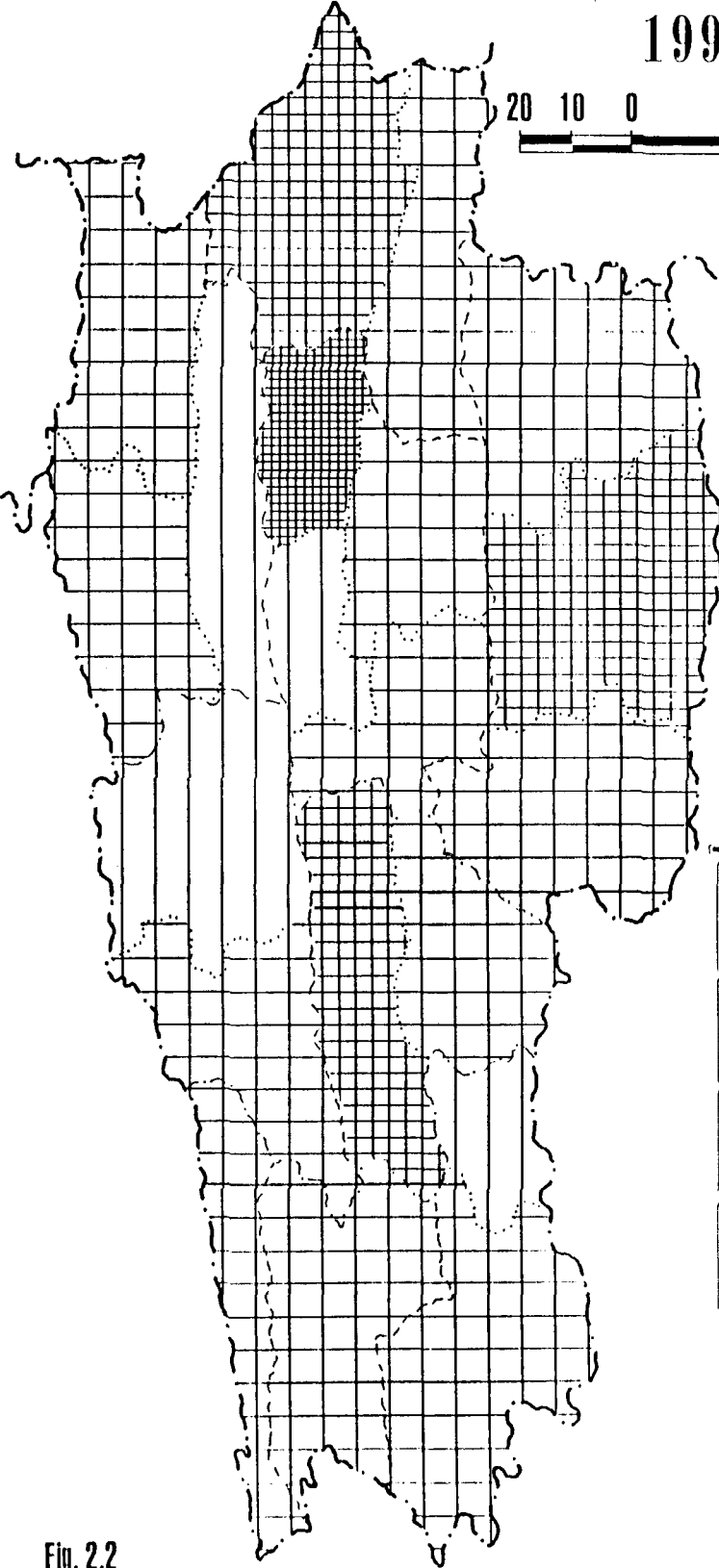
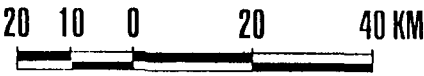


BELOW 3

Fig. 2.1

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

1991



POPULATION IN PERCENTAGE

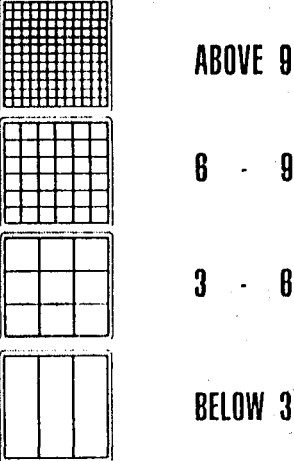


Fig. 2.2

due to the recent migration of *Chakmas* from neighbouring country of Bangladesh. On the other hand, the other 14 blocks experienced a marginal decrease in their population concentration during 1981-1991.

Table 2.3

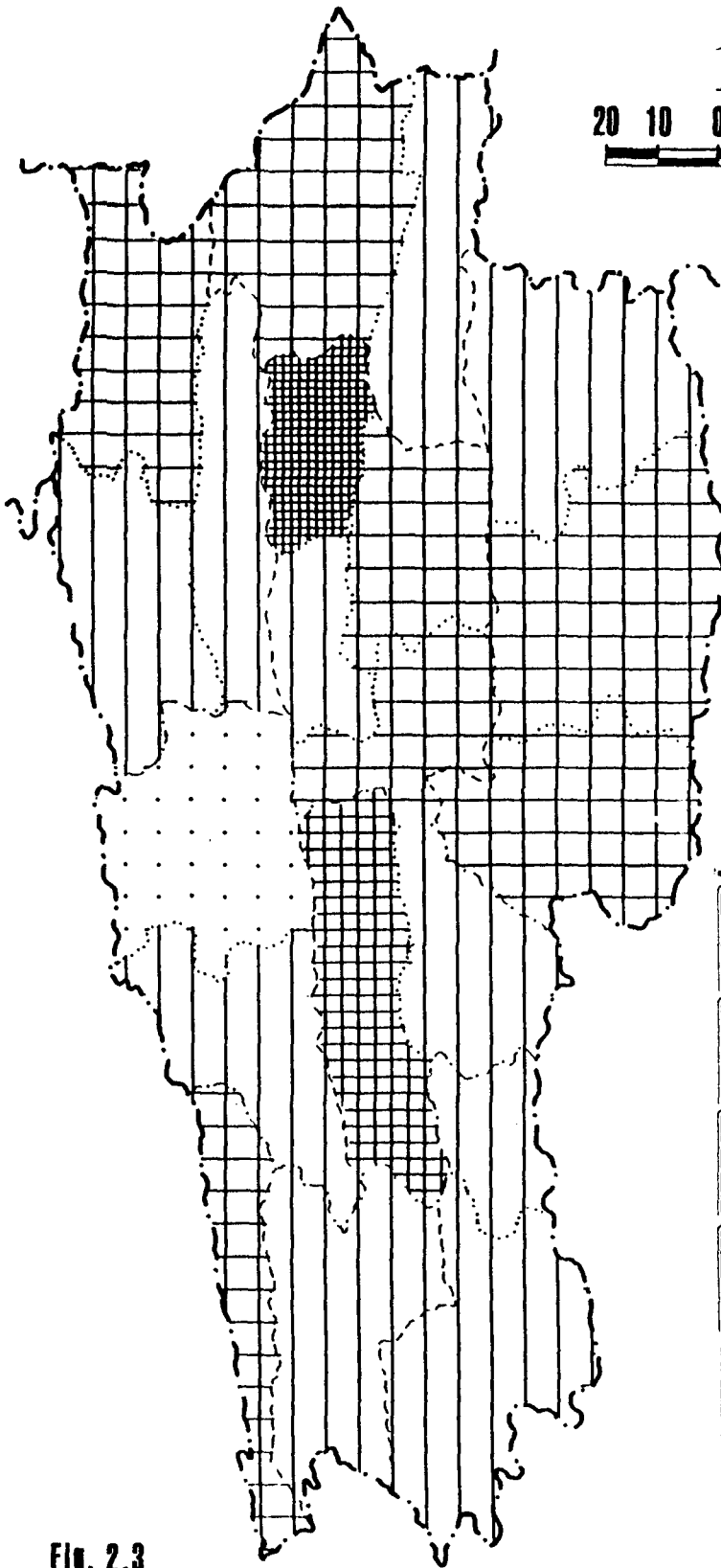
Mizoram: Inter Block Variation in Distribution of Population

Blocks	Total Population		Concentration Index		Density	
	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
Zawlnuam	24,444	30,853	4.95	4.47	22	28
W.Phaileng	16,838	21,591	3.41	3.13	17	22
Reiek	10,973	12,128	2.22	1.76	12	13
N.Thingdawl	35,351	44,833	7.16	6.50	24	30
Darlawn	18,066	20,983	3.66	3.04	19	22
Tiangnuam	93,769	1,70,667	18.99	24.74	176	321
Aibawk	11,671	14,439	2.36	2.09	19	23
Serchhip	23,428	29,993	4.75	4.35	29	38
Thingsulthiah	20,638	27,095	4.18	3.93	24	31
Ngopa	20,956	23,347	4.25	3.38	15	17
Khawzawl	35,807	50,192	7.25	7.28	23	32
E.Lungdar	28,885	32,344	5.85	4.69	22	24
W.Bunghmun	12,239	15,549	2.48	2.26	9	11
Lungsen	21,127	26,496	4.28	3.84	20	25
Lunglei	34,530	48,493	6.99	7.03	31	43
Hnahthial	18,615	20,877	3.77	3.03	19	21
Chawngte	16,983	24,870	3.44	3.61	25	36
Lawngtlai	18,517	29,330	3.75	4.25	14	22
Sangau	8,777	10,746	1.78	1.56	16	19
Tuipang	22,143	34,930	4.48	5.06	16	25
TOTAL	4,93,757	6,89,756	100	100		

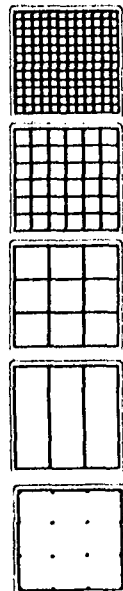
The census figures show a further accentuation in the extent of variation in population pressure in Mizoram at the block level (table-2.3). For example, West Bunghmun has only 9 (1981) and 11 (1991) persons per square kilometre. The high density of Tiangnuam block is due to the location of Aizawl City, the capital of Mizoram and Sairang town. Tiangnuam block has a density of 176 (1981) and 321 (1991) persons per square kilometre. Lunglei and Serchhip blocks too have relatively high density in these two census years. This is due to the location of Lunglei town in Lunglei

POPULATION DENSITY

1981



NUMBER OF PERSONS
PER SQUARE KILOMETRE



41 & ABOVE

31 - 40

21 - 30

11 - 20

< 10

Fig. 2.3

block, and Serchhip and Thenzawl town in Serchhip block. In 1981, there were four blocks, which had a density more than the state average. These are Chawngte (25 persons), North Thingdawl (24 persons), Thingsulthliah (24 persons) and Khawzawl (23 persons) blocks. In 1991, the only one block which has a density more than the state average is Chawngte block (i.e. 36 persons). It is evident that urbanization in the state has been responsible in great accentuation in the density patterns in recent times.

The density figures vary remarkably across the remaining blocks in Mizoram. In 1981 (fig. 2.3), as many as seven blocks recorded a density ranging between 21-30 persons while it varied between 11-20 persons in a set of ten more blocks. The highest density of more than 41 persons was found in only one block located in the north-central part of the state. The second highest density figures range between 31-40 persons and are found in only one block lying in the central part of Mizoram. The lowest density i.e. below 10 persons is also found in only one block. In 1991 (fig. 2.4), as many as four blocks recorded a density of 26-35 persons while the density figures ranged between 16-25 persons in ten blocks. Only two blocks support very low density of population, which is below 15 persons per square kilometre. The highest density of more than 45 persons is found in one block, whereas the second highest density figures ranging between 36-45 persons is found in as many as three more blocks.

2.3 Change in Rural Population:

A study of the change in the rural population in Mizoram is now attempted at different aggregate levels of the state, districts and blocks during the period 1961-1991. The study of the changes in rural population provides valuable insight into the process and growth of urbanization in Mizoram.

2.3.1 State Level Patterns:

Rural population relates to the population enumerated in areas other than those treated as urban according to the census definition. The table below shows the total number of rural population and its share in percentage in each census year.

Table 2.4
Mizoram: Changes in the Share of Rural Population 1961–1991

Year	Total Population	Total Rural Population	% of Rural Population
1961	2,66,063	2,51,806	94.64
1971	3,32,390	2,94,631	88.64
1981	4,93,757	3,71,943	75.21
1991	6,89,756	3,71,810	53.90

The population of Mizoram was almost rural in its composition until the year 1961 and dominantly so until 1981. In the year 1961 Mizoram consisted of 94.64 per cent rural population and it decreased to 88.64 per cent in 1971 and 75.21 per cent in 1981. The decline in the proportion of rural population was extraordinary in 1991, which was as low as nearly half of its total population i.e. 53.90 per cent[#]. In general the share of rural population has been decreasing in each census year. However, the 1991 census figure shows a remarkable change on the rural urban composition of Mizoram's population. The main reason for this change can be attributed to the phenomenal rural-urban migration. There are other factors too, which may be related to this phenomenon. These are (i) addition of new towns to the already existing towns during the last census (ii) expansion in the population size of the towns already existing during the last census.

[#] According to Census of India, 1991 Provisional Population Totals, the total rural population of the state is 4,50,018 persons and the total population is 8,36,000. Hence, the share of rural population is 50.50 per cent.

2.3.2 District Level Patterns:

Mizoram was not divided into districts till 1971. Until the year 1961, Mizoram was divided into two police stations namely- Aizawl Police Station and Lunglei Police Station. The 1961 census enumerated 2,66,063 persons living in Mizoram. Out of these 1,83,650 persons lived in Aizawl Police Station. There were 1,63,393 persons enumerated in rural areas in Aizawl Police Station with a percentage of 92.24 per cent. Lunglei Police Station had 82,413 population and accounted for the remaining.

Table - 2.5

Mizoram: Police Station Wise Distribution of Rural Population-1971

Police Station	Total Population	Total Rural Population	Percentage of Rural Population
Aizawl	1,26,184	94,444	74.85
Lunglei	45,755	39,736	86.85
Champhai	66,134	66,134	100.00
Saiha	41,142	41,142	100.00
Kolasib	36,794	36,794	100.00
Demagiri	16,381	16,381	100.00

According to 1971 census, Mizoram was divided into six police stations of Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Saiha, Kolasib and Demagiri. Of them, Aizawl Police station recorded the lowest concentration of rural population i.e.74.85 per cent only. Lunglei Police Station recorded 86.85 per cent of the total population as rural in its composition. In sharp contrast to these police stations, the other four police stations were entirely rural in their population composition.

Table- 2.6 depicts the percentage and density of rural population at district level for the years of 1981. In 1981, Chhimtuipui district had the highest proportion of its population living in rural areas with a percentage of 89.43 per cent and the density was 15 persons per square kilometre. Lunglei district had 80.11 per cent of its population as rural in 1981 with a density of 15 persons per square kilometre. The

lowest rural population concentration was recorded in Aizawl district i.e. 71.37 per cent of its population as rural but the density was the highest in 1981 i.e.19 persons per square kilometre.

Table - 2.6

Mizoram: Inter District Variation in Distribution of Rural Population in 1981

District	Area in Sq. Km.	Total Population	Total Rural Population	Density of rural Population
Aizawl	12,588	3,40,826	2,43,233 (71.37)	19
Lunglei	4,536	86,511	69,306 (80.11)	15
Chhimituipui	3,957	66,420	59,402 (89.43)	15
MIZORAM	21,081	4,93,757	3,71,941 (75.33)	18

(Figure in Parentheses shows the percentage of rural population)

Table- 2.7 reveals the percentage and density of rural population at the district level for the year of 1991. In 1991, Chhimituipui district had the highest proportion of its population living in rural areas with a percentage of 86.31 per cent and also the highest density of rural population i.e. 22 persons per square kilometre. Lunglei district contained nearly 60 per cent of its population in rural areas, which was a decline from the proportion reported in 1981, but the density of its rural population remained identical. Notably, Aizawl district that supported 71.37 per cent of its rural population in 1981 registered a sharp decline in this proportion in 1991. Less than half of its population lived in rural areas (i.e. 45.72 per cent) in 1991 and the density of its rural population was 17 persons per square kilometre.

Table - 2.7

Mizoram: Inter district Variation in Distribution of Rural Population, 1991

District	Area in Sq.Km.	Total Population	Total Rural Population	Density
Aizawl	12,588	4,78,465	2,18,744 (45.72)	17
Lunglei	4,536	1,14,415	66,859 (60.01)	15
Chhimituipui	3,957	99,876	86,207 (86.31)	22

(Figure in Parentheses are in percentage)

The rural population has been classified into different categories according to their size of population. Table- 2.8 depicts the numbers of villages in each size class of population for the year of 1981 and 1991. In Aizawl district the number of villages decreased in all sizes of population except in relatively larger-sized villages of 501-1000 persons. Lunglei district too registered a decline in the number of villages in all size classes of population except increase in a few classes of settlement size. This indicates that the smaller sized villages decreased in their number which may be attributed to their merger with other villages or towns or to their natural growth. On the other hand, the larger size villages decreased in number as a result of their transformation into urban areas. In contrast with the other two districts, Chhimtuipui district registered either an increase or the position remained unchanged in all the size classes except in extremely tiny villages (below 50) which decreased in number. This may be related to the smaller or tiny villages merging with other villages or urban centres or due to natural growth of their population.

2.3.3 Block Level Patterns:

The analyses at the block level rural population are based on the concentration index and Density of rural population for the year of 1981 and 1991. The table- 2.9 shows that the largest concentration of rural population is in East Lungdar block located on the eastern margin accounting for about 8 per cent of the state's rural population in 1981. The lowest concentration, however, was 2.36 per cent in Sangau block. The highest density of rural population in 1981 is in Tlangnuam block accounting for 36 persons per square kilometre. However, the lowest density of rural population was found in West Bunglei block with 9 persons per square kilometre.

Table - 2.8

Mizoram: Distribution Of Rural Settlement According To Their Population Size: 1981- 1991

	POPULATION																	
	< 50		51 - 100		101 - 200		201 - 500		501 - 1000		1001-1500		1501-2000		2001-3000		3000+	
District	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
Aizawl	27	19	26	13	60	39	128	125	81	88	21	24	21	15	18	11	8	6
Lunglei	11	7	18	18	30	38	68	54	17	26	7	8	7	6	2	1	1	0
Chhimituipui	12	4	13	11	39	38	71	95	29	40	5	5	1	1	0	2	1	1

Table - 2.9**Mizoram: Inter Block Variation in Distribution of Rural Population, 1981**

Block	Area in Sq.Km.	Total Rural Population	Concentration Index	Density
Zawlnuam	1,088.15	24,444	6.57	22
W. Phaileng	999.17	16,838	4.53	17
Reiek	937.22	10,937	2.95	12
N. Thingdawl	1,472.12	27,069	7.28	18
Darlawn	947.17	18,006	4.86	19
Tlangnuam	532.27	19,276	5.18	36
Aibawk	616.18	11,671	3.14	19
Serchhip	798.11	16,099	4.33	20
Thingsulthliah	874.13	20,638	5.55	24
Ngopa	1,407.22	20,956	5.63	15
Khawzawl	1,588.08	28,320	7.61	19
E. Lungdar	1,328.18	28,885	7.77	22
W. Bunghmun	1,388.26	12,239	3.29	9
Lungsen	1,045.29	21,127	5.68	20
Lunglei	1,117.06	17,325	4.66	16
Hnahthial	985.39	18,615	5.01	19
Chawngte	686.35	16,983	4.57	25
Lawngtlai	1,304.84	18,517	4.98	14
Sangau	565.91	8,777	2.36	16
Tuipang	1,399.90	15,125	4.07	11
	TOTAL :	3,71,943	100	

Table- 2.10 reveals that the concentration index and density of rural population at block level for the year of 1991. In 1991, the highest concentration is found in Lawngtlai block located in extreme south with 7.89 per cent of state's total rural population whereas the lowest is 2.78 per cent in Reiek block located closed to Aizawl city. Out of the 20 blocks, as many as 9 blocks registered an increase in their rural population concentration during 1981-1991. Most of these are located in the western or southern part of the state characterized by ridge and valley topography. The blocks, which registered decrease in rural population concentration, indicate emergence of new urban centres and /or extension of the existing urban areas during 1981-1991. In 1991, the highest density of rural population is found in Chawngte block with 36 persons per

POPULATION DENSITY 1991

20 10 0 , 20 40 KM

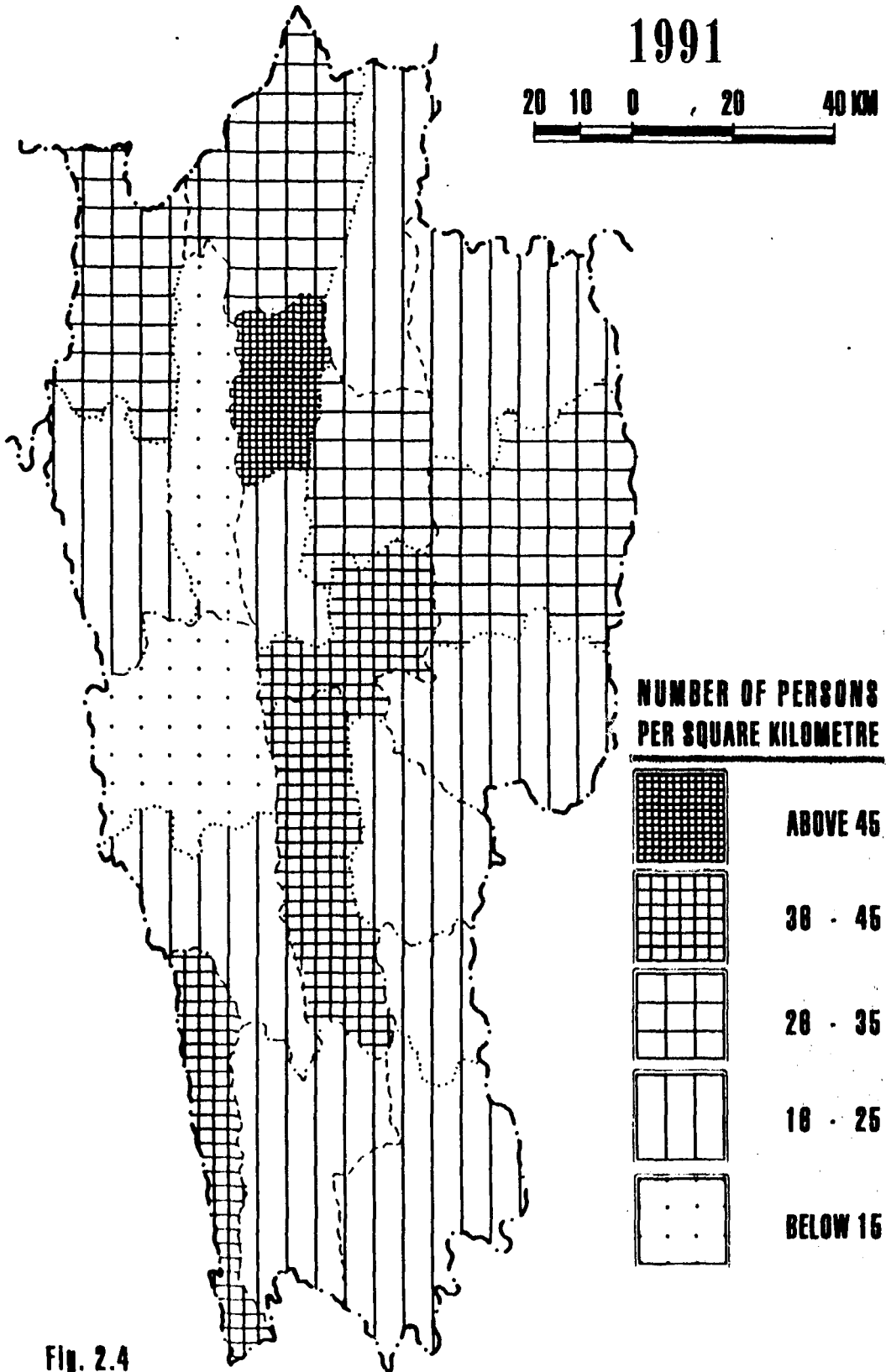



FIG. 2.4

square kilometre, which is located in extreme south whereas the lowest density is 11 persons per square kilometre in Reiek block and West Bunghmun block. Out of the 20 blocks, as many as 9 blocks registered an increase in their population density during 1981-1991. Most of these are located in the west or southern part of the state characterized by ridge and valley topography. These are totally rural except Lungsen block and Tuipang block. The blocks, which recorded decrease in population density, indicate the extension of the existing urban areas and emergence of new urban centres during 1981-1991.

Table – 2.10

Mizoram: Inter Block Variation in Distribution of Rural Population, 1991

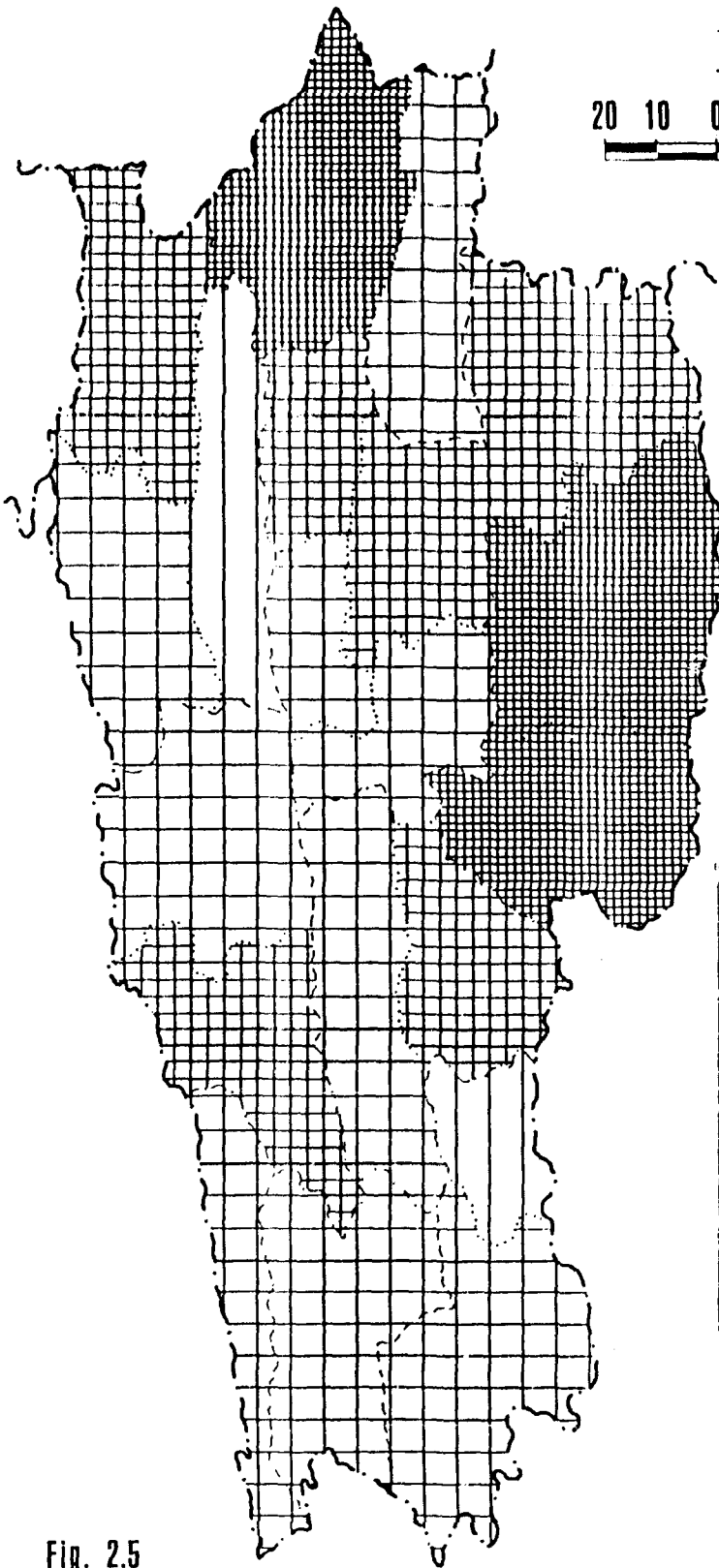
Block	Area in Sq. Km.	Number of Rural Population	Concentration Index	Density
Zawlnuam	1,088.15	23,852	6.42	22
W. Phaileng	999.17	21,591	5.81	22
Reiek	937.22	10,320	2.78	11
N. Thingdawl	1,472.12	18,033	4.85	12
Darlawn	947.17	17,374	4.67	18
Tlangnuam	532.27	11,900	3.20	22
Aibawk	616.18	14,439	3.88	23
Serchhip	798.11	11,803	3.17	15
Thingsulthliah	874.13	18,693	5.02	21
Ngopa	1,407.22	23,347	6.28	17
Khawzawl	1,588.08	20,177	5.43	13
E. Lungdar	1,328.18	27,215	7.32	20
W. Bunghmun	1,388.26	15,549	4.18	11
Lungsen	1,045.29	22,097	5.95	21
Lunglei	1,117.06	13,884	3.74	12
Hnahthial	985.39	15,329	4.12	16
Chawngte	686.35	24,874	6.69	36
Lawngtlai	1,304.84	29,330	7.89	22
Sangau	565.91	10,746	2.86	19
Tuipang	1,399.90	21,261	5.72	15
TOTAL:		3,71,810	100.00	

However, as shown in the figure 2.5, that the highest concentration (above 7) of rural population in 1981 is found in three blocks, one was in the northern

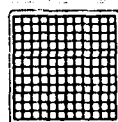
RURAL POPULATION

1981

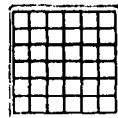
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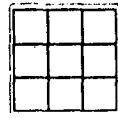
CONCENTRATION INDEX
IN PERCENTAGE



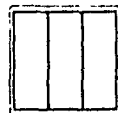
ABOVE 7



5 - 7



3 - 5



BELOW 3

Fig. 2.5

part and the others were located in the eastern part of Mizoram. The medium concentration (5-7) is found in north-eastern and western corner and north-western corners of Lunglei district. The low concentration (3-5) is found in the whole of Chhimtuipui district, except Sangau block, western part, central part and northern part of Mizoram. Very low concentration (below 3) of rural population is found in only 2 blocks, one in the Sangau block in the southern part and the other in Reiek block located in northern part of the state.

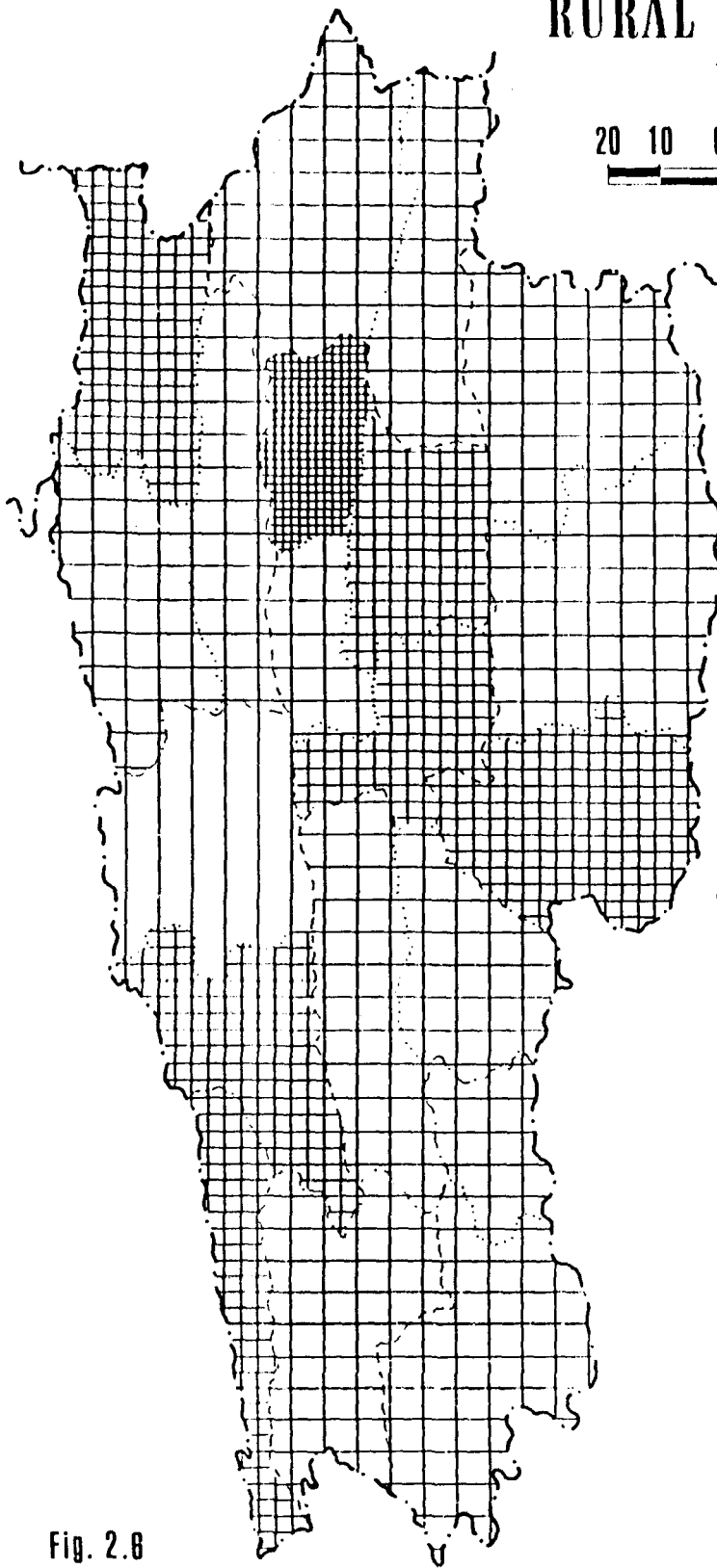

Figure 2.6 reveals the density of rural population at the block level in 1981. The highest density of rural population is found in the Tlangnuam block with 36 persons per square kilometre. Aizawl town is located in this block. The medium density (20-29) is found in the north-western, north-eastern and south western part of Mizoram distributed in six blocks. The low density (10-19) is found in northern, eastern and south-western part of Aizawl district, north-eastern part of Lunglei district and southern part of Chhimtuipui district. Very low density (below 9) of rural population is confined to only one block i.e. West Bunglei block.

It is evident from figure-2.7 that the distribution of rural population is highly variant at the block level in 1991. The highest concentration of rural population includes two blocks. One of these is found in the eastern part and the other in the southern part of the state. The medium concentration (5-7 per cent) is found in the western, north-eastern and south-eastern corner of Mizoram. The low concentration (3-5 per cent) is confined to the western, north, eastern and central part of the state. Very low concentration of population (below 3 per cent) is found in the eastern and north-western part of Mizoram.

The density of rural population at the block level in 1991 is shown in the figure 2.8. The highest density of rural population is found in only one block i.e.

DENSITY RURAL POPULATION 1981

20 10 0 20 40 KM



NUMBER OF PERSONS
PER SQUARE KILOMETRE

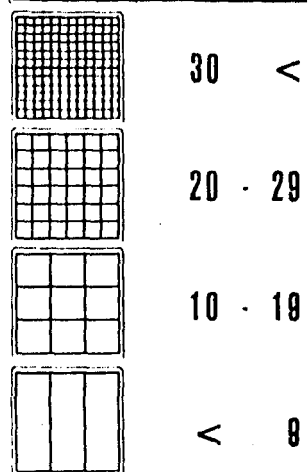


Fig. 2.6

RURAL POPULATION 1991

20 10 0 20 40 KM

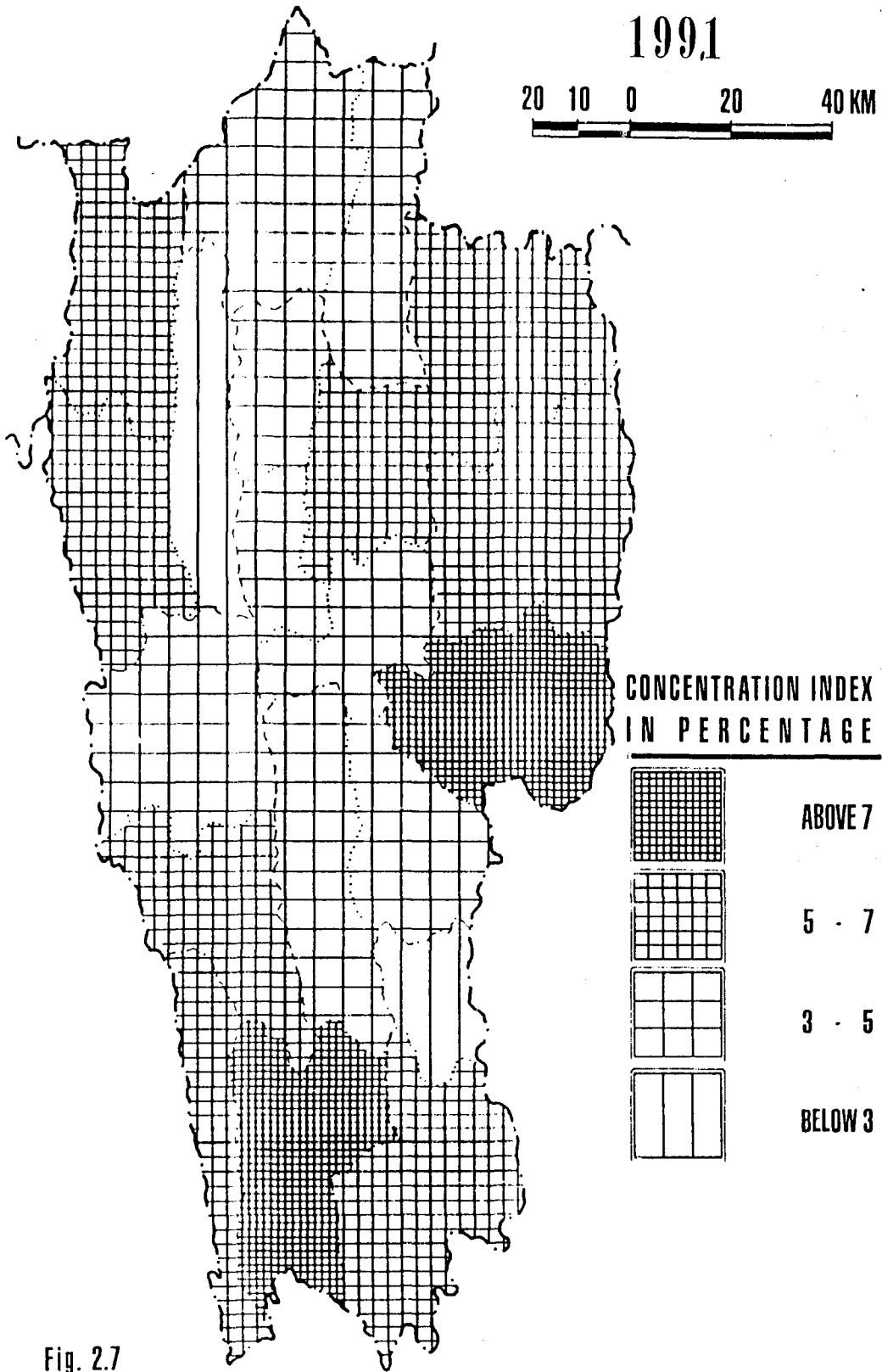

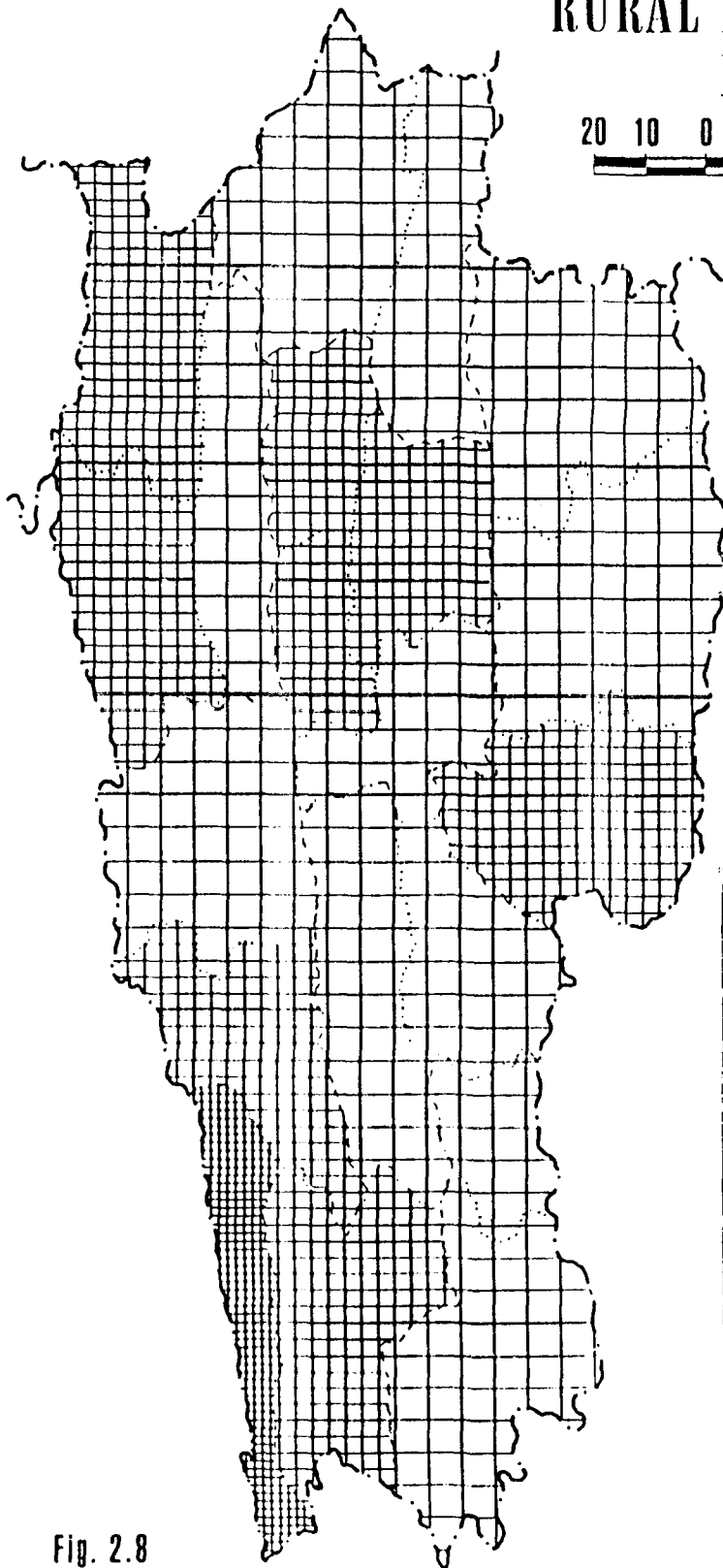



Fig. 2.7

DENSITY RURAL POPULATION 1991

20 10 0 20 40 KM



NUMBER OF PERSONS
PER SQUARE KILOMETRE

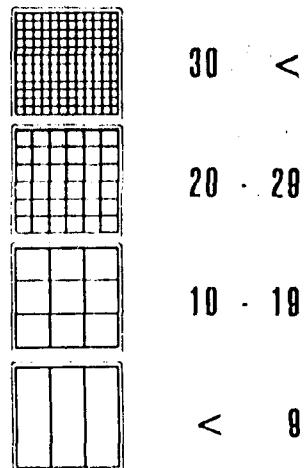


Fig. 2.8

Chawngte block. The medium density of rural population (20-29) is found in the western, northern central part, eastern part and southern part of Mizoram. The low density of rural population (10-19) is found in the northern, eastern, central part and south-eastern part of the state.

As shown in the table- 2.11, the number of small sized villages (below 200) is less in both the years of 1981 and 1991. Generally, the number of villages decreased during the period of 1981-1991 in all the blocks. The medium sized villages (201-1000) included a large number of villages in all the blocks. The large sized villages (above 1000) are few in number in all the blocks. This may be due to the fact that such villages are registered as urban centres by the census in 1981 and 1991.

2.4 Changes in the Urban Population:

The study of the changes in urban population reveals the changes in spatial patterns in the increase of urban population. The study of changes in the number of urban population of Mizoram is based on the analyses made at the aggregate levels- state, districts and blocks level pattern.

2.4.1 State Level Patterns:

The share of urban population in Mizoram was well below that of the country as a whole up to 1971. The urban population accounted for more than 5 per cent of the state's total population in 1961 and increased to 11.36 per cent in 1971. By the year 1981, however, nearly a quarter of the population in the state was residing in urban areas. The rate of urbanization increased rapidly in the 1981-1991 decade and the share of urban population was as high as 46.10 per cent in 1991[#]. This level of urbanization was nearly double that of the country as a whole. Thus, Mizoram

[#] As show in the Provisional Population Totals, Census of India, 2001, Mizoram, the total urban population is 4,41,040 person and the share is 49.50 per cent.

Table - 2.11

Mizoram: Size Of Rural Settlement At Block Level

Block	POPULATION																	
	< 50		51 - 100		101 - 200		201 - 500		501 - 1000		1001-1500		1501-2000		2001-3000		3000+	
	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
Zawlnuam	-	-	6	2	13	6	22	19	7	13	1	3	4	1	1	1	-	-
W. Phaileng	-	2	-	2	10	2	14	11	3	4	1	3	1	3	1	-	1	2
Reiek	2	1	4	1	8	4	7	10	5	6	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. Thingdawl	10	2	3	3	5	4	12	12	5	7	1	-	1	1	3	1	2	1
Darlawn	2	2	5	2	2	2	9	9	10	8	-	3	-	1	3	1	-	-
Tlangnuam	2	1	1	2	4	2	11	6	4	4	3	-	-	1	1	-	2	1
Aibawk	-	2	1	-	3	4	4	2	10	12	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
Serchhip	1	-	2	-	1	2	6	9	3	2	2	-	1	2	2	-	1	1
Thingsulthiah	4	5	1	-	1	3	4	4	11	7	1	3	-	-	3	2	1	1
Ngopa	-	1	-	-	2	-	13	12	4	6	3	4	5	4	-	1	-	-
Khawzawl	3	2	1	-	7	5	15	18	7	8	3	2	3	-	2	2	1	-
E. Lungdar	3	1	2	1	4	5	11	13	12	11	3	2	5	4	2	2	-	-
W. Bnghmun	-	1	4	7	10	9	22	17	2	8	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lungsen	3	4	7	7	12	17	22	20	5	10	2	1	2	1	1	1	-	-
Lunglei	7	1	4	4	6	8	14	10	5	3	4	4	1	1	1	-	-	-
Hnahthial	1	2	3	-	2	4	10	7	5	5	-	1	4	4	-	-	1	-
Chawngte	2	-	2	2	15	16	18	39	8	12	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lawngtlai	5	3	7	4	10	9	25	33	8	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sangau	-	0	2	1	1	3	6	5	5	6	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
Tuipang	5	1	2	4	13	10	22	18	8	14	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-

achieved the status of the second most urbanized state among all the states of the country. The level of urbanization picked up a higher pitch particularly during 1981-1991 decade. In this period, the increase in the share of urban population may be attributed to the extension of the existing urban areas, natural increase in the urban population and the addition of new towns since 1981 enumeration.

Table - 2.12

Mizoram: Changes in the Share of Urban Population 1961 - 1991

Year	Total Urban Population	% of Urban Population
1961	14,257	5.36
1971	37,759	11.36
1981	1,21,814	24.70
1991	3,17,946	46.10

2.4.2 District Level Patterns:

In 1961, Mizoram had a solitary town, which was the capital town of Aizawl, and was located in the Aizawl Police Station. This town had a share of 7.76 per cent of the total population of the state (i.e. 14,257 persons). In 1971, the number of towns in Mizoram increased to two, one of them was Aizawl town which accounted for a share of 84.06 per cent of the total urban population of the state, and the other one was Lunglei town, located in the Lunglei Police Station with 15.94 per cent of the state's total urban population.

Table- 2.13 shows the district level variation in urban population and its share to the total urban population of the state for the year 1981-1991. By the year 1981, Aizawl district had the largest share of urban population among the three districts accounting for 80.11 per cent (97,591 persons). In this district alone, more than four-fifths of the total urban population of Mizoram lived. Lunglei district recorded a share of urban population that was 14.13 per cent. The share of urban population was as low as 5.76 per cent in the Chhimtuipui district.

Table - 2.13

Mizoram: Inter District Variation In Distribution of Urban Population, 1981-1991

District	Total Urban Population	
	1981	1991
Aizawl	97,591 (80.11)	2,59,721 (81.69)
Lunglei	17,205 (14.13)	44,556 (14.01)
Chhimituipui	7,018 (5.76)	13,669 (4.30)
TOTAL	1,21,814	3,17,946

(Figures in the parentheses are in percentage)

In the year 1991 too Aizawl district claimed the largest share of the urban population among the three districts, and infact it recorded a marginal increase in the share of the total urban population in the state. More than half of the total population in this district lived in the urban areas i.e. 54.28 per cent. The share of urban population in Lunglei district remained more or less static at 14 per cent. Chhimituipui district registered a decline in its relative share of urban population, which was as low as 4.30 per cent of the total urban population of Mizoram.

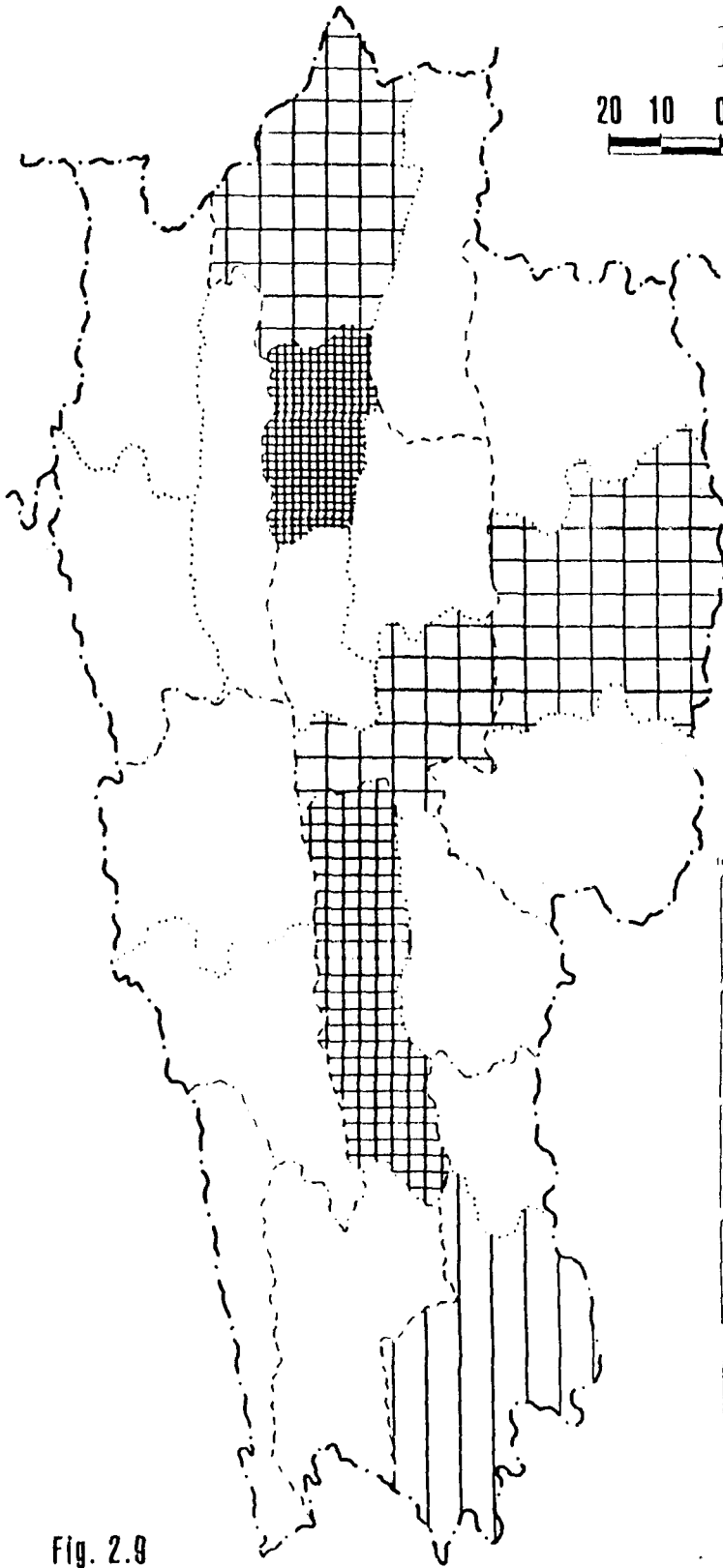

2.4.3 Block Level Patterns:

The block level analysis of urban population is based on data available for the last two census years of 1981 and 1991. As is shown in the table-2.14, there were six blocks containing urban population in 1981. Those blocks are North Thingdawl, Tlangnuam, Serchhip, Khawzawl, Lunglei and Tuipang. Of them, Tlangnuam block supported the largest urban population i.e. 79.44 per cent of its total population. Nearly half (49.83 per cent) of the total population in Lunglei block was returned as urban. North Thingdawl block recorded less than a quarter (i.e. 23.43 per cent) as urban whereas this percentage was 31.28 in Serchhip block. Khawzawl and Tuipang block recorded 20.91 and 31.68 per cent urban population respectively.

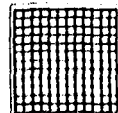
The analysis at block level distribution of urban population has also been made on the basis of the concentration index. As shown in figure 2.9, the highest

URBAN POPULATION 1981

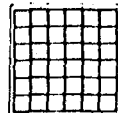
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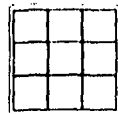
CONCENTRATION INDEX
IN PERCENTAGE



ABOVE 18



12 - 18



8 - 12



BELOW 8



N I L

Fig. 2.9

concentration of urban population was found in Tlangnuam block, which accounted for 61.15 per cent of the state's total urban population. It is significant that more than two-fifths of the urban population in the state was confined to a single block. On the other hand, Lunglei block accounted for on 14.12 per cent of the state's total urban population. As many as three more blocks namely, North Thingdawl, Khawzawl and Serchhip claimed an urban population of around 6 per cent each. Only one block recorded less than 6 per cent urban population of the state, namely, Tuipang block (i.e. 5.76 per cent).

Table – 2.14

Mizoram: Inter Block Variation In Distribution of Urban Population, 1981

Block	Area in Sq. Km.	Total Urban Population	Concentration Index	Density
Zawlnuam	1,088.15	-	-	-
W. Phaileng	999.17	-	-	-
Reiek	937.22	-	-	-
N. Thingdawl	1,472.12	8,282	6.80	6
Darlawn	947.17	-	-	-
Tlangnuam	532.27	74,493	61.15	140
Aibawk	616.18	-	-	-
Serchhip	798.11	7,329	6.02	9
Thingsulthiah	874.13	-	-	-
Ngopa	1,407.22	-	-	-
Khawzawl	1,588.08	7,487	6.15	5
E. Lungdar	1,328.19	-	-	-
W. Bnghmun	1,388.26	-	-	-
Lungsen	1,045.29	-	-	-
Lunglei	1,117.06	17,205	14.12	15
Hnahthial	985.39	-	-	-
Chawngte	686.35	-	-	-
Lawngtlai	1,304.85	-	-	-
Sangau	565.91	-	-	-
Tuipang	1,399.90	7,018	5.76	5
TOTAL		1,21,814	100.00	

By the year 1991, 13 blocks had urban population while the remaining (i.e. 7 blocks) were entirely rural in their population composition. Table- 2.15 and figure

2.10 reveal the distribution of urban population at the block level in 1991. The spatial distribution of urban population is however highly uneven. For instance, the urban component of the population is very high in Tlangnuam block with 93.01 per cent of its total population living in urban areas. In this block, almost the entire population now lives in urban areas. The lowest urban component of the population is in Reiek block that supports only 14.91 per cent of the total population in urban areas. As many as five blocks namely- Tlangnuam, Lunglei, Khawzawl, North Thingdawl and Serchhip recorded

Table – 2.15

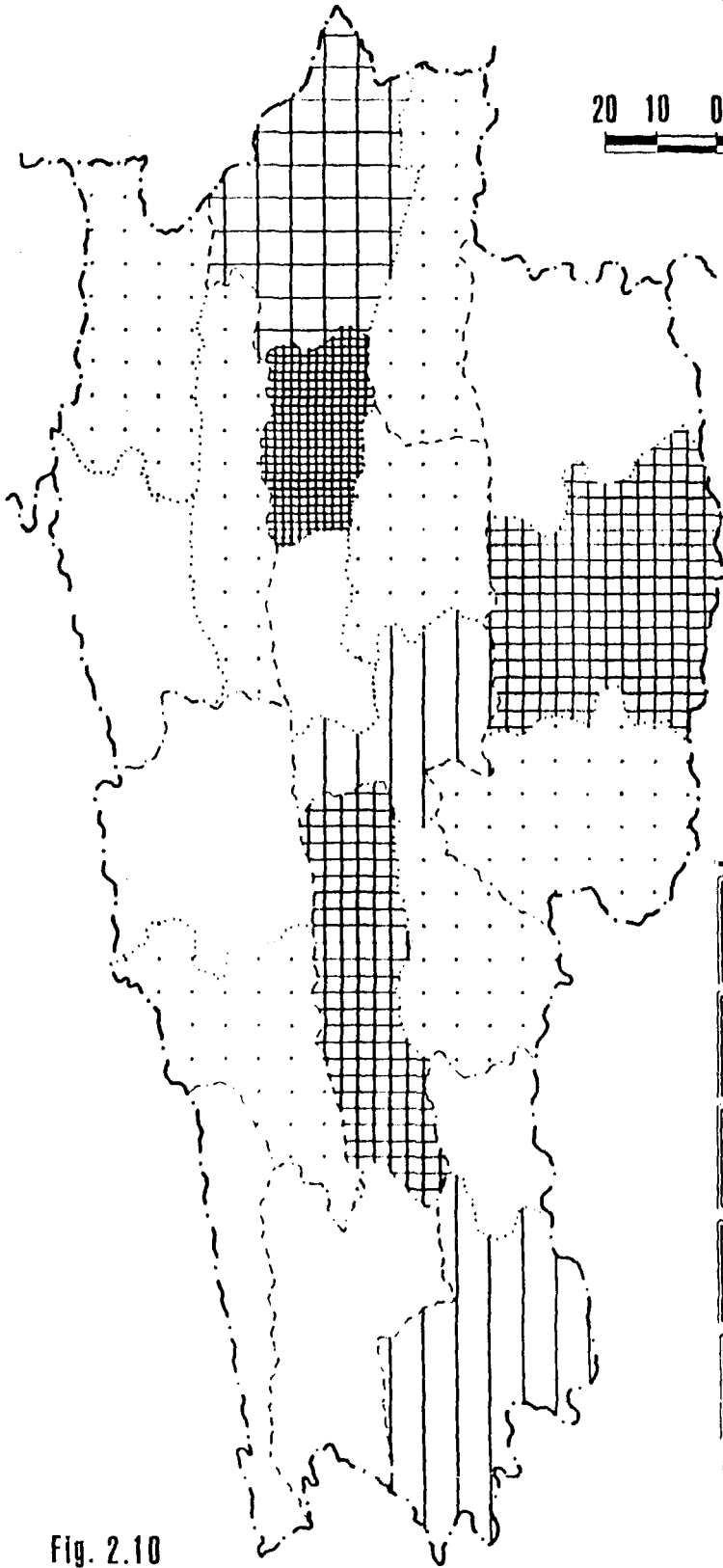

Mizoram: Inter Block Variation in Distribution of Urban Population, 1991

Block	Area in Sq. Km.	Total Urban Population	Concentration Index
Zawlnuam	1,088.15	7,001	2.20
W. Phaileng	999.17	-	-
Reiek	937.22	1,801	0.57
N. Thingdawl	1,472.12	26,800	8.43
Darlawn	947.17	3,609	1.14
Tlangnuam	532.27	1,58,767	49.94
Aibawk	616.18	-	-
Serchhip	798.11	18,190	5.72
Thingsulthliah	874.13	8,402	2.64
Ngopa	1,407.22	-	-
Khawzawl	1,588.08	30,015	9.44
E. Lungdar	1,328.18	5,129	1.61
W. Bnghmun	1,388.26	-	-
Lungsen	1,045.29	4,399	1.38
Lunglei	1,117.06	34,609	10.89
Hnahthial	985.39	5,548	1.74
Chawngte	686.35	-	-
Lawngtlai	1,304.84	-	-
Sangau	565.91	-	-
Tuipang	1,399.90	13,669	4.30
TOTAL		3,17,946	100.00

more than half of their total population living in urban areas. On the other hand, 8 blocks supported less than half of their total population in urban areas. These are Tuipang, Thingsulthliah, Hnahthial, Zawlnuam, Darlawn, Lungsen, East Lungdar and Reiek

URBAN POPULATION 1991

20 10 0 20 40 KM



CONCENTRATION INDEX
IN PERCENTAGE

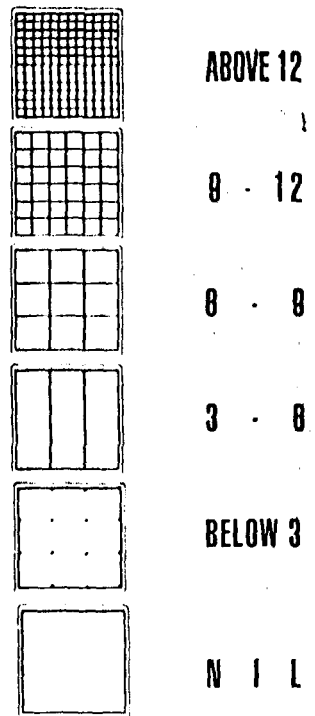


Fig. 2.10

blocks. In other words, the rural population dominated in these 8 blocks. The pattern of concentration of urban population underwent significant changes in 1991. The urban component of the population showed a greater dispersion over space and the earlier concentrated urban development showed signs of dilution. The proportion of urban population in Tlangnuam block declined to 49.94 per cent of the state's total population as against over 60 per cent in 1981. The two blocks of Lunglei and Khawzawl accounted for 10.89 and 9.44 per cent of the state's total urban population. North Thingdawl supported an urban concentration of around 6-9 per cent while Serchhip and Tuipang blocks had the concentration of urban population of around 3-6 per cent of the state's urban population each. On the other hand, there is very low concentration of urban population in seven blocks namely Thingsulthliah, Zawlnuam, East Lungdar, Lungsen, Darlawn and Reiek all of which recorded less than 3 per cent of the urban population of the state each.

2.5 Concluding Statement:

The analysis of the demographic situation in the total, rural and urban areas of the state leads to the following broad generalization:

Firstly, the study of the distribution of population in Mizoram reveals that the low density of population is due to the remote location of the state in the north east corner with a physical setting dominated by mountainous terrain and with a low carrying capacity of land. At the district level, the concentration of population decreases toward the south. Generally, the altitude of the northern part of the state is lower than the southern part, which contains some flat lands and this probably explains larger concentration of people in the north. Chhimtuipui district had experienced a high density in 1991 as compared to the preceding year. This is perhaps due to the recent migration of the Chakmas from the neighbouring country of Bangladesh into the district as well as

due to high average birth rate. At the block level, the study of population distribution reveals striking spatial variation in population concentration. Sangau block has the lowest population concentration with accounted less than 2 per cent of the state's total population whereas Tlangnuam block has as high as one-fourth of the state's total population in 1991. In this block, the state's capital Aizawl City is located. The highest density of population is found in Tlangnuam block, and this is due to the inclusion of Aizawl city, the capital of Mizoram and Sairang town while the lowest density of population is in West Bnghmun block.

Secondly, a study of the changes in the number of rural population in the state as a whole shows a rise in the rural population until 1981 after which it marginally declined. The share of rural population, however, registered a continuous decline over time with the maximum decline confined to the last decade. At district level, Aizawl district, which supported 71.37 per cent of its population in rural areas in 1981, registered a sharp decline in this proportion in 1991. Less than half of its population lived in rural areas in 1991.

Thirdly, a study of the rural population based on the size of population in rural settlements reveals that in sharp contrast with the other two districts, Chhimtuipui district registered either an increase or the position remained unchanged in all the size classes except in extremely tiny villages (below 50) which decreased in number. This may be related to the smaller or tiny villages merging with other villages or urban centres or due to natural growth of their population. At the block level, the large sized village (above 1000) are few in all the blocks. This may be due to the fact that large sized villages are registered as urban centres by the census in 1981 and 1991.

Lastly, the urban population continues to be largely confined to the northern part of the state. Around 65 per cent of the urban population is confined to the

cluster of six blocks in the north bordering Tripura and Assam plains. It is pertinent to note that the urban development until 1981 had an essentially administrative character. In the period after 1981, while the administrative character continued to dominate, non-administrative reasons seem to be associated with urban growth in the northern part of the state as indicated by the presence of more than one town in these blocks.

CHAPTER - III

***SPATIAL PATTERNS IN
POPULATION GROWTH***

3.1 Introductory Statement:

Changes in the size of population with numerical addition to the sum, known as population growth, are mainly due to birth and death rates and migration during the period under consideration. The changes in the dynamics of population whether positive or negative, reflects the history of man's response to the environmental possibilities present in the region.

Mizoram has a low population concentration in contrast to the other Indian states. Nevertheless, it has been witnessing an ever-increasing growth of population resulting in increasing pressure on physical and economic progress and causing unemployment. The analyses of population growth, therefore, holds significance for an underdeveloped state like Mizoram where rapid increase in population acts as a main constraint in achieving the desired degree of economic and social progress. However, the purpose of the present chapter is only to analyse the tendency of re-distribution of population only going by the trends in population growth.

3.2 Population Growth:

A study of the population growth in Mizoram is now attempted at different aggregate levels such as the state, districts and blocks during the period 1961-1991 as well as for the rural population and urban population separately. The study of population growth may provide valuable insights into the nature of population redistribution and urbanization experienced in Mizoram during these three decades.

3.2.1 State Level Patterns:

The growth of population implies the changes in the size of inhabitants of a region during a specific period of time; whether the change is negative or positive. This is mainly due to the birth and death rate as well as migration. Mizoram had a total population of 6,89,756 persons in 1991, which increased by 6,07,322 persons since

1901, with a growth rate of 736.74 per cent during 1901-1991 (fig.3.1). In 1901, Mizoram had a population of 82,434 persons (Table- 3.1). The growth trends has an alteration of ups and downs after every decade in terms of percentage, excepting 1941-1951 and 1951-1961. The growth rate in all the decades have experienced a positive growth. In 1901, there were 82,434 persons, which increased to 91,204 in 1911 with a growth rate of 10.64 per cent. But the next decade witnessed a slower growth rate i.e. only 7.90 per cent. The population increased to 98,406 in 1921. This slow rate of increase is mainly attributed to the natural famine called *mautam* in 1912, which retarded the progress in population growth. During 1921-1931 decade Mizoram experienced very high growth rate in its population, i.e., 26.42 per cent. This is mainly due to the recovery of the state's economy from the famine. The growth rate fell to 22.81 per cent during 1931-1941 decade. Since then the growth rate is steadily increasing. During 1941-1951 and 1951-1961 decades, the state added to its population at the rate of 28.42 and 31.61 per cent respectively.

Another declining growth trend was witnessed during 1961-1971 decade when the rate declined to 24.93 per cent. This was probably due to the M.N.F. insurgency. During this period many Mizo youths joined the M.N.F. movement and went underground and hence were not enumerated in the census, and many Mizo youth were killed due to the same movement. The growth rate jumped to a high of 48.55 per cent during 1971-1981 decade, which was nearly double the rate experienced during the

Mautam is a natural famine, which appears in Mizoram at an approximate interval of 48 years. The flowering causes the famine and dying down of bamboo species which led to abnormal increase in the population of jungle rats, insects and pesticides. The multiplied population of insects, rats etc., ate away the crops and famine follows. The starvation resulted not only in reduction of fertility of the people, but directly or indirectly accelerated mortality rate. It is however, said that the consecutive years often experience nature's blessing with a bloom in the harvests.

Table - 3.1

Mizoram: Decadal Variation in Population Since 1901

State/District	Year	Total Persons	Decadal Variation	Percentage decadal variation
Mizoram	1901	82,434	-	-
	1911	91,204	+ 8,770	+ 10.64
	1921	98,406	+ 7,202	+ 7.90
	1931	1,24,404	+ 25,998	+ 26.42
	1941	1,52,786	+ 28,382	+ 22.81
	1951	1,96,202	+ 43,416	+ 28.42
	1961	2,66,063	+ 69,861	+ 35.61
	1971	3,32,390	+ 66,327	+ 24.93
	1981	4,93,757	+ 1,61,367	+ 48.55
	1991	6,89,756	+ 1,95,999	+ 39.69
Aizawl	1971	2,29,112	-	-
	1981	3,40,826	+ 1,11,714	+ 48.76
	1991	4,78,465	+ 1,37,639	+ 40.38
Lunglei	1971	62,136	-	-
	1981	86,511	+ 24,375	+ 39.23
	1991	1,11,415	+ 24,904	+ 28.79
Chhimituipui	1971	41,142	-	-
	1981	66,420	+ 25,278	+ 61.44
	1991	99,876	+ 33,456	+ 50.37

Source: Census of India, 1981. Series 31, Mizoram, Part II - A, General Population Tables, p. 26 and Statistical Handbook of Mizoram, 1992.

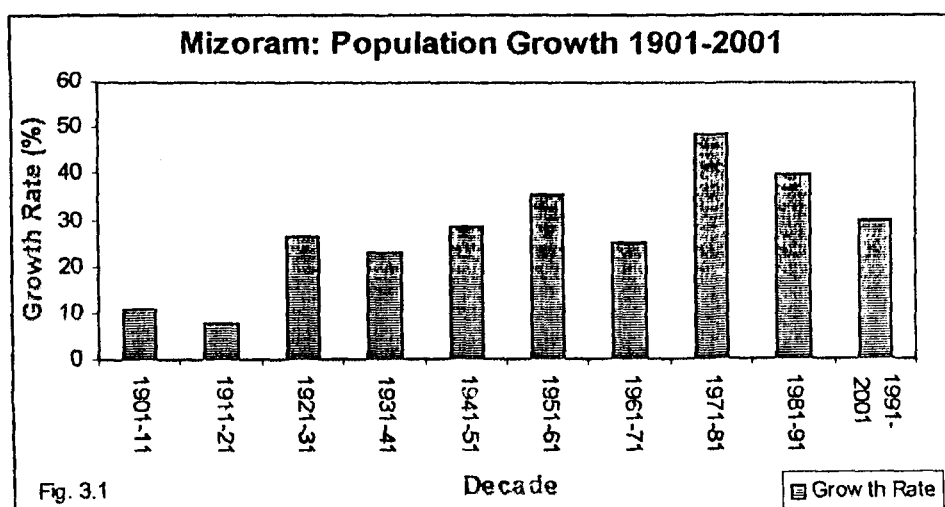


Fig. 3.1

preceding decade. The growth rates of population however fell again during 1981-1991 decade and stood at 38.98 per cent. The decline in the trends of population growth has been confirmed from the provisional population estimates of the census held in 2001. The total population of the state has been estimated to be 8,91,058 persons with a growth rate of 29.18 per cent during 1991 and 2001 decade.

3.2.2 District Level Patterns:

The study of the growth of population at the district level is based on three census years of 1971, 1981 and 1991. Table-3.1 reveals that Chhimtuipui district recorded the highest population growth rate in 1971-1981 and 1981-1991 with 61.44 and 50.37 per cent respectively followed by Aizawl district with 48.76 (1971-1981) and 40.38 (1981-1991) per cent. Lunglei district had the lowest population growth rate in 1971-1981 and 1981-1991 with 39.23 and 28.79 per cent respectively. Chhimtuipui district is one of the eleven districts in India, which have achieved a rate of population growth above 50 per cent during the decade of 1981-1991.

A comparison of growth rates during 1971-1981 and 1981-1991 clearly shows that the growth rate of Mizoram has gone down by 8.86 per cent. All the three districts had experienced a uniform fall in their growth rate of population.

3.2.3 Block Level Patterns:

The analysis of population growth at the block level has been attempted for the period of 1981-1991 only. The table- 3.2 records the growth rate of population at the block level during the decade 1981-1991. During this period; Tianguam block recorded the highest growth rate of population of around 82 per cent. This appears to be due to the excessive increase in the population in the capital town of Aizawl and Sairang town included in this block. On the other hand, Reiek block experienced the lowest growth rate of only 10.55 per cent. Figure 3.2 clearly shows the growth of population at

MIZORAM
POPULATION GROWTH
1981 - 1991

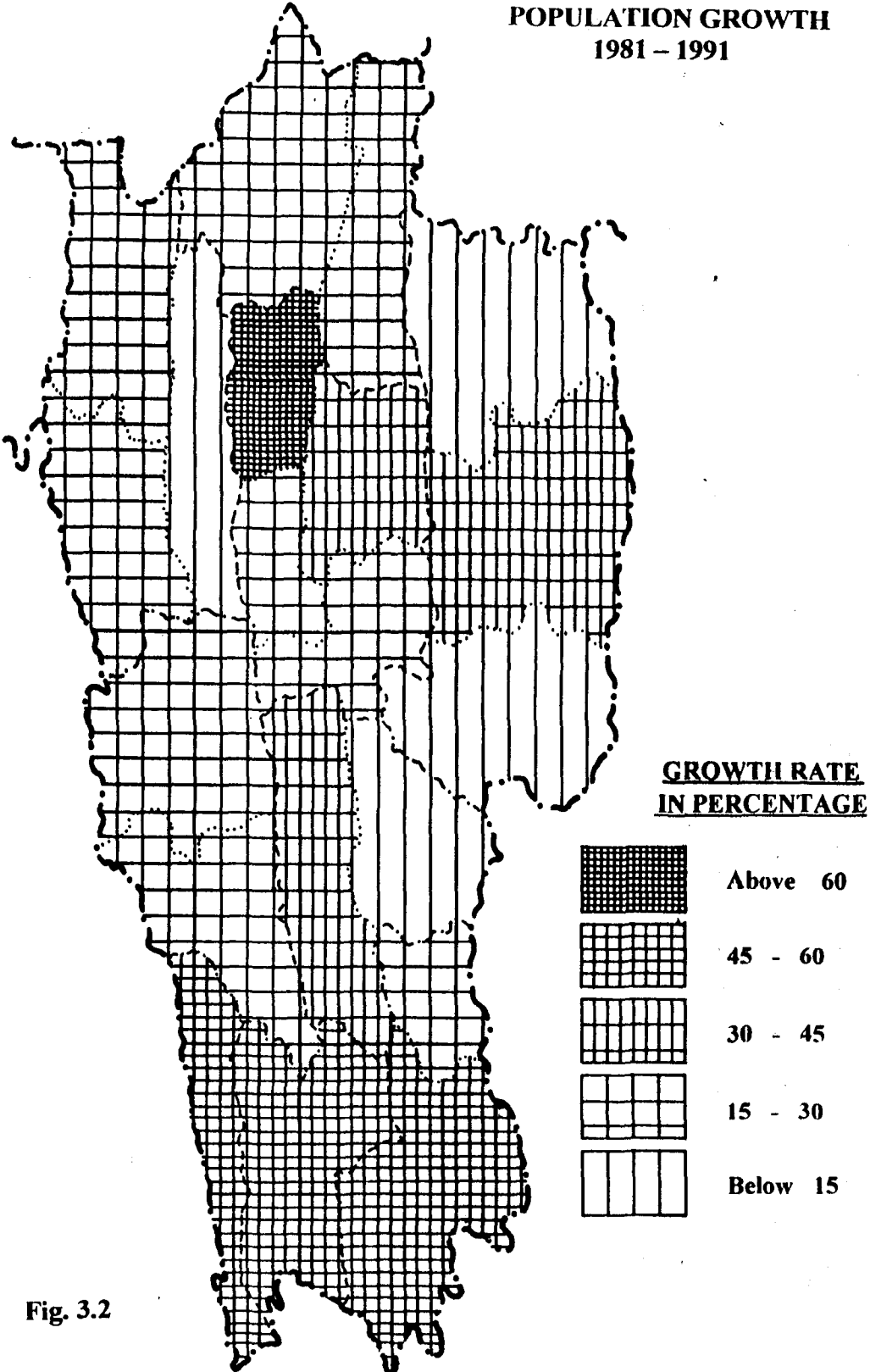


Fig. 3.2

Table - 3.2

Mizoram: Inter Block Variation in Changes in Population, 1981-1991

Block	POPULATION		Addition	Growth Rate (%)
	1981	1991		
Zawlnuam	24,444	30,853	6,409	26.22
W. Phaileng	16,838	21,591	4,753	28.23
Reiek	10,973	12,128	1,155	10.55
N. Thingdawl	35,351	44,833	9,482	26.82
Darlawn	18,066	20,983	2,917	16.15
Tiangnuam	93,769	1,70,667	76,893	82.00
Aibawk	11,671	14,439	2,768	23.72
Serchhip	23,428	29,993	6,565	28.02
Thingsulthliah	20,638	27,095	6,457	31.29
Ngopa	20,956	23,347	2,391	11.41
Khawzawl	35,807	50,192	14,385	40.17
E. Lungdar	28,885	32,344	3,459	11.98
W. Bunglemun	12,239	15,549	3,310	27.04
Lungsen	21,127	26,496	5,369	25.41
Lunglei	34,530	48,493	13,963	40.44
Hnahthial	18,615	20,877	2,262	12.15
Chawngte	16,983	24,870	7,887	46.44
Lawngtlai	18,517	29,330	10,813	58.39
Sangau	8,777	10,746	1,969	22.43
Tuipang	22,143	34,930	12,787	57.75
TOTAL	4,93,757	6,89,756		

block level for the period of 1981-1991. Very high growth (60 per cent and above) rate of population includes only one block i.e. Tiangnuam block with a growth rate of 82 per cent. Tiangnuam block is located in the northern central part of the state. Only three blocks experienced high growth rate (i.e. 45-60 per cent) of population. These are Lawngtlai, Tuipang and Chawngte blocks. All these three blocks are located in the southern part of Mizoram. This high growth rate may be attributed to the recent migration of *Chakmas* from Bangladesh as well as to high birth rate. The medium growth rate (30-45 per cent) of population is experienced by another set of three blocks, namely Lunglei, Khawzawl and Thingsulthliah blocks, which recorded 40.44 per

cent, 40.17 per cent and 31.29 per cent increase respectively. These blocks are found dispersed in the central, north-eastern, and north central part of Mizoram.

As many as nine blocks witnessed low growth rate of population during this period. These are West Phaileng, Serchhip, West Bnghmun, North Thingdawl, Zawlnuam, Lungsen, Aibawk, Sangau and Darlawn blocks. Most of these blocks are found in the western margin of Mizoram. The very low growth rate of population (below 15) is found in four blocks mostly located in the eastern margin, bordering Myanmar. The pattern of population growth seems related to the longitudinal ridge and valley structure of the state.

3.3 Growth of Rural Population:

Since urbanization is assumed to be an important force in the process of redistribution of population in Mizoram, it may be worthwhile at this stage to examine the spatial patterns in the growth of rural population.

3.3.1. State Level Patterns:

Mizoram has a small concentration of rural population as compared to the other states of the country. The following table shows the growth rate of rural population during the three decades i.e. 1961-1991.

Table - 3.3

Mizoram: Growth of Rural Population, 1961 - 1991

Year	Rural Population	Overall Growth Rate(%)	Rural Growth Rate(%)
1961	2,51,806	-	-
1971	2,94,631	24.93	17.01
1981	3,71,943	48.55	26.24
1991	3,71,810	39.69	- 0.04
1961 - 1991			47.66

Mizoram supported a total of 2,51,806 rural population in 1961. In 1971, as many as 42,825 persons were added and it increased to 2,94,631 persons with a growth rate of about 17.01 per cent. During 1971-1981, the addition was to the tune of 77, 312 persons and the total rural population stood at 3,71,943 persons. The growth rate was a little over 26 per cent. Unlike the earlier decades, Mizoram experienced a negative growth rate in its rural population during 1981-1991 decade. In 1991, the total rural population decreased by 133 persons compared to the preceding year. The rural population thus registered a negative growth rate of 0.04 percent. This clearly reveals that the growth of urban population was unprecedented in 1981-1991 decade, which could offset the rate of natural growth experienced in the rural areas. As is evident from table-3.3, the rate of increase for the total population has been far more than the rate experienced in rural areas during the entire period[#].

3.3.2 District Level Patterns

The analysis of the change in rural population growth at district level is based on two census years of 1981 and 1991. The table-3.4 reveals a highly uneven spatial pattern in the growth of rural population at the district level during 1981-1991.

Table - 3.4

Mizoram: Changes in Rural Population -District Level

District	Year	Rural Population	Number of Addition	Growth Rate
Aizawl	1981	2,43,235	-	-
	1991	2,28,744	- 24,491	- 10.07
Lunglei	1981	69,306	-	-
	1991	66,859	- 2,447	- 3.53
Chhimituipui	1981	59,402	-	-
	1991	86,207	26,805	45.12

[#] According to Census of India, 2001, Mizoram, Provisional Population Totals, the total rural population of the state is 4,50,018 and the growth rate is 21.03 per cent during 1991-2001 decade.

During the decade under consideration, Aizawl district registered a sharp decline in its rural population, which decreased at a phenomenal rate of -0.07 per cent. Lunglei district too experienced a negative growth rate i.e. -3.53 per cent. In sharp contrast to these two districts, Chhimituipui district experienced a positive growth rate in its rural population during this period i.e. 45.12 per cent.

3.3.3 Block Level Patterns:

Table- 3.5 depicts the growth rate of rural population at the block level during the decade of 1981-1991. Out of 20 blocks, half of them (10 blocks) experienced a negative growth rate in their rural population during this period. Most of these blocks had new urban centres in the same period. In this period, ten blocks registered positive

Table - 3.5

Mizoram: Inter-Block Variation in the Growth of Rural Population, 1981-1991

District	Block	RURAL POPULATION		Addition	Growth Rate
		1981	1991		
Aizawl	Zawmuam	24,444	23,852	- 592	- 2.42
	West Phaileng	16,838	21,591	4753	28.23
	Reiek	10,973	10,320	- 653	- 5.95
	North Thingdawl	27,069	18,033	- 9036	- 33.33
	Darlawn	18,066	17,374	- 692	- 3.83
	Tlangnuam	19,276	11,900	- 7376	- 38.27
	Aibawk	11,671	14,439	2768	23.72
	Serchhip	16,099	11,803	- 4296	- 26.68
	Thingsulthiah	20,638	18,693	- 1945	- 9.42
	Ngopa	20,956	23,347	2391	11.41
	Khawzawl	28,320	20,177	- 8143	- 28.75
East Lungdar	28,885	27,215	- 1670	- 5.78	
Lunglei	West Bunghmun	12,239	15,549	3310	27.04
	Lungsen	21,127	22,097	970	4.59
	Lunglei	17,325	13,884	- 3441	- 19.86
	Hnahthial	18,615	15,329	- 3286	- 17.65
Chhimituipui	Chawngte	15,983	24,870	7887	46.44
	Lawngtlai	18,517	29,330	10813	58.39
	Sangau	8,777	10,746	1969	22.43
	Tuipang	15,125	21,261	6136	40.57
	TOTAL	3,71,943	3,71,810		

growth of the rural population. Generally, these are the blocks devoid of any urban centres in this period. The highest growth rate of rural population was recorded in Lawngtlai block with 58.39 per cent. In this block, there is no urban centre at all. Out of 12 blocks in Aizawl district, only two experienced an increase in their rural population. On the other hand, two out of four blocks in Lunglei district experienced an increase in their rural population. All the four blocks in Chhimtuipui district showed an increase in their rural population.

Mizoram as a whole experienced a marginal drop in the absolute rural population (i.e. -0.04 per cent) during 1981-1991 decade. As shown in the figure 3.3, ten blocks of the northern and central part of the state registered a negative growth in their rural population ranging between -2 to -40 per cent. The largest negative growth rate (below -20.00 per cent) was recorded in the blocks of North Thingdawl, Tlangnuam and Serchhip (-20 to -40 per cent). The positive growth rates were experienced in the blocks located in the periphery. The highest growth rate (above 40 per cent) was recorded in the three blocks of Chawngte, Lawngtlai and Tuipang blocks in Chhimtuipui district. These three blocks are located in southern tip of the state.

3.3.4 Village Level Pattern

Table- 3.6 shows the growth of population at village level. This table reveals that a little less than one-third (i.e., 30.07 per cent) inhabited villages have registered a net decline in their population showing massive outmigration from among these villages. Nearly 5 per cent of the villages have experienced a net decline of their population by over 50 per cent. In about 10 per cent of the villages the decline has been between 20-50 per cent, and around 15 per cent villages have a negative growth of less than 20 per cent.

**MIZORAM
RURAL POPULATION GROWTH
1981 - 1991**

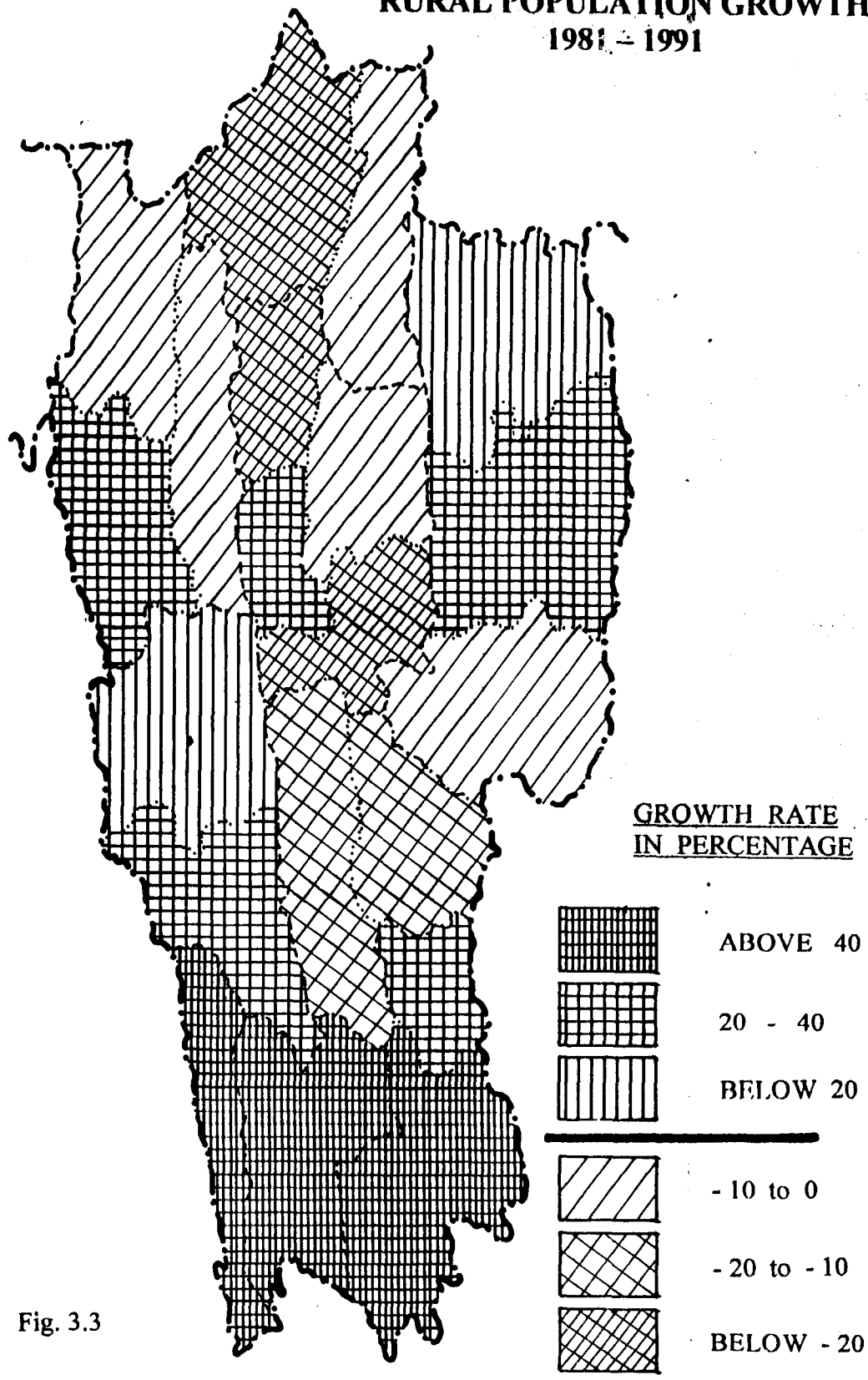


Fig. 3.3

On the other hand, a very large proportion of villages (i.e., over one-fifth of all villages) have only marginally added to their total population i.e., less than 20 per cent. This means that more than half of all villages have either experienced a decline in their population or have added little to their population. In the remaining villages the population growth has been substantial i.e., over 20 per cent. The growth rate has been indeed phenomenal in about 10 per cent villages where the rate exceeds 100 per cent.

Table - 3.6

Mizoram: Inter Village Variation in Population Growth, 1981-1991

Growth Rate	No. of Villages	% of Villages
Above 500	8	1.33
201 - 500	23	3.82
101 - 200	35	5.81
51 - 100	60	9.97
20 - 50	162	26.91
0 - 20	133	22.09
Negative Growth		
0 to -20	88	14.62
- 21 to -50	63	10.47
Above - 50	30	4.98
Total	602	

Figure 3.4 reveals the spatial pattern in the growth rate of population. The figure presents the pattern of growth by taking the villages, which have experienced positive as well as negative growth in their population. It is evident that both the types of villages are widespread all over the state indicating a dispersed pattern covering the entire state rather than any specific areas. What is however evident from the figure is that the villages of negative growth are far more numerous in the interior areas, away from the main arteries of roads and away from the major urban centres.

Distribution of villages experiencing excessive positive as well as negative growth in their population during 1981-1991 decade is shown in fig. 3.5. It is evident from the figure that almost all the excessive positive growth of the population are

**MIZORAM
POPULATION GROWTH
1981 - 1991**

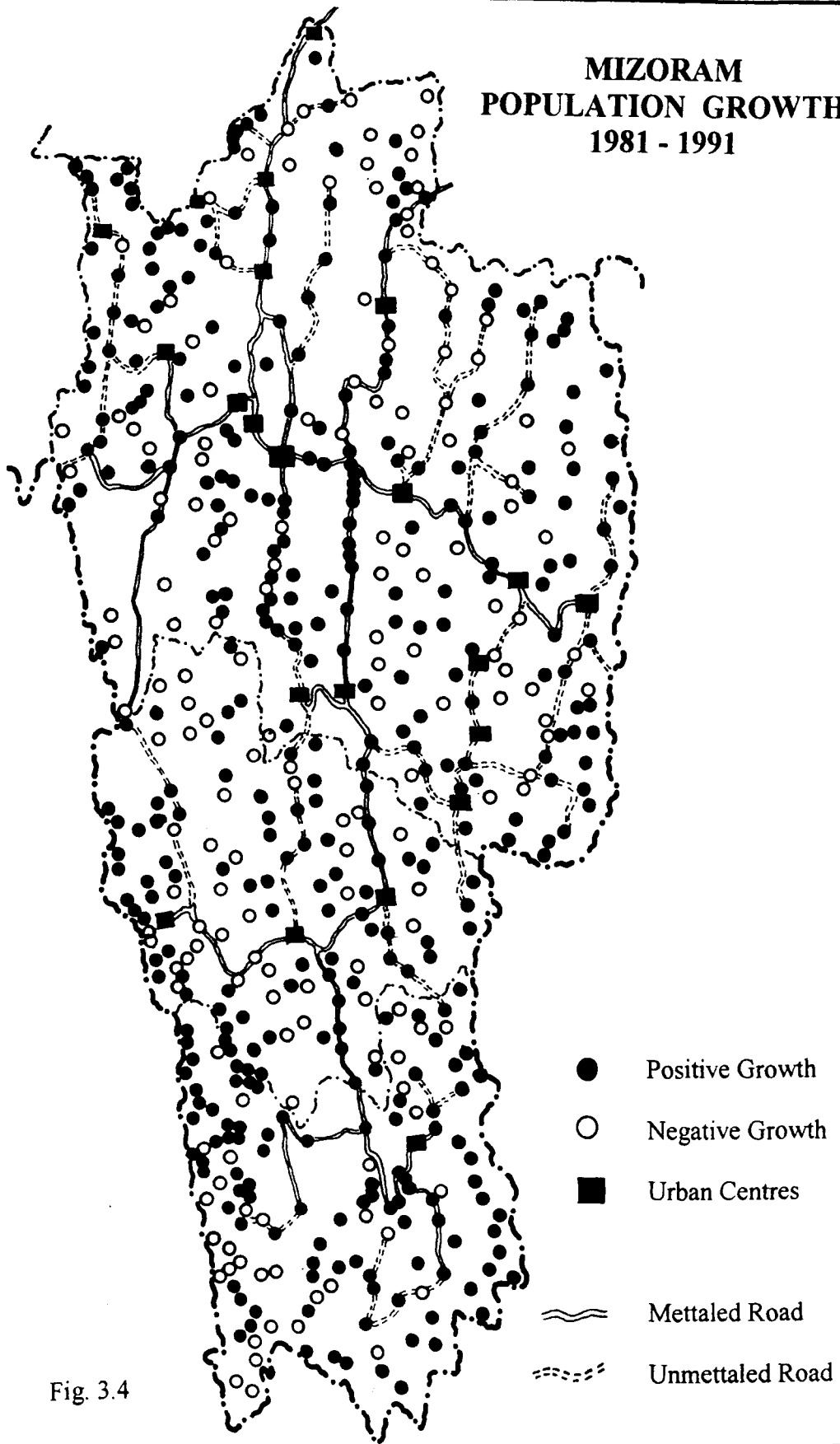


Fig. 3.4

**MIZORAM
VILLAGES EXPERIENCING
EXCESSIVE GROWTH
1981 - 1991**

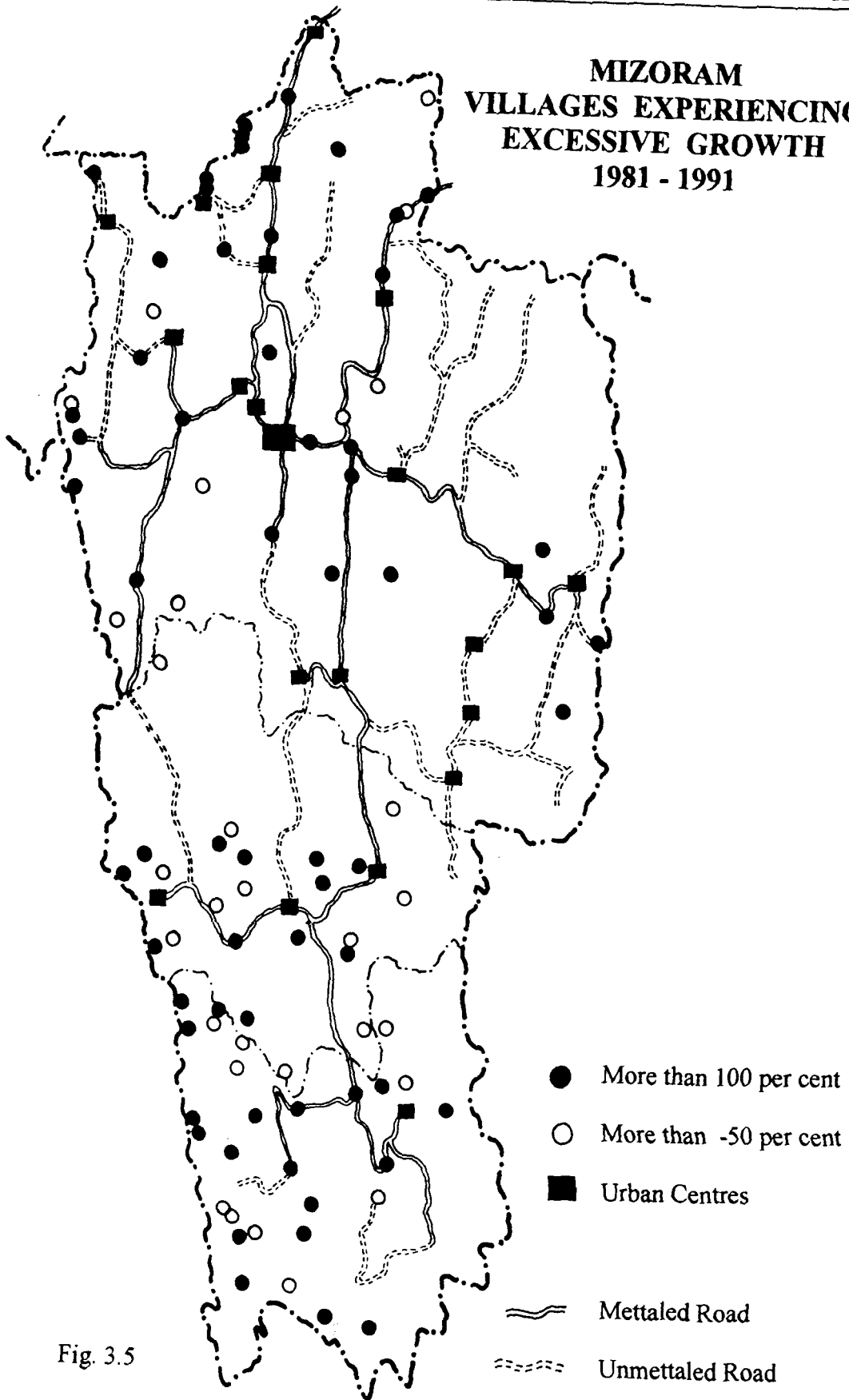


Fig. 3.5

generally found along the main arteries of roads and near the urban centres. Villages experiencing excessively negative growth in their population are found in the interior areas away from the main roads and urban centres of the state. Generally both the pattern of the growth are spread almost throughout the state.

3.4. Growth of Urban Population:

The growth of urban population of the state is the addition of urban population during the specific period of time. The growth of urban population may be due to the birth and death rates and migration. Besides this, the increase of urban population may be related to the extension of already existing urban areas, and addition of new urban centres. In this section, the study of growth of urban population is based on the understanding of the state, district and block level patterns. The objective is to understand the spatial pattern in the population redistribution and urbanization in the study area during the period of 1961-1991.

3.4.1 State Level Pattern:

The proportion of urban population of the state has been increasing considerably over the years. As shown in the table- 3.7, Mizoram registered an urban growth of 164.58 per cent during the 1961-1971 decade. The growth rate of urban population was even higher during 1971-1981 decade, when it grew at the rate of 222.61 per cent. But the growth rate decreased to 161.01 per cent during 1981-1991 decade[#]. During the period of 1961-1991, the urban population grew at the rate of 2130.10 per cent. This phenomenally high urban growth rate may be attributed to four

[#] According to Census of India, 2001, Mizoram, Provisional Population Totals, the urban population growth rate is 38.72 per cent. in 1991-2001 decade.

major factors. These are- (a) natural growth i.e. birth rate being higher than death rate in the urban areas, (b) increase in the pace of rural to urban migration, (c) expansion of the area of the towns already existing during the last census, and (d) additions of new towns to the already existing towns during the last census. It is clear that the rate of urban growth far exceeds the growth rate of population experienced in the state as a whole in all the census years during 1961-1991.

Table - 3.7

Mizoram: Urban Population Growth (In Percentage)

Census Year	Total Urban Population	Overall Growth Rate(%)	Urban Growth Rate(%)
1961	14,257	-	-
1971	37,759	24.93	164.85
1981	1,21,814	48.55	222.61
1991	3,17,946	39.69	161.01
1961 – 1991			2,130.10

3.4.2 District Level Patterns:

The growth of urban population at the district level has been highly uneven. During 1961-1971 period the urban population in Aizawl Police Station grew at the rate of 134.70 per cent. In this period, Lunglei Police Station registered an even higher urban population growth rate in its urban population of 185.84 per cent.

Table - 3.8

Mizoram: Inter District Variation in Urban Population Growth

District	Year	Total Rural Population	Addition	Growth Rate (in %)
Aizawl	1981	97,591	-	-
	1991	2,59,721	1,62,130	166.13
Lunglei	1981	17,205	-	-
	1991	44,556	27,351	158.97
Chhimituipui	1981	7,018	-	-
	1991	13,669	6,651	94.77

The analysis of the level of urban growth has been attempted at the district level only for the decade of 1981-1991. As shown in the table- 3.8, Aizawl district recorded the highest increase in the urban population i.e. a growth rate as high as 166.13 per cent during 1981-1991 decade. Lunglei district registered a growth rate of 158.97 per cent during the same period while Chhimtuipui district experienced very low urban population growth and the growth rate was as low as 94.77 per cent.

3.4.3 Block Level Patterns:

The analysis of urban population growth at the block level has been attempted for the period of 1981-1991 only. As shown in the table 3.9, only six blocks had some urban population in 1981. These are Tlangnuam (74,493), Lunglei (17,205), North Thingdawl (8,282), Khawzawl (7,487), Serchhip (7,329) and Tuipang (7,018). But

Table - 3.9
Mizoram: Block Level Urban Population Growth

District	Block	URBAN POPULATION		Addition	Growth Rate
		1981	1991		
Aizawl	Zawlnuam	-	7,001	New town	
	W. Phaileng	-	-	-	
	Reiek	-	1,808	New town	
	N. Thingdawl	8,282	26,800	18,518	225.59
	Darlawn	-	3,609	New town	
	Tlangnuam	74,493	1,58,767	84,274	113.13
	Aibawk	-	-	-	
	Serchhip	7,329	18,190	10,861	146.13
	Thingsulthiah	-	8,402	New town	
	Ngopa	-	-	-	
	Khawzawl	7,487	30,015	22,528	300.89
Lunglei	E. Lungdar	-	5,129	New town	
	W. Bunglei	-	-	-	
	Lungsen	-	4,399	New town	
	Lunglei	17,205	34,609	17,404	101.16
Chhimtuipui	Hnahthial	-	5,548	New town	
	Chawngte	-	-	-	
	Lawngtlai	-	-	-	
	Tuipang	7,018	13,669	6,651	94.77

by the year 1991, urbanization had spread to 13 blocks. Seven more blocks experienced urban growth. These were, Thingsulthiah, (8,402), Zawlnuam (7,001), Hnahthial (5,548), East Lungdar (5,129), Lungsen (4,399), Darlawn (3,609), and Reiek (1,808).

Only six blocks, which had urban population in 1981, could be taken for the calculation of growth rate of urban population during 1981-1991. As shown in the fig. 3.6, the highest urban population growth of 300.89 per cent took place in Khawzawl block. Only one block recorded a growth rate of urban population over 200-300 per cent, namely North Thingdawl block with a growth rate of 225.59 per cent. As many as three blocks recorded a growth rate of urban population of over 100-200 per cent, namely Serchhip, Tlangnuam and Lunglei block. On the other hand, there was very low urban population growth in Tuipang block that grew at the rate of 94.77 per cent.

3.5 Evidence Of Redistribution:

The overall pattern of population redistribution between 1961 and 1991 can be analysed with the help of the index of dissimilarity. The index of dissimilarity is defined as one half the sum of absolute differences in the proportions of the state population residing in all the districts and blocks between two censuses. It can vary from 0 to 1 with higher values indicating greater differences or variations. As shown in the table- 3.10, the index of dissimilarity of population of Mizoram across the blocks is higher than across the districts. At the districts level, the highest rate of redistribution of population (0.0611) is seen during 1961-1971 and decreased in 1971-1981 (0.0117). But during the 1981-1991 decade, the rate of redistribution increased to 0.0137. When the extent of redistribution is examined by taking into account variations in district population, it is seen that the extent of redistribution is rather small over the years. Significantly, however, it is the highest during 1961-1971 period, falling steadily during

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1981 - 1991**

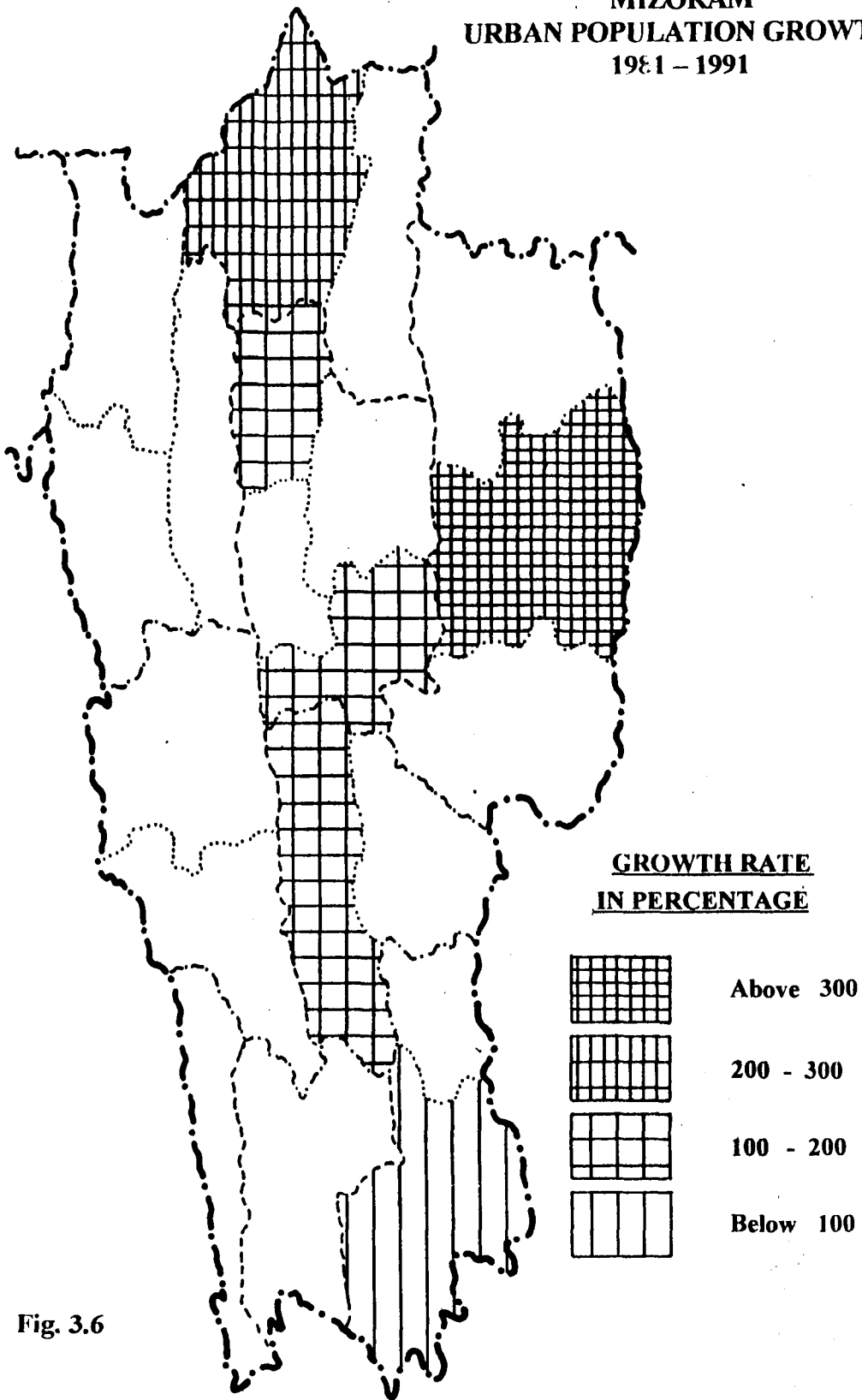


Fig. 3.6

the following two decades (Table- 3.9). It appears that the people at the state level revealed very small redistribution across the districts. This redistribution however small was greater during 1961-1971 period, but slowed down in the subsequent period.

On the other hand, the trend of redistribution of population in Mizoram across the development blocks is higher. The highest redistribution of population occurred during 1961-1971 with a rate of 0.10655 and the lowest redistribution is 0.07065 in 1981-1991. Interestingly when the extent of redistribution is examined across the development blocks, there is a marginal increase in the quantum of redistribution indicating that the process of redistribution across the development blocks is higher than experienced across the districts. It also reveals that the process of spatial shift of population involves smaller distance i.e., more across developmental blocks than across the districts. However, even across the developmental blocks, the temporal patterns remains more or less the same, i.e., a higher rate of redistribution in the decade 1961-1971 but a much slower redistribution during 1981-1991 decade.

Significantly, the rate of redistribution fell rapidly during 1971-1981 decade when the process is examined at inter-district level, but this is not so when examined at inter-block level. This indicates that inter-district spatial shift in population had fallen abruptly after 1971, but the inter-block transfer continued unabated till the year 1981 after which there has been a rapid slowing down in the rate.

Table – 3.10

Mizoram: Index of Dissimilarity of the Population

	1961 - 1971	1971- 1981	1981 - 1991
Across Districts	0.0611	0.0117	0.0137
Across Blocks	0.10655	0.10265	0.07065

Table- 3.11 shows the district-wise index of dissimilarity of the Mizoram population. Among the three districts, Aizawl district recorded the highest degree of the

population redistribution within itself. However, the rate of re-distribution continued to decline over the years. The rate of re-distribution in Lunglei district remained nearly identical for the two decades of 1961-1971 and 1971-1981 while it slowed down in the 1981-1991 decade. Chhimituipui district also experienced a similar trend.

When the rate of dissimilarity is examined separately for the districts (Table- 3.11), it is obvious that the highest rate of redistribution is observed in the Aizawl district followed by Lunglei. The extent of redistribution is marginal in Chhimituipui district. The trend observed earlier with regard to the temporal dimension of redistribution remains valid for each of the district. However, there are some significant variations. Aizawl district experienced widespread redistribution during the 1961-1971 period with a marginal fall in the following decade. Interestingly, the extent of redistribution increased to a small extent in Lunglei district in 1971-1981 decade compared to the previous decade. Chhimituipui experienced a trend more or less same as that of Aizawl, though on a much smaller scale.

Table - 3.11

Mizoram: District Wise Index of Dissimilarity of the Population

District	1961 - 1971	1971 - 1981	1981 - 1991
Aizawl	0.2185	0.2066	0.1631
Lunglei	0.1743	0.1770	0.0722
Chhimituipui	0.10135	0.10095	0.0312

Table- 3.12 reveals the index of dissimilarity for the rural population in Mizoram across the districts and across the blocks. Analysis of inter-block level of redistribution revealed higher rate of population redistribution of the rural population of Mizoram as compared to the districts. Rate of population redistribution at district level is almost same in the periods of 1961-1971 and 1971-1981 while it increased in the 1981-

1991 decade. However, the highest rate of population redistribution of the rural population in Mizoram at the district level took place during 1981-1991 decade.

If one examines the pattern of redistribution among the rural people only, there are interesting variations. The process of redistribution within the rural people is much less compared to the total, but interestingly, there is an increase in the rate of redistribution over the years, though it fell marginally during 1971-1981 decade. The rural population is redistributing itself much more across the development blocks compared to the inter-district redistribution. There is a significant increase in the extent of redistribution of rural people during 1981-1991 period.

Table - 3.12

Mizoram: Index of Dissimilarity of the Rural Population

	1961 - 1971	1971 - 1981	1981 - 1991
Across Districts	0.0258	0.0201	0.0722
Across Blocks	0.0949	0.0779	0.11025

Table- 3.13 shows the district-wise index of dissimilarity of the rural population in Mizoram. Among the three districts, Lunglei district recorded the highest rate of redistribution of rural population in 1961-1971 with a rate as high as 0.1446 while Aizawl district registered the highest in 1981-1991 with an index of 0.0902. Generally,

Table - 3.13

Mizoram: District Wise Index of Dissimilarity of the Rural Population

District	1961 - 1971	1971 - 1981	1981 - 1991
Aizawl	0.07345	0.0903	0.0902
Lunglei	0.1446	0.02645	0.08165
Chhimituipui	0.10135	0.09255	0.03115

Aizawl district has shown an increase in the rate of re-distribution of population almost in all the three decades while Chhimituipui district experienced a decrease over the years.

Significantly redistribution of rural population is much higher in Chhimtuipui district and Lunglei district in the intervening period during 1961-1971. There was a distinct slowing down in the process in the 1971-1981 decade in Lunglei to rise again in 1981-1991 decade. The overall redistribution patterns remains more or less constant in Aizawl while it has substantially slowed down in Chhimtuipui district by 1981-1991 decade. In Lunglei, however, the trend is uneven.

3.6 Concluding Statement:

The foregoing analysis of the spatial patterns in population growth in Mizoram leads to the following broad generalization.

Firstly, the study of the growth of population in Mizoram clearly reveals that the population growth trends in the state level has generally an alteration of ups and downs after every decade in terms of percentage, excepting 1941-1951 and 1951-1961. The growth rates in all the decades have been a positive. During 1911-1921 decade, the population growth rate decreased to 7.90 per cent only, which is due to the natural famine, called *Mautam* in 1912, which retarded the progress of population growth. Another declining growth trend was witnessed during 1961-1971 decade. This was probably due to the M.N.F. insurgency. During this period many Mizo youths joined the M.N.F. movement and went underground and hence were not enumerated in the census and many Mizo were killed due to the same movement.

Secondly, the rural population in Mizoram registered a negative growth rate during the period 1981-1991. The maximum decline took place in Aizawl district, which contains the largest urban centre, i.e. Aizawl City, followed by Lunglei district. On the other hand, the Chhimtuipui district registered a significant rise in its rural population. At the block level, however, the decline was phenomenal in those districts and blocks that contained large sized urban centres. The peripheral areas, particularly in the

western ridge and valley areas as well as in the south experienced large increase in their rural population.

At the village level a little less than one-third inhabited villages have registered a net decline in their population showing massive outmigration from among these villages. On the other hand, a very large population of villages has only marginally added to their total population. This means more than half of all villages have either experienced a decline in their population or added little to their population.

The villages, which have experienced positive as well as negative growth in their population are widespread all over the state indicating a dispersed pattern covering the entire state rather than any specific area. What is however evident that the villages of negative growth are far more numerous in the interior areas, away from the main arteries of roads and away from the major urban centres.

Almost all the villages having excessive positive growth of the population are generally found along the main arteries of roads and near the urban centres. Villages experiencing excessively negative growth in their population are found in the interior areas away from the main roads and urban centres of the state. Generally both the pattern of the growth are spread almost throughout the state.

Thirdly, the growth of urban population has been extremely high during 1971-1981 period after which there has been a slowing down in the rate in spite of a great multiplicity of towns in the following decade. This indicates addition of smaller size of urban settlements in the 1981-1991 decade. The largest growth in urban population has been witnessed in the northern most district of Aizawl. At the block level, however, the largest increase in urban population has taken place in Khawzawl and North Thingdawl blocks. While the former is characterized by greater agricultural potential the latter is located in the ridge and valley areas.

Fourthly, the differential patterns of population growth in the rural and urban areas unmistakably reveal an intense process of redistribution taking place in the state. The process undoubtedly is linked to a strong stream of rural to urban migration and cannot be merely attributed to differences in natural increase.

Lastly, the analysis of index of dissimilarity indicates that the overall redistribution of population is not very significant, though there are interesting inter-district variations. It is true that redistribution of population across the districts is only of marginal importance, but is of some consequence when the data is analysed across the developmental blocks. It is likely that the redistribution of population is more intra-district than inter-district. Consequently, the extent of inter-block redistribution is more.

This fact is substantiated by the evidence of a greater redistribution of rural population than the overall. This pattern suggests small distance migration causing redistribution often taking place within an administrative boundary.

CHAPTER - IV

STRUCTURE OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

4.1 Introductory Statement:

The study of rural settlement is of immense importance in these contexts of urban development because of its dominance and fast demographic transformation that is experienced in the study area during the last three decades especially after 1961. A number of rural settlements originally associated with traditional jhuming and forest are undergoing change towards urbanization. The study of the structure of rural settlement provides valuable clues about the transformation of rural areas into the urban areas. The primary objective of this chapter is to get an insight into the demographic changes taking place in the rural areas of Mizoram, which is expected to throw significant light on the pattern of urbanization in the state. It is assumed here that the urban development in Mizoram is associated with redistribution of rural population. It is the change in the spatial patterns of the rural population composition, which holds the key to an understanding of the urban development.

4.2 Changes in the Number of Rural Settlements:

The distribution of rural settlements is intimately related to the physiography, climate, customs and cultural practices and also with socio-economic activities in the region. Thus physical factors are the first attributes to understand the distribution and concentration of the rural settlement.

4.2.1 State Level Patterns:

The settlements in Mizoram were overwhelmingly rural in character till about the year 1971. The table below shows that there were as many as 744 villages of varying size in the state as a whole in the year 1961. Out of these villages, there were about 9 villages, which had no population at all, and one village was merged with another village.

Table - 4.1

Mizoram: Changes In The Numbers Of Rural Settlements, 1961-1991

Year	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Merged with other villages	Total
1961	734	9	1	744
1971	212	1		213
1981	721	15		736
1991	699	85	1	785

Source: Nunthara, C. (1989): Impact of the Introduction of Grouping of Villages in Mizoram, Omsons, New Delhi.

In the year 1971, there was a phenomenal drop in the number of rural settlements in Mizoram, i.e. only 213 in number. The causes of this massive decrease in the number of settlements may be related to the extraordinary political situation prevailing then which possibly made the census enumeration much less reliable and also due to grouping of villages resorted by the central government to contain insurgency. However, out of these 213 villages as many as 212 villages were inhabited while one village had no population at all.

According to 1981 census, the number of rural settlements registered substantial increase to reach 736 in number. This may be due to better census count in 1981 when the political conditions were more favourable. A second reason for this increase is attributed to the return of many villagers to their original sites, which were grouped earlier*. Out of these 736 villages, 2.04 per cent (15 villages) were uninhabited. However, the number of rural settlements registered a decline in 1981 compared to its 1961 position. This is because of the fact that some of the large villages were declared as urban centres and also due to the extension of the area of the existing urban centres.

* However, it is worth mentioning that in spite of this process of reversal, the grouping centres of the insurgency era continued to flourish and a great number of residents preferred to continue there rather than return to their original villages.

Interestingly, the number of rural settlements showed an upward trend in 1991 and it increased to as many as 785 in number. But at the same time there was an unprecedented rise in the number of uninhabited villages which stood at 85 in number i.e. 10.83 per cent of the total number of villages indicating large scale rural depopulation. In this year, there was just one village, which was merged with another village. However, in terms of inhabited villages the total number of villages declined substantially compared to those in 1961 and 1981 i.e. 699 inhabited villages in 1991. This is due to the fact that as many as 15 villages were declared as urban settlements and additional 32 villages were merged with the urban centres during 1981-1991 decade. This is despite the fact that as many as 85 new villages were added in this period. An interesting feature of the trend in the number of rural settlements refers to a continuous rise in the number of uninhabited villages indicating desertion of many rural areas.

Table - 4.2

Mizoram: Size-Distribution of Settlements 1961-1991

Size of Population	NUMBER OF VILLAGES			
	1961	1971	1981	1991
Below 50	43 (5.06)	3 (1.42)	50 (6.93)	29 (4.15)
51 - 100	83 (11.44)	5 (2.36)	57 (7.91)	43 (6.15)
101 - 200	172 (23.43)	17 (8.02)	129 (17.89)	113 (16.17)
201 - 500	276 (37.60)	48 (22.64)	268 (37.17)	276 (39.48)
501 - 1000	131 (17.85)	35 (16.51)	125 (17.34)	155 (22.17)
1001 - 1500	26 (3.54)	28 (13.21)	33 (4.58)	38 (5.44)
1501 - 2000	1 (0.14)	21 (9.91)	29 (4.02)	24 (3.43)
2001 - 3000	1 (0.14)	33 (15.57)	20 (2.77)	14 (2.00)
3001 & above	-	22 (10.38)	10 (1.39)	7 (1.00)
TOTAL	734	212	721	699

(Figures in parentheses show the percentage of villages)

The above table shows the distribution of villages in different size class of population. It is evident from the table that the share of villages with small population size is showing large decline over the years. These villages have a population size of

below 200 persons each. It may be noted here that the figure for the year 1971 is not taken into consideration for the reason mentioned earlier. On the other hand, medium sized villages (200-1,500) are increasing in their number. Interestingly the villages with large size of population (above 1,500) showed an upward trend until 1981, but then significantly declined owing to their attaining urban status. A significant point that emerges from the table relates to the decline in the share of small settlements which may be due to their merger with urban centres or their *en masse* movement to such centres.

4.2.2 District Level Patterns:

There were 404 villages in Aizawl Police Station. Out of these villages, 7 had no population at all and one village was merged with another village. Lunglei Police Station had 340 villages. Out of these villages, only two were devoid of any population.

Table - 4.3

Mizoram: Number of Rural Settlements 1971

Police Stations	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Total
Aizawl	57	1	58
Champhai	31		31
Lunglei	19		19
Demagiri	10		10
Saiha	78		78
Kolasib	18		18

In 1971, Mizoram was divided into six Police Stations. As shown in the table above, Saiha Police Station had the largest number of rural settlements i.e. 78 in number, followed by Aizawl and Champhai which had a total of 58 and 31 villages respectively. Aizawl Police Station had one uninhabited village. The other three Police Stations contained less than 20 villages each. As mentioned earlier, normal census enumeration could not be undertaken due to unstable political condition.

Mizoram was divided into three districts namely- Aizawl, Lunglei and Chhimituipui for the purpose of administration after 1971. Aizawl district was sub-divided into twelve Community Development Blocks. Lunglei and Chhimituipui districts were sub-divided into four Community Development Blocks each.

Table- 4.4 shows the number of rural settlements in different districts during the period of 1981-1991. During this decade, Aizawl district recorded a decline in the number of rural settlements whereas the other two districts, i.e. Lunglei and Chhimituipui witnessed an increase in the number of rural settlements. The decline in the number of rural settlements in Aizawl district took place due to the fact that 14 villages got urbanized while another 25 villages got merged with urban centres even though 29 new villages were added. Interestingly, a very large number of villages got depopulated whose number increased from 10 in 1981 to 50 in 1991. Such a phenomenal increase in the number of uninhabited villages provides sufficient indication as to the movement of people from these villages to the urban centre. The situation was, however, much different in the remaining two districts, which experienced increase in the number of villages. This is inspite of the fact that as many as 21 and 14 villages in Lunglei and

Table 4.4

Mizoram: Changes in the Distribution of Inhabited/Uninhabited Settlements

Districts	NUMBER OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS							
	Inhabited Villages		Uninhabited Villages		Merged with other village		TOTAL	
	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
Aizawl	390	342	10 (2.5)	50 (12.76)			400	392
Lunglei	161	158	2 (1.23)	21 (11.73)			163	179
Chhimituipui	170	199	3 (1.73)	14 (6.54)		1	173	214
TOTAL	721	699	15	85		1	736	785

(The figures in the parentheses are in percentage)

Chhimituipui districts respectively became depopulated during this period. The increase in the number of rural settlements in these two districts took place largely due to the emergence of new villages which more than compensated the desertion of villages. In Lunglei district, only a single village was urbanized and 6 villages were merged with the towns, and 15 new villages were added, while in Chhimituipui district, only one village was merged with the town and 41 new villages were added. However, during this period, the inhabited villages recorded a decrease in their number in Aizawl and Lunglei districts whereas Chhimituipui district witnessed an increase in the number of rural settlements. The number of uninhabited villages increased in all the districts, though the increase was much higher in Aizawl and Lunglei districts.

4.2.3 Block Level Patterns:

The analysis of the pattern of rural settlements at the block level is based on the two census counts of 1981 and 1991. The table below provides information regarding the number of villages in different blocks.

Table - 4.5

Mizoram: Distribution of Blocks According To Number of Villages

Number of Villages	NUMBER OF BLOCKS	
	1981	1991
Below 20	3 (15%)	3 (15%)
21 - 30	5 (25%)	5 (25%)
31 - 40	3 (15%)	4 (20%)
41 - 50	5 (25%)	3 (15%)
51 & above	4 (20%)	5 (25%)
TOTAL	20	20

(Figures in the parentheses show the percentage of block)

It is clear from the above table that the number of villages changed substantially in different blocks during the period 1981-1991. It is interesting to note that the blocks having a large number of villages showed a decline in their number. This is

particularly true of the blocks having 41-50 villages. However, the blocks having more than 50 villages increased in their number i.e. from 4 in 1981 to 5 in 1991.

During the decade of 1981-1991, three blocks namely Zawlnuam, Reiek and Thingsulthlah- all located in the western ridge and valley areas-recorded identical number of villages indicating stagnation in the number. In this period, eight blocks of West Phaileng and Aibawk in Aizawl district, West Bunglei and Lungsen in Lunglei

Table - 4.6

Mizoram: Distribution of Villages in Different Blocks

District	Block	No. of Villages	%of Villages	No. of Villages	% of Villages
		1981	1981	1991	1991
Aizawl	Zawlnuam	58	7.88	58	7.39
	W,Phaileng	31	4.21	38	4.84
	Reiek	29	3.94	29	3.69
	N.Thingdawl	45	6.11	41	5.22
	Darlawn	31	4.21	32	4.08
	Tlangnuam	30	4.08	20	2.55
	Aibawk	20	2.72	25	3.18
	Serchhip	19	2.58	17	2.17
	Thingsulthlah	26	3.53	26	3.31
	Ngopa	27	3.67	28	3.57
	Khawzawl	42	5.71	37	4.71
	E.Lungdar	42	5.71	41	5.22
Lunglei	W.Bunglei	39	5.30	46	5.86
	Lungsen	55	7.47	70	8.92
	Lunglei	43	5.84	39	4.97
	Hnahthial	26	3.53	24	3.06
Chhimtuipui	Chawngte	50	6.79	75	9.55
	Lawngtlai	56	7.61	67	8.54
	Sangau	16	2.17	17	2.17
	Tuipang	51	6.93	55	7.01

district and all the blocks in Chhimtuipui district recorded an increase in the number of villages. Most of these blocks are concentrated in the western ridge and valley areas. Among these blocks, Chawngte had the largest increase in the number of villages that had a share of 6.79 per cent (50 villages) of villages in 1981. In 1991, the number of

villages increased by 25 villages and it accounted for 75 villages as well as the largest share of villages i.e., 9.55 per cent. On the other hand, seven blocks namely- North Thingdawl, Tiangnuam, Serchhip, Khawzawl, East Lungdar, Hnahthial and Lunglei- all located in the eastern high land region recorded substantial decrease in the number of villages during 1981-1991. Of them, Tiangnuam block registered the largest decrease in the number of villages i.e. from 30 villages in 1981 to 20 villages in 1991. Table- 4.5 clearly reveals the spatial pattern in the increase or decrease of villages. While the eastern highland region experienced significant decline in the number of rural settlements, the western ridge and valley areas witnessed increase in the number of rural settlements or their number remained more or less constant.

As shown in the table- 4.7, the villages are classified into inhabited and uninhabited villages. This classification is used for the analysis of rural settlements at the block level for the census years of 1981 and 1991. It is interesting to note from the table-4.6 that there has been a substantial increase in the number of uninhabited villages in different blocks in 1991 compared to 1981. In the year 1981, there were only a few blocks having uninhabited villages and the number of such villages were small. On the other hand, most of the blocks in 1991 not only showed the presence of uninhabited villages, their number too increased phenomenally. As many as 11 blocks did not have a single uninhabited village in 1981 whereas such blocks numbered only 3 in 1991.

The blocks that witnessed a great deal of desertion of villages in 1991 include Zawnuam, North Thingdawl, West Phaileng and Reiek in Aizawl district, West Bunglei, Lunglei in Lunglei district, Lawngtlai and Tuipang in Chhimtuipui district. Most of these blocks are located in the western part of the state characterized by ridge and valley areas. More than 20 per cent of all villages were uninhabited in 4 blocks

consisting of Zawlnuam, West Phaileng, North Thingdawl blocks in Aizawl district and Lunglei block in Lunglei district (Fig. 4.1). It is significant that most of these blocks are located close to Aizawl or Lunglei townships.

Table - 4.7

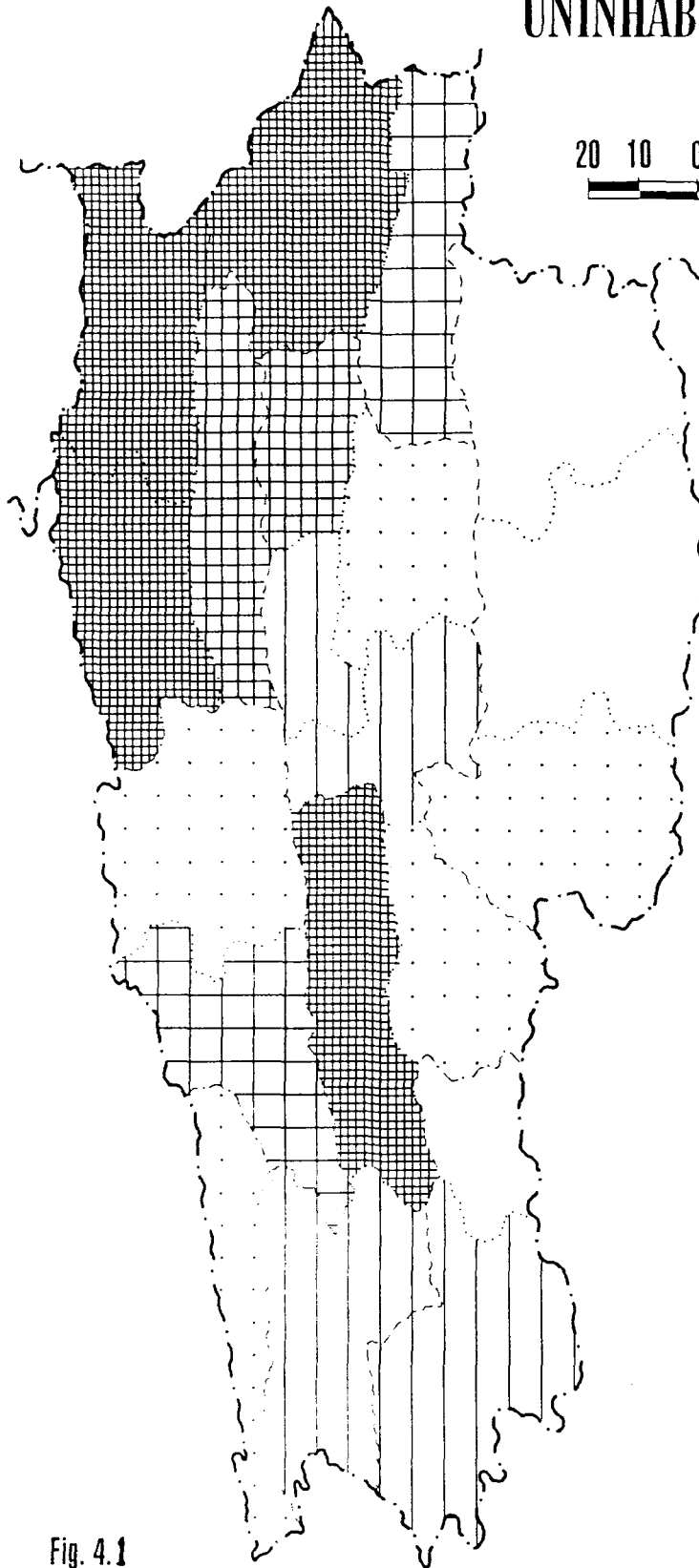
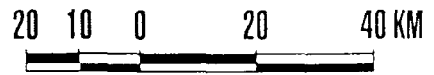
Mizoram: Distribution of Inhabited and Uninhabited Villages at Block Level

District	Block	NUMBER OF VILLAGES					
		Inhabited		Uninhabited		Total	
		1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
Aizawl	Zawlnuam	54	45	4 (6.90)	13 (22.41)	58	58
	W. Phaileng	31	29	-	9 (23.68)	31	38
	Reiek	28	24	1 (3.45)	5 (17.24)	29	29
	N. Thingdawl	42	31	3 (6.67)	10 (24.39)	45	41
	Darlawn	31	28	-	4 (12.20)	31	32
	Tlangnuam	28	17	2 (6.67)	3 (15.00)	30	20
	Aibawk	20	23	-	2 (8.00)	20	25
	Serchhip	19	16	-	1 (5.88)	19	17
	Thingsulthliah	26	25	-	1 (3.85)	26	26
	Ngopa	27	28	-	-	27	28
	Khawzawl	42	37	-	-	42	37
East Lungdar	42	39	-	2 (4.88)	42	41	
Lunglei	W. Bunglei	39	44	-	2 (4.35)	39	46
	Lungsen	54	61	1 (1.82)	9 (12.86)	55	70
	Lunglei	42	30	1 (2.33)	9 (23.08)	43	39
	Hnahthial	26	23	-	1 (4.17)	26	24
Chhimituipui	Chawngte	48	72	2 (4.00)	3 (4.00)	50	75
	Lawngtlai	56	60	-	6 (9.09)	56	66
	Sangau	16	17	-	-	16	17
	Tuipang	50	50	1 (1.96)	5 (9.09)	51	55

(Figures in the parentheses show the percentage of uninhabited villages)

An interesting finding of this study relates to the fact that the eastern highland region has witnessed a decline in the number of rural settlements during the period of 1981-1991 while the western ridge and valley areas experienced large scale depopulation during the same period as evident from a significant increase in the number of uninhabited villages. However, a study of the change in the number of inhabited villages reveal that the number of such villages actually increased in a few blocks namely- Aibawk, West Bunglei, Lungsen, Chawngte, Lawngtlai, Sangau and Tuipang- most of which are confined to the southern part of the state barring Aibawk

DISTRIBUTION OF UNINHABITED VILLAGES 1991



PERCENTAGE OF UNINHIBITED VILLAGES

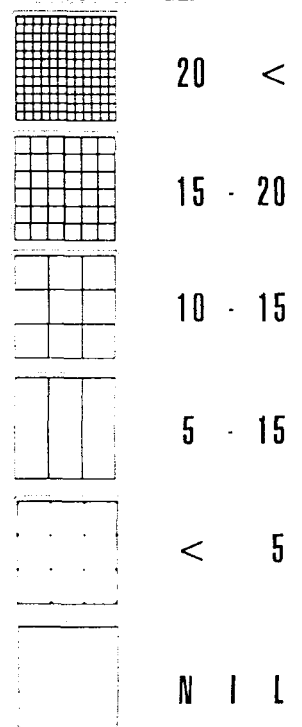


Fig. 4.1

which is located close to Aizawl. At least four blocks, namely- Zawlnuam, North Thingdawl, Tlangnuam and Lunglei experienced a phenomenal decrease in the number of rural settlements. Two of these blocks contain one urban area each in them while the remaining two blocks are located close to the block containing Aizawl City. It is important to note that the blocks close to the urban centres generally experienced decline in the number of inhabited villages.

Figure 4.2 reveals that the spatial distribution of uninhabited villages. As shown in this figure the uninhabited villages are spread all over the state except the eastern mountainous area. Most of them are confined to the western ridge and valley region particularly in the north and south. The uninhabited villages are generally found in the interior areas away from the main arteries of roads and urban centres of the state. But some of the uninhabited villages are also located in the main arteries of roads and close to urban centres. Interestingly, the uninhabited villages are found in group of three or four or even more in close spatial proximity to each other.

4.3 Grouping Of Villages in Mizoram: Patterns In 1960-1970

It is quite likely that the process of such large-scale redistribution of population in Mizoram is linked inextricably to the Grouping exercise resorted to by the Central Government as a counter insurgency method. Grouping of villages into larger units was done in Mizoram as a counter-insurgency measure during 1967-1970, similar to the 1958 regrouping launched by the British as against the Chinese squatters in Malaya after world war II. It is also linked with the tragic ill-fated experiment of agro-villages in South Vietnam and was later aimed against the Vietcong, which was later modified by USA in 1962 into various workable units and ultimately proved more successful. The authorities responsible for grouping exercises in the past were foreign powers viz. The British in Malaya and the USA in South Vietnam, both aimed against

**MIZORAM
UNINHABITED VILLAGES
1991**

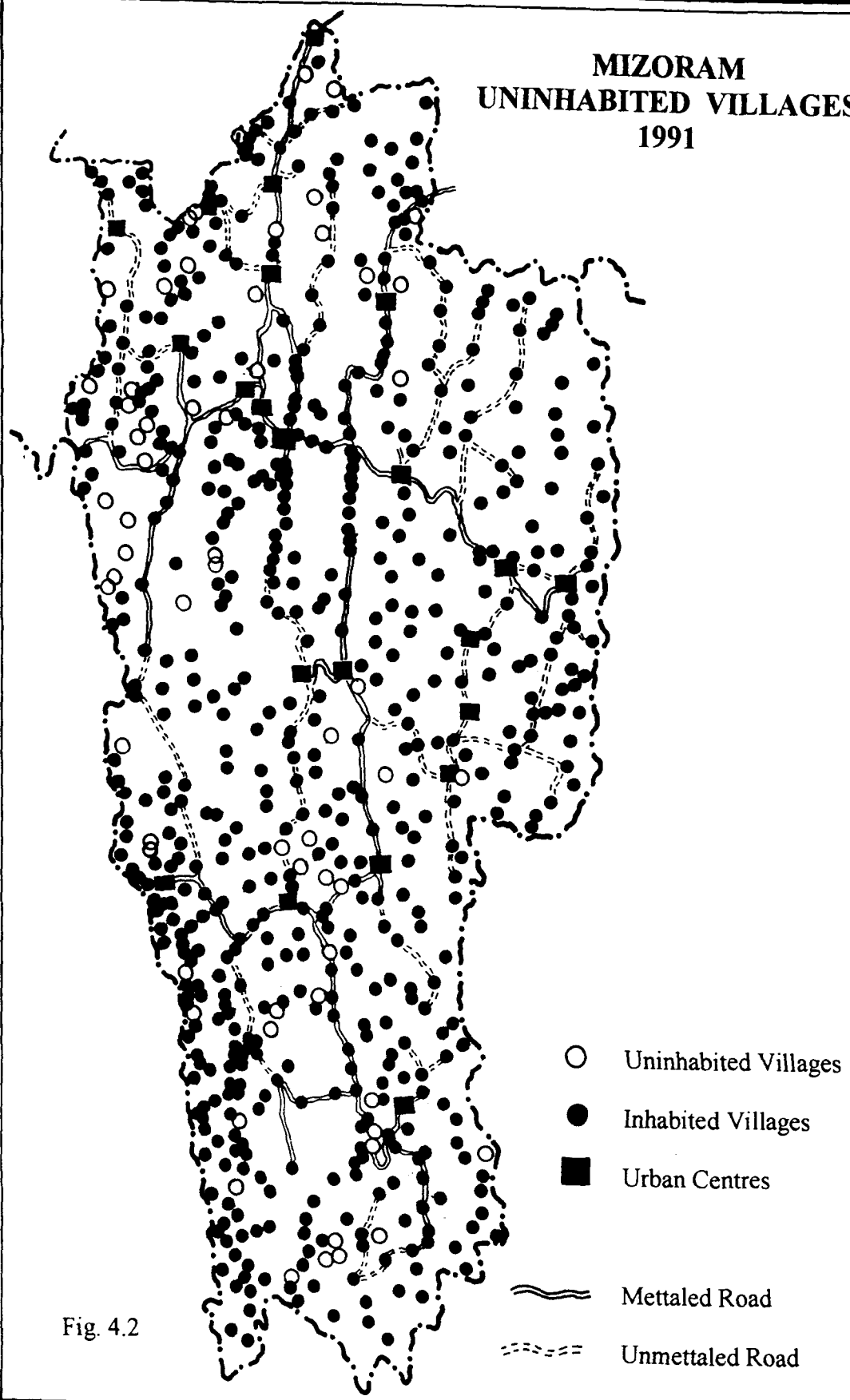


Fig. 4.2

communist insurgents. Hence, its application in India is to some extent a deviation. In India, grouping of villages was applied first in Nagaland to check Naga insurgency but was soon discontinued as administrative reforms were ushered in with political changes.¹

The underground activities led by the *Mizo National Front* (MNF) which changed the course of Mizoram history, broke out in February 28, 1966. The party under the leadership of Laldenga demanded a sovereign state for the Mizo². The meteoric ascendance of the Front in the political sky dates back to 1959 when it started functioning as a social organisation under the name and style of *Mizo National Famine Front* (MNFF) to serve the people who were facing great calamity in the *Mautam* famine.³

The establishment of Mizo National Front (MNF) was linked with the flowering of Bamboos, which the Mizo called *Mautam* in 1959 and the consequential famine in the following years. The word *Mau* means 'Bamboo' and *Tam* means to wither or to die. So the word *Mautam* literally means the withering or mass death of Bamboos which was invariably followed by an unprecedented increase of rat population in the countryside which, in turn, created havoc on the standing crops leading ultimately to famine. Since it was linked with the Bamboo species, they named these unusual occurrences as *Mautam*.⁴

¹ Nunthara, C. (1989) : *Impact of the Introduction of Grouping of Villages in Mizoram*, Omson Publication, Guwahati, p. 61

² Hluna, J.V. (1985) : *Church and Political Upheaval in Mizoram*, Mizo History Association, Aizawl. p. 87.

³ *Mizoram District Gazetteers*, Mizoram (1989), Government of Mizoram. P. 55.

⁴ Ramthara, R. (1998) : *Socio-Economic Impact of Village Grouping in Mizoram : A Geographical Analysis*, Ph. D. Thesis (unpublished), Department of Geography, N.E.H.U., Shillong. P. 128

During the *Mautam* in 1959 and the consequential famine in 1960, the Assam Government and the centre spent not less than Rs. 1 crore in the shape of gratuitous relief, agricultural loans, test relief work and subsidising the food supply. In addition, various non-official organisations took up relief work and welfare measures. Free gifts in the form of clothes and garments, milk powders and other foodstuffs were donated in large quantities from various organisations and individuals⁵. But the relief and donation they received from government and social organisations was not sufficient for the people. Meanwhile, one social organisation was established to tackle the famine and was called Mizo National Famine Front (MNFF) in 1960. Its aims were to give relief and render help to the poor and the distressed. Mr. Laldenga, the long time President of MNF, was the secretary of this social organisation. After the famine situation was improved and the living condition of the people was normal, the MNFF, which was established only to tackle the famine was ceased and the leaders of the MNFF got new idea to convert it into a political party. It was this organisation which later became the Mizo National Front (MNF), converting itself into political party.⁶

The establishment of Mizo National Front (MNF) as a political party in 1961 with its emphasis on political self-determination had witnessed a turning point in the politics of the Hills. The MNF called for the ceation of greater Mizoram and secession from India and political self-determination as the political ideal for Mizoram, found favour with different sections of the population. Thus during 1963 by-elections to the two Assam Assembly seats, the MNF contested and won both the seats. At the

⁵ Thanga, L.B. (1979) : *The Mizos- A Study in Racial Personality*, United Publishers, Guwahati. Pp. 173-174

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 174

same time, negotiation for arms supply with Pakistan and training of volunteers was going on since 1962.⁷

During 1962-1965, the MNF secretly had undergone arms training for the "revolution" and arms were deported to Mizoram. But the documents and arms stock was revealed to the security forces by one of the MNF volunteers. The execution of the informer by the MNF caused great concern among the government officials of India and provoked a series of officials' visit to the state in the early part of 1966.

Soon after the visits⁸ of government officials in the early part of 1966, the Government suddenly intended to move the 18th Battalion of Assam Rifles to Mizoram to help the 187 Assam Rifles to help keeping law and order. This was a good excuse for the MNF to declare Independence before the 18th Assam Rifles reach Aizawl. On the night of February 28, 1966, the Aizawl Treasury Office was looted and the telephone exchange was put out of order. On 1st March 1966, the MNF declared independence of sovereign Mizoram. Several outposts throughout Mizoram were attacked by MNF and took control almost all the important centres including Lunglei and Aizawl. However, on March 4th and 5th, 1966, jet Fighter striked MNF positions and dropped rockets and lights bombs. When the advancing Army reached Aizawl, with the help of jet fighters, they recaptured Aizawl from MNF occupations on the 6th March 1966. Lunglei was recaptured only on the 13th March, 1966.⁹

The MNF was declared unlawful by an extraordinary Gazette Notification by the Government of India, published on March 6, 1966, which reads "that the MNF activities were prejudicial to the security of the Mizo District in the state of Assam and the adjoining part of the territory of India. The Central Government, by effecting

⁷ Nunthara, *Op. cit.*, p. 1

⁸ *Ibid.*, p.2

⁹ *Ibid.*, p.2

necessary amendment, has ordered that Rule 32 of the Defence of India Rule, 1962 shall be applicable to the MNF. The MNF was thus forced to go underground and formed the underground government called the Mizoram Government. When the army operation started, some of the important centres were recaptured and were freed from the MNF control during 1966, but many of the interior villages were still in the control of the MNF, and the MNF personnel could always find food and shelter from these interior villages.¹⁰

The facts and figures pertaining to spatial patterns in rural population composition underwent drastic changes during the period preceding 1971 owing to the disturbed political conditions prevailing then. It is due to this fact that the situation in 1971 could not be analysed along with other census counts. An attempt is made here to briefly discuss the patterns in 1971 separately to maintain the continuity.

The traditional patterns of migration within the district underwent a radical change following the implementation of scheme of grouping of villages during the period from 1966-1970. The need for grouping was felt more strongly than ever before in 1966 when the armed insurrections of the M.N.F. hostile brought to the sharp relief risks to which the people of small number of houses constructed over the hill tops, were spread over a very difficult terrain. From the mountain features, the marauding could sneak into these villages and export food supplies, money, free labour and accommodation. Under the oppressions of the hostiles, the villagers were getting greatly confused and feeling difficult and helpless. It was very essential, to build up their morals and confidence, by

¹⁰ Singh, S.N. (1994) : *Mizoram*, Mittal Publications, New Delhi. Pp.195 - 203

giving them full protection and security in chosen places where deployment of a small force could ensure security of a large number of people.¹¹

After the outbreak of violence, the law and order situation in Mizoram was extremely critical. To cope with the situation, various orders were passed by the Government like declaration of Mizoram as *Disturbed Areas*, promulgation of Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, declaration of all offences under Sections 188 and 505 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) as cognisable, prohibitory orders on Arms, ban on wearing uniforms resembling Army /Police uniforms, ban on articles such as torch-light, jungle boots etc. However, in spite of all these orders, the underground MNF still controlled many interior villages. In order to put an end to this, the scheme of grouping of villages was recommended and introduced in 1967.¹²

The main object of the scheme was thus to facilitate the effective operation of the security forces against the M.N.F. which had taken control of the interior villages spread out in far-flung areas. It was not possible for the administration to provide adequate security measures to all the outlying villages. It was, nevertheless, necessary to prevent extortion of food and money from villagers by the M.N.F. underground. The villagers were thus confused and helpless as to whom they render their political loyalty. Under the circumstances, grouping of villages into layer units as counter-insurgency tool was extended throughout Mizoram except the extreme southern portion of Pawi-Lakher region on this region was not affected by the M.N.F. activities. There was considerable opposition from the villages on the scheme of grouping. The MNF also tried to foil the grouping operation especially the first category by organising

¹¹ Mizoram District Gazetteers, *Op. cit.* P. 66

¹² Singh, S.N. *Op. cit.* P. 3

ambushes on security forces engaged in the operation of grouping. However, despite the attempts made by the MNF to foil it and considerable amount of opposition from the villagers, the security forces, with weapons at their disposal, were able to compel the villagers to go to the grouping centres. The villagers were not enthusiastic about leaving their own villages. Because of grouping of villages, the MNF was thus forced to shift its Headquarters from Mizoram to East Pakistan, now called Bangladesh.¹³

The second objective of grouping of villages was to accelerate the progress of developmental works and to bring home immediately impact of developmental programmes hitherto almost impossible owing to the scattered nature of villages coupled with extremely inadequate communication facilities. This was recommended by the Planning Commission Study Team led by Shri Tarlok Singh, which visited the area in the early part of 1966. This was also specified in the first category of grouping carried out called "Protective and Progressive Villages" in 1967.¹⁴

The objectives of grouping scheme were successful to some extent. The military attempt at foiling MNF movement and their physical contact with the villagers were successful and the grouping centres were guarded like fortress, and a security checking for all the villagers early in the morning before going to the jhum fields and in the evening while entering the villages. Nevertheless, there were occasional ambushes, which sometimes paralysed normal function of administration throughout 1967, 1968 and 1969.¹⁵

In this way, grouping of villages into layer units carried out in Mizoram during 1967-1970 was designed to safeguard the villagers from the M.N.F. underground

¹³ Nunthara, C. *Op. cit.* Pp. 3-4

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 4

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 4

and to accelerate the progress of developmental works in internal villages. As such the scheme, which had four distinct stages or categories of grouping of villages, was introduced under the provisions of the Defence of India Rule, 1962 and the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1953.¹⁶

Protected and Progressive Villages (PPVs)

The first category of grouping called 'Protected and Progressive villages' (PPV) recommended under the provisions of the Defence of India Rule, 1962, was introduced on the 4th of January, 1967, within ten miles radius on the Main line of Silchar-Kolasib-Aizawl-Serchhip-Lunglei road, and the operation was completed in ten

Table – 4.8

Mizoram: Population of Various Centres

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Population
1.	Vairengte	1,988
2.	Bilkhawthlir	2,708
3.	Kolasib	5,363
4.	Thingdawl	2,705
5.	Kawnpui	3,605
6.	Lungdai	2,048
7.	Sihphir	2,635
8.	Durtlang	2,825
9.	Zemabawk	1,958
10.	Thingsulthliah	3,662
11.	Tlungvel	2,757
12.	Baktawng	3,049
13.	Chhingchhip	3,933
14.	Chhiahtlang	3,269
15.	Serchhip	3,615
16.	Bungtlang	2,499
17.	Pangzawi	2,580
18.	Hnahthial	3,921
19.	Zobawk	2,699
	Total	57,873

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5

weeks. It comprises 106 villages grouped together into nineteen grouping Centres comprising a total population of 57,873. The centre wise population is shown in the table- 4.8.

By the end of February 1967, all the centres were taken over by the civil administration while the actual operation of the grouping scheme and the military personnel undertook the actual day-to-day security arrangements. Member of Assam Civil Service designated as Administrative Officer or Area Administrative Officer carried out the administration of a grouping centre in this category.¹⁷

New Grouping Centres (NGCs)

The second category of grouping of villages called 'New Grouping Centres' was ordered in August 1969 under the provisions of the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1953. It consisted of five sectors of the population viz. (a) Bangladesh border (b) Tripura border (c) Lunglei-Lawngtlai road, (d) Darngawn (Khawzawl)-Bungzung-North Vanlaiphai-Serchhip road, and (e) Seling-Champhai road. It caught up 184 villages grouped together into 40 grouping centres with a total population of 97,339 (Table- 4.9). The actual operation of shifting of population had already started from 1967 onwards while the 1969 order regularized the movement.

Voluntary Grouping Centres (VGCs)

The third category of grouping called 'Voluntary Grouping Centres' was ordered in August 1970, again under the conditions of the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1953. It comprised the population from different parts of Mizoram, involving 110 villages grouped into 26 grouping centres with a total population of 47,156 persons (Table- 4.10). Even though the name denoted voluntary shifting, movement in all cases

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 5

Table – 4.9

Mizoram: New Grouping Centres And Population

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Population
1.	Zawnuam	5,910
2.	Rengdil	4,493
3.	Kawrtethawveng	2,254
4.	Tuipuibari	4,061
5.	Phuldungsei	834
6.	Marpara	1,507
7.	Darngawn 'W'	672
8.	Kawnpui 'W'	1,515
9.	Puankhai	1,367
10.	Demagiri	5,560
11.	Halaichari	599
12.	Borapansuri	1,079
13.	Jarulchari	1,090
14.	Vaseitlang	3,572
15.	Parva	1,941
16.	Lungsen	2,579
17.	Hauruang	1,114
18.	Lawngtlai	2,514
19.	Thingfal	1,598
20.	Tawipui	2,481
21.	Ruallung	1,876
22.	Saitual	2,301
23.	Kawkulh	2,183
24.	Khawzawl	5,000
25.	Chawngtlai	2,169
26.	Champhai	2,822
27.	Bungzung	3,190
28.	Vanzau	2,671
29.	Vaphai	2,357
30.	Farkawn	2,548
31.	Khawbung	3,067
32.	Lungdar 'E'	3,830
33.	North Vanlaiphai	1,915
34.	Cherhlun	2,000
35.	South Vanlaiphai	3,084
36.	Khawlailung	1,534
37.	Neihdawn	2,078
38.	Zote	2,184
39.	Ruantlang	2,790
	Total	97,339

was done under compulsion and movement of some villages into the new centres had already started since 1968 and the 1970 order completed it in August, 1970.¹⁸

Table – 4.10

Mizoram: Voluntary Grouping Centres and Population

Sl. No.	Name of the Centres	Population
1.	Lallen	718
2.	Lengpui	1,126
3.	Hmunpui	774
4.	Bukpui	1,247
5.	Sairang	2,027
6.	Hlimen	1,647
7.	Khawrihnim	964
8.	Reiek	1,488
9.	Rawpuichhip	827
10.	Hortoki	1,995
11.	Bairabi	1,757
12.	Phaileng	1,231
13.	Lungpho	2,726
14.	Khawhai	3,726
15.	Sialhawk	2,289
16.	Chhipphir	1,795
17.	Mualthuam	1,377
18.	Haulawng	2,127
19.	Thingsai	2,201
20.	Thenzawl	3,441
21.	Darlung	1,412
22.	Buarpui	1,461
23.	Kanghmun	945
24.	Sialsuk	2,281
25.	Bunghmun	2,461
26.	Chawngte	3,113
	Total	47,156

Extended Loop Area (ELA)

The fourth and last category of grouping called 'Extended Loop Areas' ordered in 1970 was again under the provisions of the Assam Maintenance Act, 1953. It caught up the shifting of 63 villages into 17 grouping centres and a total population of

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p.64

34,219 (Table-4.11) persons. The actual operation of Movement was again launched during 1968-1969 and was completed in 1970¹⁹. Generally, grouping of villages that involved in this category is mostly the north-eastern part of Mizoram.

Table – 4.11
Mizoram: Extended Loop Area and Population

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Population
1.	Darlawn	3,102
2.	Ngopa	1,952
3.	Suangpuilawn	2,322
4.	Kepran	2,136
5.	Ratu	1,498
6.	Hnahlan	2,270
7.	Changzawl	2,815
8.	Khawdungsei	1,425
9.	Vervek	2,098
10.	Zohmun	2,325
11.	Vanbawng	1,603
12.	Khawruhlian	3,058
13.	Phullen	2,051
14.	Mimbung	1,557
15.	Khawlian	1,843
16.	Phuaibuang	1,687
17.	Kawlberm	447
	Total	34,219

Moreover, grouping centres, which fell under the above distinct categories, there were three grouping centres- Mamit, Tuipang and Sangau in which actual shifting was carried out independently of the other categories. Hence, grouping of villages in Mizoram during 1967-1970 affected a total population of 2,36,162 persons.

There were, of course, some villages in different parts of Mizoram, which were excluded from the grouped scheme and shifting operation. In all cases, the excluded villages were found in those areas where the M.N.F. movement was normally less active. District-wise population of such ungrouped villages was as follows:

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 64

Aizawl district	10,431
Lunglei district	2,000
Chhimituipui district	24,000

Thus, the total population of ungrouped villages in Mizoram at the completion of grouping scheme was 36,431, and besides these ungrouped villages district headquarters of Aizawl, Lunglei and Saiha each had a population of 32,000, 12,000 and 1,500 respectively. Thus the total population not directly affected by the grouping scheme was 81,931 while a total of 2,36,162 persons was directly affected in the grouping operation. Nearly 82 per cent of the total population were directly affected by the introduction of the scheme of grouping of villages in Mizoram by the year 1972.

The settlement pattern in the grouping centres, which followed the method of concentration of members of any particular village in one block or street, helped in deteriorating village solidarity. Thus, the settlement pattern in the grouping centres upset village solidarity while retaining original village loyalty and identity. Thus, people in many instances still retained the sentimental bond of the old village, which cut across familiarities. The villagers in the grouping centres gradually lost village solidarity based on tribal setting. As a result, people feel less attached to the village resulting in the consequent migratory flow of population to towns in search of commercial openings. Thus, during the decade 1961-71, the population of Aizawl town increased from 14,257 in 1961 to over 40,000 in 1971.

There were 754 villages in Mizoram as a whole excluding the two towns of Aizawl and Lunglei before the introduction of grouping of villages. The distribution of villages in different sub-divisions or districts before 1967 was as follows:

Table - 4.12

Mizoram: Distribution of Villages with Their Population Before 1961

District	Number of Villages	Population
Aizawl	456	1,99,354
Lunglei	169	41,563
Chhimituipui	139	38,539
Total	764	2,79,456

Source: Same as in Table - 4.1

The two district headquarters of Aizawl and Lunglei towns had a population of 32,000 and 12,000 respectively. At the time of grouping of villages, Mizoram had a total population of 3,23,456.

Of the 764 villages in the rural areas, 516 villages were evacuated and grouped into 110 grouping centres as a result of the introduction of grouping scheme, while 138 villages were excluded from the operation of shifting of villages. The distribution of villages evacuated, ungrouped villages and grouping centres in different districts may be seen as given in table- 4.13

Table - 4.13

Mizoram: Distribution of Villages Evacuated, Ungrouped and Grouping Centres

District	No. of Villages Evacuated	No. of Ungrouped Villages	Grouping Centres
Aizawl	344	32	80
Lunglei	127	20	22
Chhimituipui	42	86	8
Total	516	138	110

Source: Same as in Table - 4.1

It can be seen from the above table that grouping scheme had been carried out more extensively in Aizawl and Lunglei districts than in Chhimituipui district. It can, therefore, be quickly discernible that MNF Movement was less active in Chhimituipui district. Again, this can be seen from the number of people involved in the grouping of villages in different districts, which may be seen as follows:

Table - 4.14

Mizoram: Number of Villages and Population Evacuated and Ungrouped Villages

District	Villages Evacuated	Population	Ungrouped Villages	Population
Aizawl	344	1,32,202	32	10,431
Lunglei	127	28,251	20	2,000
Chhimituipui	45	8,400	86	24,000

Sources: Same as in Table - 4.1

Again, the distribution of grouping centres with total number of population in different districts at the time of grouping operation was as follows:

Table - 4.15

Mizoram: Number of Grouping Centres and Number of Population

District	Number of Grouping Centres	Population
Aizawl	80	56,721
Lunglei	22	11,312
Chhimituipui	8	6,136
TOTAL	110	74,169

Source: Same as in Table- 4.1

The above table revealed that the population for grouping centres related to the original population of grouping centres i.e. population of the original inhabitants of the grouping centres at the time of grouping of villages.

Thus, at the completion of grouping of villages in 1970 the total number of villages of 764 in Mizoram had been reduced to 248 villages. In Aizawl district alone, 456 villages before 1967 had been reduced to 112 villages with a total population involvement of 1,88,923 or 95 per cent of the district rural population. Therefore, the impact of grouping of villages could best be seen from Aizawl district.

After 1971, there was migratory flow from the grouping centres to the interior village sites and by 1979 a large number of people had already resettled in their original villages as the following table for Aizawl district shows:

Table - 4.16

Number Of *Thlawhbawks*, Houses and Population in Aizawl District In 1979

	<i>Thlawhbawks'</i>	Grouping of centers
Number of villages	260	80
Number of houses	15,179	22,892
Population	99,106	1,84,371

Source: Same as in Table - 4.1

Thus, 260 villages of the 344 evacuated villages during 1967-1970 in Aizawl district had been re-established as *Thlawhbawks*, making the total number of villages in Aizawl district in 1979 at 372 which was 112 at the completion of the grouping centres to afford large population, and more than half of the grouped population had already gone back to their original village sites by 1979.

4.4 Concluding Statement:

This chapter made an attempt to understand the demographic situation in the rural areas of Mizoram with the assumption that the pattern of urbanization in this fragile eco-system is intricately interwoven with the patterns in rural areas. Since the region experiences little inter-state migration, urbanization process seems to be directly related to the internal redistribution of population as reflected in the transformation of large villages into urban centres as well as migration of rural people into the existing urban centres.

The foregoing analysis of the changes in the number and size of the rural settlements lead to the following broad generalizations.

Firstly, the state as a whole has been experiencing a net decline in the number of inhabited rural settlements over the period of investigation with a corresponding rise in the number of uninhabited or deserted villages. The increase in the number of uninhabited villages is phenomenal in the 1981-1991 decade, a period,

which incidentally is characterized by an equally striking rise in the level of urbanization. However, the extent of rural depopulation is not spatially uniform. Although the increase in uninhabited villages took place uniformly in all areas, the decline in the number of inhabited villages is very high in the northern part of the state whereas the southern part actually witnessed an increase in the number of inhabited villages. This kind of a pattern provides sufficient clue to the merger and/or transformation of many rural settlements into urban centres in the north.

Secondly, it is interesting to note that the extent of desertion of villages is far more striking in the western ridge and valley areas compared to the eastern highland region which offers marginally better agricultural potential in the few flat lands located in this region. The fact that the blocks located close to the two urban centres namely- Aizawl and Lunglei too contained a large number of uninhabited villages indicate their en masse movement to these large townships. Another significant point that emerges from the study relates to a significant decline in the share of smaller sized settlements. It is quite probable that many small sized settlements have either merged into urban centres or it is these villages which are getting depopulated or they are adding to their population at a faster rate to move into medium sized settlements. On the other hand, a decline in the number of very large sized rural settlements may be due to their attaining urban status.

It is pertinent to note here that the distribution of rural settlements was greatly affected by the efforts to group them in select grouping centres in the wake of M.N.F. led insurgent activity. This effort explains the increase in the number of uninhabited villages after 1971. The process continued for quite sometime in spite of the fact that many villagers returned to the remote habitats after the insurgency was contained. It is quite obvious that the western and northern part of the state was much

more affected by such desertions of villages of grouping centres. Incidentally these areas have experienced considerable decline in the number of rural settlements as well as in their population. It is possible to guess a hazard that this politically sponsored redistribution of rural people may have had significant impact in the decline in the small sized settlements as well as providing an impetus for urban growth.

The uninhabited villages are spread all over the state except the eastern mountainous area. Most of them are confined to the western ridge and valley region particularly in the north and south. The uninhabited villages are generally found in the interior areas away from the main arteries of roads and urban centres of the state. But some of the uninhabited villages are also located in the main arteries of roads and close to urban centres. Interestingly, the uninhabited villages are found in group of three or four or even more in close spatial proximity to each other.

Chapter - V

STRUCTURE OF URBANIZATION

5.1 Introductory Statement:

Chapters II and III made an attempt to understand the spatial patterns in the level and growth in urbanization. The focus was on the total urban population at various levels of spatial aggregation. It is imperative at this stage to turn the attention more narrowly on the individual towns, which is expected to unravel the clues to the structure of urban development taking place in this tiny hilly state in the Indo-Burmese borderland. The present chapter analyses the geographical distribution of individual towns, their size and growth of population and above all the occupational structure of these towns so as to get an insight into the nature of urbanization taking place in this region. This is important as the quantum of urban growth in Mizoram defies normal expectation.

5.2 Defining 'Urban' In Indian Census:

Defining what constitutes 'urban' has posed serious difficulties in the past. This is not surprising considering the multiplicity of standards adopted by different countries in defining their urban areas. Broadly, however, demographic size and density and occupational composition of the working force are considered as important criteria by most while delimiting an urban area. Some countries take historical, legal and administrative factors into account while delimiting their urban areas. It is not proposed here to review the diverse criteria adopted by different countries in defining their urban areas. Since the study is based on census definition of a town, it is necessary to outline the criteria adopted by the Indian census in defining an urban area that takes into account all the factors mentioned below.⁴

⁴ Census of India 1991, Series - I INDIA Paper - I of 1991 Vol. I, Final Population Totals.

(a) All statutory towns, i.e., all places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc.

(b) All other places which satisfied the following criteria:

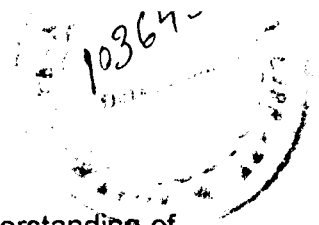
- (i) A minimum population of 5,000;
- (ii) At least 75 per cent of the male working population in non-agricultural pursuits; and
- (iii) A density of population of at least 400 per square kilometre (1,000 per square mile)

A town with a population of one hundred thousand and above is generally referred to as a 'city'.

The urban criteria of the 1981 and 1991 censuses varied slightly from that of the 1961 and 1971 censuses. The workers in occupations of forestry, fishing, livestock, hunting, logging, plantations or orchards, etc., (falling in Industrial Category III) were treated as coming under non-agricultural activities in 1961 and 1971 censuses whereas in the 1981 and 1991 censuses, these activities have been treated as agricultural activities for the purpose of determining the male working population in non-agricultural pursuits.

Besides, the Director of Census operations in States/Union Territories were allowed to include in consultation with the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and the Census Commissioners of India, some places having distinct urban characteristics as urban even if some places did not strictly satisfy all the criteria mentioned under category (b) above. Such marginal cases include major project colonies, areas of intensive industrial development, railway colonies, important tourist centres, etc.

It would be interesting to examine in this chapter if the towns in Mizoram have been carved out strictly on the basis of the criteria set by the census. While this



issue shall be addressed later, it may not be unjustified here to get an understanding of the level of urbanization, particularly interstate variations in urbanization in our country taking into account the census definition of towns.

5.3 Patterns Of Urbanization- All India Pattern, 1991

The pattern of urbanization in the country as a whole may be measured from data provided by the census. The state level variations are indeed significant. For instance, Delhi has as high as 90 per cent of the population living in urban areas whereas Dadra and Nagar Haveli recorded around 8 per cent urban population in 1991. Among the other states Mizoram recorded the highest level of urbanization with over 46 per cent of its population living in urban areas while Himachal Pradesh with a similar highland topography has less than 9 per cent of the total population residing in urban areas. The states like Mizoram, Goa, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Delhi², Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep and Daman and Diu recorded more than 35 per cent of the population living in urban areas. Interestingly only Mizoram is located in a hilly environment with a very high proportion of tribal population in it while others are either plain or coastal areas or the islands. There are three states namely Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in which 30-35 per cent of the total population lived in urban areas. All of them are characterized by either plateau, plain or coastal locations. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are lying in the southern part of the Peninsular India whereas Gujarat is located in the western part of the country.

However, the states namely Punjab, Manipur, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands support between 25 and 30 per cent of the population who live in the urban areas. All these

² Delhi attained statehood after 1991 Census enumeration took place. In 1991, Delhi is treated as a Union Territory.

states too have significant areas in plains or plateaus. The states of Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have urban population ranging between 20-25 per cent and is lower than the national average. These states are too hilly, too arid, or heavily forested- the only exception being Haryana- characterized by low level of

Table - 5.1
India Percentage of Population

Sl.No	State and Union Territories	Percentage of Urban Population
	INDIA	25.71
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.80
3.	Assam	11.10
4.	Bihar	13.14
5.	Goa	41.01
6.	Gujarat	34.49
7.	Haryana	24.63
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8.69
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	23.83
10.	Karnataka	30.92
11.	Kerala	26.39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23.18
13.	Maharashtra	38.63
14.	Manipur	27.52
15.	Meghalaya	18.60
16.	Mizoram	46.10
17.	Nagaland	17.21
18.	Orissa	13.38
19.	Punjab	29.55
20.	Rajasthan	22.88
21.	Sikkim	9.10
22.	Tamil Nadu	33.15
23.	Tripura	15.30
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19.84
25.	West Bengal	27.48
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	26.71
27.	Chandigarh	89.69
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.47
29.	Daman and Diu	46.80
30.	Delhi	89.93
31.	Lakshadweep	56.31
32.	Pondicherry	64.00

urbanization. Around 15 to 20 per cent of the population is enumerated in urban areas in the four states of Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura. Barring Uttar Pradesh, the remaining states are located in the North-East, where the ecological conditions and dominantly tribal composition of the population has not favoured much urban development. The states like Orissa, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam contain an urban population whose proportion ranges between 10-15 per cent. All these states have a very high proportion of tribal population. On the other hand, states like Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli recorded the lowest percentage of urban population lower than 10 per cent.

It is quite evident from the above analysis that urban growth has limited impact in areas characterized by hilly or arid topography which incidentally happen to be areas of strong concentration of tribal population. Simply saying, urban growth appears to be highly restricted in hilly and tribal areas of the country. This is obvious, as the ecological base in these areas does not permit large-scale agrarian surplus to be generated. Moreover, these areas have suffered from varying degrees of geographical and social isolation, which permitted an ideal system of the survival of the older modes with marginal modifications. Even demographically, these areas lie outside the main foci of the population concentration and the dispersed nature of rural population does not necessitate urban development.

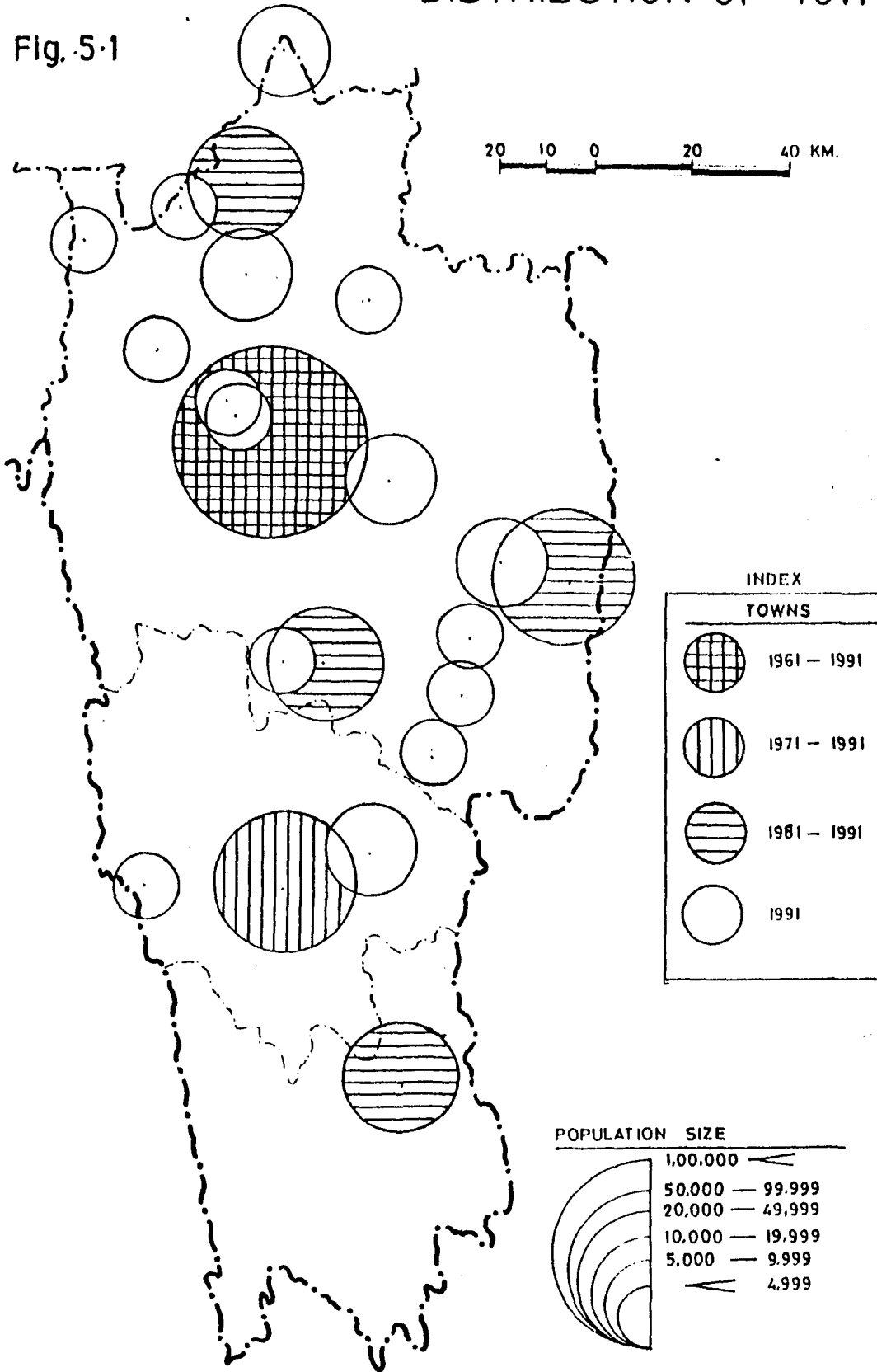
While all these generalizations seem to be true of all the hilly and tribal areas of our country, Mizoram provides an outstanding exception. In spite of an extremely difficult topography, low level of agrarian development, which in most cases is primitive in technology, and despite having a population, which by and large consists of the tribes, the state has experienced an unprecedented urban growth in the recent past. This fact needs an in-depth probe.

5.4 Geographical Patterning Of Urban Places in Mizoram:

The analysis of the geographical patterning (Fig. 5.1) of urban places is based on the physiographic divisions of the state. For this purpose Mizoram can be broadly divided into two divisions namely, mountainous terrain province in the eastern part of the state and ridge and valley province in the western part. The mountainous terrain province occupied the eastern half of the state. In this region, there are nine urban centres. The largest town in this region is Champhai, which is the third largest town in Mizoram. It had total population 20,809 persons in 1991. It is located in the eastern most margin of the state bordering Myanmar and occupies an area of around 52 square kilometres. This town is located at an altitude of over 1,500 metres above the sea level. Only 2,102 persons live in Khawhai town in 1991. The area covered by this town is around 7 square kilometres and the average altitude is 1,400 metres above the sea level. The north Vanliphai town has only 2,804 persons residing in around 8 square kilometres. This town is situated at an average altitude of 1,350 metres. Biate town contains 2,325 population within its area of 2 square kilometres, located at an average height of 1,300 metres above the sea level. Around 8,402 persons lived in Saitual town in 1991. Occupying an area of around 9 square kilometres, this town is situated at average altitude of 1,200 metres. Khawzawl town has a total population of 7,104 persons in 1991. It covers an area of approximately 19 square kilometres and is situated at an average altitude of 1,200 metres. The southern most town of the state is Saiha town, which has a total population of 13,669 persons (1991) and is situated at a height of 1,100 metres above the sea level. Darlawn town supports a little over 3,500 persons in around 16 square kilometres and located at an average altitude of 950 metres above the sea level. Around 5,548 persons are supported by the Hnahthial town

DISTRIBUTION OF TOWNS

Fig. 5-1



occupying around 10 square kilometres and situated at an average height of 824 metres.

The ridge and valley province covers nearly half of the state. The western part of the Mizoram depicts characteristics of this type of topography. In this region, there are 13 urban places as per 1991 census. The oldest urban centres i.e. Aizawl city, the capital of Mizoram is located in this region. Spread in an area of around 129 square kilometres and at an average altitude of 1,067 metres above the sea level, Aizawl supports a total population of 1,55,240 persons in 1991. Lunglei town has a total population of 35,599 persons in 1991 occupying an area of around 44 square kilometres and located at an average altitude of 1,105 metres. The area occupied by Kolasib town is around 36 square kilometres and it has a total population of 13,482 in 1991. There are 5,607 persons in Vairengte town and the area occupied by this town is around 20 square kilometres. The Vairengte town is located in the northern most part of the state. North Kawnpui town has 5,290 population in 1991 and the area covered by this town is around 22 square kilometres. Thenzawl town has occupied an area of around 36 square kilometres and it has only 4,502 persons in 1991. Mamit town has 3,546 population in 1991, and the area occupied is around 13 square kilometres, and the average altitude is 902 metres. Sairang town covered an area of about 22 square kilometres and it has a population of 3,527 persons in 1991. There are 3,455 persons enumerated in Zawlnuam town in 1991, which covers an area of about 11 square kilometres. Tlabung town occupies an area of around 12 square kilometres and supports 3,409 persons in 1991. There are only 2,421 persons living in Bairabi town, which has a total area of 26 square kilometres. Serchhip town, however, has a sizeable 13,688 persons enumerated by the 1991 census. The town is spread in about 23 square kilometres. The Lengpui town

supports only 1,808 persons, which is the smallest town in the state. It covers an area of about 17 square kilometres.

It is evident from the above description that urban areas have a highly dispersed distribution all over the state and the distribution is by and large unrelated either to physiographic divisions or altitude. However, one notices a relatively larger number of towns in the ridge and valley areas compared to the highland mountainous region and in the northern part of the state compared to the south. The distribution of the towns at various hypsometric levels suggests little control of altitude on the location of the towns. Furthermore, there appears little relationship between altitude of a town and the population size too.

In terms of the size of the towns in relation to their distribution the ridge and valley areas have greatly multiplied the number of towns which are of extremely small size. As many as 7 out of 13 towns have a population size of less than 5,000 each. On the other hand, there are fewer towns in the highland mountainous region, which have a population size of below 5,000 persons.

The urban centres in the highland region show much less a range in terms of their population size. On the other hand, the range in the population size of the towns located in the western ridge and valley region is extraordinarily high.

5.5 Proliferation of Towns:

As has been mentioned earlier, a major factor in the rising levels of urbanization in Mizoram is attributed to a great proliferation in the number of towns. Within the last 30 years, the number, irrespective of their size, has increased phenomenally.

Table- 5.2 provides sufficient information pertaining to the multiplicity and proliferation in the number of towns which is most evident during the last two

Table – 5.2

Mizoram: Year of Appearance, Population Size of Towns and The Class of Towns

City/ Town	Year of appearance	POPULATION			
		1961	1971	1981	1991
Aizawl	1951	14,257 (IV)	31,740 (III)	74,493 (II)	1,55,240 (I)
Lunglei	1971		6,019 (V)	17,205 (IV)	35,599 (III)
Kolasib	1981			8,282 (V)	13,482 (IV)
Serchhip	1981			7,329 (V)	13,688 (IV)
Champhai	1981			7,487 (V)	20,809 (III)
Saiha	1981			7,018 (V)	13,669 (IV)
Zawnuam	1991				3,455 (VI)
Mamit	1991				3,546 (VI)
Lengpui	1991				1,808 (VI)
Sairang	1991				3,527 (VI)
Vairengte	1991				5,607 (V)
Bairabi	1991				2,421 (VI)
N. Kawnpui	1991				5,290 (V)
Darlawn	1991				3,609 (VI)
Thenzawl	1991				4,502 (VI)
Saitual	1991				8,402 (V)
Khawzawl	1991				7,104 (V)
Khawhai	1991				2,102 (VI)
Biate	1991				2,325 (VI)
N.Vanlaiphai	1991				2,804 (VI)
Tabung	1991				3,409 (VI)
Hnahthial	1991				5,548 (V)

(Figures in parentheses indicate the class of the towns)

decades. It is clear from the table that until 1981, the multiplicity of towns at least confirmed to the demographic criterion, particularly the population size. But during 1981-1991 period, as many as 11 towns were added which did not consider the population size as a factor in recognising these as towns. Administrative and other compulsions seem to have been associated with such a large increased in the number of urban centres oblivious of the size criterion.

Whatever might have been the compulsions behind this unusually high level of proliferation in the number of towns, it certainly pushed up the level of urbanization- at least quantitatively. It may be interesting now to examine the effect of the multiplicity of towns on the rate of urban growth.

It is evident from the table- 5.3 that additions of new towns in each census year account for major share in the total urban population. For example, addition of one new town in 1971 claimed nearly 16 per cent of the total urban population in the state. The share of new towns in the total urban population increased in 1981 to nearly a quarter (i.e. 24.72 per cent) with the addition of four more towns. The share of the urban population contained in the new towns added in 1991 declined to a fifth (i.e. 20.59 per cent) of the state's total urban population in spite of the fact that 16 more towns were added during this period to the existing ones in 1981. This decline is primarily due to the fact that as many as 11 out of these 16 new towns in 1991 had a population size of well below 5,000 persons each.

In any case, addition of new towns in Mizoram has been the major reason behind the unexpected rise in the level of urban growth. Proliferation in urban centres in the state accounts for 15 to 25 per cent of the total population of the state during the last three decades. Such a high proportion added by new towns would not

Table 5.3
Mizoram: Changes In Urban Population Due To Additions Of New Towns

1961	1971			1981			1991		
Original Urban Population	Original Urban Population	Additions by new town	Total Urban Population	Original Urban Population	Additions by new towns	Total Urban Population	Original Urban Population	Additions by new towns	Total Urban Population
14,257	31,740 (84.06)	6,019 (15.94)	37,759	91,698 (75.28)	30,116 (24.72)	1,21,814	2,52,487 (79.41)	65,459 (20.59)	3,17,946

(Figures in the parentheses show the percentage to the total urban population for each year)

have caused any concern, had it been in conformity with the definitions adopted by Indian Census.

5.6 Distribution of Towns:

The distribution of towns according to population size classes is represented in table- 5.4. The size of the towns in relation to the population is usually classified into six classes. These are:

Class I - above	-	1,00,000 persons
Class II - 50,000	-	99,999 persons
Class III - 20,000	-	49,999 persons
Class IV - 10,000	-	19,999 persons
Class V - 5,000	-	9,999 persons
Class VI - below	-	4,999 persons

As shown in the table, there is only one town i.e. Aizawl in Mizoram in 1961 with a population of 14,257 included in the size class of IV. In 1971, Aizawl town moved to class III size and the newly added Lunglei town was recorded in class V group of towns. Class III and class V towns respectively accounted for 84.06 per cent and 15.94 per cent of the total urban population of Mizoram in this year.

By the year 1981, There were six towns in Mizoram as a whole. Out of these, Two towns of Aizawl and Lunglei were already existing in the preceding years whereas the other four towns of Kolasib, Champhai, Serchhip and Saiha were added as new towns. The size class of Aizawl had shifted to class II and accounted for 61.15 per cent of the total urban population. The Lunglei town also shifted its position from class V in 1971 to class IV in 1981 with a percentage share of 14.15 per cent of the total urban population. The class V towns included four towns of Kolasib, Champhai, Serchhip and Saiha, which were however new towns. These towns together accounted for nearly a quarter (24.25 per cent) of the total urban population in Mizoram.

Table - 5.4

Mizoram: Distribution Of Towns In Different Population Size Classes (1961- 1991)

Size class	1961			1971			1981			1991		
	No. of towns	Total popln.	% of popln.	No. of towns	Total popln.	% of popln.	No. of towns	Total popln.	% of popln.	No. of towns	Total popln.	% of popln.
VI < 4,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	11	33,508	10.54
V 5,000- 9,999	-	-	-	1	6,019	15.94	4	30,116	24.25	5	31,951	10.05
IV 10,000-19,999	1	14,257	100.00	-	-	-	1	17,205	14.15	3	40,839	12.84
III 20,000- 49,999	-	-	-	1	31,740	84.06	-	-	0.0	2	56,408	17.74
II 50,000- 99,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	74,493	61.15	-	-	-
I 100,000- 000<	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	1	1,55,240	48.83
TOTAL	1	14,257	-	2	37,759	-	6	1,21,814	-	22	3,17,946	-

However in the year 1991, towns were distributed in all size classes except the class II towns. The class I town was represented by Aizawl with a total population of 1,55,240 persons and an urban share of over 48 per cent. Only two towns namely Lunglei and Champhai were included in the class III size with a total population of 56,408 persons accounting for 17.74 per cent of the total urban population of the state. The three towns of Kolasib, Serchhip and Saiha in class IV size contained only 12.84 per cent of the total urban population of the state. Five towns of Saitual, Khawzawl, Vairengte, Hnahthial and North Kawnpui were included in the class V group of towns. Together, these towns accounted for 10.05 per cent of the urban population. In the class VI size of towns are included 11 towns which together accounted for over 10 per cent of the urban population of the state.*

It is evident from the above analysis that with the proliferation in the number of towns, the state is also developing a balanced structure of urbanization with regard to population sizes of the towns. But the primacy of the capital town remains unchanged in spite of the great multiplicity in the number of urban settlements and their spatial diffusion.

5.7 Growth of Individual Towns:

The analysis of the growth rate of individual towns has been attempted only for 6 towns out of the total of 22 towns in 1991. The remaining 16 towns appeared

* According to Census of India, 2001, Mizoram, Provisional Population Totals, during the period 1991-2001 the total number of towns remained the same but due to increase in the urban population in this decade, there was slight change in the class of class IV, V and VI categories of such towns. Saitual town changed the class from class V to class IV in 2001 and the towns like Thenzawl, Mamit and Sairang changed their class from class VI to class V in 2001. In fact in towns like Biate and Zawnuam there was a decrease of population in 2001 in comparison with that of 1991 Census. It may be noted that while there was substantial increase in the percentage decadal growth of population in size classes of I, III, IV and V, there was a decrease in respect of class IV towns, there was a decrease in populations of class VI categories, in other words the smallest towns of the state.

only in 1991. Table- 5.5 shows that the population of Aizawl City grew at a rate of 122.63 per cent during the period 1961-1971 decade. The rate increased to 134.70 per cent in the following decade i.e. 1971-1981. After growing at a very rapid rate, the population growth in this city eased to 108.40 per cent during 1981-1991 decade. Lunglei town had a population of 6,019 persons in 1971. Since then, the population of this town grew at phenomenally high rate of 185.84 per cent in the 1971-1981 decade. But during 1981-1991 decades, the rate of growth declined to 106.91 per cent. Apart from these two towns, the remaining 4 towns appeared in 1981 and the growth rate of their population has been calculated for the past one decade only. During this decade (i.e. 1981-91) the population of Champhai town grew at an extraordinarily high rate of 177.94 per cent. On the other hand, the remaining three towns namely Serchhip, Saiha and Kolasib were very small in their population size and added to their population at much lower rate ranging between 60-95 per cent.

It is evident from the above description of the trends in population growth of the towns in Mizoram that existing towns are growing at an uneven pace. The larger sized urban centres are growing at a much faster rate than the smaller order urban centres. This is evident from the manner in which the towns are moving from one class of town to the other (table- 5.5).

Aizawl town changed its class in every census by moving to the next higher size class of town. The same is true of Lunglei and Kolasib as well as of Serchhip towns. The fastest population increase seems to have taken place in Champhai town, which shifted its class from V to III, i.e. from a population of only 7,487 in 1981 to 20,809 in 1991.

Table - 5.5

Mizoram: Population Growth In Individual Towns

Towns / Cities	1961 - 1971		1971 - 1981		1981 - 1991	
	Additional Population	Growth Rate (%)	Additional Population	Growth Rate (%)	Additional Population	Growth Rate (%)
Aizawl	17,483	122.63	42,753	134.70	80,747	108.40
Lunglei	-	-	11,186	185.84	18,394	106.91
Champhai	-	-	-	-	13,322	177.94
Serchhip	-	-	-	-	6,359	86.76
Saiha	-	-	-	-	6,651	94.77
Kolasib	-	-	-	-	5,200	62.79

5.8 Urban Density:

One of the important demographic criteria employed for determining a settlement as urban relates to the density of population. According to the census definition, in order to qualify to be a town, a settlement should have a density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre. If this criterion is strictly applied, majority of the 22 towns cannot be classified as towns as they support less than 400 persons per square kilometer (table-5.6).

Table - 5.6

Mizoram: Town- Wise Density Of Population, 1991

Name of the Town/City	Density Per Sq. Km.
Zawlnuam	314
Mamit	273
Lengpui	106
Aizawl	1,203
Sairang	160
N. Kawnpui	240
Vairengte	280
Bairabi	93
Kolasib	374
Darlawn	218
Serchhip	595
Thenzawl	125
Saitual	934
Champhai	400
Khawzawl	374
Khawhai	300
Biate	1,163
N. Vanlaiphai	351
Tlabung	284
Lunglei	809
Hnahthial	554
Saiha	N. A.

It is clear from the table that only 7 out of the 22 towns in Mizoram have a density of population exceeding 400 persons per square kilometre. These towns include Aizawl, Biate, Saitual, Lunglei, Serchhip, Hnahthial and Champhai. Interestingly, some

of these towns are very small in their population size. On the other hand, many other towns with large population size have a density much below 400 persons per square kilometer.

5.9 Occupational Structure of the Towns:

The occupational structure of the towns in Mizoram as per the 1991 census counts is shown in the table- 5.7. Interestingly, most of the towns in Mizoram have an occupational structure mainly centred around agricultural production. There is very little sign of structural shift from agricultural sector of the economy to the non-

Table - 5.7
Mizoram: Occupational Structure Of Towns, 1991

Town/City	OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE			
	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Household Industry	Others Workers
Zawlnuam	54.67	11.03	0.61	33.69
Mamit	71.90	3.53	0.33	24.25
Lengpui	81.21	2.44	0.13	16.22
Aizawl	8.68	4.31	2.45	84.56
Sairang	52.33	11.82	0.91	34.94
N. Kawnpui	68.63	9.62	0.80	20.95
Vairengte	62.23	3.56	1.62	32.59
Bairabi	81.82	2.50	0.47	15.21
Kolasib	48.67	6.46	3.37	41.50
Darlawn	70.66	1.10	1.22	27.02
Serchhip	68.28	1.72	1.43	28.57
Thenzawl	65.68	8.03	4.80	21.49
Saitual	72.04	3.94	1.06	22.96
Champhai	52.31	15.80	4.03	27.86
Khawzawl	78.09	-	0.37	21.54
Khawhai	95.17	-	2.21	2.62
Biate	80.53	-	0.22	19.25
N. Vanlaiphai	69.07	2.02	0.62	28.29
Tlabung	42.44	0.91	2.82	53.83
Lunglei	32.55	9.54	1.35	56.56
Hnahthial	60.92	4.13	3.34	31.61
Saiha	30.33	7.64	2.20	59.83

(Figures are in percentage to the Total Main Workers)

agricultural and / or industrial sector of the economy- a criterion, which is considered to be extremely important in classifying settlements as urban.

Table- 5.7 reveals that only Aizawl town has a very significant proportion of its workforce engaged in non-agricultural sector of the economy. The other few towns, which have a majority of the workingforce, engaged in non-agricultural activity include Saiha, Lunglei and Tlabung where over 50 per cent of the working force is distributed in the non-agricultural sector. All the remaining towns show a highly non-diversified occupational structure with the majority of the working force absorbed by the agricultural sector.

Even if one takes only the male segment for consideration (table- 5.8), the pattern remains by and large unchanged. It is these five towns which show a

Table - 5.8

Mizoram: Proportion of Male Agricultural Workers In 1991

Name of Town / City	Percentage to total main workers
Zawlnuam	58.22
Mamit	67.13
Lengpui	78.17
Aizawl	11.02
Sairang	53.80
N. Kawnpui	75.33
Vairengte	51.18
Bairabi	79.14
Kolasib	45.53
Darlawn	61.70
Serchhip	61.15
Thenzawl	73.18
Saitual	68.65
Champhai	62.03
Khawzawl	72.18
Khawhai	94.60
Biate	75.90
N. Vanlaiphai	62.63
Tlabung	38.89
Lunglei	33.82
Hnahthial	54.66
Saiha	29.03

considerable shift of the male working force towards non-agricultural activity. The remaining towns continue to overwhelmingly absorb the male workforce in the agricultural sector. In as many as 7 towns more than three-fourths of the male working force is employed as agricultural workers while in another set of 10 towns, the majority of the male workers find employment in the agricultural sector.

The above facts clearly reveal the true nature of urbanization in Mizoram which has very little economic base rooted in the non-agricultural sectors of the economy. The overwhelming dominance of agrarian economic functions of most towns in Mizoram amply demonstrates the fact that it is merely an expression of quantitative growth without being accompanied by any qualitative change.

5.10 Concluding Statement:

The study of the individual towns, their distribution, size and structure in Mizoram leads to the following broad generalizations:

Firstly, the present pattern of distribution of towns is highly dispersed over most parts of the state though the western ridge and valley areas seem to have attracted more towns of varying sizes than the eastern mountainous region. The distribution of towns is unrelated to the factor of altitude. At a very broad level, it may be safely concluded that the growth of urbanization as well as the proliferation in the number of towns is largely governed by non-physical factors. Moreover, regional variation in the ecological and economic potential too do not show any correspondence to the distribution of towns as towns, both large and small, are widely dispersed all over the state. Thus distribution of towns in Mizoram does not appear to be related in any significant manner to the economic factors.

Secondly, it appears that proliferation in the number of towns is a major cause for the unusual increase in the level of urbanization. But much of this proliferation is taking place through the classification of relatively large sized villages which do not conform to the prescribed criteria adopted by the Indian Census i.e. population size and density.

Thirdly, the great increase in the number of urban settlements has developed a balanced structure of urbanization in the state. The towns are now found in most size classes of population unlike in the past. The structure has a very broad base with large number of lower order towns and a very narrow apex with just a single large-sized town. But primacy of a single town continues to characterize the structure of urbanization as only a few towns, mostly the larger ones, are growing at a faster rate. This is suggestive of the fact that due to historical, political, economic and social reasons, it is these few urban centres which attract the rural people in great numbers and thus may be directly linked to the process of rural depopulation observed in many pockets. As regards the other towns with smaller sizes of population, the growth appears to be based on the natural increase-taking place in these towns.

Lastly, there is little evidence of structural shift in the economy of the people living in urban areas. However, such a shift is clearly visible in the few larger order towns. Urban growth in Mizoram thus appears to be mostly guided by demographic, political and administrative factors.

CHAPTER – VI

RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION

6.1 Introductory Statement:

Migration is an important aspect in population study because it is a major factor in changing the size, structure and quality of the population. Migration is a relentless force in population redistribution. In this chapter, the study of migration has been attempted with respect to total migration at the state and district levels, diverse streams of migration (i.e. Rural to Rural, Urban to Rural, Rural to Urban and Urban to Urban) and migration and distance (i.e. Intra-district, Inter-district and Inter-state). The study of migration of population in Mizoram is expected to reveal the nature population redistribution in the state and its impact on the process of urbanization in Mizoram.

6.2 Quantum of Migration:

The analysis of total migration is based on data pertaining to place of birth and place of enumeration. For the analyses of the total migration, movement of people in Mizoram can be classified into internal migration i.e. migration within the state, national migration i.e. migrants from other states of the country, and international migration i.e. migrants from other countries. The data on migrants has been further disaggregated into total, rural and urban, and also at the state and the district level.

6.2.1 State Level Pattern:

According to the 1981 census (Table- 6.1), around 56 per cent of the population was enumerated as born in Mizoram and was counted at the place of their birth. This means that about 44 per cent of the total population of the state may be treated as migrants (by place of birth). Out of the total migrants, about 85 per cent were intra-state migrants i.e., those who were born within the state but enumerated elsewhere within the state. This indicates that bulk of the population redistribution is taking place within the state. The inter-state migration i.e., migrants from other states and union territories of the country constituted only a little over 11 per cent of the total migrants.

The international migration i.e., those who migrated from other countries accounted for a meager 3.92 per cent of the total migrants.

However, in the rural areas of the state, the proportion of non-migrant component was a little higher at around 53 per cent in 1981. This indicates that around 47 per cent of the total rural population of the state may be treated as migrants (by place of birth). Out of the total migrants, about 87 per cent were intra-state migrants i.e., those who were born within the state but enumerated elsewhere within the state. This picture clearly reveals that bulk of the population redistribution in rural areas is taking place within the state. The inter-state migration i.e., migrants from other states and union territories of the country accounted for only 9.32 per cent of the total migrants. The international migration i.e., migrants from other countries accounted for only 3.58 per cent of the total migrants. In the urban areas, around 72 per cent were counted as non-migrants. This means that around 28 per cent of the total urban population was treated as migrants (by place of birth). Out of the total migrants, about 60 per cent were intra-state migrants, and inter-state migration and international migration accounted for about 32 per cent and 7.30 per cent of the total migrants respectively. This clearly shows that bulk of the population redistribution is taking place within the state even for the urban areas.

It is also amply clear that bulk of the intra-state migration taking place in the state did take place within the district while inter-district migration was at a low key. This is true for aggregate and the rural areas. In the urban areas however, migrants from other districts constituted a significant proportion. It is clear that much of the population redistribution in Mizoram in the year 1981 took place within the districts involving small distance while the urban areas attracted migrants from relatively longer distances.

Table - 6.1

Mizoram: Population Classified by Place of Birth

Total Rural Urban	Non- Migrants (in %)	Migrants (in %)	MIGRANTS (in %)			
			Intra- district	Inter- district	Inter- state	Internati onal
1981						
Total	55.87	44.13	76.89	7.72	11.47	3.92
Rural	53.17	46.83	80.25	6.85	9.32	3.58
Urban	71.85	28.15	43.74	16.31	32.65	7.30
1991						
Total	84.88	15.10	73.51	9.28	11.10	6.11
Rural	79.67	20.33	78.87	8.71	8.21	4.21
Urban	92.57	7.43	51.94	11.57	22.73	13.76

Note: Unclassifiable – one person in 1981, and 182 persons in 1991

By the year 1991 (Table- 6.1), about 84 per of the population was enumerated as born in Mizoram and was counted at the place of their birth. This indicates that very few people redistributed themselves indicating greater stability in the population distribution by the year 1991. Those few who relocated themselves were from within the state constituting nearly 83 per cent of the total migrants. The inter-state migration and international migration constituted only 11.10 per cent and 6.11 per cent of the total migrants respectively. The extent of redistribution across the rural space was a little higher as evident from the migrant component of over 20 per cent compared to only around 7 per cent in the urban areas. Although bulk of the migration took place within the districts, the proportion of migrants from other districts and other countries did show an upward trend. All these indicate towards a great stability in the distribution of population belonging to the state bringing an end to the process of redistribution that characterized the earlier period.

6.2.2 District Level Pattern:

The all pervasiveness of the redistribution of population up to the year 1981 and its stability in the subsequent period in 1991 is clearly brought out by a

reference to the district level data. The spatial uniformity in the process is unmistakable (Tables- 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4). All the districts record a substantial relocation of the population in the year 1981 but show an abrupt end to this process by the year 1991. According to the 1981 census (Table- 6.2), about 44 per cent of the population in Aizawl district were treated as migrants. Out of the total migrants, about 78 per cent were of intra-district origin, particularly within the district. The inter-district migration i.e., migrants from other districts of the state constituted only 4.67 per cent of the total migrants. The inter-state migrants accounted for 14.31 per cent of the total migrants. The international migration i.e. migrants from other countries accounted for only 2.79 per cent of the total migrants of the district.

In the rural areas of the Aizawl district around 48 per cent of the total rural population consisted of migrants. About 81 per cent these migrants moved within the district. The international migrants accounted for only 2.33 per cent of the total migrants of the district. In the urban level around 27 per cent of the total urban population of the district were treated as migrants. Nearly 50 per cent of these migrants were of intra-district origin. The inter-state migration constituted above 33 per cent of the total

Table - 6.2

Aizawl District: Population Classified by Place of Birth

Total Rural Urban	Non- Migrants (in %)	Migrants (in %)	MIGRANTS (in %)			
			Intra- district	Inter- district	Inter- state	Internati onal
1981						
Total	55.79	44.21	78.23	4.67	14.31	2.79
Rural	52.38	47.62	81.45	4.05	12.17	2.33
Urban	72.93	27.07	49.77	10.18	33.20	6.85
1991						
Total	85.12	14.85	74.84	5.87	13.65	5.64
Rural	78.02	21.98	80.74	5.43	10.76	3.07
Urban	92.89	7.11	55.01	7.35	23.38	14.26

Note: Unclassifiable – 155 persons in 1991

migrants. The inter-district migration and international migration accounted for only 10.18 per cent and 6.85 per cent respectively.

By the year 1991 (Table- 6.2), the stability in the distribution of population is borne out by the fact that over 85 per cent of the population was enumerated as born in Aizawl district and was counted at the place of their birth. Out of the total migrants, nearly 75 per cent was intra-district migrants. The inter-state migration constituted nearly 14 per cent of the total migrants of the district. The inter-district migration and international migration accounted for around 6 per cent each of the total migrants of the district. However, in the rural areas of Aizawl district, the proportion of non-migrant component was relatively less (around 78 per cent). Out of the total migrants, above 80 per cent relocated themselves within the district. The inter-state migration accounted for nearly 11 per cent of the total migrants of rural population. The proportion of inter-district migration and international migration were only 5.43 per cent and 3.07 per cent of the total migrants of the rural population of Aizawl district. In the urban areas only 7 per cent of the total urban population consisted of migrants. Only a little over half of these migrants came from the district while remaining came from other districts or other states of India as well as from other countries.

The pattern in the Lunglei district is not very different (table- 6.3). About 44 per cent of the population of the district was enumerated as migrant in the year 1981 of which about 77 per cent was of intra-district origin. The inter-district migration constituted 12.5 per cent of the total migrants. The inter-state migration accounted for 6.55 per cent of the total migrant population. The international migrants accounted for only 4.39 per cent of the total migrants in Lunglei district.

The rural areas of the Lunglei district recorded around 46 per cent of the total rural population as migrants. Out of the total migrants, around 81 per cent

relocated themselves within the district only. This picture clearly reveals that bulk of the population redistribution at the rural level is taking place within the district. Those who came from other districts within the state constituted nearly 11 per cent of the total rural migrants. The inter-state migration accounted for only 4.60 per cent of the total migrants of the rural population. The international migration on the other hand accounted for only 3.83 per cent of the total rural migrants. In the urban areas around 29 per cent were treated as migrants. Out of the total migrants, nearly 32 per cent were inter-district migrants. The inter-state migration and intra-district migration constituted around 29 per cent each of the total urban migrants.

Table - 6.3

Lunglei District: Population Classified by Place of Birth

Total Rural Urban	Non- Migrants (in %)	Migrants (in %)	MIGRANTS (in %)			
			Intra- district	Inter- district	Inter- state	Internatio nal
1981						
Total	55.80	44.20	76.56	12.50	6.55	4.39
Rural	53.60	46.40	80.72	10.85	4.60	3.83
Urban	71.47	28.53	28.33	31.70	29.13	10.84
1991						
Total	83.80	16.19	75.75	14.28	5.61	4.36
Rural	79.37	20.63	80.98	12.87	3.40	2.75
Urban	92.02	7.98	50.78	21.01	16.17	12.04

Note: Unclassifiable: one person in 1981 and 15 persons in 1991

By the year 1991 (Table- 6.3) only around 16 per cent of the population of the Lunglei district consisted of migrants. Nearly 75 per cent of these migrants moved from their place of birth elsewhere within the district. The inter-district migration constituted above 14 per cent of the total migrants while the inter-state migration and international migration accounted for around 6 per cent and 4.36 per cent of the total migrant population of the district. In the rural areas of the district, the migrant proportion was nearly 21 per cent of which nearly 81 per cent were of intra-district origin. Only

around 8 per cent of the urban population district were treated as migrants. Nearly 51 per cent of them moved within the district. Much like the other districts bulk of the population redistribution is taking place within the district.

Table- 6.4 reveals that around 44 per cent of the population in Chhimtuipui district the district was treated as migrants. More than 70 per cent of these migrants were of intra-district origin. The inter-district migration constituted 17.26 per cent of the total migrants. The international migrants were relatively high at 9.16 per cent.

However, in the rural areas of the district, the proportion of around 44 per cent of the total rural population of Chhimtuipui district shifted their residence from the place of their birth. Around 73 per cent of them moved within the district. The inter-district migration constituted nearly 16 per cent of the total migrants of the rural population. The international migration i.e. migrants from other countries accounted for 9.42 per cent. The inter-state migration accounted for only 1.25 per cent of the total migrants of the rural population. In the urban areas, around 42 per cent of the total urban population was enumerated as migrants. Out of the total migrants, around 44 per

Table - 6.4

Chhimtuipui District: Population Classified by Place of Birth

Total Rural Urban	Non- Migrants (in %)	Migrants (in %)	MIGRANTS (in %)			
			Intra- district	Inter- district	Inter- State	Internatio nal
1981						
Total	56.33	43.67	70.39	17.26	3.19	9.16
Rural	56.23	43.77	73.76	15.57	1.25	9.42
Urban	57.89	42.11	16.35	44.41	34.24	5.00
1991						
Total	84.93	15.07	64.49	19.43	5.61	10.47
Rural	84.55	15.45	69.13	17.29	3.22	10.36
Urban	88.05	11.95	16.15	41.70	30.55	11.60

Note: Unclassifiable- 12 persons in 1991

cent were inter-district migrants. The inter-state migration constituted around 34 per cent of the total migrants of the urban population in Chhimituipui district. The intra-state migration accounted for above 16 per cent of the total migrants of urban population. The international migration constituted only 5 per cent.

It may be noted here that there is little inter district variation in the pattern of migrant population. This is true for both the years for which the data was analyzed and for the rural and urban areas. As far as the total quantum of migration is concerned certain patterns are clearly visible. They are noted below:

There is a great uniformity in the proportion of migrant population in all the districts, which is around 44 per cent in 1981 and 15 per cent in 1991 indicating large decline in the process of spatial dispersion of population within the decade.

The proportion of migrant population is relatively more in the rural areas compared to the urban indicating a greater force of redistribution across the rural space. The only exception seems to be Chhimituipui district where the urban population contains more migrant population than other two districts.

There are considerable differences in the composition of the migrants. There is a decline in the proportion of intra-district migration with a corresponding rise in the proportion of inter-district, inter-state and international migration. The inter-district variations are more prominent as far as the migrant segment of the urban population is concerned. Unlike Aizawl district, both Lunglei and Chhimituipui districts contained a very large number of migrants from outside the districts in their urban population in 1981. But the process is reversed in the year 1991 with the exception of Chhimituipui district. Chhimituipui district continues to attract a very sizeable proportion of the migrants from other districts of the state, other states of India and from neighbouring

countries. In this district, even the rural migrants contain a relatively greater proportion of migrants from other districts and from neighbouring countries.

6.3 Streams Of Migration :

The streams of migration are analyzed in this section. In this respect, calculation of vital statistic is based on place of birth and place of enumeration. For the analyses of streams of migration, movement of people of Mizoram is classified into four major streams or direction of migration flow, such as (a) Rural to Rural (b) Urban to Rural (c) Rural to Urban, and (d) Urban to Urban. This classification is based on the place of birth data. The study of streams of migration provides valuable information regarding the redistribution of population and the process of Urbanization in Mizoram.

6.3.1 State Level Patterns:

At the state as a whole rural to rural stream in 1981 comprised of 63.04 per cent of the total migrants of Mizoram's population while 3.89 per cent of the total migrants moved from urban to rural areas. On the other hand, rural to urban stream accounted for 28.25 per cent of the total migrants. The urban to urban migration category included 10,052 persons accounting for 4.82 per cent.

Table - 6.5

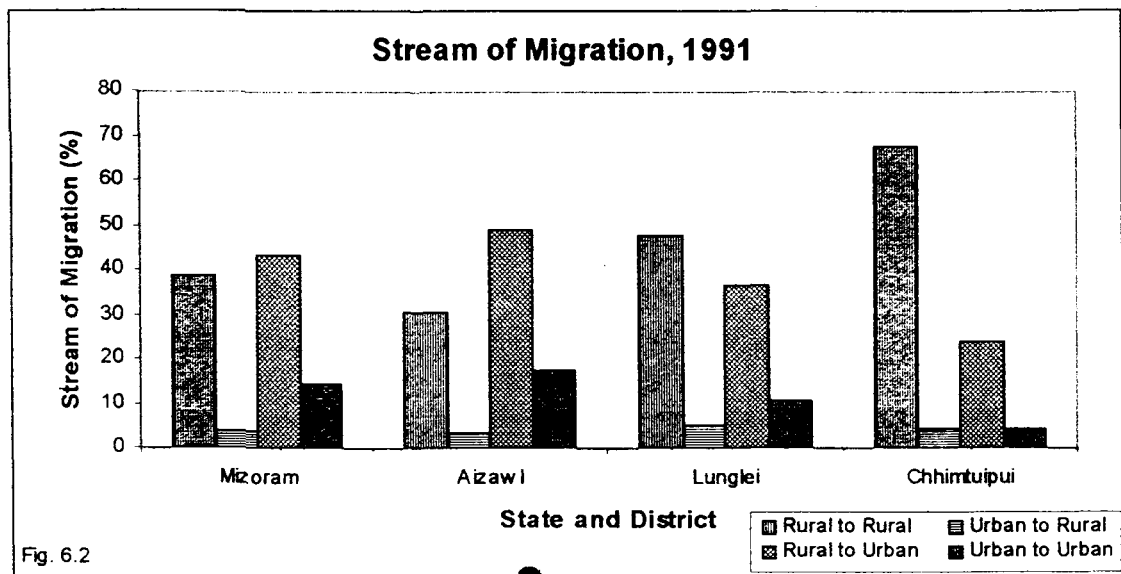
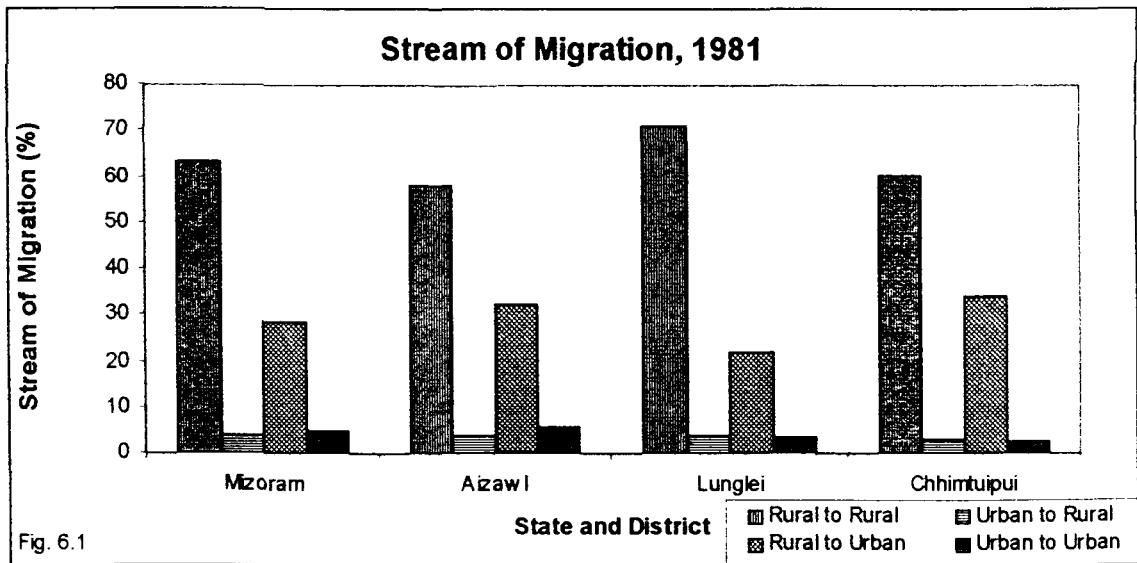
Mizoram: Different Streams Of Migration, 1981-1991

State	Year	Total	Rural to Rural	Urban to Rural	Rural to Urban	Urban to Urban
Mizoram	1981	2,08,344	1,31,344 (63.04)	8,099 (3.89)	58,849 (28.25)	10,052 (4.82)
	1991	97,351	37,532 (38.55)	3,689 (3.79)	42,086 (43.23)	14,044 (14.43)

(Figures in Parentheses are in percentages)

By the year 1991, as shown in the fig. 6.2, there was a distinct decline in the proportion of migrants who moved from one rural area to another constituting only a little over 38 per cent. There was little change in the proportion of migrants who moved

to rural areas from an urban location. On the other hand, the movement from rural to urban areas registered a phenomenal increase to over 43 per cent of the total migrants in 1991. This is much higher than the proportion recorded in 1981. The inter-urban movement too increased sharply as 14.43 per cent of the urban population moved from one urban area to another compared to only 5 per cent in 1981.



6.3.2 District Level Patterns:

There are remarkable variations in the composition of migrants in different streams across districts and over the two decades. According to 1981 census over 58 per cent of the migrants in Aizawl district (table- 6.6 and fig.6.1) moved from one rural area to another. The urban to rural and urban to urban streams accounted for only around 4 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. The proportion of rural to urban stream accounted for 32.30 per cent of all the migrants in the district.

The situation changed drastically in the year 1991, but more spectacularly in respect of rural to urban stream. The Aizawl district (table- 6.6 and fig. 6.2) experienced a massive decrease in the share of rural to rural migrants as compared to 1981 when the stream accounted for only around 30 per cent of all migration taking place in the district. Correspondingly, there was a sharp rise in the share of rural to urban migration. Nearly one half of its total migrants i.e., 48.78 per cent moved from rural to urban areas. There was also a large increase in the proportion of migrants who moved from one urban area to another.

Table - 6.6
Mizoram: Different Streams of Migration, 1981 and 1991

District	Year	Total	Rural to Rural	Urban to Rural	Rural to Urban	Urban to Urban
Aizawl	1981	1,45,652	84,661 (58.13)	5,924 (4.07)	47,052 (32.30)	8,015 (5.50)
	1991	66,800	20,328 (30.43)	2,256 (3.38)	32,583 (48.78)	11,633 (17.41)
Lunglei	1981	36,523	25,898 (70.90)	1,361 (3.73)	7,936 (21.73)	1,328 (3.64)
	1991	17,138	8,135 (47.47)	876 (5.11)	6,305 (36.79)	1,822 (10.63)
Chhimituipui	1981	26,173	15,787 (60.32)	822 (3.14)	8,860 (33.85)	704 (2.69)
	1991	13,413	9,069 (67.62)	557 (4.15)	3,198 (23.84)	589 (4.39)

(Figures in Parentheses are in percentage)

Much of the internal movement of the people in Lunglei in 1981 was experienced across the rural space and the stream accounted for 70.90 per cent of the total migrants of the district. Urban to rural stream was as feeble as in Aizawl with a share of 3.73 per cent only. Around 21.73 per cent of the total migrants in the district was enumerated in the rural to urban stream of migration. The urban to urban stream was also weak with only less than 4 per cent migrants enumerated in this stream.

By the year 1991 (fig. 6.2), Lunglei district too experienced a substantial decrease in the migration taking place across the rural space while in other streams the district experienced increase in the share of migrants as compared to 1981. The district recorded only 47.47 per cent of the total migrants in the rural-rural stream while in the category of urban to rural, the proportion was 5.11 per cent. The share of rural to urban and urban to urban stream in 1991 increased to 36.79 per cent and 10.63 per cent respectively.

The Chhimituipui district revealed a highly contrasting picture with regard to composition of different streams of migration as well as the change in 1991. As shown in the table- 6.6 and figure 6.1, around 60 per cent of the total migrants of the district in 1981 moved from one rural location to another. In the category of rural to urban migration, the district recorded a share of 33.85 per cent of the total migrants of the district in 1981 which was higher compared to other two districts. Around 3 per cent of the total migrants were enumerated in the categories of urban to rural as well as urban to urban migrations in the year 1981. Significantly, by the year 1991 (fig. 6.2), the district had an increased pace of rural to rural (67.62 per cent) migration which was higher than the proportion recorded in 1981. More importantly, there was a corresponding decrease in the proportion of rural to urban migration, (i.e. 23.84 per cent a decrease from 33.85 per cent in 1981).

It is evident that there has been a substantial reduction in the internal migration across the rural areas in the period between 1981 and 1991. This has been accompanied by an equally striking redistribution of population through an accelerated rural to urban migration. However, the areas in Chhimituipui district appear to be an exception where the population redistribution continues to be dominantly a rural phenomenon unlike the other two districts. That the population redistribution is strongly associated with the growth of urbanization is conclusively proved by the migration data available in Census records.

6.4 Causes Of Migration:

There are various causes of the population movement. One of these is population pressure, which often forces people to go out of the area in search of land, employment or any other means of subsistence. On the other hand, better job opportunities in relatively more industrially or economically developed areas attract people from economically backward areas.

The reasons for migration in 1981 is shown in table- 6.7 for the different categories of migration and further disaggregated into total, rural and urban. As shown in the table, the main reasons of migration in 1981 were- employment, education, family moved, marriage and others. The cause for internal migration registered the highest percentage in the family moved category (i.e. 69.99 per cent) followed by the others with only 14.80 per cent out of the total internal migration in 1981. The other categories like employment, education, marriage accounted for less than 10 per cent of the total internal migration of Mizoram in 1981. However, as far as the rural migration is concerned for 'family moved' accounted for 71.69 per cent followed by the others with a percentage of 14.47 per cent. The other categories like employment and marriage accounted for less than 10 per cent of the total rural internal migration of Mizoram in

1981. The lowest share was 3.05 per cent of the total rural internal migration in 'education'. In the urban areas, out of the total urban internal migrants, the highest share was 52.94 per cent in the category of 'family moved' followed by employment with 21.63 per cent. Education was the cause stated by 3.05 per cent only.

It is clear from the table that as regards the internal migration is concerned, employment as a cause for migration is not very important except in the urban areas. Even marriage and education are not stated to be important causes of migration. The most significant cause of the relocation is the movement of the family. Even in the case of migrants from other states of India, movement of the family occupies a very prominent place as the cause for migration though employment assumes a relatively more significant cause compared to intra-state migration. Employment as a factor understandably is more significant as a factor among the migrants in the urban areas than those in the rural areas. Interestingly, even the migrants from outside India too state movement of family as the major cause.

Table - 6.7

Mizoram: Reasons for Migration in 1981

Migration	Total Rural Urban	REASON FOR MIGRATION				
		Employment	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Others
Internal	Total	7.35	2.85	69.99	5.01	14.80
	Rural	5.96	2.84	71.69	5.03	14.47
	Urban	21.63	3.05	52.94	4.56	17.81
National	Total	31.13	1.63	45.28	2.66	19.31
	Rural	26.25	1.36	52.18	2.55	17.65
	Urban	38.63	2.08	35.87	2.76	19.46
International	Total	8.56	0.91	56.14	6.05	28.29

(Figures in percentage)

In 1991 (Table- 6.8) too the cause 'family moved' recorded the highest share of migrants i.e., 58.41 per cent - a distinct decline compared to 1981 while natural calamities had the lowest share i.e., 0.40 per cent. Interestingly, employment as a cause

increased its share to 13.78 per cent, much higher than the share in 1981. In the rural areas also out of the total rural internal migrants, 'family moved' was the cause stated by 61.81 per cent migrant people while the lowest share is found in the natural calamities with 0.44 per cent. Employment as a cause for migration was stated by 11.29 per cent of the total rural migrants in 1991, which is almost double of the share recorded in 1981. Movement of the family was the stated as the cause of migration by 45.35 per cent of the migrants in urban areas followed by the employment with 24.14 per cent. As compared to the 1981, generally, movement of family as a cause has experienced a decline in the share of migrants in all the areas in 1991.

As shown in the table- 6.7, 'family moved' was recorded as the cause among 45.28 per cent of the migrants in 1981 who came to the state from outside. Employment occupied the second place with 31.13 per cent of the total national migrants. This may be due to better opportunities of jobs in Mizoram in the early stage when the state lacked technical and professional hands. In the rural areas, movement of family also got the highest share of total rural national migrants with 52.18 per cent in

Table - 6.8
Mizoram: Reason for Migration In 1991

	REASONS FOR MIGRATION						
	Employment	Business	Education	Family Moved	Married	Natural Calamities	Others
Internal Migration							
Total	13.78	1.40	2.55	58.41	9.85	0.40	13.61
Rural	11.29	1.31	2.17	61.81	10.18	0.44	12.80
Urban	24.14	1.78	4.09	45.38	8.35	0.22	16.03
National Migration							
Total	27.19	6.42	1.83	40.24	6.88	0.33	17.10
Rural	23.25	4.81	1.04	46.45	7.73	0.60	16.12
Urban	31.21	8.33	2.75	33.96	5.97	0.04	17.74
International Migration							
Total	7.38	3.04	1.03	55.03	8.43	-	25.09

(Figures in the parentheses show the percentage)

1981 and the lowest was education with 1.36 per cent. But among the migrants in urban areas, employment claimed the highest share of the total urban national migrants with a proportion as high as 38.63 per cent.

By the year 1991 (Table- 6.8), out of the total national migrants, 'family moved' as a cause showed some decline and was stated as a cause by only 40.24 per cent of the migrants. This was also true of the migrants from outside the state enumerated both in rural and urban areas.

As far as the international migration is concerned, 'family moved' has occupied the highest share of total international migrants in both the years- 1981 and 1991 with a proportion of 56.14 per cent and 55.03 per cent respectively. Education has recorded the lowest percentages of the total international migrants in both the years.

6.5 Concluding Statement:

The study of pattern of migration in the state leads the following generalizations:

Firstly, the study reveals that out of the total migrants of the state, internal migrants constitutes the highest proportion of the migrants. The immigration from the outside the state is of marginal consequence. It is clear that the re-distribution of population is more intra-regional rather than trans-regional. Much of the redistribution of population takes place within the district.

Secondly, there has been a substantial decrease in the internal migration across the rural areas after 1981. This has been accompanied by an equally striking redistribution of population through an accelerated rural to urban migration. However, the area in Chhimtuipui district appears to be an exception where the population re-distribution continues to be dominantly a rural phenomenon unlike the other two

districts. That the population re-distribution is strongly associated with the growth of urbanization is conclusively proved by the migration data available in Census records.

Thirdly, much of the population re-distribution is taking place within the district involving short distance migration. Movement involving crossing of district boundaries is highly negligible. By implication, it may be said that the proliferation of urban centres within the districts has been responsible for sudden shifts of rural people from around the urban centres. This fact explains the large-scale desertion of many villages around these urban centres and/or negative growth of population observed in many villages located near the urban areas.

Lastly, the main reasons of migration continues to be the movement of family though in recent years employment seems to be an increasingly major force in causing migration and population re-distribution. This is true of both rural and urban areas and of all categories of migrants.

CHAPTER – VII

POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION IN MIZORAM - CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

7.1 Introductory Statement:

It is imperative now to understand the causes and consequences of population redistribution in Mizoram by a reference to the data collected at the primary level. The earlier chapters made a significant dent on the issue through an analysis of the data available in the secondary sources. The present chapter, however, uses household data collected from 508 households living in Aizawl city selected on a random basis. The data were collected through a structured questionnaire canvassed through personal interview method. Only one town was selected for the purpose. Aizawl was selected for the primary reason that it is the most populous and fast growing town that has played a significant role in the population redistribution in the state.

7.2 Population Redistribution:

The analysis of population re-distribution in Mizoram is based on the information collected through the questionnaire. An attempt is made in this chapter to understand the causes and consequences of the redistribution of population in Mizoram by analysing data obtained from individual households residing in the most important town of the state i.e. Aizawl, which has been identified as the single most important town in accelerating the process of redistribution. The migrant segment has been specifically addressed to elicit their responses regarding the process to identify the causes and consequences of the redistribution.

7.2.1 Migration:

Going by the birth place data, the migrant section of the sample households has been estimated for Aizawl and has been presented in the table- 7.1. It is evident from the table that only 11 per cent of the households have members all of those were born in Aizawl. On the other hand an equal proportion of households have all the members born elsewhere than Aizawl. In about 41 per cent of the households 30

to 50 per cent members were migrants. A majority of the members of the households (50 to 99 per cent) were migrants in about 13 per cent of all households surveyed. Less than 30 per cent members were migrant in 23 per cent of the households covered by the survey.

Table - 7.1
Number of Household

Percentage born outside Aizawl city	Number of Household
0	58 (11.42)
1 - 20	71 (13.98)
21 - 30	47 (9.25)
31 - 50	207 (40.75)
51 - 80	55 (10.83)
81 - 99	14 (2.76)
100	56 (11.02)
Total	508

(Figures in the parentheses are in percentage)

7.2.2 Migrants by Distance:

The people who were born outside Aizawl city are treated as migrants into the town. As many as 1,165 persons belonging to the sample households reportedly came from outside Aizawl accounting for 42.31 per cent of the total and they came from varying distances. Table- 7.2 clearly reveals that the proportion of migrants

Table - 7.2
Migrants by Distance

Distance	Number of Migrants
0 - 10 kms	22 (1.89)
11 - 20 kms	43 (3.69)
21 - 50 kms	88 (7.55)
51 - 99 kms	270 (23.18)
100 kms & above	689 (59.14)
From outside Mizoram	53 (4.55)
Total	1,165

(Figures in parentheses show the percentage)

in larger distance classes is much more than those who came from nearby areas. The largest share of the migrants is found in the category of more than 100 kms with a proportion as high as 59.14 per cent. On the other hand, the lowest proportion of the migrant is found in the distance range of less than 10 kms. It is evident that the proportion of migrants increases with increasing distance. This is however true for the migrants who came from within the state. The proportion of the migrants coming from outside the state is extremely small at 4.55 per cent.

7.2.3 Sex-Composition:

As far as the sex composition of the total population is concerned (Table-7.3) the females outnumber the males. Interestingly, the non-migrant households have a much greater female component in their population while the migrant segment has a more or less even distribution of males and females in their population. There is no definite relationship between different categories of households with respect to their migrant component and sex composition. The only exception seems to be those households which contain 30-50 per cent migrants and those with 80-99 per cent migrants. The females are relatively less in the former, while they vastly outnumber males in the latter.

Table - 7.3

Sex Composition of Migrant/ Non-Migrant

% born outside Aizawl city	POPULATION		
	Total	Male	Female
0	247	115 (46.56)	132 (53.44)
1 - 20	426	184 (43.19)	242 (56.81)
21 - 30	271	122 (45.02)	149 (54.98)
31 - 50	1,113	563 (50.58)	550 (49.42)
51 - 80	361	174 (48.20)	187 (51.80)
81 - 99	97	39 (40.21)	58 (59.79)
100	243	121 (49.79)	122 (50.21)
Total	2,758	1,318 (47.79)	1,440 (52.21)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

7.2.4 Marital Status:

The proportion of married population is almost identical in households consisting of non-migrant population (table-7.4). The proportion of unmarried population is quite large (61.74 per cent) in the households that contain very few migrant (less than 20 per cent). Interestingly, proportion of married population is very low (28.87 per cent) in households containing over 80 per cent migrants. It is equally striking that the proportion of separated/divorced segment increases with an increase in the proportion of migrant people. The extent of widowed, separated and divorced segment is substantially high (over 11 per cent) in households that contain over 80 per cent migrant people.

Table - 7.4
Marital Status

% born outside Aizawl city	Total Population	MARITAL STATUS			
		Married	Unmarried	Widowed	Separate
0	247	90 (36.44)	147 (59.51)	9 (3.64)	1 (0.40)
1 - 20	426	146 (34.27)	263 (61.74)	15 (3.52)	2 (0.45)
21 - 30	271	104 (38.38)	158 (58.30)	9 (3.32)	-
31 - 50	1,113	460 (41.33)	617 (55.44)	29 (2.61)	7 (0.63)
51 - 80	361	156 (43.21)	193 (53.46)	11 (3.05)	1 (0.28)
81 - 99	97	28 (28.87)	58 (59.79)	6 (6.19)	5 (5.15)
100	243	90 (37.04)	141 (58.02)	9 (3.70)	3 (1.23)
Total	2,758	1,074 (39.94)	1,577 (57.18)	88 (3.19)	19 (0.69)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

7.2.5 Age Structure:

The most striking feature of the age composition in the fully migrant households refers to an extra-ordinary low proportion of population in young age group of 0-14 and relatively higher proportion of adult and aged people (Table- 7.5). This is in sharp contrast to that section of population which is born and enumerated in Aizawl. This section has a very high proportion (26.72 per cent) of young population and

correspondingly very few old segment in it. It is equally revealing that the proportion of young population decreases rapidly as the proportion of migrants increases in the households. Table- 7.5 very clearly reveals a negative relation between migrants and proportion of young people and a positive association between migrants and proportion of old people.

Table - 7.5
Age Structure

% born outside Aizawl city	Total Population	AGE GROUPS			
		0 - 14	15 - 45	46 - 60	61 & above
0	247	66 (26.72)	153 (61.94)	25 (10.12)	3 (1.21)
1 - 20	426	144 (33.80)	235 (55.16)	38 (8.92)	9 (2.11)
21 - 30	271	70 (25.83)	159 (58.67)	30 (11.07)	12 (4.43)
31 - 50	1,113	279 (25.07)	637 (57.23)	131 (11.77)	66 (5.93)
51 - 80	361	79 (21.88)	198 (54.85)	55 (15.24)	29 (8.03)
81 - 99	97	16 (16.49)	62 (63.92)	15 (15.46)	4 (4.12)
100	243	18 (7.41)	170 (69.96)	39 (16.05)	16 (6.58)
Total	2,758	672 (24.37)	1,614 (58.52)	333 (12.07)	139 (5.04)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

It is evident that the migrants to Aizawl have very few younger persons indicating lower population growth among them.

7.2.6 Literacy Status:

As far as literacy status (Table- 7.6) is concerned, there is distinctly negative relationship between illiteracy and proportion of migrants. There are fewer illiterates (less than 2 per cent) among the households who are not born in Aizawl. On the other hand, the proportion of illiterates is as high as above 10 per cent in households where the members are born in Aizawl. There is a decline in the percentage of illiterates as the proportion of migrants increases. But the reverse is true when higher level of education is taken into consideration. Very few members belonging to the fully

migrant households are graduates compared to those households where the members are born in Aizawl.

It is clear that nearly all the migrant households is literate while the non-migrant component still contains a significant proportion of illiterates among them. However, it is the non-migrant section, which sends a larger proportion of its literate population for higher education compared to the migrant households.

Table - 7.6
Literacy Status

% born outside Aizawl city	Total Population	LITERACY STATUS					
		Illiterate	Literate				
			Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Graduate	Above Graduate
0	247	25 (10.12)	56 (22.67)	71 (28.74)	44 (17.81)	39 (15.79)	12 (4.86)
1 - 20	426	39 (9.15)	142 (33.33)	133 (31.22)	64 (15.02)	39 (9.15)	9 (2.11)
21 - 30	271	26 (9.59)	60 (22.14)	96 (35.42)	50 (18.45)	38 (14.02)	1 (0.37)
31 - 50	1,113	72 (6.47)	340 (30.55)	382 (34.32)	190 (17.07)	116 (10.42)	13 (1.17)
51 - 80	361	29 (8.03)	110 (30.47)	86 (23.82)	83 (22.99)	39 (10.80)	14 (3.88)
81 - 99	97	7 (7.22)	31 (31.96)	22 (22.68)	23 (23.71)	13 (13.40)	1 (1.03)
100	243	3 (1.23)	68 (27.98)	79 (32.51)	57 (23.46)	34 (13.99)	2 (0.82)
Total	2,758	201 (7.29)	807 (29.26)	869 (31.51)	511 (18.52)	318 (11.53)	52 (1.89)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

7.2.7 Duration of Migration:

Table- 7.7 reveals the duration of migration in relation to migrant proportion of the households. A cursory look at the table shows that migration to Aizawl has been a long drawn process, but there has been very few migrants into the city during the last five years. More than 55 per cent of the migrants have come to the city

more than 20 years back. Around 28 per cent came during the last 10-20 years. The proportion falls rapidly to a little over 11 per cent during the last 5-10 years. It is evident that there is a distinct decline in the extent of migration into the city in recent years.

However, it is pertinent to note that among the households which contain 100 per cent migrants, a large chunk of them have come to Aizawl in recent years. More than half of these persons have come to Aizawl during the last 10 years only.

Table - 7.7
Year of Entry

% born outside Aizawl city	Total Migrants	YEAR OF ENTRY				
		1 year back	1-5 yrs back	5-10 yrs back	10-20 yrs back	20 yrs or more back
1 - 20	74 (6.34)	1 (1.35)	1 (1.35)	6 (8.11)	22 (29.73)	44 (59.46)
21 - 30	72 (6.17)	-	-	5 (6.94)	12 (16.67)	55 (76.39)
31 - 50	461 (39.50)	-	2 (0.43)	20 (4.34)	89 (19.31)	350 (75.92)
51 - 80	234 (20.05)	-	6 (2.56)	19 (8.12)	81 (34.62)	128 (54.70)
81 - 99	83 (7.11)	-	-	6 (7.23)	34 (40.96)	43 (51.81)
100	243 (20.82)	6 (2.45)	42 (17.28)	75 (30.86)	96 (39.51)	24 (9.88)
Total	1,167	7 (0.60)	51 (4.37)	131 (11.23)	334 (28.62)	644 (55.18)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

7.2.8 Residence:

A great majority of the population interviewed reported having their own houses. More than 65 per cent of the sample households lived in their own houses while the remaining lived in rented quarters. However, majority of the fully migrant households lived in rented accommodation. In general, more numbers of households born in Aizawl have their own houses and fewer number lives in rented accommodation. On the other hand many of the migrants continue to live in rented accommodation.

Table - 7.8**Type of Residence**

Percentage born outside Aizawl city	Total Household	RESIDENCE	
		Own House	Rented House
0	58	39 (67.24)	19 (32.76)
1 - 20	71	53 (74.65)	18 (25.35)
21 - 30	47	34 (72.34)	13 (27.66)
31 - 50	207	143 (69.08)	64 (30.92)
51 - 80	55	41 (74.55)	14 (25.45)
81 - 99	14	8 (57.14)	6 (42.86)
100	56	17 (30.36)	39 (69.64)
Total	508	335 (65.94)	173 (34.06)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

7.2.9 Occupational Structure:

The analysis of occupational structure is based on the information collected through the household schedule (Questionnaire). The data is classified into seven categories on the basis of percentage born outside Aizawl city, and also divided into government service and private sector. The government service is also further divided into five groups based on the grade job. The private sector is also divided into nine categories. The household schedule collected information from 2,758 persons and of these, 757 persons constituted the main workforce i.e. 27.45 per cent. Out of the total main workforce, 66.18 per cent are engaged in the government service, while private sector absorbed 33.82 per cent. Out of the total workforce, among the government service, group C recorded the highest proportion with 33.55 per cent followed by group B with 12.29 per cent, group D with 11.36 per cent and group A registered the lowest proportion of 6.47 per cent. Apart from these, pensioners recorded a proportion of 2.51 per cent of the total main workforce. In the private sector, Business accounted 24.57 per cent of the total main workforce.

Among the non-migrant households around 68 per cent of the main workers are employed wherein group C services dominate with 32 per cent of all workers. A very large proportion (25.33 per cent) of the workers are absorbed by business in the private sector. Households which have very few migrants in them (i.e. 1-20 per cent) have over 60 per cent (61.54 per cent) engaged in government services. In the private sector, business absorbed the highest proportion with 31.73 per cent of the total main workers. In households where 21-30 per cent are migrants to the city, 65.15 per cent is engaged in the government services, of which more than 30 per cent is employed in group C category. In the private sector, business absorbed the highest proportion of the workers (16.70 per cent). In households where 31-50 per cent of the population is migrant, about 67 per cent of the main workers is engaged in government

Table - 7.9
Occupational Structure

% born outside Aizawl City	OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE									
	GOVERNMENT SERVICE									
	GROUP									
	A	B	C	D	Pensioner	Total				
0	10.67	16.00	32.00	8.00	1.33	68.00				
1 - 20	9.62	8.65	35.58	7.69	-	61.54				
21 - 30	3.03	13.64	30.30	15.15	3.03	65.15				
31 - 50	4.81	12.82	35.58	10.90	2.56	66.67				
51 - 80	10.64	12.77	31.91	17.02	4.26	76.60				
81 - 99	8.70	-	21.74	8.70	4.35	43.49				
100	2.41	13.25	32.53	12.05	3.61	63.85				
Total	6.47	12.29	33.55	11.36	2.51	66.18				
PRIVATE										
% born outside Aizawl City	Business	Carpentry/Mistiri	Teacher	Driver (O.V.)	Driver	Contractor	Pastor	Handloom	Laborer	Total
0	25.33	-	-	-	2.67	-	2.67	-	1.33	32.00
1 - 20	31.73	0.96	1.92	0.96	0.96	0.96	-	0.96	-	38.45
21 - 30	19.70	4.55	1.52	-	7.58	1.52	-	-	-	34.87
31 - 50	24.36	4.17	1.28	0.96	1.28	-	0.32	0.32	0.64	33.33
51 - 80	17.02	2.13	1.06	-	1.06	1.06	-	-	1.06	23.39
81 - 99	47.83	-	4.35	-	-	-	-	-	4.35	56.53
100	21.69	1.20	2.41	1.20	4.82	1.20	-	-	3.61	36.13
Total	24.57	2.64	1.32	0.79	2.25	0.53	0.40	0.26	1.06	33.82

(Figures are in percentage)

services with the highest concentration in group C category. Business in this category too is an important activity by a large section. In households, which contain 51-80 per cent migrants, 76.60 per cent of the main workers is engaged in the government services. Among the government services, group C has the highest proportion with 31.91 per cent employed in this category. Business activities dominate as the private sector employment. Households which have 81-99 per cent migrants, a majority of the working force is employed in the private sector, particularly in business. In households consisting of all migrants government services absorb 64 per cent of the working force and the group C category has the highest proportion i.e. 32.53 per cent of the total main workers.

In general, a very large proportion of the working force is employed in the government sector. The private sector absorbs about one-third of all the workers. A cursory glance at the occupational structure of the surveyed population reveals interesting facts. A very large proportion of the non-migrant population is in government services, particularly in the group A and group B categories. On the other hand, a greater proportion of migrant workers are confined to the group C and group D category. There is a general decline in the proportion of workers in group A government services as the proportion of migrants increase in the households.

In the private sector, it is business that absorbs most of the working population. The proportion of workers belonging to fully migrant families employed in business is less compared to the non-migrant families. Diversity in occupational structure is more pronounced as the migrant proportion in households increases.

7.2.10 Links With the Villages Left:

The analysis of links with the villages left and purpose of visit is based on the information collected through the household schedule. It is notable that irrespective

Table - 7.10

Links With the Villages Left and Purpose of Visit

% of born in outside Aizawl city	Link with the village left			Purpose of visit		
	Once a month	Once a year	Occasionally	Social occasion	Cultivation	Any other
1 - 20	-	2.86	97.14	97.14	2.86	
21 - 30	3.85	-	96.15	96.15	3.85	
31 - 50	-	0.70	99.30	99.30	0.70	
51 - 80	-	-	100	100		
81 - 99	-	10.00	90.00	90.00		10 to visit relatives
100	-	-	100	97.44	2.56	

(Figures in percentage)

of the proportion of migrants in the households most people visit their villages only occasionally. This is so as social/ cultural ties continue to take them back to their ancestral villages only on such occasions. Very few have any economic link with the villages left by them.

7.3 Migrant Segment Only (Individual):

The study of migrant segment only (individual) is important to understand the pattern and process of population redistribution as well as the causes and consequences of such a redistribution. The analysis of migrant segment only (individual) is based on the data collected through the questionnaire. Only 97 persons were available and willing to provide information.

7.3.1 Age Structure:

The migrant segment from whom the information was collected consisted of 97 persons. Out of this, 69.07 per cent were males and 30.93 per cent were females. For the analysis of the age of the migrant segment, the data is divided into four age groups, and also classified into present age and age when they left. It is evident that the sample migrants are mostly adults in the age group of 15-45 while less than 19 per cent

are in the middle age group of 46-60 years. Interestingly most of them had migrated when they were at 15-45 years of age. Significantly a little less than 20 per cent of them were very young , i.e. less than 14 years of age when they migrated to Aizawl.

Table - 7.11
Age Structure

Age group	Number of Person	
	Present Age	Age when they left
0 - 14	-	18 (18.50)
15 - 45	78 (80.41)	79 (81.44)
46 - 60	18 (18.56)	-
61 & above	1 (1.03)	-
Total	97	97

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

7.3.2 Streams Of Migration:

As far as the origin of these migrants is concerned, a great majority of them came from rural areas of Mizoram. Only around a fourth of these migrants came to Aizawl from others towns of Mizoram. About 10 per cent of all migrants came from others states.

There is very little sex difference as far as streams of migration are concerned. Almost equal percentage of female migrants have come from rural areas, but their proportion is a little more from other urban areas. Very few women came from other states.

Table - 7.12
Streams of Migration

Streams of Migration	Total	Male	Female
Rural to Urban	61 (62.89)	42 (68.85)	19 (31.15)
Urban to Urban	26 (26.80)	17 (65.38)	9 (34.62)
From Outside	10 (10.31)	8 (80.00)	2 (20.00)
Total	97	67 (69.07)	30 (30.93)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

7.3.3 Migration and Distance:

It is interesting that the migrants to Aizawl came from farther distances than from areas in close proximity. 64 out of 87 migrants came from areas at least 100

Table - 7.13
Migration and Distance

Distance	Number of Person	
	Male	Female
Below 10 kms	1 (1.15)	-
11 - 20 kms	1 (1.15)	-
21 - 50 kms	2 (2.30)	-
51 - 99 kms	13 (14.94)	6 (6.90)
100 kms	42 (48.28)	22 (25.28)
Total	59 (67.82)	28 (32.18)

(Figures in parentheses show the percentage)

kilometers away from Aizawl. Indeed there is a positive association between the proportion of migrants and distance. In other words, the proportion of migrants increases with increasing distance. Interestingly while a few male migrants into Aizawl came from nearby areas, female migrants are from longer distances.

7.3.4 Migrants from Outside Mizoram:

Most of the migrants from other states are from three North-Eastern states of Tripura, Manipur and Assam with which Mizoram shares common boundary. Four persons each from Tripura and Manipur and two persons from Assam were enumerated in the sample.

Table - 7.14
Migrants from Outside Mizoram

State	Number of Migrants		
	Total	Male	Female
Tripura	4 (40.00)	4 (100.00)	-
Manipur	4 (40.00)	3 (75.00)	1 (25.00)
Assam	2 (20.00)	1 (50.00)	1 (50.00)
Total	10	8 (80.00)	2 (20.00)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

7.3.5 Spatial Distribution of Migrants

The migrants to the Aizawl town are mostly from Aizawl district only and very few migrants come from other two districts. Around 7 per cent of the migrants in Aizawl town came from Lunglei district while the proportion was very low at 3.45 per cent from Chhimituipui district.

Table - 7.15

Spatial Distribution of Migrants

District	Block	Total Migrant	Rural to Urban		Urban to Urban	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
Aizawl	Zawlnuam	1 (1.15)	1 (2.38)	-	-	-
	W. Phaileng	1 (1.15)	1 (2.38)	-	-	-
	Reiek	-	-	-	-	-
	N. Thingdawl	11 (12.64)	2 (4.76)	1 (5.26)	7 (41.18)	1 (11.11)
	Darlawn	13 (14.94)	6 (14.29)	5 (26.32)	1 (5.88)	1 (11.11)
	Tlangnuam	1 (1.15)	1 (2.38)	-	-	-
	Aibawk	1 (1.15)	1 (2.38)	-	-	-
	Serchhip	1 (1.15)	1 (2.38)	-	-	-
	Thingsulthliah	11 (12.64)	6 (14.29)	1 (5.26)	2 (11.76)	2 (22.22)
	Ngopa	9 (10.34)	6 (14.29)	3 (15.79)	-	-
	Khawzawl	22 (25.29)	7 (16.67)	5 (26.32)	5 (29.41)	5 (55.55)
	E. Lungdar	7 (8.04)	4 (9.52)	1 (5.26)	2 (11.76)	-
Lunglei	W. Bunghmun	1 (1.15)	-	1 (5.26)	-	-
	Lungsen	3 (3.45)	2 (4.76)	1 (5.26)	-	-
	Lunglei	1 (1.15)	1 (2.38)	-	-	-
	Hnahthial	1 (1.15)	1 (2.38)	-	-	-
Chhimituipui	Chawngte	-	-	-	-	-
	Lawngtlai	-	-	-	-	-
	Sangau	3 (3.45)	2 (4.76)	1 (5.26)	-	-
	Tuipang	-	-	-	-	-
Total		87	42 (48.28)	19 (21.84)	17 (19.54)	9 (10.34)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

Block level data reveals that the migrants come from almost all the blocks in Aizawl and Lunglei districts whereas it is confined to just one block in Chhimituipui district. In terms of strength of migrants, nearly a quarter of all migrants to Aizawl town came from Khawzawl block in Aizawl district alone. Interestingly this block is located farther away from Aizawl town. Darlawn, North Thingdawl and Thingsulthliah blocks in

the same district sent around 12-13 per cent of migrants into the city. All these three blocks are located close to the Aizawl city.

In the rural to urban stream, it is the male component which came from all the blocks, while the females have a very restricted origin. While male migrants are from all the blocks, female migrants are confined to only a few blocks from Aizawl and Lunglei district.

7.3.6 Duration Of Migration:

As far as the duration of migration to Aizawl city is concerned, bulk of migration took place during 1981-1990 decade, a fact that was also found in the census records analysed in the previous chapter. The intensity of migration to the city during 1981-1985 period was the highest, as evident from the table- 7.16 which shows that nearly 30 per cent of all migrants came to Aizawl during this 5 years. The proportion was about 25 per cent in the next five years.

Table - 7.16
Duration of Migration

Date of Leaving	Number of Migrant Segment		
	Total	Male	Female
Before 1970	10 (10.31)	7 (70.00)	3 (30.00)
1971 - 1975	9 (9.28)	5 (55.56)	4 (44.44)
1976 - 1980	12 (12.37)	10 (83.33)	2 (16.67)
1981 - 1985	29 (29.90)	20 (68.97)	9 (31.03)
1986 - 1990	24 (24.74)	18 (75.00)	6 (25.00)
1991 - 1995	10 (10.31)	5 (50.00)	5 (50.00)
1996 - 2000	3 (3.09)	2 (66.67)	1 (33.33)
Total	97	67 (69.07)	30 (30.93)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

It is also clear that the flow of migration into the city has substantially reduced after 1991 and much reduced after 1995. A similar trend is found as far as male and female migration is concerned.

7.3.7 Causes Of Migration:

Employment and education appear to be extremely important as far as causes of migration is concerned. Nearly half of all the migrants interviewed stated employment as the cause of their migration into Aizawl. A quarter of all the migrants came for education. One-fifth of all the migrants stated marriage as the cause, but this is confined to females alone.

Table - 7.17
Causes of Migration

Causes	Number of Migrant Segment		
	Total	Male	Female
Employment	30 (30.93)	27 (60.00)	3 (13.64)
Education	19 (19.59)	17 (37.78)	2 (9.09)
Marriage	16 (16.49)	-	16 (72.73)
Transfer	2 (2.06)	1 (2.22)	1 (4.55)
Total	67 (69.07)	45 (67.16)	22 (32.84)
Not Available	30 (30.93)	22 (32.84)	8 (26.67)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

Employment and education were the reasons for migration for nearly the entire male population. Marriage, however, was the single most important cause for migration the females (Table- 7.17).

7.3.8 Present Occupation:

Out of the total migrants of the 79 persons from whom the data was available, 49 persons are engaged in government services and 19 persons are engaged in the private sector while 11 persons are without any definite occupation. In the government service, the group C category absorbs the largest number of migrant labour force. Group B has 11.39 per cent while group A and group D services account for around 7-8 per cent. Within the private sector, business has the highest proportion i.e. 17.72 per cent of the total main workers while the other categories recorded less than 5 per cent.

Table - 7.18
Occupational Structure (Migrant Segment Only)

OCCUPATION							
GOVERNMENT SERVICES							
	Migrant Segment	Data available	GROUP				
			A	B	C	D	
Total	97	79 (81.44)	7 (8.86)	9 (11.39)	27 (34.18)	6 (7.59)	
Male	67	59 (88.06)	6 (10.17)	8 (13.56)	24 (40.68)	6 (10.17)	
Female	30	20 (66.67)	1 (5.00)	1 (5.00)	3 (15.00)	-	
PRIVATE							
	Migrant Segment	Data available	Business	Mistiri	Driver	Labourer	Nil
Total	97	79(81.44)	14 (17.72)	3 (3.80)	1(1.27)	1(1.27)	11(13.92)
Male	67	59(88.06)	9 (15.25)	3 (5.08)	1(1.69)	1(1.69)	1(1.69)
Female	30	20(66.67)	5 (25.00)	-	-	-	10 (50.00)

(Figures in parantheses show the percentage)

The migrant non-workers accounted for 13.92 per cent. Half of all the female migrants reported themselves as non-workers. About a quarter of them were found in government services and business each. Very few males are non-workers and are well distributed in diverse occupations, though they are largely represented in government services followed by business in the private sector.

7.3.9 Frequency Of Visit To The Village:

It is interesting that a great majority of the migrants do not keep constant touch with the villages they have left. Over 30 per cent of the migrants never visit their villages which they left for the urban location. The proportion is even higher (35.71 per cent) for females and is slightly lower (27.77 per cent) for the male (Table- 7.19). Around

Table - 7.19
Frequency of Visit to the Village

	Total migrants	Frequency of visit			
		Once in a year	Twice in a year	Occasionally	Never
Total	82 (84.52)	5 (6.09)	5 (6.09)	47 (57.31)	25 (30.48)
Male	54 (80.60)	4 (7.40)	2 (3.70)	33 (61.11)	15 (27.77)
Female	28 (93.33)	1 (3.57)	3 (10.71)	14 (50.00)	10 (35.71)

(Figures in parentheses are in percentage)

50-60 per cent of the migrants in Aizawl town visit their villages only occasionally. The proportion is as high as 61.11 per cent for males and 50 per cent for females.

Only less than 10 per cent of the migrants keep constant touch with their original villages by a frequency of visits which is once or twice in a year. Interestingly a greater proportion of females keeps in touch with the villages than their male counterparts.

7.3.10 Nearest Relation Left In The Village

It appears that the migrants have not moved as a family. In 61.76 per cent cases, the parents of the migrants are left in the village. In another 8.82 per cent cases, only the mother is left behind whereas in 5.88 per cent cases, only the father is left behind. In a nutshell in over 75 per cent cases, the migrants have come to Aizawl without their parents. In the remaining cases, other blood relations are left behind.

Table - 7.20

Nearest Relation Left In The Village

Nearest Relation Left	Number of Migrant Segment Only	Percentage of Migrant Segment Only
Parent	42	61.76
Mother	6	8.82
Father	4	5.88
Uncle	4	5.88
Brother	9	13.24
Sister	3	4.41
Total	68	70.10

7.4 Concluding Remark:

The field data generated from sample households in Aizawl revealed that most households contained migrant people though only 11 per cent households fully consisted of migrants. The proportion of migrants from longer distances was more than those who came from nearby areas. The fully migrant households had a much balanced sex-ratio.

An interesting fact about the marital status of the sample households relates to the greater proportion of separated and/or divorced people- a fact of tremendous sociological importance in a tribal dominated area. As expected, the age composition of the fully migrant households is largely in favour of adult and old population. The literacy rate among the migrant segment is much better, but fewer migrants have gone for higher education compared to the non- migrant segment.

Migration to this capital city has been a long drawn process, but there has been an acceleration in the process in the 1980's. Indeed the process to city-ward migration has diminished its strength during the last five years i.e. after 1995.

A great majority of the fully migrant households lived in rented accomodation.

It is interesting that government service appears to be the main attraction for the migrant people. Most of them are employed in group C and D services. Apart from government services, only trade and business absorbs the working force belonging to the migrant people.

Contrary to expectation, the migrant segment retains fewer links with the villages which they left, though many of their nearest relations are left behind. This is what explains their occasional visits during social functions only. Another reason may be the character of Aizawl town, which is the only town of significance and size. Moreover, as is already mentioned, migrants to this town came from farther distances and it may be difficult for many to keep continuous links with their villages.

Most of the migrants came to Aizawl when they were young or young adults. A majority of the migrants came rural areas from within the state. Few came from outside the state. Employment in government services and business apart from education were found to be the major causes of migration.

CHAPTER - VIII

CONCLUSION

The present research is an attempt to understand population redistribution and committant urbanization in Mizoram- a tiny state in the eastern margin of the Indian sub-continent located in the eastern offshoot of the Himalayas in the Indo-Myanmar borderland. The state of late has been characterized by unprecedented growth in urban population indicating acceleration in the process of population redistribution. This redistribution, however, is taking place in the state unaccompanied by any noticeable transformation in the rural socio-economic order or significant transfer of people from outside the state. There is hardly any indication of a significant difference in fertility or mortality patterns across the rural and urban areas. The fact that a corresponding depopulation in the rural areas and changes in the spatial patterns of rural settlements also accompany the unprecedented rise in urban population is sufficient to indicate the process of internal redistribution of population- either voluntary or involuntary. The main objectives placed before the study are- to get an insight into the differential growth rates of population in the rural and urban areas, to examine the changes in the rural population, to analyze broad trends in the patterns of urbanization, and to identify the causes and consequences of the redistribution of population in Mizoram. Much of the data required for this research has been obtained from secondary sources particularly those published by successive census enumeration. The secondary data has been supplemented with a field investigation in the Aizawl town- the capital of Mizoram.

The study of the distribution of population in Mizoram reveals that the low density of population is due to the remote location of the state in the north-east corner with a physical setting dominated by mountainous terrain and with a low carrying capacity of land. At the district level, the concentration of population decreases toward the south. Generally, the altitude of the northern part of the state is lower than the

southern part, which contains some flat lands and this probably explains larger concentration of people in the north. Chhimtuipui district had experienced a high density in 1991 as compared to the preceding year. This is perhaps due to the recent migration of the Chakmas from the neighbouring country of Bangladesh into the district as well as due to high average birth rate. At the block level, the study of population distribution reveals striking spatial variation in population concentration. Sangau block has the lowest population concentration which accounted for less than 2 per cent of the state's total population whereas Tlangnuam block has as high as one-fourth of the state's total population in 1991. In this block, the state's capital Aizawl City is located. The highest density of population is found in Tlangnuam block, and this is due to the inclusion of Aizawl city, the capital of Mizoram and Sairang town while the lowest density of population is in West Bnghmun block.

A study of the changes in the number of rural population in the state as a whole shows a rise in the rural population until 1981 after which it marginally declined. The share of rural population, however, registered a continuous decline over time with the maximum decline confined to the last decade. At the district level, Aizawl district, which supported 71.37 per cent of its population in rural areas in 1981, registered a sharp decline in this proportion in 1991. Less than half of its population lived in rural areas in 1991.

A study of the rural population based on the size of population in rural settlements reveals that in sharp contrast with the other two districts, Chhimtuipui district registered either an increase or the position remained unchanged in all the size classes except in extremely tiny villages (below 50) which decreased in number. This may be related to the smaller or tiny villages merging with other villages or urban centres or due to natural growth of their population. At the block level, the large sized village (above

1000) are few in all blocks. This may be due to the fact that some large sized villages are registered as urban centres by the census in 1981 and 1991.

The urban population continues to be largely confined to the northern part of the state. Around 65 per cent of the urban population is confined to the cluster of six blocks in the north bordering Tripura and Assam plains. It is pertinent to note that the urban development until 1981 had an essentially administrative character. In the period after 1981, while the administrative character continued to dominate, non-administrative reasons seem to be associated with urban growth in the northern part of the state as indicated by the presence of more than one town in these blocks.

The study of the growth of population in Mizoram clearly reveals that the population growth trends in the state level has generally an alteration of ups and downs after every decade in terms of percentage, excepting 1941-1951 and 1951-1961. The growth rates in all the decades have been a positive. During 1911-1921 decade, the population growth rate decreased to 7.90 per cent only, which is due to the natural famine called *Mautam* in 1912 that retarded the progress of population growth. Another declining growth trend was witnessed during 1961-1971 decade. This was probably due to the M.N.F. insurgency. During this period many Mizo youths joined the M.N.F. movement and went underground and hence were not enumerated in the census and many Mizo were killed due to the same movement.

The rural population in Mizoram registered a negative growth rate during the period 1981-1991. The maximum decline took place in Aizawl district, which contains the largest urban centre, i.e. Aizawl City, followed by Lunglei district. On the other hand, the Chhimtuipui district registered a significant rise in its rural population. At the block level, however, the decline was phenomenal in those that contained large

sized urban centres. The peripheral areas, particularly in the western ridge and valley areas as well as in the south experienced large increase in their rural population.

At the village level a little less than one-third inhabited villages have registered a net decline in their population showing massive outmigration from among these villages. On the other hand, a very large population of villages have only marginally added to their total population. This means more than half of all villages have either experienced a decline in their population or added little to their population.

The villages, which have experienced positive as well as negative growth in their population are widespread all over the state indicating a dispersed pattern covering the entire state rather than any specific areas. What is however evident that the villages of negative growth are far more numerous in the interior areas, away from the main arteries of roads and away from the major urban centres.

Almost all the villages having excessive positive growth of the population are generally found along the main arteries of roads and near the urban centres. Villages experiencing excessively negative growth in their population are found in the interior areas away from the main roads and urban centres of the state. Generally both the pattern of the growth are spread almost throughout the state.

The growth of urban population has been extremely high during 1971-1981 period after which there has been a slowing down in the rate in spite of a great multiplicity of towns in the following decade. This indicates addition of smaller size of urban settlements in the 1981-1991 decade. The largest growth in urban population has been witnessed in the northern most district of Aizawl. At the block level, however, the largest increase in urban population has taken place in Khawzawl and North Thingdawl blocks. While the former is characterized by greater agricultural potential the latter is located in the ridge and valley areas.

The differential patterns of population growth in the rural and urban areas unmistakably reveal an intense process of redistribution taking place in the state. The process undoubtedly is linked to a strong stream of rural to urban migration and cannot be merely attributed to differences in natural increase.

The analysis of index of dissimilarity indicates that the overall redistribution of population is not very significant, though there are interesting inter-district variations. It is true that redistribution of population across the districts is only of marginal importance, but is of some consequence when the data is analysed across the developmental blocks. It is likely that the redistribution of population is more intra-district than inter-district. Consequently, the extent of inter-block redistribution is more.

This fact is substantiated by the evidence of a greater redistribution of rural population than the overall. This pattern suggests small distance migration causing redistribution often taking place within an administrative boundary.

The study of structure of rural settlements made an attempt to understand the demographic situation in the rural areas of Mizoram with the assumption that the pattern of urbanization in this fragile eco-system is intricately interwoven with the patterns in rural areas. Since the region experiences little inter-state migration, urbanization process seems to be directly related to the internal redistribution of population as reflected in the transformation of large villages into urban centres as well as migration of rural people into the existing urban centres.

The state as a whole has been experiencing a net decline in the number of inhabited rural settlements over the period of investigation with a corresponding rise in the number of uninhabited or deserted villages. The increase in the number of uninhabited villages is phenomenal in the 1981-1991 decade, a period, which incidentally is characterized by an equally striking rise in the level of urbanization.

However, the extent of rural depopulation is not spatially uniform. Although the increase in uninhabited villages took place uniformly in all areas, the decline in the number of inhabited villages is very high in the northern part of the state whereas the southern part actually witnessed an increase in the number of inhabited villages. This kind of a pattern provides sufficient clue to the merger and/or transformation of many rural settlements into urban centres in the north.

It is interesting to note that the extent of desertion of villages is far more striking in the western ridge and valley areas compared to the eastern highland region which offers marginally better agricultural potential in the few flat lands located in this region. The fact that the blocks located close to the two urban centres namely- Aizawl and Lunglei too contained a large number of uninhabited villages indicate their en masse movement to these large townships. Another significant point that emerges from the study relates to a significant decline in the share of smaller sized settlements. It is quite probable that many small sized settlements have either merged into urban centres or it is these villages which are getting depopulated or they are adding to their population at a faster rate to move into medium sized settlements. On the other hand, a decline in the number of very large sized rural settlements may be due to their attaining urban status.

It is pertinent to note here that the distribution of rural settlements was greatly affected by the efforts to group them in select grouping centres in the wake of M.N.F. led insurgent activity. This effort explains the increase in the number of uninhabited village after 1971. The process continued for quite sometime in spite of the fact that many villagers returned to the remote habitats after the insurgency was contained. It is quite obvious that the western and northern part of the state was much more affected by such desertions of villages of grouping centres. Incidentally these

areas have experienced considerable decline in the number of rural settlements as well as in their population. It is possible to guess a hazard that this politically sponsored redistribution of rural people may have had significant impact in the decline in the small sized settlements as well as providing an impetus for urban growth.

The uninhabited villages are spread all over the state except the eastern mountainous area. Most of them are confined to the western ridge and valley region particularly in the north and south. The uninhabited villages are generally found in the interior areas away from the main arteries of roads and urban centres of the state. But some of the uninhabited villages are also located in the main arteries of roads and close to urban centres. Interestingly, the uninhabited villages are found in group of three or four or even more in close spatial proximity to each other.

The present pattern of distribution of towns is highly dispersed over most parts of the state though the western ridge and valley areas seem to have attracted more towns of varying sizes than the eastern mountainous region. The distribution of towns is unrelated to the factor of altitude. At a very broad level, it may be safely concluded that the growth of urbanization as well as the proliferation in the number of towns is largely governed by non-physical factors. Moreover, regional variation in the ecological and economic potential too do not show any correspondence to the distribution of towns as towns, both large and small, are widely dispersed all over the state. Thus, the distribution of towns does not appear to be related in any significant manner to the economic factors.

It appears that, proliferation in the number of towns is a major cause for the unusual increase in the level of urbanization. But much of this proliferation is taking place through the classification of relatively large sized villages which do not conform to the prescribed criteria adopted by the Indian Census i.e. population size and density.

The great increase in the number of urban settlements has developed a balanced structure of urbanization in the state. The towns are now found in most size classes of population unlike in the past. The structure has a very broad base with large number of lower order towns and a very narrow apex with just a single large-sized town. But primacy of a single town continues to characterize the structure of urbanization as only a few towns, mostly the larger ones, are growing at a faster rate. This is suggestive of the fact that due to historical, political, economic and social reasons, it is these few urban centres which attract the rural people in great numbers and thus may be directly linked to the process of rural depopulation observed in many pockets. As regards the other towns with smaller sizes of population, the growth appears to be based on the natural increase taking place in these towns.

There is little evidence of structural shift in the economy of the people living in urban areas. However, such a shift is clearly visible in the few larger order towns. Urban growth in Mizoram thus appears to be mostly guided by demographic, political and administrative factors.

The study reveals that out of the total migrants of the state, internal migrants constitutes the highest proportion of the migrants. The immigration from the outside the state is of marginal consequence. It is clear that the re-distribution of population is more intra-regional rather than trans-regional. Much of the redistribution of population takes place within the district.

There has been a substantial decrease in the internal migration across the rural areas after 1981. This has been accompanied by an equally striking redistribution of population through an accelerated rural to urban migration. However, the area in Chhimtuipui district appears to be an exception where the population re-distribution continues to be dominantly a rural phenomenon unlike the other two

districts. That the population re-distribution is strongly associated with the growth of urbanization is conclusively proved by the migration data available in Census records.

Much of the population re-distribution is taking place within the district involving short distance migration. Movement involving crossing of district boundaries is highly negligible. By implication, it may be said that the proliferation of urban centres within the districts has been responsible for sudden shifts of rural people from around the urban centres. This fact explains the large-scale desertion of many villages around these urban centres and/or negative growth of population observed in many villages located near the urban areas.

The main reasons of migration continues to be the movement of family though in recent years employment seems to be an increasingly major force in causing migration and population re-distribution. This is true of both rural and urban areas and of all categories of migrants.

The field data generated from sample households in Aizawl revealed that most households contained migrant people though only 11 per cent households fully consisted of migrants. The proportion of migrants from longer distances was more than those who came from nearby areas. The fully migrant households had a much balanced sex-ratio.

An interesting fact about the marital status of the sample households relates to the greater proportion of separated and/or divorced people- a fact of tremendous sociological importance in a tribal dominated area. As expected, the age composition of the fully migrant households is largely in favour of adult and old population. The literacy rate among the migrant segment is much better, but fewer migrants have gone for higher education compared to the non- migrant segment.

Migration to this capital city has been a long drawn process, but there has been an acceleration in the process in the 1980's. Indeed the process to city-ward migration has diminished its strength during the last five years i.e. after 1995.

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Contrary to expectation, the migrant segment retains fewer links with the villages which they left, though many of their nearest relations are left behind. This is what explains their occasional visits during social functions only. Another reason may be the character of Aizawl town, which is only town of significance and size. Moreover, as is already mentioned, migrants to this town come from farther distances and it may be difficult for many to keep continuous links with their villages.

Most of the migrants came to Aizawl when they were young or young adults. A majority of the migrants came from outside rural areas of the state. Few came from outside the state. Employment in government services and business apart from education were found to be the major causes of migration.

It is imperative at this stage to summarize some of the major findings with respect to the problem initially posed. The study provides valuable clues regarding the nature of urban development and redistribution of population. It is clear that Mizoram has experienced phenomenal population redistribution in the two decades of 1971-81 and 1981-91. The population has redistributed itself in a manner that baffles easy explanation, i.e. moving into urban centres in large numbers. This phenomenon is very

strongly evident in the northern two districts than in the south which remains by and large resistant to the phenomenon of population redistribution. The fact that the MNF led insurgent activity which forced the Central Government to resort to Grouping of Villages along the main arteries of the roads was confined to the northern two districts, comes out as a possible explanation to this unprecedented population redistribution. While the grouping exercise was completed by the year 1970, the effect of it has been felt in the subsequent period, the return of many villages to their original sites in mid-seventies notwithstanding. Although the grouping exercise which was primarily intended to combat insurgency was resented by the villagers in the initial period, it seemed to be accepted by a large number of people at a later date which gave a boost to population redistribution and consequent urbanization. Perhaps the advantages of relocation nearer the roads and the facility of many urban amenities in the grouping centres found many relocated people to stick to the newly emerged sites for a final settlement.

Much of the redistribution thus has taken place between the rural to urban areas than across the rural space. The most important aspect of this redistribution is linked to a rural depopulation, desertion and abandonment of villages for an urban location and the smaller, interior villages are the ones which experienced this kind of a redistribution. The earlier pattern of a dispersed population distribution has undergone a substantial transformation to a concentrated pattern having its own consequences in a tribal setting and in a physical setting which is very fragile.

Another interesting aspect of this redistribution refers to the intensity of this process confined to just two decades. It is remarkable that a substantial proportion of people moved out of their original villages within a span of twenty years which has its own socio-economic implications. It is not clear how they sustained themselves in the urban areas. The nature of the smaller order urban areas show that bulk of the working

force is still tied to agriculture indicating a strong agricultural base of the population and continuation of rural life in spite of an urban residence. But the field data from Aizawl town reveals that most of the working force is employed in government services and in business. This means that Government has been active in generation of employment for the redistributed people in the post insurgency period. But it may be noted here that this employment generation cannot continue for very long as the state is precariously dependent on central funding in the absence of sound economic base of the state. This is evident from the recent data on redistribution which reveals that the urban growth has significantly slowed down by the year 2001 and rural to urban migration has declined substantially after 1981.

The most important aspect of the process of redistribution refers to its all-pervasive nature. The population has redistributed from across all the areas and is not confined to any select places, though the intensity is much stronger in the northern part than in the south. Moreover the people have redistributed themselves much more around the major towns than going to far off places. This is why the index of dissimilarity is much higher within the district than across districts. This is not unexpected as the state is characterized by extremely difficult terrain and problems of long distance communication.

The process of urban growth seems to be intricately associated with the process of redistribution of rural population and *vice versa*. There is a distinct declining trend in the process of both urbanization and redistribution and in the years to come it is expected that there shall be stability in the distribution pattern of the population and a consequent slow growth of urban population. The recently concluded Census count of the population in the state too substantiates this point. The process of urban growth in Mizoram seems to have been accelerated by the redistribution of rural people moving

into the urban areas and the entire process is linked to the socio-political changes in the 1970s and 1980s. Once the political turmoil has settled down, both urban development and associated redistribution has come to a sudden stop. The imperatives of containing insurgency necessitated better administrative control that led to proliferation of administrative towns and consequent proliferation in the number of towns. Now that the situation has improved no more redistribution is expected.

All the hypothesis presented in the introductory part of the dissertation have been proved except for the one that the people in the urban areas maintain strong links with the rural areas they left. This aspect could not be conclusively proved from the field data generated in Aizawl. On the contrary, it was found that the migrant segment maintains fewer links with the ancestral villages than expected. This is in spite of the fact that many of them have their blood relations left behind in the villages they left. This deviation can be explained by a reference to the migrants who reported to have come from far off distances and distance appeared to be a major constraint for them to maintain better links. However, it is still expected that the hypothesis may be valid for towns of smaller sizes where agriculture continues to be the dominant economic activity. Lack of time did not permit the testing of the hypothesis in smaller order towns. It is expected that this does not constitute a serious lapse in this research.

This research made an attempt to understand the ongoing process of urban growth in Mizoram that has invited scholarly attention and considered the process of redistribution of population as a necessary concomitant to the process. Some questions have been answered and many remain unanswered while new questions have emerged with regard to both the processes. It is yet not known as to how such a large urban growth has sustained itself and is going to sustain. It is equally intriguing as to know the economic opportunities available to the people who have come to the urban

areas. Has it increased the disparities among the people? A major research problem that lies ahead relates to privatization particularly to urban land. These and many other research questions may be meaningfully taken up as problems of further research.

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APPENDIX – 1

HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY,
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES,
N.E.H.U., SHILLONG.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Town : _____
Household code : _____
Name of the Head of the Household : _____
Tribe : _____
Clan : _____
Caste : _____
Religion : _____

B. DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE:

Relation to Head of the Household	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Literacy Status	Place of Birth [#]	Distance from the present residence	Remarks

[#] Name the Village/ Block

C. ECONOMIC STATUS:

1: Assets in the village since left:

1.1 Land Owned (in hectre) before leaving for the town :

Cultivated land: _____
 Jhum : _____
 Terrace : _____
 Valley : _____
 Land leased out: _____

1.2 Have you purchased/ sold land in the last 10 years in the village:
 Yes/ No

If yes, how much (a) Purchased _____ when _____
 (b) Sold _____ when _____

2: Cropping pattern in the village you have left

What crops grown by you in the village and area under each crop.

Crops	Season	Area under Crops	Production

D. i) When did you leave the village to settle in the town:
 1 yr. back/ 1-5 yrs. back/ 5-10 yrs. back/ 10-20 yrs. back/ 20 yrs. or more

ii) Where do you reside now?
 Own House / Rented House

E. Have you purchased land in the city/ town? Yes / No

If yes, please state the following:

1. Year of purchase: _____

2. Area of land: _____

3. Amount of paid: _____

4. Have you built a house : Yes / No _____

If yes, what use is it made: Rental (reside)/ Rental (commercial)

How much rent is received: _____

Or only for residential purposes.

F. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Members employed in different jobs at present

Sl.no.	TYPE OF OCCUPATION		Wage/ Salary per month
	Main Occupation	Subsidiary Occupation	

G. Links with the village left:

1. How often do you visit your village?
Once a week/ Once a month/ Once a year/ Occasionally.

2. Purpose of visits: Social Occasions/ Cultivation/ Any other (Specify)

APPENDIX - 2

RURAL SETTLEMENTS OF MIZORAM**No.1 ZAWLNUAM BLOCK**

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Kanhmun	836	1,234	
02.	Moralchera	94	207	
03.	Bajurungpa Veng	187	259	
04.	Lushaichera	487	717	
05.	Kolalian	242	340	
06.	Hriphaw	693	904	
07.	Momchera	483	676	Name changed - Bungthuam
08.	Bawrai	881		Merged in Zawnuam Town
09.	Lokichera	1794	Urbanized	Zawnuam, name changed
10.	Zawpul	252	470	
11.	Zamuang	1984	1,235	
12.	North Maubuang	82	126	
13.	Chuhvel	455	567	
14.	East Chipui	158	Uninhabited	
15.	West Chipui	139	Uninhabited	
16.	Saikhawthlir	457	606	
17.	Suarhliap	276	480	
18.	North Lunglei	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
19.	Hnahthialtlang	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
20.	Vawngawn	233	Uninhabited	
21.	Damamchora	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
22.	Sihthiang	291	632	
23.	Pathiantlang	133	142	
24.	North Tiangkang	239	447	
25.	North Sabual	122	194	
26.	Chilui	196	258	
27.	Serali (R)	256	Uninhabited	
28.	Rengdil	1091	1,174	
29.	West Damdiai	59	Uninhabited	
30.	Kawrthah	1526	2,029	
31.	Tumpanglui	548	629	
32.	Tuidam	729	866	
33.	Serali (K)	409	551	
34.	Tuidai	275	90	
35.	Mamit	2523	Urbanized	
36.	Phaizau	178	275	
37.	Luangpawi	164		Merged in Mamit Town
38.	Bawngva	263	511	
39.	Darlak	195	603	
40.	Kawrtethawveng	1703	1,991	
41.	Sotapa	185	281	
42.	Mualthuam (K)	419	536	
43.	Vanmawia Veng	75	Uninhabited	
44.	N. W. Bungmun	403	430	
45.	Thaidawr III	166	168	
46.	Thaidawr I	376	430	
47.	Thaidawr II	310	77	

48.	North Belkhal	144		Shifted to W. Phaileng block and North deleted
49.	Serhmun	370	485	
50.	Lehmun	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
51.	West Lungpher	73	Uninhabited	
52.	Khanthum	569	486	
53.	Khanthang	87	Uninhabited	
54.	Setlek	118	134	
55.	Saipuilui	397	533	
56.	Nalzawl	258	308	
57.	North Dampul	230	383	
58.	Tuirum	560	422	
59.	Kananthar		126	New Village
60.	Lungmawi		282	New Village
61.	Saitluk		Uninhabited	New Village
62.	Thaidawr IV		245	New Village
63.	Dinthar Bethel		317	New Village
TOTAL		24,444	23,856	

No.2 WEST PHAILENG BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Tuipuibari I	708	1,219	
02.	Tuipuibari II	2,208	1,528	
03.	Lampachora	181	402	
04.	Persang	206	294	
05.	Andermanik	415	912	
06.	Saipul	246	Uninhabited	
07.	Chikhatlang	258	313	
08.	Teirei	112	260	Name changed as Forest veng
09.	Tuichar	297	Uninhabited	
10.	Sesih	190	Uninhabited	
11.	Khawthar	370	Uninhabited	
12.	Khawhnai	500	332	
13.	Synod Free Boarding (Teirei)	122	200	Name changed as Salem Boarding
14.	Pioner Kawn	311		Merged into W. Phaileng Village
15.	West Phaileng	1,556	3,059	
16.	North Chipul	397	272	
17.	Lallen	663	724	
18.	Saithah	259	293	
19.	Lizawn	178	Uninhabited	
20.	Parvatui	406	244	
21.	Zopui	174	33	
22.	Phuldungsei	641	1,517	
23.	Keisalem I	394	Uninhabited	
24.	Keisalem II	144	Uninhabited	
25.	Aivapui	124	76	
26.	Lokichuri	262	72	
27.	Silsuri	1,393	1,662	

28.	Pukzing	456	532	
29.	Marpara	3,368	3,001	
30.	Saitluk	136		Transferred to Zawinuam block
31.	Mualvum	153	Uninhabited	
TOTAL		18,819	16,485	

No.3 REIEK BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Vaek	174	140	
02.	Saitlaw	48	199	
03.	West Serzawi	186	241	
04.	Hmunpui	772	616	
05.	Dilzawi	63	64	
06.	Lengpui	1,494	Urbanized	
07.	Rawpuichhip	920	1,274	
08.	Lengte	179	273	
09.	Nghalchawm	118	213	
10.	West Khankawn	50	Uninhabited	
11.	Tuahzawi	419	345	
12.	Tulphai	146	375	
13.	Rulpuihlum	325	316	
14.	Chungtlang	209	260	
15.	Reiek	1,193	1,241	
16.	Ailawng	457	619	
17.	West Lungdar	431	533	
18.	Arteluidam	154	23	Artekhua is the correct name
19.	Khawrhnim	813	715	
20.	Lungphun	333	265	
21.	Hreichhuk	86	131	
22.	North Kanghmun	796	836	
23.	North Bunghmun	69	Uninhabited	
24.	Rallen	66	Uninhabited	
25.	Bawlle	129	189	
26.	Bawngthah	200	275	
27.	Darlung	677	735	
28.	South Sabual	466	440	
29.	Haurunibawk	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
30.	Tuldum		Uninhabited	New Village
TOTAL		12,954	20,636	

No.4 NORTH THINGDAWL BLOCK

Sl. No.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Valrengte	3,151	Urbanized	
02.	Saihapui	Uninhabited		It falls in Assam
03.	Chhiam	396	484	
04.	Chho	233	Uninhabited	
05.	Vekultui	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
06.	North Chhimluang	62	133	
07.	Phaizau	5	Uninhabited	
08.	Saiphai	710	931	
09.	Saipum	827	644	
10.	North Chawnpui	344	269	
11.	Chemphai	23	17	
12.	Bilkhawthir	2,872	3,416	
13.	Phaisen	429	704	
14.	Buhchang	555	736	
15.	Zambira	11	Uninhabited	
16.	North Thinglian	339	270	
17.	Ballkhal	21	97	Bukvannei-I, name changed
18.	Junction	55	293	Bukvannei-II, name changed
19.	Saihapui	235	472	
20.	Builum	347	296	
21.	Parsenchhip	37	87	
22.	Theichangbung (H)	107	Uninhabited	
23.	North Hlimen	949	748	
24.	Pualreng	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
25.	Thingthelh	339	347	
26.	Dilzau (T)	48	Uninhabited	
27.	North Thingdawl	2,364	2,537	
28.	Pangbalkawn	170	188	
29.	South Chhimluang	174	161	
30.	Hmaibiala Veng	48	100	
31.	Aspro (Beiseia Veng)	73	201	
32.	Bairabi	1,995	Urbanized	
33.	Meidum	216	283	
34.	Rajtali	252	349	
35.	Dilzau (H)	49	136	
36.	Hortoki	2,032	1,945	
37.	North Bualpui	826		Merged in N. Kawnpui Town
38.	Sethawn	11	45	
39.	Leihchhun	36	Uninhabited	
40.	Saizawl	182	Uninhabited	
41.	Bukpui	1,182	889	
42.	North Chailiang	307	360	
43.	North Kawnpui	4,523	Urbanized	
44.	North Muaiyum	119	Uninhabited	
45.	Zanlawn	415	690	
46.	Dumkhel		203	New Village
TOTAL		27,069	18,031	

No.5 DARLAWN BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Mauchar	595	535	
02.	Kani	159	58	
03.	Tingmun	838	774	
04.	Upper Sakawrdai	84	69	
05.	Lower Sakawrdai	573	1,077	
06.	Zohmun	761	958	
07.	Palsang	592	411	
08.	North Khawdungsei	280	188	
09.	Vaitin	601	729	
10.	Khawpuar	420	410	
11.	Luakchhuak	82	296	
12.	Old Vervek	54	Uninhabited	
13.	Thingsat	354	355	
14.	New vervek	234	735	
15.	East Dardla	352	43	
16.	Lungsum	374	308	
17.	Ratu	2,030	2,342	
18.	Sunhluchhip	24	Uninhabited	
19.	New Tenglawng	86	438	Name changed as Sailutar
20.	Old Tenglawng	305	Uninhabited	
21.	North Serzawl	513	489	
22.	Darlawn	2,804	Urbanized	
23.	Sawlung	986	1,195	
24.	Kepran	936	747	
25.	East Phalleng	696	1,005	
26.	Pehlawn	381	511	
27.	Khawruhlian	2,179	1,828	
28.	Turinikai	4	11	
29.	Lailak	192	97	
30.	Khawkawi	89	Uninhabited	
31.	Buhban	488	474	
32.	Khanpui		960	New Village
33.	Hmunghak		119	New Village
TOTAL		18,066	17,162	

No.6 TLANGNUAM BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Khamrang	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
02.	Lungmuat	308	415	
03.	Nisapui	575	684	
04.	Serkhan	283	544	
05.	Mualkhang	239	514	
06.	Bawnga Veng	19	Uninhabited	
07.	Sentlang	297	320	
08.	North Lungdai	1,360	1,559	
09.	Sihphir	3,247	5,060	
10.	Nausel	59	55	
11.	Muthi	278	414	
12.	Turial Jail	207	195	
13.	Turial (Z)	116	195	Turial, Z deleted

14.	Bung I.B.	3	15	
15.	Zuangtui	170		Included in Aizawi Town
16.	Durtiang	3,136		
17.	Selesih	227		
18.	Sairang	2,066	Urbanized	
19.	Sihhmui	347		Included in Sairang Town
20.	Lungverh	161		
21.	Sakawrtuichhun	585		Included in Aizawi Town
22.	Tanhrii	953		
23.	Pump House No. I-IV	185		
24.	Tiangnuam C.D. Block Headquater	205		
25.	North Lungleng	440	595	
26.	Vawkzawn	451	486	Lungleng-I, name changed
27.	Khawchhete	562	754	
28.	South Hlimen	1,168		Included in Aizawi Town
29.	Melthum	1,034		
30.	Dartuaha Veng	Uninhabited		
31.	Luangmual	Merged with Aizawi Town		
32.	Rangvamual			
33.	Zemabawk			
34.	Neihbawih		233	New Village
35.	Sairum		52	New Village
36.	Puansen		Uninhabited	New Village
TOTAL		19,276	12,000	

No.7 AIBAWK BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Hualngohmun	467	580	
02.	Thingdawl (Melriat)	569	811	
03.	Kelsih	526	554	
04.	Muallungthu	979	911	
05.	Tachhip	607	714	
06.	Aibawk	364	1,246	
07.	Sateek	891	740	
08.	Phulpui	827	915	
09.	North Lungsal	98	124	
10.	South Maubuang	561	425	
11.	Thiak	519	620	
12.	Sumsuih	720	790	
13.	Hmuifang	188	198	
14.	Lamchhip	474	593	
15.	Chamring	165	178	
16.	Lungsel	153	177	
17.	Samlukhai	1,013	1,194	
18.	Sielsuk	1,576	2,153	
19.	Changpul Agri.Farm	471	Uninhabited	
20.	Sailam	503	621	
21.	Paikhai		Uninhabited	New Village & Uninhabited
22.	Falkawn		626	
23.	Khawhminglokawn		34	New Villages
24.	Changtekai		10	
25.	Chawilung		225	
TOTAL		11,671	14,439	

No.8 SERCHHIP BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Chhingchhip	2,459	3,351	
02.	Hmuntha	542	580	
03.	Khawbel	448	448	
04.	Rullam	286	432	
05.	Thentlang	714	471	
06.	Chhiahlang	2,707		Merged in Serchhip Town
07.	Sialhau	580	465	
08.	Lungpho	1,024	766	
09.	East Thinglian	270	278	
10.	Hmunzawl	344	382	
11.	Hriangtlang	467	338	
12.	Vanchengte	76	120	
13.	Bawngchawm	29	Uninhabited	
14.	Keitum	1,239	1,537	
15.	East Bungtlang	1,633	1,748	
16.	North Lungrang	53		Merged in Thenzawl Town
17.	Thenzawl	3,126	Urbanized	
18.	Buangpui	134	185	
19.	Neihloh	268	242	
TOTAL		16,009	11,343	

No.9 THINGSULTHLIAH BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Mualmam	67	31	
02.	Sesawng	710	1,062	
03.	Edenthar	7	10	
04.	Seling	649	1,403	
05.	Seling Tlangnuam	691	1,165	
06.	Thingsulthliah	2,871	3,692	
07.	Aichalkkawn	46	209	
08.	Salsih Vety Farm	37	50	
09.	Tualbung	599	697	
10.	North Lungpher	590	552	
11.	Sihfa	875	942	
12.	Saitual	3,469	Urbanized	
13.	Keifang	748		Merged in Saitual Town
14.	Ruallung	1,326		
15.	Mualpheng	538	561	
16.	Darlawng	225	287	
17.	Tlungvel	2,187	2,457	
18.	Phulmawi	162	224	
19.	Khumtung	554	841	
20.	Lenchim	270	184	
21.	Tawizo	343	228	
22.	Maite	704	664	
23.	Hualtu	712	650	
24.	Baktawng	2,006	2,489	
25.	Hmawngkawn	50	109	

26.	North Chewilung	204	Uninhabited	
27.	Phalawak		25	New Villages
28.	Chanin		136	
29.	Tuikhurthiu		25	
TOTAL		20,638	18,688	

No10 NGOPA BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	North Khawlek	1981716	709	
02.	Vanbawng	1,485	1,383	
03.	Lamherh	191	292	
04.	Suangpuilawn	1,938	1,658	
05.	Zawngin	366	454	
06.	Phullen	1,939	1,594	
07.	Luangpawm	237	273	
08.	Phuaibuang	1,910	1,850	
09.	Khawlian	1,609	1,505	
10.	North East Tiangnuam	284	372	
11.	Daido	395	449	
12.	Chiahpui	392	457	
13.	North East Khawdungsei	1,341	1,384	
14.	Khawkawn	295	344	
15.	Mimbung	903	1,418	
16.	Hrianghmun	219	315	
17.	Teikang	661	731	
18.	Ngopa	1,854	2,590	
19.	Kawibern	497	639	
20.	Vaikhawtlang	369	610	
21.	Selam	268	402	
22.	Lamzawi	376	307	
23.	Pawlrang	469	695	
24.	Changzawl	489	367	
25.	North East Bualpui	1,016	1,458	
26.	Saichal	631	770	
27.	Pamchung	106		Shifted to Khawzawl Block
28.	Tualbung		4	New Villages
29.	Thanglailung		317	
TOTAL		20,956	23,030	

NO.11 KHAWZAWL BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Dulte	455	559	
02.	Kawikulh	2,022	2,378	
03.	Vankal	177	213	
04.	Khualen	213	114	
05.	Aiduzawl	568	299	
06.	Thanglailung	625	1,146	

07.	Murien	214	266	
08.	Tualcheng	500	536	
09.	Lungphunlian	364	268	
10.	Khuangphah	213	274	
11.	Hnahlan	1,828	2,185	
12.	North East Diltiang	163	199	
13.	Vapar	186	336	
14.	Ngur	597	898	
15.	North Khawbung	408	539	
16.	Tualpui	466	406	
17.	Ngaizawl	114	368	
18.	Neihdawn	457	459	
19.	Khawzawi	4,271	Urbanized	
20.	Khuailui	9	11	
21.	Arro	98	130	
22.	Puilo	317	291	
23.	Chhewrtui	539	669	
24.	Vanchengpui	410	433	
25.	Lungtan	446	449	
26.	Tiangpuite	188	206	
27.	Khawhai	1,996	Urbanized	
28.	Chalrang	1,011	918	
29.	Vantlang	540	426	
30.	Tualte	952	933	
31.	Hmuncheng (Zuchhip)	285	170	
32.	Chawngtlal	1,539	1,456	
33.	Tulpuikai	114	294	
34.	Chhungtebawk	39		Merged to Champhai Town
35.	Hmunhmeitha	685		Merged to Champhai Town
36.	East Zote	1,202		Merged to Champhai Town
37.	Tiangsam	394		Merged to Champhai Town
38.	Tlira Dum Fishery	8		Merged to Champhai Town
39.	Ruantiang	2,246		Merged to Champhai Town
40.	Mualkawi	311	442	
41.	Melbuk	119	354	Khawnuam, name changed
42.	Kelkang	1,033	939	
43.	Champhai	Urbanized		
44.	Pamchung		151	Shifted from Ngopa Block
45.	Zeupui		48	New Village
46.	Dilkawn		396	New Village
TOTAL		28,320	20,157	

No.12 EAST LUNG DAR BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Tiangpui	671	630	
02.	Sialhawk	1,674	1,946	
03.	Biate	1,975	Urbanized	
04.	Riangtlei	560	423	
05.	Zawngtetui	95	72	
06.	Buang	266	295	
07.	Bungzung	1,180	961	
08.	Meisanzo	527	690	
09.	Chawnglang	608	483	

10.	Sesih	579	752	
11.	Leisen	207	264	Hruaikawn, name changed
12.	Lianpui Bawk	317	366	Bawk, deleted
13.	Vangchhia	318	444	
14.	Sazep	335	371	
15.	Vanzau	707	699	
16.	Leithum	301	425	
17.	Dungtlang	314	436	
18.	Samthang	737	833	
19.	Vaphai	1,381	1,686	
20.	East Chawngtui	86	123	
21.	Farkawn	1,739	1,852	
22.	Khankawn	412	463	
23.	Thekte	110	192	
24.	Thekpui	164	187	
25.	Khuangthing	1,025	1,171	
26.	Zawsei	452	390	
27.	South Khawbung	1,705	1,623	
28.	Sailulak	716	678	
29.	Leng	572	591	
30.	East Lungdar	2,069	2,470	
31.	North Mualcheng	908	1,011	
32.	Chekawn	152	175	
33.	Khawlailung	1,893	2,021	
34.	Piler	255	306	
35.	Tuichang	30	20	
36.	Sialsir	246	243	
37.	Lungchhuan	529	540	
38.	Leilet (N.V)	39		Uninhabited
39.	North Vanlaiphai	2,358		Urbanized
40.	Bawktlang	153	180	
41.	Puallawi	5		Uninhabited
42.	Lungkawih	514	532	
43.	Bulfek		221	New Village
TOTAL		28,320	26,280	

No.13 WEST BUNGHMUN BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Terabonia	268	332	
02.	Sesawm	312	386	
03.	Laisawral	393	410	
04.	Kawhzai	117	56	
05.	Damgawn	422	412	
06.	Dengsur	210	260	
07.	South Khawlek	266	232	
08.	Buarpui	1,030	1,147	
09.	West Bungtlang	99	156	
10.	South Dampui	280	180	
11.	Kawnpui	413	291	
12.	Tieu	89	77	
13.	Thenhlum	381	449	
14.	Kawlkhawk	175	149	

15.	Changpui	282	286	
16.	Lungchem	372	336	
17.	West Bunghmun	975	983	
18.	Sachenlui	464	714	
19.	Mauzam	289	Uninhabited	
20.	Balnaisora	341	292	
21.	Devasuri	490	627	
22.	Malsuri	162	243	
23.	Puankhai	600	760	
24.	Lokisuri	103	133	
25.	Kalapani	196	286	
26.	Tuikawi	414	785	New Belkhai, name changed
27.	Sumasumi	237	329	
28.	Thingkhim	85	47	
29.	South Belkhai	85	Uninhabited	
30.	Tuisen	170	254	Bolivia Veng, name changed
31.	Tuisenchhuah	283	209	
32.	Serlangpui	466	525	
33.	Serte	332	379	
34.	South Lungdai	170	173	
35.	Vuakmual	197	68	
36.	Zawlpui	198	621	
37.	Matriasora	337	615	Belpai, name changed
38.	Kauchhuah	384		Shifted to Lungsen block
39.	Putlunga Sih	151		Shifted to Lungsen block
40.	Mar (S)		1,487	New Village
41.	Saitumkawn		90	New Village
42.	Phainuam		196	New Village
43.	Machuasora		55	New Village
44.	Saimar		143	New Village
45.	Hnahkhai		112	New Village
46.	Hruizam		91	New Village
47.	Pangliang		90	New Village
48.	Hmundo		153	New Village
TOTAL		12,239	15,649	

No.14 LUNGSEN BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Vanzawl	72	Uninhabited	
02.	Zuangzawl	58	183	
03.	Gurusara	8	Uninhabited	
04.	Borahorinachhuah	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
05.	Balauklasury	146	331	Balukiasuri
06.	Lamthai I	150	177	
07.	Lamthai II	453	488	
08.	Kamalabagan	330	138	Serhuan, name changed
09.	Nulsury	655	809	Nunsuri
10.	Tlabung	2,173	Urbanized	
11.	Dinthar	300	474	
12.	Diblibagh	1,308	1,103	
13.	Tuichawng	1,251	1,693	
14.	North Champasury	19	18	

15.	Bindiasora	192	174	
16.	Khenprasury	55	48	
17.	Thekduar	93	87	
18.	Bulungsury	102	155	
19.	South Champasury	84	124	Zohmun, name changed
20.	Siligur	155	225	Sikur
21.	Tiperaghat III	426	161	Tiperaghat I
22.	Tiperaghat II	226	301	
23.	Tiperaghat I	262	608	Tiperaghat III
24.	Khojaisury	942	838	Khojaisuri
25.	South Chawilung	311	400	
26.	Rolui	440	321	
27.	Lungsen	1,611	2,186	
28.	Sihphirlang	196	144	
29.	Phairuangchhuah	357	149	
30.	Belthei	164	267	
31.	Thehlep	359	181	
32.	Thuampui	360	374	
33.	Vanhne (L)	287	514	
34.	Hauruang	897	Uninhabited	
35.	Pachang	37	26	
36.	Runtlung	168	137	
37.	Phairuangkai	246	742	
38.	West Rotlang	332	295	
39.	Rangte	369	427	
40.	Thanzamasora	282	313	
41.	Sedailui	176	94	
42.	South Lungrang	638	833	
43.	Buknuam	255	210	
44.	Chithar	154	182	
45.	Vaisam	360	334	
46.	Sailen	92	91	
47.	Zehtet	260	370	
48.	Rulalung	162	419	
49.	Chawngte (L)	1,526	555	
50.	Damlui	148	Uninhabited	
51.	South Tlangkhang	100	Uninhabited	
52.	Samang	328	53	
53.	Samuksuri	539	695	
54.	Udaisuri	272	339	
55.	Hmunther	237	199	
56.	Sugarbasora		311	New Village
57.	Tuichawngchhuah		197	New Village
58.	Muaimu		65	Shifted from W. Bunghmun
59.	Kauchhuah		274	Shifted from W. Bunghmun
60.	Chhuaithum		298	New Village
61.	Kumraghat		70	New Village
62.	Putlungasih		676	Shifted from W. Bunghmun
63.	Muriskata		120	New Village
64.	Chhumkhum		91	New Village
65.	Bengaveng		Uninhabited	New Village
66.	Mautlang		Uninhabited	New Village
67.	Thumbasora		98	New Village
68.	Bornasuri		189	New Village
69.	Gulsil		175	New Village
70.	Sihliang		Uninhabited	New Village
	Khawmawi		552	New Village
	TOTAL	21,127	21,094	

No. 15 LUNGLEI BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	South Kangmun	298	313	
02.	South Zote	652	701	
03.	South Lungsai	222	Uninhabited	
04.	Ramlaifui	365	342	
05.	Sekhum	205	167	
06.	North Mualthum	1,004	1,041	
07.	Chhipphir	1,154	1,178	
08.	Bualpui (V)	357	366	
09.	Lungmawi	270	170	
10.	Hmuntlang	91	95	
11.	Haulawng	1,605	1,992	
12.	Mauson	112	199	
13.	Valcheng	46	Uninhabited	
14.	Saza i.B.	11	Uninhabited	
15.	Kawmzawl	12	Uninhabited	
16.	Pukupui	799		Merged in Lunglei Town
17.	Sailu Cattle Farm	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
18.	Chengpui	161	77	
19.	Zotuitiang	259	421	
20.	South Phaileng	258	197	
21.	Raivawng	369	290	
22.	Mat Bawk	37	Uninhabited	
23.	Dawn	88	Uninhabited	
24.	Khankawn (Z)	5	77	New Dawn, name changed
25.	Zobawk	2,068		Merged in Lunglei Town
26.	Lungpher Vety Farm	53		Merged in Lunglei Town
27.	Theiriat	1,408		Merged in Lunglei Town
28.	Hrangchalkawn	109		Merged in Lunglei Town
29.	Sairep	104	138	
30.	Thaizawl	208	264	
31.	Hlumte	305	153	
32.	Bualte	25	269	
33.	Bualte Bawk	145	Uninhabited	Merged with Bualte
34.	Thangpui	11	72	
35.	Thangte	144	128	
36.	Thualthu	304	356	
37.	Herhse	69	Uninhabited	Merged with N. Tawipui
38.	North Tawipui	650	979	
39.	South Muai Cheng	684	668	
40.	South Tawipui	844	1,082	
41.	Thiengang	294	120	
42.	Mamte	288	353	
43.	Thingfal	1,195	1,280	
44.	Mualthuam (S)		345	Shifted from Hnahthial
	TOTAL	17,325	13,884	

No.16 HNAHTHIAL BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Rawpui	555	641	
02.	Khawnglung	77	Uninhabited	
03.	Upper Pangzawl	418	216	
04.	Lower Pangzawl	1,821	1,884	
05.	Thiltiang	801	956	
06.	Khawhlum	76	10	
07.	South Chawngtul	364	449	
08.	Tarpho	269	269	
09.	Khawhri	264	309	
10.	Aithur	140	129	
11.	Cherhlun	1,688	1,919	
12.	Ngharchhip	312	404	
13.	Thingai	1,784	1,870	
14.	Bualpui (H)	438	578	
15.	Muallianpui	800	827	
16.	Lungputtiang	125	167	
17.	South Vanlalpai	1,778	1,867	
18.	South Lungleng	281	135	
19.	Hnahthial	4,161	Urbanized	
20.	Denlung	54	136	
21.	Kutkaw	3	4	
22.	Leite	537	592	
23.	East Rotlang	349	435	
24.	Tuipui (Darzokai)	287	495	
25.	Darzo	991	1,039	
26.	South Mualthuam	442		Shifted to Lunglei Block
TOTAL		18,615	15,331	

No.17 CHAWNGTE BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Boranasury	27	Uninhabited	
02.	Kurbalavasora	218	400	
03.	Borapansury I	525	749	
04.	Borapansury II	438	727	
05.	North Ugudasury	197	205	
06.	Ugaisury	170	393	
07.	Silsury	274	360	
08.	Tangasora	48	Uninhabited	
09.	Chhotapansury	224	496	
10.	Rajmandal	Uninhabited	163	Split into two villages
11.	Boganpara	172	345	
12.	Bajeisora	276	391	
13.	Ngharum	191	90	
14.	Songrasury	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
15.	Gulsingbapsora	127	187	
16.	Nakdanasora	139	156	
17.	West Saizawh	264	338	
18.	Chawngte (Kamala Nagar)	1,157	558	Split into three villages

19.	Nal'banya	133	107	
20.	Udal'thena	883	514	Split into two villages
21.	Garagu'uksora	131	137	
22.	Jarusury	430	538	
23.	South Ugudeasury	600	605	
24.	Sarui	425		
25.	Ulusury	154	301	
26.	Mandirasora	373	402	
27.	South Bungkawn	133	165	
28.	Kudurdulye	175	445	
29.	Maniabapsora I	304	250	
30.	Maniabapsora II	174	297	
31.	Borakabakheli	245	280	
32.	Ajasora	1,072	678	
33.	Simelsury	91	135	
34.	Vaseitlang	670	496	Split into two villages
35.	Golasury	132	366	
36.	Betbonya	80	149	
37.	Rengkasa	543	515	
38.	Layngpuinghat	194	207	
39.	Chaminisora	404	Uninhabited	
40.	Likhisury	425	240	
41.	Charluitlang	204	98	
42.	Chhotaguisury	607	252	Split into two villages
43.	Damdep I	673	486	
44.	Damdep II	300	249	
45.	Boraguisury	349	355	
46.	Bilasora	179	249	
47.	South chhigpui	411		
48.	Devasora	373	491	
49.	Parva I	1,016	901	
50.	Parva II	663	366	
51.	Montola		275	New Village
52.	Nalbanya		187	New Village
53.	Bormon		105	New Village
54.	Adubargasora		234	New Village
55.	Jamersury		390	New Village
56.	Borthuli		173	New Village
57.	Borkolok		358	New Village
58.	Futsury		250	New Village
59.	Ludhisora		169	New Village
60.	Gerasury		144	New Village
61.	Jaruldubasora		251	New Village
62.	Dursora		303	New Village
63.	Boraituli		248	New Village
64.	Silsora		333	New Village
65.	Parva III		426	New Village
66.	Kantuli		299	New Village
67.	Gobchsuri		295	New Village
68.	Bondukbangsora		521	New Village
69.	Simeinasora		181	New Village
70.	Rajmandai II		148	New Village
71.	Kamalanagar II		813	New Village
72.	Kamalanagar III		1,102	New Village
73.	Udal'thana II		373	New Village
74.	Vaseitlang II		159	New Village
75.	Chhotaguisuri II		235	New Village
TOTAL		16,983	24,106	

No.18 LAWNGTLAI BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Chawngte (P)	822	1,022	
02.	Tuikhurhlu	156	166	
03.	Hmunlai	274	353	
04.	Muaibu (L)	128	225	
05.	Sumsilui	614	746	
06.	Sakeilui	467	124	Sakeilui-I, name changed
07.	South Dittlang	538	903	
08.	Jodnasury	339	550	
09.	Karlui	620	800	
10.	Pandawngluichhuah	227	313	Chhuah, deleted
11.	Damluichhuah	268	Uninhabited	
12.	Damlui	69	382	
13.	Ngengpuikai	205	463	Kai, deleted
14.	Mampui	568	706	
15.	Behlakawn	572	799	Thingkah L-VI, name changed
16.	Lawngtlai	4,352	9,514	
17.	Lawngtlaikai	23	Uninhabited	
18.	Chawnhu	283	295	
19.	Lower Saikah	83	49	
20.	Upper Saikah	150	217	
21.	Tupui (JB)	7	Uninhabited	
22.	South Chawnpui	59	Uninhabited	
23.	Paithar	309	439	
24.	Vanhne (R)	54	73	
25.	Sihltlangpui	263	306	
26.	West Kawichaw	236	237	
27.	Rulkual	284	294	
28.	Liapha	15	9	
29.	East Saizawh	102	117	
30.	South Bungtlang	314	1,087	
31.	Nghalimlui	215	334	
32.	Vaseikal	215	280	
33.	Fangfarlui	214	183	
34.	Saibawh	270	252	
35.	Muaibu (K)	281	367	
36.	Kawrhindeng	100	257	
37.	Ngengpuitlang	141	173	
38.	Damantlang	54	171	
39.	Chikhurlui	326	298	
40.	Lalmonaveng	139	14	
41.	Balisora	252	510	
42.	Chamdura Project	377	360	
43.	Chamdurtlang	419	492	
44.	Mautlang	126	322	
45.	Vathuampui	632	526	
46.	Lunghauka (I)	152	298	
47.	Tuithumhnar	278	240	
48.	Lawnglang	48	Uninhabited	
49.	Tuidantlang	93	77	
50.	Dumzautlang I	199	91	
51.	Dumzautlang II	270	Uninhabited	
52.	Sabuaitlang	217	358	Hmawngbu, name changed
53.	Kakichhuah	23	80	
54.	Zochawchhuah	163	280	

55.	Tuichawngtlang	371	347	
56.	Tuisentlang	541	251	
57.	Sakeilui II		294	New Village
58.	Chawntlang		123	New Village
59.	Saikhawthir		108	New Village
60.	Hmunnuam		184	New Village
61.	Sekulh		387	New Village
62.	Ngunlingkhua		349	New Village
63.	Gobomara		222	New Village
64.	Dangia		Uninhabited	New Village
65.	Dumzau		395	New Village
66.	Laitlang		230	New Village
67.	Hmawngbuchhuah		278	New Village
TOTAL		18,517	29,320	

No.19 SANGAU BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Vartekkai	98	100	
02.	Vartek	283	197	
03.	Lungtlan	885	880	
04.	Cheural	578	712	
05.	Pangkhoa	685	847	
06.	Sangau	1,638	2,428	
07.	Thaitlang	413	299	
08.	Rawbuk	236	298	
09.	Fungkah	484	150	
10.	South Lungpher	611	802	
11.	Pangrang	86	106	
12.	Archhuang	246	335	
13.	Tialdawngilui	177	233	
14.	Vawmbuk	719	855	
15.	Bualpui (NG)	1,190	1,536	
16.	Lungzarhtum	478	612	
17.	Fungkah (New)		186	New Village
TOTAL		8,807	10,576	

No.20 TUIPANG BLOCK

Sl. no.	VILLAGE NAME	POPULATION		REMARKS
		1981	1991	
01.	Phelhrang	342	325	
02.	Rawmbawk	399	500	
03.	Tuisumpui	381	101	
04.	Riasikah	44	385	
05.	Saihekai	422	606	Tuipui Ferry, name changed
06.	Saiha Vety Farm	26		Merged to Saiha Town

07.	Saihalang	Uninhabited	Uninhabited	
08.	Zero Point	232	331	
09.	Mawbank (OH)	134	224	
10.	Mawbank (L)	442	503	
11.	East Kaw'ohaw	123	433	
12.	Lower Thalye	200	411	
13.	Upper Thalye	101	79	
14.	Thingon	275		
15.	Niewk'ang	323	1,132	
16.	Lungbun	233	513	
17.	Chhyarlung	332	501	
18.	Phusa	139	228	
19.	Toma	37	Uninhabited	
20.	Alpak	259	320	
21.	State	333	724	
22.	Tuisik	533	635	
23.	Theld	248	391	
24.	Serkawr (Old)	823	839	
25.	Latawh (Old)	362	47	
26.	Tulpang (L)	502	517	
27.	Tulpang (V)	1,324	2,378	
28.	Sialai	157	172	
29.	Zawngling	941	1,284	
30.	Chheihlu	282	380	
31.	Chakhang	544	743	
32.	Siasl	50	178	
33.	Mawhre	283	352	
34.	Chapui	519	696	
35.	Ahmepi	117	102	
36.	Old Kaisih	85	Uninhabited	
37.	New Kaisih	219	317	
38.	Lawngban	279	298	
39.	Lawngdawn	105	133	Lungdar (Lo'aw), name changed
40.	Saral	127	Uninhabited	
41.	Isa	74	Uninhabited	
42.	Phura	420	651	
43.	Vahai	331	509	
44.	Khopai	327	374	
45.	Laki	404	521	
46.	Mipu	114	134	
47.	Tawngkawlawng	331	505	
48.	Supha	113	92	
49.	Lawngmasu	14	143	
50.	Bsmari	122	340	
51.	Lungpuk	198	289	
52.	New Serkawr		61	New Village
53.	New Latawh I		238	New Village
54.	Maila		181	New Village
55.	Lohri (New Latawh)		149	New Village
56.	Lupa		74	New Village
57.	Khengk'awng (Khaikhy)		168	New Village
TOTAL		13,798	20,987	

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BIO-DATA

A. General Information:

- a) Name : Mr. B. Vanlalhlana
b) Sex : Male
c) Nationality : Indian
d) Whether Sc/St: Scheduled Tribe
e) Father's Name: Shri Lawmkunga
f) Address : B-8, Ramthar Veng,
Aizawl - 796007, Mizoram
g) Occupation : Teaching

B. Educational Qualification

- a) M.A. : In Geography, North-Eastern Hill University
First Class
b) M. Phil. : North-Eastern Hill University, Overall 'A' Grade
Topic: 'Urbanization in Mizoram- A Geographical Analysis'
Supervisor: Dr. D.K. Nayak

C. Work Experience

Working as Lecturer in Saitual College from 9th March 1995 till date

D. Research Publication

"Pattern of Urbanization in Mizoram", in **Urbanization in Mizoram: Retrospect and Prospects**, Girindra Kumar (edited), Linkman Publications, Titagarh.