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This is to certify that the term papers entitled "Studies on Demographic Profiles in Mizoram" has been written by T.C.Lalhlimawma under my supervision as a partial fulfillment of the Master Degree of Arts in Economics.

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U. C LALHLIMAWMA

*Dated Aizawl,
the 13th Nov. '95*

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Demography is the study of population and its allied attributes such as structure, growth, composition, characteristics, dynamism and distribution patterns etc. The term 'Demography' is derived from Latin words, 'demos' meaning people and 'Graphy' meaning measurements, thus, it is a study of people or a study of human beings. Hence the science of population is demography.

Population issues have been given considerable importance and they are recognised as an integral part of the development. Since population is an essential component of social and economic development, the knowledge of region's demography is of vital importance in formulation of any plan of economic development of the region. Therefore, the study of demographic profiles in Mizoram would help in the formulation of plan development.

There is a close and intimate relationship between population and economic development. Population is an 'asset' in so far as it supplies the necessary labour for economic development. But it also becomes a 'liability' if it is over-population. If a country is under-populated, an increase in the growth of population will help step up its economic development. On the contrary, if a country is over-populated, an increase in population will result in a slowing down of its economic

development. The link between population growth and economic development is a complex and intertwined process. On the one hand, a large population eats away the benefits accruing from secular gain of development. On the other hand, the population growth prohibits capital investment in vital areas, keeps the level of income low and diverts investment from the 'productive sphere' of the economy to the 'non-productive spheres.' It has been strongly felt that a large part of the economic growth is being neutralised by high rate of population growth. The region therefore, should have appropriate policies relating to population issues.

Population issue cannot be tackled without 'regional approach'. By regional approach, we mean ethro-cultural traits of the community, ability and limitation in responding to a particular set of social and economic issue. Mizoram has certain special institutions which could be utilised in raising consciousness of the people towards family welfare programmes and population awareness programme.

Human beings are both ends and means for economic activity. When in right number they are an assets, but in fact a liability, if the number is beyond the capacity of the economy. A study of the subject is thus called for, because it is vital not only to the economic development of the regions and to the well-being of the people of Mizoram, but also to the political and

social stability. This study attempts to make a comprehensive survey on population and population related issues in Mizoram. The various aspects and issues such as population structure and trends, its growth pattern, socio-cultural aspect of population, occupational structures, population pressure and problems are discussed in the following chapters.

General Background

The Lushai hills, sandwiched between Burma (Myanmar) in the east and south and Bangladesh in the west, was christened Mizoram when it became a Union Territory in 1972. By Constitutional Amendment in 1986, the Union Government decided to confer full statehood on Mizoram, which became 23rd state of the Indian Union with effect from 20th February 1987.

Mizoram has a total geographical area of 21,081 square kilometres which constitutes only 0.64 per cent of India's total areas. Mizoram inhabits 2.19 per cent of regional (NER) population whereas N.E Region is supporting 3.72 per cent of the country's population in 7.76 per cent of the total land area.

? See you p 120

Location and Extent

Mizoram lies between $21^{\circ}56' N - 24^{\circ}31' N$ Latitudes and $92^{\circ}16' E - 93^{\circ}26' E$ longitudes. Unlike most mountain ranges in the country which run east to west, the green and blue hills of Mizoram run north to south.

Located in a strategic position, Mizoram has 710 kms international boundaries with Burma (404 kms) and with Bangladesh (306 km). It is bounded by Assam and Manipur in the north; on the east and south by Burma (Myanmar); on the west by Bangladesh and ^{the} state of Tripura. Its maximum dimensions, north to south is 285 kms, and east to west is 115 kms. The tropic of Cancer divides the regions into two almost equal parts.

Climate

Mizoram enjoys a moderate climate owing to the elevation of altitude despite its tropical situation. The climate is generally characterised by short winter and long summer with heavy rainfall. The temperature ranges from 20°C to 30°C in summer and 8°C to 18°C in winter. The highest temperature is observed during the months of May to July, followed by a fall in temperature. A maximum temperature is felt at places having low attitudes. A fairly cool and pleasant weather is observed in the higher ridges even at the hottest season of the year.

The south-west monsoon sets in by about the end of May and lasts till about the ends of September, bringing heavy rainfall and moderate climate. The average annual rainfall is about 250 cms. The western

portion of the state receives a high rainfall. The rainfall during the period from June to September constitutes about 60 per cent of the annual rainfall.

Broadly speaking, Mizoram falls into three seasons - (1) The dry-cold seasons - Nov. to Feb. (winter) (2) The wet/warm seasons - Mar. to Aug (summer) (3) The dry occasional rain, cool season (autumn). But, actually, the Mizo divided the year into 5 seasons. ✓

Thal	Feb - Mar	(Spring)
Nipui	Apr - Jun	(Summer)
Fur	Jul - Aug	(Rainy season)
Favang	Sept - Oct	(Autumn)
Thlasik	Nov - Jan	(Winter)

Administrative Division

Mizoram is divided into three districts for administrative purpose. Aizawl, Lunglei and Chhimitui-pui districts are the three districts with district headquarters at Aizawl, Lunglei and Saiha. Aizawl district is the largest district in term of population and geographical area. It constitutes an area of 12,588 sq. km, Lunglei district has an area of 4,536 sq. km, while Chhimituipui district is only 3,957 sq. km.

Table 1.1
District Wise Population 1991

State/District	Area in Sq. Km	Population
1	2	3
MIZ ✓	21,081	686,217 ✓ <i>see ch. II</i>
AZL ✓	12,588 ✓	457,360 ✓
LLI ✓	4,536 ✓	111,290 ✓
CTP ✓	3,957 ✓	99,645 ✓

For the smooth functioning of development Mizoram is further divided into twenty Community Development Blocks. There are twelve blocks in Aizawl districts which are :- Zawlnuam, West Phalleng, Reiek, Thingdawl, Darlawn, Tlangnuam, Aibawk, Serchhip, Thingsulthliah, Ngopa, Khawzawl and E.Lungdar. *Four blocks viz West Bunglemin, Lungsen, Lunglei and Hnahthial are* in Lunglei districts and four blocks in Chhimtuipui district are - Lawngtlai, Sangau, Tuipang and Chawngte.

Note :

1. The term demography and population studies are interchangeable. However, some scholars made distinction between the two but this distinction are minor.

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CHAPTER II

DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE AND TRENDS

The population of Mizoram stands at 6,89,756 ^{See} persons as per 1991 census, which was eight times larger than that of 1901 census (82,434 persons). Mizoram is one of the most thinly populated states of India. The structure and trends of the population of Mizoram will be discussed in the following orders : 1) Density of population 2) Sex ratio 3) Rural and Urban composition of Population, and 4) Migrations 5) Age distributions.

1. DENSITY

The term density of population implies the average numbers of persons living per square kilometre. Mizoram is sparsely populated region with a population density of 33 persons per square kilometer in 1991 as compared to 267 persons per square kilometer for India as a whole for the same period. As a consequence of increase in population, the density of population has gone up from 23 persons in 1981, to 33 persons in 1991 signifying an increase of 43.5 per cent as against 23.6 percent of the national average and 21.8 per cent for North-East Regions during 1981-1991.

Table 2.1

Density of Population in Mizoram (1901-1991)

<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Density</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
1901	4 ✓
1911	4
1921	5
1931	6
1941	7
1951	9
1961	13
1971	16
1981	23
1991	33 ✓

Sources : Census of India 1991, Series 17 Mizoram, p.7

The population density varies according to the geo-climate factors in different parts of the country. Mizoram is characterised by low population density. Due to its physical features characterised by mountainous landscape, political instability and absence of major Industries, the density of population is comparatively low.

Variation in density of population of Mizoram is also noticed at the district level. The density is highest in Aizawl district with 38 persons per square kilometer in 1991, followed by Chhimituipui district with 25.25 persons. The lowest density of population is recorded in Lunglei district with 24.56 persons in

1991. It is interesting to note that at the census of 1971 and 1981, Chhimituipui district recorded the lowest density i.e. 10 persons and 17 persons respectively, whereas the density of the district has surpassed the density figure of Lungāei district which is 24.56 persons per square kilometer. One of the possible reasons for high growth rate in Chhimituipui district is immigration of Chakmas from Bangladesh.

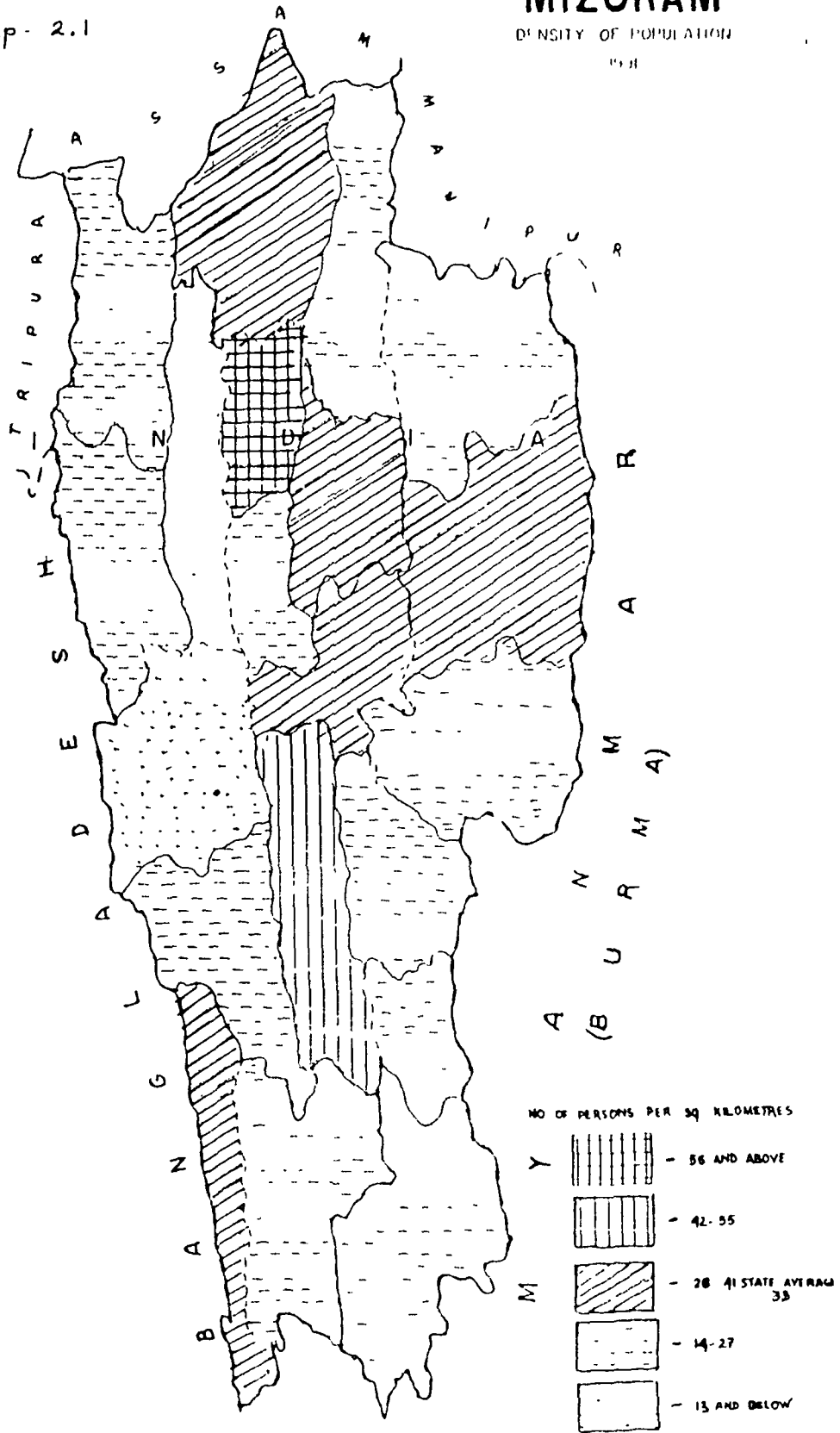
At the Block level, the highest density of population is observed in Tlangnuam block with 319 persons per square kilometer, because of the inclusion of Aizawl town. West Bunghmun has the lowest density of population (12 persons) followed by Reiek with 13 persons per square kilometer.

Fig. 2.1 (Map)
POPULATION DENSITY IN MIZORAM

Map- 2.1

MIZORAM

DENSITY OF POPULATION
1951



2. SEX RATIO :

Sex composition of the population which is the basic characteristic of population is measured by sex ratio. Sex ratio is defined as a number of females per one thousand males. Sex ratio is an important determination of population growth; it determines the number of females available for reproductions.

In 1901, the sex ratio was favorable to females accounting 1113 females per 1000 males in the region. The Table 2.2 shows a larger proportion of females than males during 1901-1961. In other words, the sex ratio remained in favour of feminine population upto 1961. Afterwards, it declined sharply and came down to 919 in 1981 census. By 1991 census the sex ratio has shown an improvement with 924 as against 929 for all India levels for the same year.

The sex ratio at the district level is shown on the table 2.3. In Aizawl district the sex ratio declined from 946 in 1971 to 934 in 1981 and again to 929 in 1991. Whereas it improved to a considerable extent in Lunglei and Chhimituipui districts. In Lunglei district, the sex ratio improved from 881 in 1981 to 910 in 1991 and in Chhimituipui district from 898 to 917 during the same period.

The sex ratio of 1113 in 1901 was ever the highest in the century and thereafter a continuous

declining trend till 1981 suggested that the British administration could improve the law and order situations and as a result there were improvement in male survival rate. Secondly, it suggested immigration of more males as compared to females and thereby lowering the number of females per 1000 males.

Table 2:2

Sex Ratio : Mizoram & India 1901-1991

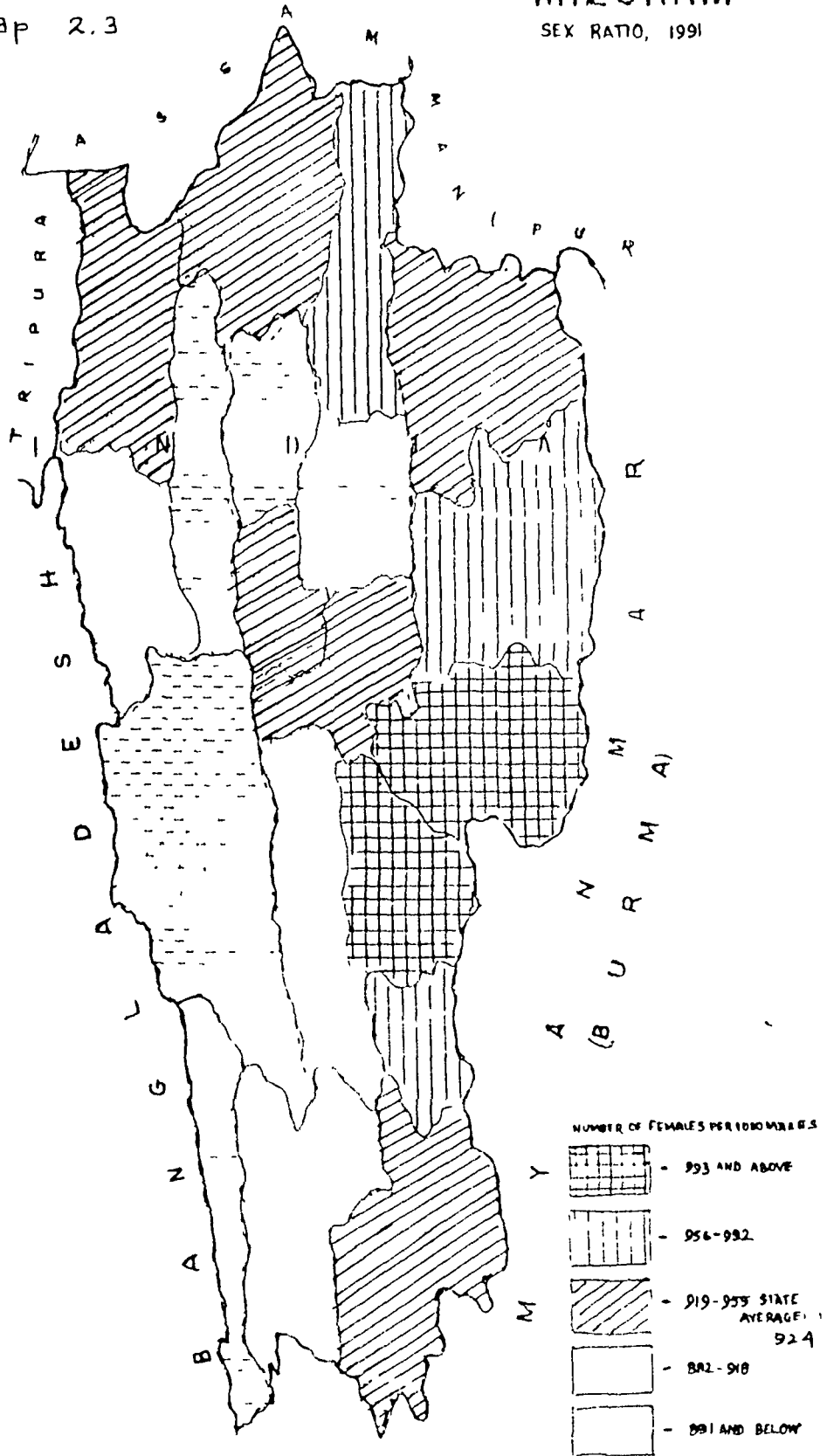
Year	Sex Ratio	
	India	Mizoram
1	2	3
1901	972	1113
1911	964	1120
1921	955	1109
1931	950	1102
1941	945	1069
1951	946	1041
1961	941	1009
1971	930	946
1981	934	919
1991	929	924

Source : Census of India 1991, Series 17 Miz. p.9

Map 2.3

MIZORAM

SEX RATIO, 1991



MIZORAM

TRENDS IN SEX RATIO 1901- 91 (INDIA AND MIZORAM)

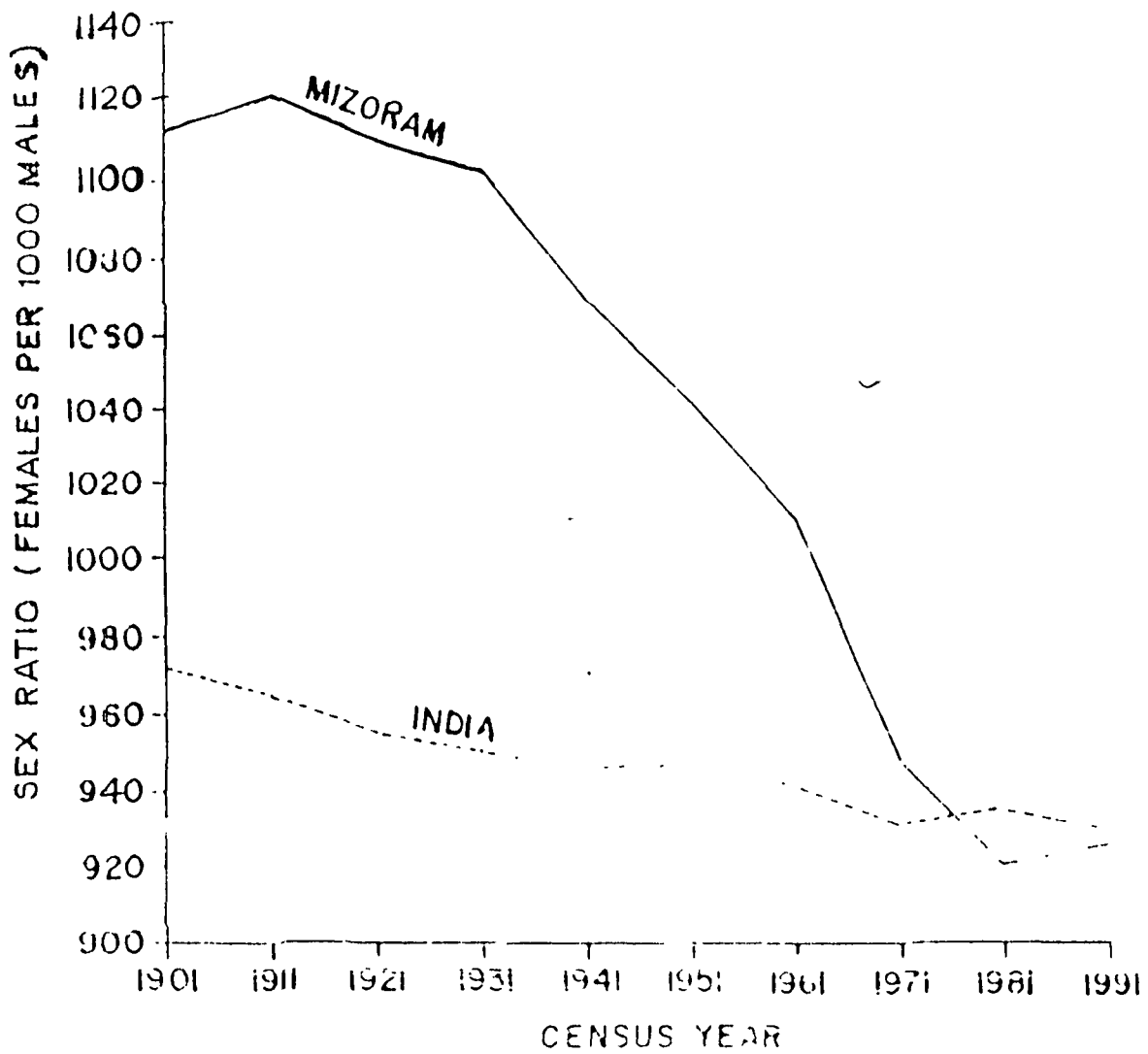


Table 2.3District wise sex ratio 1971-91

<u>District</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1991</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Aizawl	968	934	929
Lunglei	842	881	910
Chhimituipui	989	898	917

Source : Census of India 1991. Series 17 p.10

3. RURAL AND URBAN COMPOSITION

There has been a high tendency of moving towards urbanisation in Mizoram since 1961. In 1961, 5.36 per cent of the total population was living in urban areas and the percentage increased to 24.67 per cent in 1981 and further to 46.20 in 1991 as compared to 23.34 per cent and 25.72 per cent respectively for all India. Among the NE states, Mizoram has the highest urban population with 46.20 per cent followed by Manipur with 27.69 per cent as per 1991 census.

In 1951, Aizawl was the only town in Mizoram with a population of 6950 persons constituting 354 per cent of the state's population. The predominance of rural characteristic of regional economy, with shifting cultivation in vogue, absence of economic activities other than jhum system has constrained the population of Mizoram to confine in rural areas before 1961.

Despite the predominance of agriculture in the state's economy, there has been remarkable change in rural-urban composition during the last three decades. The 1991 census recorded 371801 persons living in rural areas and 317040 persons living in urban areas. This indicates that 53.82 per cent of the total population of Mizoram live in rural areas while 46.20 per cent live in urban areas. During 1971-81 the growth of urban population was 222.6 per cent and the trend continued with a slightly declining rate in the next decade 1981-91 registering 160.27 per cent of growth.

An increase in the size of urban population is mainly due to the addition of new towns to the already existing town. Upto 1961, Aizawl was the only town with 14.3 thousands persons and the population of town increased to 32 thousands with a percentage increase of 122.6 per cent during 1961-71. Then the Govt. declared Lunglei as the 2nd town of Mizoram. In 1981 census, four new towns namely Kolasib, Serchhip, Champhai and Saiha having 29.70 per cent of urban population of the state were also declared towns. The existing towns viz. Aizawl and Lunglei accommodated 61.15 per cent and 14.12 per cent of urban population respectively. There is a sudden spurt in the number of towns in 1991. At present, the number of town is 22. The percentage

61.15% in rural

of urban population living in Aizawl town constituted 48.68 per cent. The increase in population living in Aizawl recorded 107.19 percentage increase during 1981-71.

Besides the addition of new towns, many other factors are responsible for an increase in the size of urban population. These factors includes expansion of the area of the towns already declared in the status of towns. Secondly, the phenomenon of high birth rate and low death rate in the urban areas, and lastly, the high incidence of rural-urban migration. It is to be noted that the population of 16 newly added towns in 1991 is 65,459 persons which is 20.58 per cent of the total population. The percentage of increase of existing urban population in 6 towns of 107.39 per cent during 1981-91 is much higher than the state average of 38.98 per cent during the same period.

In term of percentage of urban population the state's total population, Mizoram has become the most urbanised state with 46.09 per cent of total population living in urban areas.

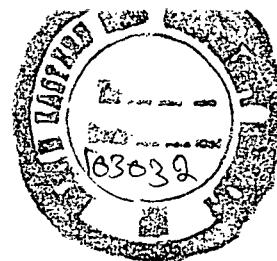


Table 2.4

District wise increase of urban population

State/ District	No. of towns	Population of new towns in		P.c of (4) to the increase in urban popu- lation (p.c)
		1981	1991	
1	2	3	4	5
Mizoram	6 ✓	22 ✓	65,495	33.55
Aizawl	4	18	56,549	35.07
Lunglei	1	3	8,948	32.74
Chhimituipui	1	1	-	

Source : Census of India 1991, Series 17 Mizoram p.15

Table 2.5

Growth of Urban areas 1951-91

Year	No of towns	Total Population	Urban Popu- lation	Pc. of urban to total po- pulation.	decennial rate of growth of ur- ban population
1	2	3	4	5	6
1951	1	196,202	6950	3.54	
1961	1	266,063	14257	5.36	+ 105.14
1971	2	332,390	37759	11.36	+ 164.85
1981	6	493,757	121814	24.69	+ 222.61
1991	22	686,217	317040	46.20	+ 160.27

Source : Census of India, 1991 Series 17 Mizoram p.17

4. MIGRATION

Migration is a form of geographical mobility between one geographical units to another, involving changes in residence. Migration may be (a) international

migration (from country to conuntry) and (b) internal migration (inter-regional, interstate). There are various causes of human movements. One of the main reason is population pressure which force people to move in search of land, employment or any other means of subsistence. It has been usually argued that job opportunity in relating more industrially and economically developed areas attracts people from economically backward areas. Thus, migration constitutes an important aspect in the study of population structure and trend in the region.

As per 1981 census, 33,538 persons out of 493,717 living in Mizoram were born outside Mizoram comprising 6.75 per cent of total population while the rest 460219 persons were born inside the state. An international migration comprised only 25.47 per cent of total migrants. In otherwords, international migrants comprised 1.13 per cent of the total population of Mizoram while 5.06 per cent of total population are migrant from other parts of India.

Due to the political restriction and instability, migration is not significant. As such the population born outside the state constitutes only 6.75 per cent of total population. As per census record, the largest international migrate come from

Bangladesh comprising 4373 persons which account for 13.03 per cent of total migration in Mizoram or 51.15 per cent of the migrants from abroad. Most of these migrants belongs to Chakma community.

AGE DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER INDICES

The study of age distribution and other indices is of great significance because it reveals population qualities and structural composition. Regarding the age distribution of Mizoram (1981), the age group of 0-4 constitutes the largest percentage accounting for 14.32 per cent of the total state's population followed by 5-9 years of age with 13.65 per cent and keeps on decreasing towards higher age group making a pyramid shaped structure. The age group of 60 and above constituted only 4.62 per cent of total population.

In 1981, the dependency ratio was 79.49 which was lower than the all India average of 85.40. The term dependency ratio is defined as a number of person depends on 100 workers. The dependency ratio is measured on the basis of three broad group; below 15 years, between 15-59, and above 60. The population in the age group of 15-59 is taken as active population. The dependency ratio was highest in Aizawl district with 80.49 followed by Chhimituipui (78.56) and lowest in Lunglei (76.39) as per 1981 census.

The aging index of Mizoram was 11.68 in 1981 as compared to 14.1 for the country for the same year. The index can be defined as the number of dependent aged persons in the age group of 60 years and above for 100 dependent children in the age group of 0-14 years.

Regarding the age medium, the 1981 census recorded as 19.57 which was lower than the national average of 20.60. The age medium indicates the mid point of the sum total of population of various age group, so that half of the population is assumed to be either below or above the ratio. In 1981, age medium was highest in Lunglei district (20.10), medium in Chhimituipui (20.01) and lowest in Aizawl district (19.37).

Maturity is the ratio of person aged 30-59 to youths aged 15-29 years multiplied by 100. It indicates the proportion of demographically matured persons or the active persons reflecting the economic growth potential of the population. The district wise maturity index and other indices are shown in the table 2.6.

Table 2.6

Age distributions Indices of Mizoram 1981

<i>State/Dist</i>	<i>Aging Index</i>	<i>Maturity Index</i>	<i>Dependency Ratio</i>	<i>Medium</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>All India</i>	<i>14.61</i>	<i>108.25</i>	<i>85.40</i>	<i>20.60</i>
<i>Mizoram</i>	<i>11.68</i>	<i>83.69</i>	<i>79.49</i>	<i>19.57</i>
<i>Aizawl Dist</i>	<i>11.91</i>	<i>82.49</i>	<i>80.82</i>	<i>19.37</i>
<i>Lunglei</i>	<i>11.67</i>	<i>87.49</i>	<i>76.39</i>	<i>20.10</i>
<i>Chhimituipui</i>	<i>10.21</i>	<i>84.71</i>	<i>78.56</i>	<i>20.01</i>

Sources : Census of India 1981, Series 31, Mizoram p.527

As evident from the table and analysis based on these indices, the population quality and structural composition of Mizoram depicts a better picture when compared with all India average. But it is clearly understood that these value are not significant in the global context as India remain the second largest populated country with low population quality.

CHAPTER-III

POPULATION GROWTH PATTERN

India has had a legacy of having high popu-lation. In term/ of world population, it is the second largest/ constituting 16 per cent of the world popula- tion. In contrast to the other Indian states, Mizoram has low population concentration. Mizoram occupies 0.64 per cent of India's total areas and inhabits 0.08 per cent of all India's total population. Nevertheless, it has been witnessing an ever increasing growth of ~~p~~ population upon the increasing pressure on economic re- sources which is reflectèd in slow economic progress. The decadal growth rate of 39.70 per cent in 1981-91 is distinctive if compared with all India growth rate of 23.50 during the same decade. It is not only during this decade that growth rate of population of Mizoram is higher decadal growth rate than all India average. Therefore, analysis of population growth is considered to be significant for underdeveloped state like Mizoram where rapid growth of population may retard economic development in the region. ✓

Population growth is the result of mainly birth and death rates and migration during the period under consideration. There has been enormous increase in the population. The net accretion during the period

of 1901-91 was 6,07,322. During 1971-81, the highest decadal growth rate was observed to be 48.55 per cent and the net increase in population was 1,61,367. A phenomenal level of 48.55 per cent during 1981-91 has declined to 39.70 per cent in the next decade (1981-91) which means the decadal growth rate has declined by 8.55 per centage point.

The declining trend of growth rate in 1981-91 from 1971-81 is not only visible at state level but also at district level. During 1981-91 the growth rate in Chhimituipui district was highest among all three districts, followed by Aizawl district with 40.38 per cent and lowest in Chhimituipui district with 28.99 per cent; depicting the same sequences during previous decades in term of ranking. Chhimituipui districts achieved a high growth rate above 50% during the decade 1981-91. It is worthwhile mentioning that in Chhimituipui district, while during 1981-91, there has been a fall in growth rate by 17.57 percentage point in respect of male from 1971-81 level of 69.18 per cent, the female growth rate has declined only by 2.21 percentage point in 1981-91. Since the data for birth rate and death rate are badly lacking for the state, it is difficult to explain the reason of this high growth rate. However, one of the reason of this high growth rate in Chhimituipui district

Table 3.1

Net Accretion and decadal growth rate 1901-91

<i>Decade</i>	<i>Net Accretion</i>	<i>Decadal growth rate</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1901-11	8,770	+ 10.64
1911-21	7,202	+ 7.90
1921-31	25,998	+ 26.42
1931-41	28,382	+ 22.81
1941-51	43,216	+ 28.42
1951-61	69,861	+ 35.61
1961-71	66,324	+ 24.93
1971-81	161,367	+ 48.55
1981-91	195,999	+ 39.70

Source : Census of India 1991. Series 17. Final population totals p.4

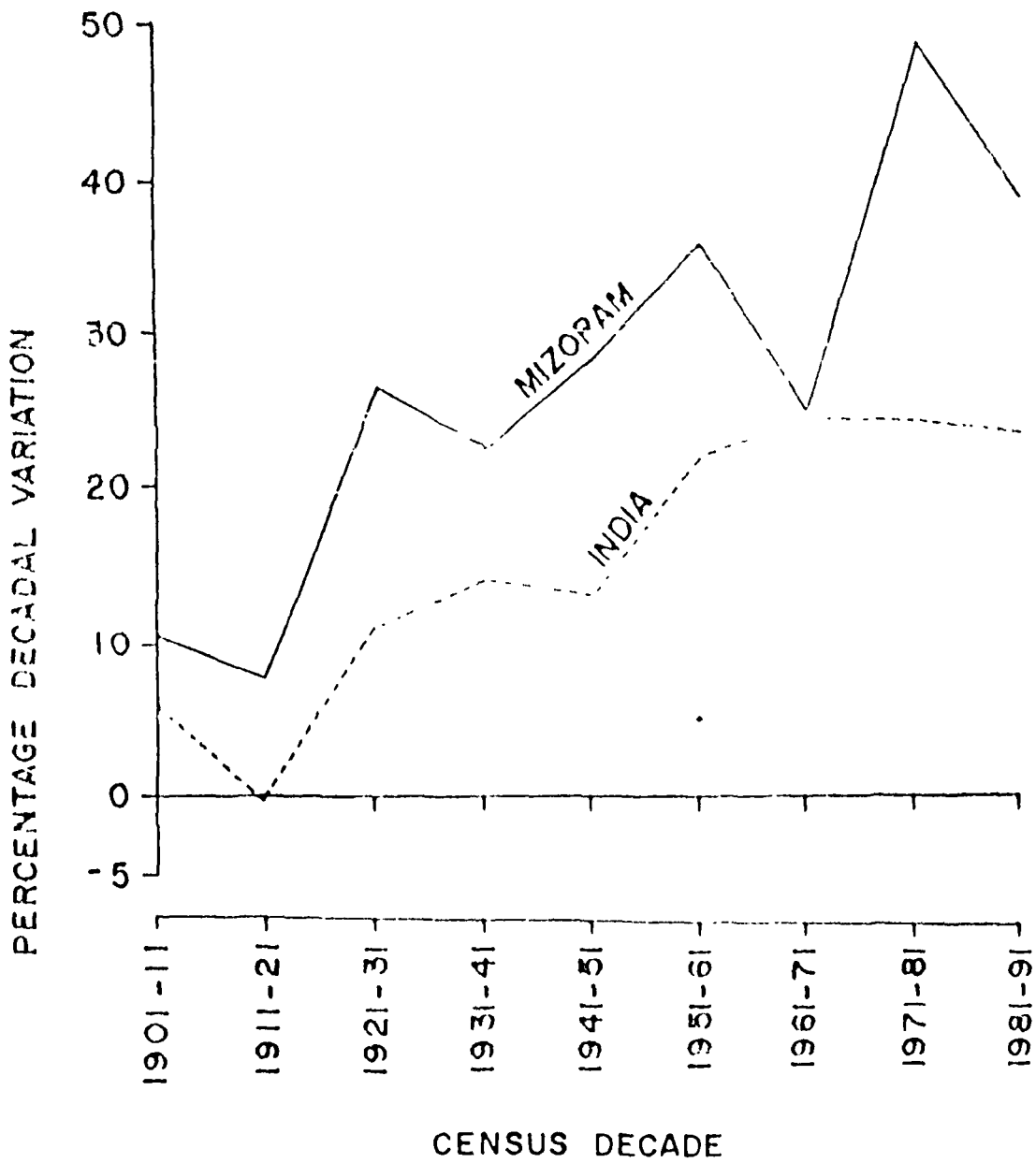
Fig. 3.2 (Diagram)

POPULATION GROWTH TREND (DECADAL) 1901-91

MIZORAM

TRENDS IN DECADAL GROWTH OF POPULATION 1901-91

(INDIA AND MIZORAM)



is the migration of Chakmas from Chitagong Hills Tracts who had to leave their hearths and homes in Bangladesh after their Shanti Bahini guerilla outfit failed in its struggle for regional autonomy about a decade ago.

The fluctuations in the time series data on decadal rate of growth from 1901 onwards are indeed baffling. The decennial rate of growth of population in Mizoram since the beginning of the century is given in the following table 3.2.

Table 3.2

Decadal Growth rate and percentage point of difference

<u>Decade</u>	<u>Decadal growth rate</u>	<u>P.c point of difference</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
1901-11	10.64	-
1911-21	7.90	- 2.75
1921-31	26.42	+ 19.21
1931-41	22.81	- 3.61
1941-51	28.42	+ 5.61
1951-61	35.61	+ 7.19
1961-71	24.93	- 9.32
1971-81	48.55	+ 23.61
1981-91	39.70	- 8.85

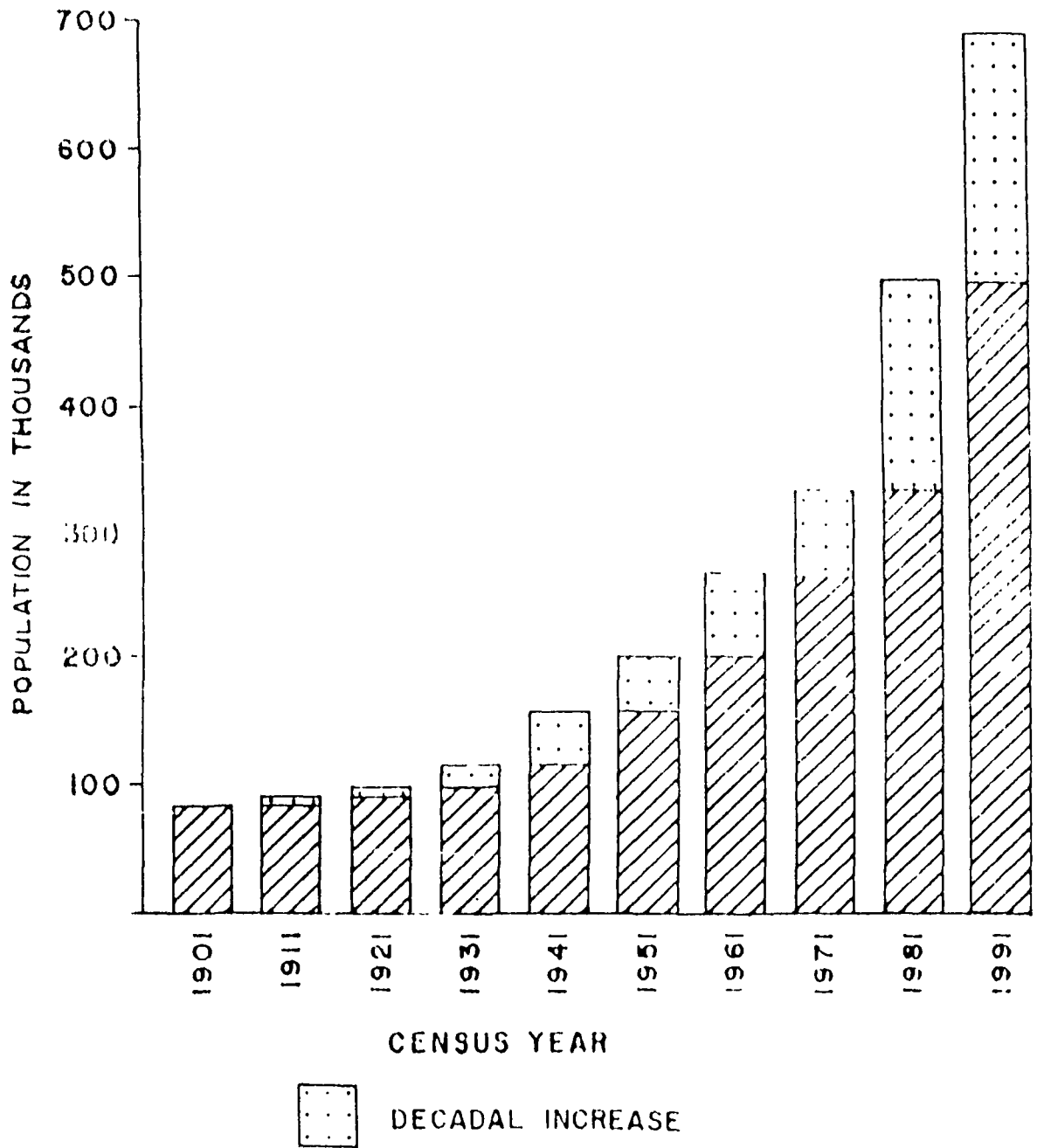
Fig. 3.1 (diagram)

GROWTH OF POPULATION 1901-1991

MIZORAM

GROWTH OF POPULATION

1901-1991



The population growth pattern in Mizoram is evident from the table 3.3. The growth trend has witnessed an alteration of ups and downs, after every decades in term of percentage, except for the decade between 1931 and 1961. The population of Mizoram of 82,434 in 1901 was increased to 91,204 in 1911 showing a plus growth rate of 10.64 per cent. But the decadal growth rate during 1911-21 recorded a fall from the previous decade and the percentage point of difference was 2.74. The main reason for a drop in the growth rate during this period is mainly influenza epidemic and famine. In ~~1912~~, Mizoram underwent a natural famine called 'Mautam' which is a periodic famine which visits Mizoram at an approximate interval of 48 years.

In 1931 census, the total population was 1,24,404 and the decadal variation during 1921-31 was 25,998 constituting a very high growth rate of 26.42 per cent. Alternately, the decadal growth rate of population fell to 22.81 per cent in 1941. The alternation of ups and downs in these rates in the decade upto 1941 is generally characterised by high birth rates and high death rates, fluctuating in response to condition of prosperity, famines, epidemics and the fertility being in its natural state.

7

The normal fluctuation ⁷ in decadal growth rate of population growth is observed during the decade between 1931 and 1961. One would expect the growth rate to be higher than the previous one because fertility still being in its natural state and mortality decline (1) ? faster because of the improvement in living conditions as a result of decline of infectious diseases like cholera, influenza, etc. Hence, the growth rate seems to have expanding since 1931 to 1961 and then something seriously went wrong during 1961-91.

The growth rate suffered a serious set back during the decade of 1961-71 when the growth rate fell by 9.32 percentage point. During the next decade i.e 1971-81, the growth rate jumped to a phenomenal level ✓ of 48.55 per cent with a trend dramatically varied to disclose an increase of 23.62 percentage point. The sharp fluctuation in decadal growth rate from 1961 onwards need further indepth study before simplistic conclusion are drawn with regard to growth of population in Mizoram during the last three decades.

The decadal growth rate during 1961-1971 was only 24.93 per cent which showed ~~declining~~ growth trend in term of percentage. Factors responsible for this following trend : 1) Large scale migration of people to other state and adjoining foreign countries in the wake

of disturbances in 1966.

2) a large number of people going underground as M.N.F. activist.

3) Many Mizos were killed to the same movement, which to some extent contributed to low growth rate. The other possibility is gross under numeration in 1971 census which is somewhat similar in nature to a large number of people going underground as M.N.F. activists and that those remaining underground during the 1971 census operations would not have been enumerated. Due to the insurgency of 1966, Mizoram was passing through explosive situation in 1971 census year. The villages in the state were reorganized and grouped into bigger villages to tackle the problem of insurgency. Grouping effect about 80 percent of the rural population and about 65 percent of the population of the district. It was, therefore, a major event in the History of the district.

The civil administration was almost non functional. In such a situation the census operation was carried out through normal civil administration. This ruled out the possibility of underestimate population in 1970 census

According to R.G. Mitra, the abnormal and unusual situation in the decadal growth rate of population, of the state, after 1961, was the gross under enumeration in 1971 census which had led to a very low decadal growth rate during 1961-71 and this also on the other hand, resulted in a very high rate of growth during the decade 1971-81 because the growth has been calculated from an underestimate population in 1971. He estimates that both 1961-71 and 1971-81 growth rate of 24.93 percent and 48.55 percent respectively to be unreal and "the corrected decadal growth rates for 1961-71 and 1971-81 for Mizoram worked out to be 39.32 percent and 33.20 percent respectively".

The growth rate of 39.70 percent in 1981-91 shows an increase of 6.50 percentage point in stead of a fall in growth rate by 8.85 percentage point (see table 3.2). During 1981-91, the growth rate of population in Mizoram is high though the factor responsible for this trend could not be easily identified. A proper explanation of 1981-91 situation could be given when socioeconomic data for 1991 census are available. The possibilities of such high growth rate are :-

(a) Large number of international migration after peace returned to the state.

(b) Sharper fall in mortality rate as compared to fertility rate.

The secular process of population growth in Mizoram studied through the demographic transition paradigm, one may point that the first stage of demographic transition perhaps continue till about 1941 after which it entered the second phase of demographic transition.

NOTE :

(1) The time series data on birth rate and death rate are badly lacking for the state. Though the percentage of widows in population for the year, the dramatic drop in this ratio in 1951 from the level in 1941 will at least established that there had been a rapid decline in mortality between 1941 and 1951. There after from 1951 onwards the mortality appear to have declined at a slow space.

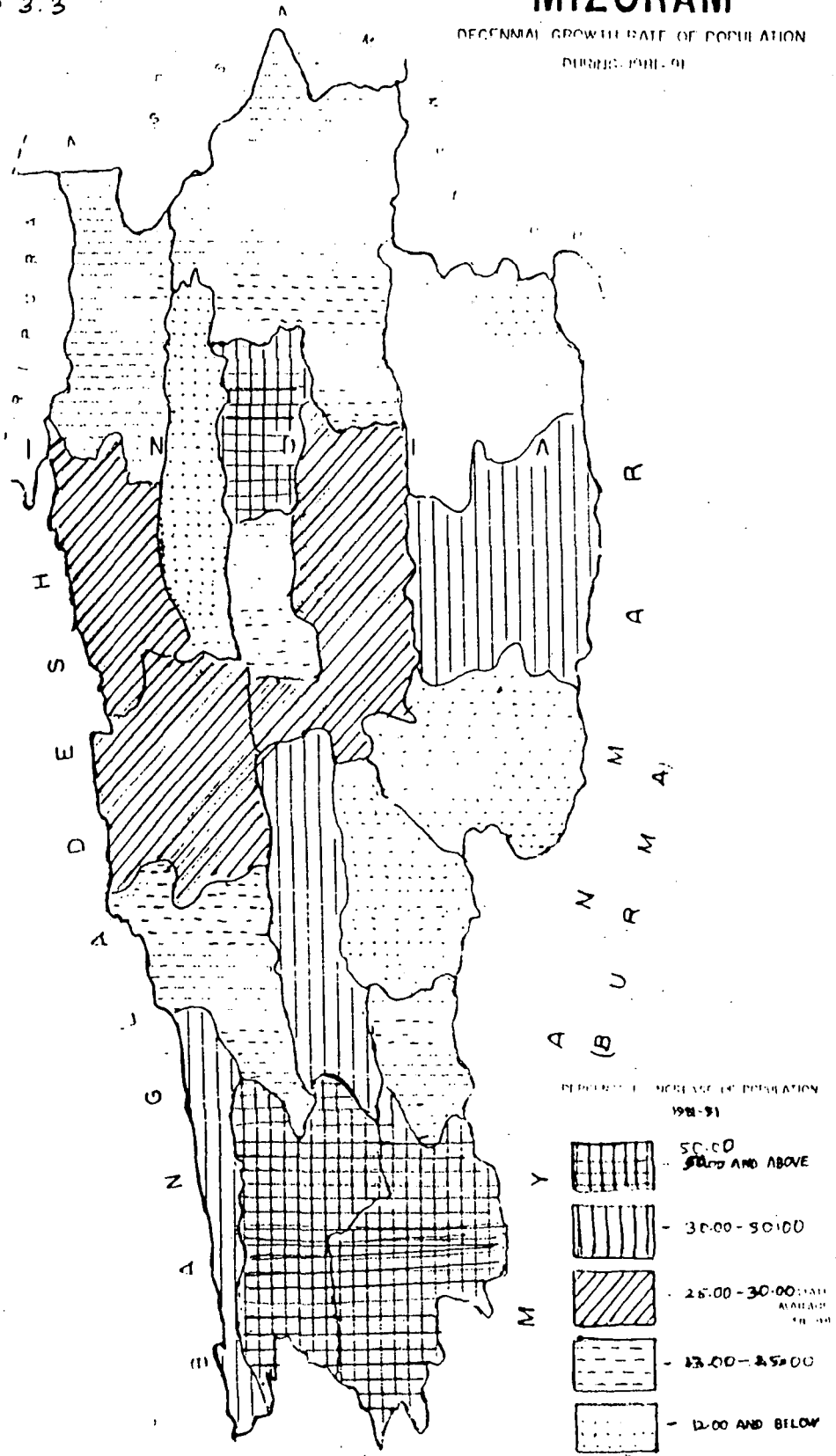
Year	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981
P.c of Widowed	17.6	13.9	11.8	6.9	<u>6.2</u>	<u>6.3</u>	5.2

This should have been given at foot of p. 25

Map 3.3

MIZORAM

DECENNIAL GROWTH RATE OF POPULATION
DURING 1981-91



CHAPTER - IV

SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS OF POPULATIONLITERACY

The wealth of a country depends ultimately upon the quality of the people and the productive skill and level of education of the people. Development of human resources is a process of increasing knowledge, skill and capability of all the people in the region. Investment in man should be the primary concern of the people aspiring to progress in modern wealth.

For the purpose of census a person is deemed as literate if he or she can both read and write with understanding in any languages. A person who can merely read but cannot write is not literate. Up to 1981, it was customary to exclude children in the age group 0-4 and then calculate the rate of literacy. However, the census of 1991 redefined the concept of literacy in which all children below 7 years of age have been treated as illiterates. As a result the literacy rate has gone to a high level as compared to earlier literacy rates.

As per 1991 census, Mizoram became the second highest literate state with 81.23 percent, after Kerala with 90.59 percent. It is encouraging to notice that there has been a steady increase in the literacy rate in Mizoram for both males and females. Another interesting feature is the declining gap between male and female literacy in every successive census. The disparity in literacy rate in rural (55.24 percent) and Urban (74.06 percent) areas in 1991 is found. Regarding the district-wise level literacy rate, Aizawl rank first followed by Lunglei and Chhimituipui district.

Progress in the field of literacy in Mizoram can be attributed to the broad base of its educational system. Churches and voluntary organisations play a crucial role in promoting literacy in Mizoram.

Table 4.1

Literacy Rates in Mizoram 1961-1991

Year	Persons	Male	Female	Gap between male and female literacy.
1	2	3	4	5
1961	51.24	62.28	40.34	21.91
1971	62.71	90.75	54.75	15.40
1981	74.26 (69.90)	79.39 (74.77)	68.60 (64.53)	10.77 (10.24)
1991	81.23	84.06	78.06	5.97

Sources : Census of India 1991 : Services 17. Mizoram paper 1 of 1991 supplement provisional total p.12.

Notes : - 1) Literacy rates for 1961 and 1971 relates population aged 5 and above. The rate for the year 1981 and 1991 relates for population aged 7 and above. The literacy rates for population aged 5 and above in 1981 census is shown in the bracket.

2) In 1991 census all children below 7 years of age have been treated as illiterates. The population aged 7 and above in 1991 is not based on actual census, therefore provisional.

Table 4.2

No. of literates population aged 7 and above.

<u>Literates</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1981	291634	163,785	127,849
1991	461,930	257,557	210,379
Increase in 1991 over 1981	170,296	87,766	82,530

Sources : Census of India 1991, series 17. Final population total.

SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION

An important yardstick of the stage social, economic and technological development is provided by the proportion of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. A higher proportion of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes may indicates the economic backwardness.

The proportion of scheduled tribe population is significantly high and tribal concentration is mostly even. The percentage of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe altogether to the total population accounted for 93.58 percent in 1981 census which is the highest compared to the national level of only 23.51 percent. In 1991, there were 461,907 persons categorised as scheduled tribe accounting for 93.54 percent of the population, where as 135 persons belonged to the scheduled caste accounting for 0.02 per cent of the population in Mizoram .

The scheduled tribe concentration is very even in Mizoram. The percentage variation of scheduled tribe population in all the three districts is less than 3. In Aizawl district 94.06 percent belong to scheduled tribe. It is 92.101

From
Table
4.2

percent in Lunglei and 93.66 percent in Chhintuipui district.

Table 4.3

<u>Sheduled caste and sheduled tribe population'81</u>				
<u>State/ Dist.</u>	<u>Sheduled tribe</u>	<u>p.c to total population</u>	<u>Sheduled caste</u>	<u>p,c to total population</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Mizoram	461,907	93.54	134	0.02
Aizawl	320,088	94.06	81	0.02
Lunglei	79,607	92.01	17	0.01
Chhintui pui.	62,212	93.66	31	0.05

Sources : Census of India 1981, series 21, Mizoram p.38 & 50.

Sheduled tribe population is dominated largely by the Mizo tribe which forms 77.23 percent in 1971. The second largest sheduled tribe is Chakma who constituted 7.14 percent. Other community in the region are Pawl (6.52 percent). Lakher (6.25 percent). Hmars (2.52 percent) and Khasi and Jaintia (2.50 percent). Among the sheduled caste, dhobi are dominant caste with 80.48 percent, followed by much/Richi comprising 9.75 percent.

RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF POPULATION .

In the state of Mizoram, 83.81 percent of the population embraced christianity according to the record of 1981 census. Budhism with the record of its following at 8.19 percent come to be the second largest religions group and Hinduism came next.

The second religions is Budhism with 8.19 percent, followed by Hinduism constituting 7.14 percent of the people of Mizoram. Other remaining religions accounted for less than 1 percent of the total population of the state. As per 1981 census, the percentage of non-christian population came to 18.73 per unit.

Table 4.4

Population composition by Religions 1981

Religions Community	Persons	Percentage to total population.
Christian	4,13,840	83.81
Budhists	40,429	8.19
Hindus	35,245	7.14
Muslim	2,205	0.45
Sikhs	421	0.09
Jains	11	Neq.
Others	606	0.32

Source : Census of India 1981 series 31 Mizoram

It is evident from the table that Christianity is the single largest religion in Mizoram. Christianity was brought to the land in 1894 and it spread rapidly throughout the regions, become a major religion of Mizoram within a span of half a century. These rapid but smooth transformation were made possible by the benign and co-operative British rule that put all the Mizo clans under the roof of one authority which secured a congenial atmosphere for few missionaries. Since the advent of Christianity, there have been great changes in the life of the people. Another factor responsible for the rapid conversion into christianity was the tribal concentration with one significant ethnic and cultural entity in the regions.

The decadal growth rate (1) of Buddhism during 1971-81 was 75.52 percent as against the christian growth rate of 44.63 percent during the some periods. Hinduism also registered a decadal growth rate of 66.02 percent. One of the possible reasons for high growth rate of Buddhism in Mizoram is the immigration of Buddhist chakma into the west of Mizoram.

LANGUAGE :

Mizoram has uniqueness despite the heavy tribal concentration that language diversity is insignificant as may be found in other tribal areas. The language of Mizoram Lusei is the lingua-franca of the state. By 1971 census there were only eight languages with more than 1 percent. The Mizo/Lusei language constitute 75.55 percent of the total speaker or three-fourth of the population in the state spoke Mizo/Lusei language.

The mono-lingual nature of the state can be traced to historical evolution. Since time immemorial Mizes had always been surrounded by superior cultures. They were pushed out of Burmese plains and forced to enter the hilly terrain, perhaps by the mighty Burmese. When they migrated from Burma they have had a fairly well developed spoken mizo language. When they entered what is now called Mizoram they occupied inaccessible hilly regions, lived in nearly complete socio-cultural isolation. That is why mizo language has remained the principal language of the state.

By 1981, the speakers of Chakma languages constituted 8.05 percent of the total population bringing down the percentage of Mizo speaker to 71.15 percent from 75.55 percent in 1971. As a consequences of increase in Chakma population the percentage of chakma language has been increasing. The user of pawl language also rose to 4.65 percent in 1981 from 3.10 percent in 1971.

The Mizo language belongs to the Tibets-Burmese family of language while Pawl and Hmar language have much similarity with Mizo language the Chakma language and the Riang language are related to Bengali language.

NOTE : The decadal growth rate of different regions is calculated from statistical Hand book of Mizoram 1987 p.17.

This should have been given at foot of p.33.

CHAPTER V

WORKFORCE AND OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE.

An important economics aspect of a country's population relates the size and structure of its workforce and occupational distribution. A study of the workforce and occupational structure throws light on the number of productive persons, productive structure and the development level of economy. As such an understanding of these aspects are essential in order to ensure effective manpower planning.

WORKFORCE :

The size of labour force is of great importance for the level of economic activity. The work-force participation rate in a country i.e. proportion of working population to total population, depends upon such factors as age and sex composition, attitude to work and availability of work. All these factors differ in different countries and may differ even within the same country in different periods.

The definition of 'worker' kept on changing at every census until 1981. The census of 1981 carries forward the tradition of the census 1971 in making the definition of 'workers' rigorous and more meaningful and has classified the workers into 'main worker' and 'marginal workers'. Main workers are those who have worked in some economic activity over a period of six months or 183 days or more in a year.

In, 1991 census, work was defined as participating in any economically productive activity. In this context, work-force can be defined as a number of total main works in term of percentage out of the total population.

The workforce of Mizoram in 1971 census was 45.61 percent. The table 5.1 showed the declining trends in 1981 census with 41.73 percent. The decline in 1981 census was not due to the depletion of working populations, but was on account of change in conceptual definition of workers. The workforce in 1991 census was 42.29 which was slightly higher than that of 1981 census. The proportion of main worker to total population in Mizoram is high as compared to the all India level.

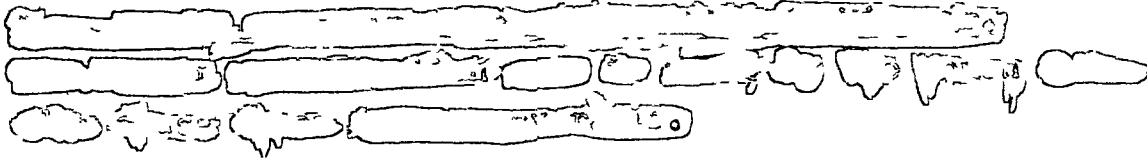
Table 5.1

Proportion of main worker total population (1971-1991)

Year	Percentage of main worker to total population.					
	Persons		Male		Female	
	Mizoram	India	Mizoram	India	Mizoram	India
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1971	45.61	33.06	57.43	52.61	39.46	12.06
1981	<u>41.73</u>	33.45	50.39	51.61	32.32	14.00
1991	42.29	34.12	49.56	50.54	<u>34.35</u>	16.43

Sources : Census of India 1991, series 17 of Mizoram, paper 1 of supplement provisional population totals p.21.

It is evident from the table that the work participation rate of female is high in Mizoram as compared to India as a whole. In case of male participation rate Mizoram has maintained almost the all India rate. The female participation rate in Mizoram is much higher than the all India rate of 16.42 percent. In Mizoram female workers play an important role in jhum cultivation and they participate in farming activities right from sowing of seeds to harvesting of crops and also in the marketing of farm produce.

Table 5.2

Percentage of total worker, main women and marginal workers to total population.

1981-91

	percentage of total population					
	Total workers		Main workers		Marginal workers	
	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Persons	45.44	49.36	41.13	42.29	3.71	7.07
Male	52.54	54.37	50.39	49.56	2.15	4.81
Female	37.74	43.74	31.32	34.43	5.40	9.57

Sources : Census of India 1991 series 17 Mizoram paper 1 of supplement provision population total p.23.

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE .

All occupations or industries are broadly divided into three groups : (i) Primary or Agricultural sector. (ii) Secondary sector. (iii) Tertiary sector. In the primary sector are included cultivation and other occupation allied to agriculture, like animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry. In the secondary sector large and small manufacturing units, construction etc are included. The tertiary or service sector included trade, transports, communication, banking etc. By occupational structure we mean the distribution of a country's population according to different occupation viz primary, secondary and tertiary activities.

There is a close relationship between development of an economy on the one hand and occupational structure on the other. According to Colin Clark, " a high average level of real income per head is always associated with a high proportion of the working population engaged in tertiary industries. Low real income per head is always associated with a low proportion of the working population engaged in tertiary production and a high percentage in primary production".

The distribution of workforce into different occupations can be regarded as an important indication of economic development. In the developing countries a bulk of labour force is engaged in agriculture. The case of developed countries is totally different. A very large proportion of workforce over 65 to 70 per cent finds works in the service sectors.

The occupational structure of Mizoram is like that of under-develop economy. A substantial portion of workforce is engaged in agriculture and a very small percentage is found engaged in industry and service sector. Cultivators constitute about 60.89 percent of total main workers. Agricultural labourers account for 3.73%

of the working population where, household industrial workers constitutes only 1.25 per cent of the total main workers in 1991. The occupational structure at present and its change in it since 1971 are depicted in the table.

Table 5.3

Percentage of main worker in defferent occupation to main worker for Mizoram and India 1971-1991.

Categories	percentage of workes to total main womens					
	1971		1981		1991	
	Mizoram	India	Mizoram	India	Mizoram	India
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Culti- vators	83.53	43.08	70.63	41.58	60.89	38.75
Agric- ultural labourer	0.37	26.69	2.49	24.94	3.75	26.15
House- hold Industry	0.2	3.37	0.85	3.47	1.25	3.63
Other workers	15.75	26.06	26.03	30.01	34.13	31.47

Sources : Census of India 1991, series 17 Mizoram p.24.

It is well known that with development, the proportion of workforce engaged in agriculture decline and that in industry and service activities rises. The Mizoram's occupational structure showed that the proportions of cultivation has declined significantly since 1971. In 1971 the proportions of cultivators were as much as 83.53 percent and the corresponding figure has declined to 60.89 percent in 1991. The decline in the percentage of cultivators has been much more accentuated in the case of Mizoram compared with the national level. The population of workers other than agriculture increases from 16.10 per cent in 1971 to 35.38 percent in 1991.

TABLE 5.4

Percentage of male and female workers in different occupation to total main workers.

Occupations	Cultivator		Agricultural Labour		Household Industry		Others names	
	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
Categories	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Persons	70.64	60.89	2.43	3.75	0.85	1.25	26.03	34.1
Males	61.38	52.59	2.67	3.96	0.74	1.24	25.21	42.2
Females	86.31	73.85	2.16	3.38	1.05	1.25	10.48	21.5

Sources : Census of India 1991 series 17 Mizoram

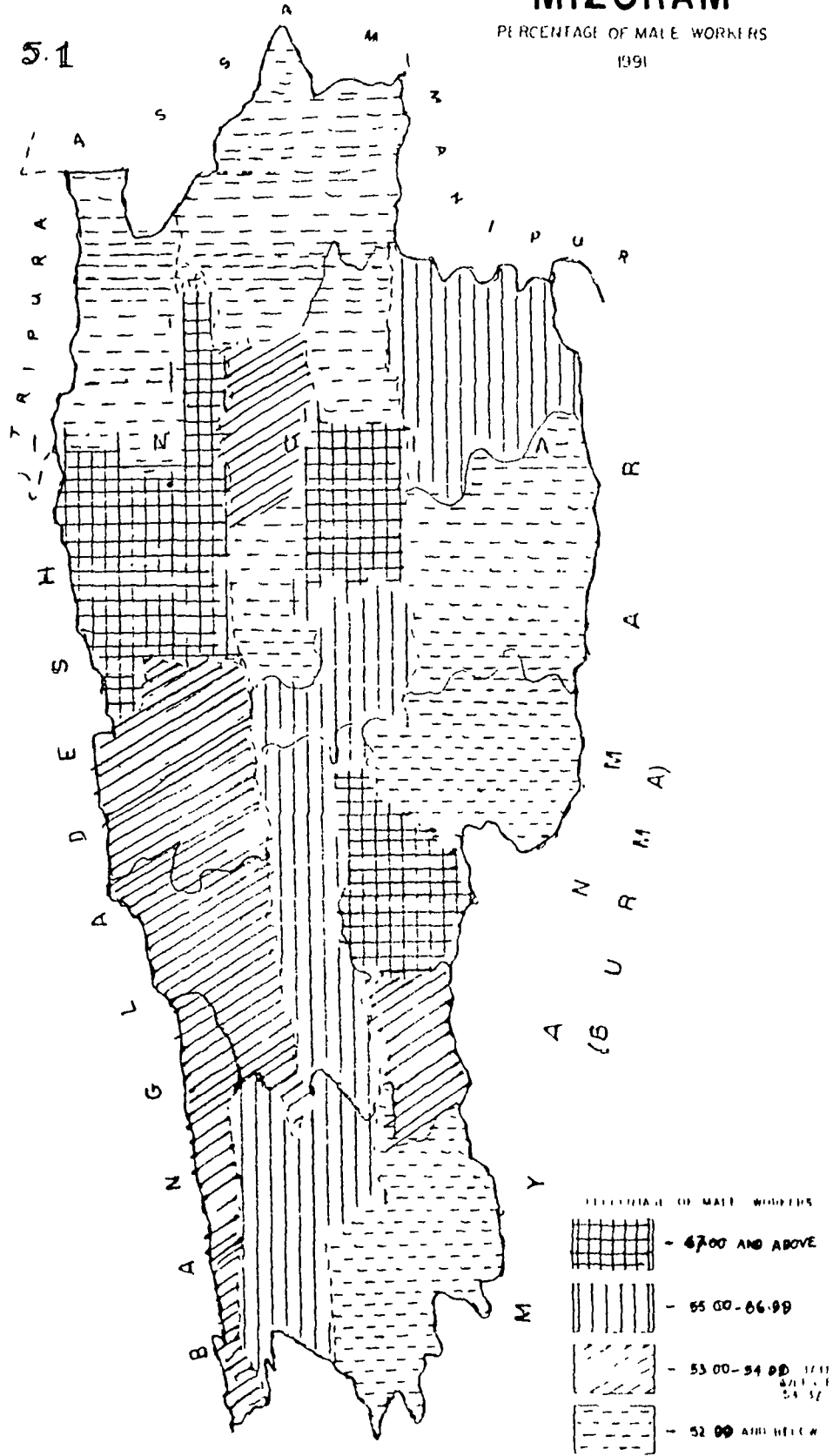
The two main findings of the 1991 census are : firstly under the categories of cultivators, the percentage of female is higher than the percentage of male (see table 5.4) : secondly the proportion of female under the categories of other worker has shown a faster growth than males.

It is argued that tranference of workers from agriculture will raise productivity per worker. Since productivity per head in industry and service is generally higher than in agriculture such tranference of workes from low to high productive sector will result in higher productivity per head. Besides, there will be diversification in economic activity. The need for changes in occupational structure in Mizoram is felt since economic progress is generally associated with certain distinct necessary and pr~~e~~dictable changes in occupational structure. There is an urgent need for economic development in the state (Mizoram) which will ultimately bring a change in occupational structure from agriculture to Industrial sector. The process is to be completed within the shortest possible time to absorb the surplus from agriculture to the industry and other services by tranfering workers from agriculture.

Map 5.1

MIZORAM

PERCENTAGE OF MALE WORKERS
1991



CHAPTER VI

POPULATION PRESSURE ON LAND

In a sparsely populated area any rise in population is mostly welcome. It makes available more hands to exploit various natural resources, including cultivation of land. Rising demand increasing labour supply and vast land resources creates a conducive atmosphere for productive efforts. But if a country is over populated, any further increase in population prevent capital investment in vital areas, of the economy, therefore, employment situation is aggravated, perpetuating the low level of income and malnutrition in the country. One of the areas where pressure of increasing population is immediately felt is land resources, particularly cultivated land and forest.

Land Utilisation:

Mizoram is an agricultural states with more than 60 percent of its population engaged in agricultural activities. In a predominantly agrarian economy agriculture plays a highly strategic role from several points of views. Land is the first thing that comes to mind when we talk of agriculture. Land utilisation is vital because of its peculiarities as a factor of production. Land is limited in supply while the pressure of increasing population is felt on it.

Mizoram has a geographical areas of 21,08,000 hectares of which forest constitutes 61.99 percent and net shown area 3.09 percent respectively. Total operational holdings were 5200 hectares in 1985-86. More than 60 percent of the area remain unutilised or under utilised for cultivation which indicates a wasteful pattern of allocation of land resources. A large portion of land is not cultivable.

In Mizoram, a wasteful method of cultivation, that is Jhum, shifting cultivation, still continues to dominate agriculture practise. It is necessary to its further progress so as to save valuable land resources from further deterioration.

Recently Government has come out with a proposal for closing down jhum by providing land for settled cultivation and allied activities, and to facilitate a rather rapid transformation. It has also come

Table 6.1

Area under various land utilisation categories in Mizoram.

Land classification	Area (000ha.)	Percentage
1. Forest	1303	61.99
2. Not available for cultivation	211	10.04
3. Other cultivated land excluding fallow.		
(a) Cultivable waste	74	3.58
(b) Others	7	0.33
4. Fallow land		
(a) Current	183	8.71
(b) Old fallow	259	12.32
5. Net shown area	65	3.09
6. Total reporting area for land utilisation statistic.	2102	100.00
7. Total geographical area	2108	

Sources : Agro Horticulture survey.

out with schemes for providing comprehensive marketing opportunities, However, it is apparent that unless appropriate facilities like rural paths, irrigation, new seeds and other inputs, marketing and credit are available in liberal dosage, the farmer would hesitate to take to such land use and thus jhum system of agriculture would continue to prevail . . .

Population Pressure :

In term of population density, an indicator indicating space and people living in that space, the population of Mizoram is sparse and the region's land-man ratio is favourable for holding additional pressure of population. However, the density of population is not the correct measure re-indicating pressure of population on land. The carrying capacity of land depends upon the available resources and number of people per square kilometer of cultivated areas. Natural resources with degree of industrialisation determine the extend to which the land can support the population. "It is interesting to note that most of the workers are of the opinion that carrying capacity of land should have positive corelation with area under cultivation and food-grain production, none of them have shown optimum carrying capacity level of the land at a given point of time".

In studying population pressure on land, efforts have been made to co-related the carrying capacity of cultivated land to productivity and pressure of population on cultivated land. Two ~~parameters~~ parameters have been taken to determine the pressure of population.

(1) Cultivated land under foodgrain crops. (2) Productivity of foodgrain. The carrying capacity of land actual population on land is shown on the table 6.2.

Table 6.2Carrying capacity and pressure of population.

State	Carrying capacity			Actual pressure (no. of person / hac)		
	1972-73	1981-82	1985-86	1972-73	1981-82	1985-86
A.P.	5.0	6.0	6.2	7.8	4.7	4.0
Assam	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.3	7.9	8.3
Manipur	6.2	8.6	11.7	6.6	7.9	9.4
Meghalaya	6.0	6.7	6.6	8.7	9.9	10.8
Mizoram	5.5	6.0	5.3	4.3	14.9	10.6
Nagaland	3.3	5.1	5.9	5.5	6.0	6.3
NER	5.7	5.9	6.7	6.3	7.7	8.2

Sources : Basic statistic of NER -NEC

From the above table 6.2, per hectare carrying capacity of land in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur can hold the pressure of population. In other states the pressure of population is greater than the carrying capacity of land.

In Mizoram, the pressure of population on area under foodgrain is much higher than carrying capacity of cultivated land. The carrying capacity also decreased from 6.0 in 1981-82 to 5.3 in 1985-86 while in other states it is increased due to increase in agricultural output. The carrying capacity did not keep pace with the increase in the pressure of population.

It has been said repeatedly that the population is low as compared to other states. However, the density of population per square kilometer of cultivated land in Mizoram is similar to Kerala. Important advantage with Kerala is that its entire western border is link with resources from the Arabian sea; several horticulture crops are cultivated in commercial scale.

Table 6.3

	Population density				Density sq/Km cultivat area.			
	1961	1971	1981	1991	1961	1971	1981	1991
Mizoram	13	16	23	33	a	337	796	830
India	134	167	216	267	336	365	406	424

Sources : Basic statistics of NER -NEC.

To conclude, it may be pointed out that population density on geographical area may not reflect the correct picture. There are several factors such as productivity of land, pressure on population, land resources, its industrial capabilities etc. needs to be taken into consideration whether an area is sparsely or heavy populated, pressure of population on available resources needs to be visualised. Man-cultivated land ratio and productivity are parameters determining the pressure of population, particularly in the hilly regions like Mizoram. There are several factors for shortage of land available for cultivation in Mizoram. A large proportion about 90 percent of total land area is hilly and under forest. Thus there is a limited scope for opening new land for cultivation.

In Mizoram, the impact of population pressure can be met through development of horticulture crops and tree culture which is in addition to the production of food-grain.

CHAPTER VII

POPULATION PROBLEMS IN MIZORAM

Is population a problem in Mizoram ? There seems to be no straight forward answer to this question. The rise and fall of population by it-self is neither bad nor good. But it should be assessed in the context of the condition in which this rise takes place whether or not the growth of population contributes to the economic growth depends on the country's size of population, the availability of natural resources, capital resources and prevailing technology.

When a country crosses the optimum point and become over-populated, as a result of population growth, its level of productivity or output per capita decline, which lower the standard of people. This is the worst consequences of population explosion. As population went on increasing, the pressure of population on land increased and as result, the land was subdivided and fragmented into tiny holdings. Land being almost fixed, the use of more labour force on it resulted in diminishing returns.

Mizoram is the most underdeveloped states in India. Agriculture is the main-stay far about 60 percent of the population. Productivity is low due to traditional shifting cultivation. Mizoram has no major industry. The cottage industry comprises handloom and handicrafts. In the small scale sector are rice milling, oil and flour milling, mechanised bamboo workshop. In fact, economically, Mizoram is very backward. She is heavily dependent on outside help for practically all her requirements. Needs and wants increase due to the population growth but productivity is not increased.

With a geographical area of 21087 square kilometer Mizoram has a population of 6.86 lakh. Keeping in view with the matrix of natural resources and the level of infrastructural, technological and social development, a given size of population can play a vital role. However, there has been a considera-

ble acceleration in the rate of growth of population at level of 3.29 percent per annum.

With such a high level of population growth, Mizoram is still in the second stage of demographic transition with rapidly rising birth rate and slowly falling death rate. This stage is most hazardous period for developing economy. The growth of population in the region is effecting adversely the economy, resulting in the slowing down its pace of development. The impact of rising population as a drag on economic resources in Mizoram is felt in a variety of ways.

The fast rising demand for foodgrain on account of the fast increase in population could not be met from the regional food production. In Mizoram, production of foodgrain has increased at a very slow rate and it could not meet the needs of the growing population, causing import of foodgrain from other parts of India. Despite an increase in productivity,

Table 7.1

Rice productivity during different years.

Year	Area (000 Ha)	Production (ooo tones)	Productivity (Kg/Ha)
1985-86	49.00	45.30	924
1986-87	48.30	45.80	948
1987-88	48.50	49.20	1014
1988-89	50.60	54.70	1081
1989-90	52.99	59.24	1179
1990-91	51.32	63.79	1243
1991-92	55.64	70.97	1276
1992-93	61.30	83.95	1370

Sources : Mizoram integrated Development Project Report

nearly 70 percent of the food requirements come from outside and only 30 percent is produced in the state itself.

Secondly, an increase in the number of unproductive consumers or dependents on labour force adversely affects efficiency of labour, reduces saving and makes for quicker wearing out of the existing meagre capital.

Table 7.2

Productive and unproductive consumer in Mizoram

'91

Percentage of total population.

Year	Productive	Unproductive.
1981	45.44	54.56
1991	49.39	50.61

Thirdly, rising population increases the number of children and hence the demand for higher expenditure on education. Addition to population means more and more expenditure on provision of essential public service, such as medical care, houses and public health. Public expenditure is increased without much beneficial effects on productivity per head. For instance, to provide shelter to the rural poor 1656 families were given, free of cost, 4 bundles of GCI sheets each during 1993-93. Thus in all, 6,624 bundles of GCI Sheets were distributed for which Rs. 100 lakhs was spent.

Fourthly, a fast influx of people in the urban area has been deteriorating the urban environments. Problems like unemployment, air pollution, health care, drug abuse, high prices of urban amenities are the result of over-congestion in big town. The rapid changes in life-styles, westernisation, erosion of traditional value and the consequent corruption in public life etc. have made the problem of urban population more and more crucial.

Fifthly, the pressure of population on land is high in Mizoram, even though she is sparsely populated in absolute sense, because of the low carrying capacity of cultivated areas. Jhum shifting cultivation is widely practiced in Mizoram which yield low productivity. Shifting cultivation is a widely destructive system of cultivation since it is a technique employing slash-and-burn methods; rotation of field rather than crops. About 40,000 hectares of land which is 63 percent of the total cropped areas was put under jhum cultivation during 1984-85. The productivity is low although heavy and constant labour inputs is required. The land use pattern highlights a little scope at all for agriculture to shoulder further pressure of population on land.

Sixthly, the steady rise in the growth of population has also led to deterioration in the quality of life. The existence of mass unemployment has been attributed to social unrest and tension in Mizoram over the past decades

Lastly, with an increasing population, average and marginal product of labour went on declining and even fell below the subsistence level. As a consequence, poverty, hunger and under employment emerged. It is true that rapid growth of population adversely affect rate of saving and investment and market surplus of foodgrain; slow down growth of per capita income and accentuating poverty problems.

All these factors lead us to conclusion that rapid growth of population is not welcome for the state in view of the problem and setback, the development efforts suffered due to its impact. It is the biggest road block in the way of raising growth rate to a higher level.

It is true that Mizoram has undergone tremendous changes in development since the independence of India.

However, the sad fact of the matter is that Mizoram has been turned into a dependent state. Needs and works multiply due to the high population growth; but not the production. What appears to be a great development in terms of education and material possession in reality is what we might call a 'begger's development,' a development of dependency, depending on the generosity of the Indian Central government.

The population problems in Mizoram can be solved by first activating the state and then the production of agriculture. With a higher productivity from agriculture and allied pursuits and more opportunities for employment in trade, business and industry, the average income and standard would rise. Settled cultivation, diversification of farm sectors to make it income-generating and market-oriented and the growth of agro-based industries have to be developed.

While newly created economic activity would result in large job potential, such potential however might not be adequate for the rising new labour force. The government would have to be pragmatic in its approach towards population control, while this control is likely to come quicker as deliberated; however, for its smooth achievement some positive measure would have to be adopted as present state of affairs are fully inadequate.

CHAPTER VIII

POPULATION POLICY AND POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAMME (IN INDIA)

The acceleration in the rate of population growth in successive decade since 1901 and the potential of a rapid decline in mortality created a great concern about population problems. Because population growth has both eroded the impact of growth on per capita income and obstructed the growth process itself, the problem is clearly that of too large an increase of population. The aim of the policy should therefore be a reduction in the growth rate of population. In the previous decades of sixties, seventies and eighties, the growth has been around 2.2 percent annually. The aim should be to lower it from the present rate. To concretise the objective, one may refer to the goals of the plans. There have, by and large, veered around the goals of less than 2 percent rise in population. The target for the year 2000 AD has been set at a growth rate of nearly 1.2 percent.

The family planning programme became a national efforts to contain the rate of population growth and was taken as an integral part of the development plan programme. This was the first national programme in the works and the first aimed explicitly at slowing population growth.

Even upto the first three plans, there was no proper appreciation of the population problems by the government. As against Rs. 65 lakhs allocated in 1st plan, Rs. 5 crores in the 2nd plan and Rs. 25 crores in the third plan. Though it started small in scale and exploratory in nature, it developed into a very comprehensive programme with more and more component added over the year. During the eight five year plan the likely expenditure on family planning is estimated around Rs. 6500 crores.

The fifth five year plan has been unique in the History of the country and hence unique in the evolution of the family planning programme of the country. The national policy statement

of April 1976 was the most articulate enunciation of the official policy. The following were its main features. :-

- (I) Increase in the legal minimum age at marriage from 15 to 18 for females and 18-21 years for males.
- (ii) Freezing the population base at the 1971 level for determining representation in parliament and the state legislatures up to 2000 AD.
- (iii) 1971 population was considered as the base for allocation of central assistance to the state plans.
- (iv) Eight percent of central assistance to the state was to be linked with family planning programme performance, and
- (v) The allotment of houses and loans were to be linked to family size.

Besides, two other features set the tone of 1976 policy statement. Permission was given to the state to pass legislation introducing compulsory sterilization and change civil service regulations to ensure that the employees adopted small family norm. This was also to be done for the employees of the central government. Though these statement of national policy never got approved by the parliament, but it had set the tone for the future policy measures with voluntary nature of acceptance of the programme service.

The Sixth plan (1980-85) laid down the long term demographic goal of reducing the net reproduction rate (NRR) to one by 1996 for the country as a whole and by 2001 in all the states. The task of reaching the NRR unity by the year 2001 is a formidable one, but the government is fully conscious of these and therefore the main approach accepted is to make the programme a "people movement". Responsible and plan parenthood is being promoted through a well defined and sound approach, involving imaginative use of all information, education, communication channel, provision of service and supply close to the door step to the people as possible and inclusion of non-governmental agencies as a partner in the implementation of the Family Welfare Programme.

Population control has been accorded the highest priority in the eight five year plan document which have been approved by the NDC. In fact, for the first time population issues were discussed as a separate item of a-genda by the NDC in its meeting held on 23rd-24th December 1991, where the paper of the Departmental Family Welfare, "population control challenges and strategies", calling for a holistic approach to population control was endorsed unanimously. The Departmental of Family welfare has very greatly increased its interaction with the state government and union Territories Administration for improving the quantity of family welfare programme and in close consultation with them, a new action plan has been evolved to give the requisite thrust and dynamism to the programme. This is a pragmatic and result oriented Action plan, which lays great emphasis on consolidation of the existing infrastructure and optimisation of its functioning. The main features of the Action plan are as follows :-

(i) Improving the quantity and outreach of family welfare services in the field.

(ii) A new package of compensation/incentive funds to be propagating family welfare activities.

(iii) Initiating innovative programmes in urban slums for propagating family welfare activities.

(iv) Improving the quantity of existing contraceptives and introduction of new contraceptives.

(v) Improving the distribution of contraceptives through expansion of the scope of social marketing scheme.

The new activities taken by the government now hold out the hope that the energies of the nation could be constructively mobilised to tackle the population problem in a pragmatic manner. Of course, there are still miles to go and tremendous amount of additional efforts to be put in to achieve the full results of the new initiatives.

If even, on the basis of the new strategies and Action plan we are not able to stabilise the population growth, the problem may go out of hand and it would be very difficult for the country to sustain an unmanageably large population with its resources, whatever new successes, we may have on the technological front.

What about Ruzoan?

CHAPTER IX

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSTRAINT ON POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAMME IN MIZORAM.

Mizoram has maintained a higher population growth rate than the all India average. The population explosion, which is undermining all efforts towards socio-economic development is perhaps the single most pressing problem. The alarming rate at which the population is growing necessitates the correct population programme.

The population control programme has two objectives: (a) it seeks to secure a balance between human and non human resources. (b) It aims at optimising the quality of man power and also the quantity of life by putting a brake on the growth of quantity of population. The success of population control programme depends on social acceptability, resources, condition of progress in economic and social, aspiration of the people. The population control programme which is dependent on social acceptability for its success will have to be implemented within a number of constraints which are socio-economic ^{in nature. The term 'Socio-economic'} includes sociological, economics, political and cultural factors interacting together to influence the success of the programme.

Economic Constraint:

(a) Low level of technology, low productivity of shifting cultivation practised by the Mizos, labour intensive industry based on family labour increase the needs for large family.

(b) Low income group view their children as economic asset. The attitude towards children as economic assets constitute an important constraint on population control in Mizoram.

- (c) Lack of assets and absence of dependable social security system encourage large family. ✓
- (d) Any dependents on manual works like gathering firewood, collecting drinking water from distant places etc emphasize importance of large family. ✓
- (e) High death rate in a poor society tend to increase birth rate because of the survival instincts. ✓

Social Constraint :

- 1) In Mizo society the birth of the child in a family is a sign of progress. A large family is considered a healthy and progressive sign.
- 2) The barren women are not socially appreciated. A young woman, in the early years of marriage, is apprehensive that she may turn out to be a barren woman. ✓
- 3) Prevalence of early marriage which means longer productive life particularly among rural areas in Mizoram is an important constraint on population control in Mizoram. ✓
- 4) Preference of male child exist in the society which is the biggest constraint on population control in Mizoram. ✓
- 5) Inferior status of women is largely responsible for high rate of population growth. ✓
- 6) Due to the political instability, fear of communal disharmony, there is a race in the community to increase their numbers. Each community trying to outnumbered the other to gain political leverage. ✓
- 7) Ignorance and illiteracy, superstition, lacks of cultural pursuits specially among the ~~Mizos~~ Riangs and Chakmas are responsible for high growth rate. ✓

It has been remarked that economic development is the best contraceptive to control population growth. In fact, in the final analysis it is the economic development which solves the problem of a fast growing population. Rise in the standard of living helps in reducing birth rate. Therefore, anti-poverty programmes in both rural and urban areas as a measure to reduce economic disparity have a great role to play in population control. The technological change, spread of urban facilities and modern culture to the villages, spread of education of a dult literacy will also help population planning a great deal. Minimum need programme consisting of supply of drinking water, elementary education and health care, housing etc. will create a conducive atmosphere. There is no denying of the fact that education is one of the most important factor in any economic developmental process. Education narrows the gap between programme and people. It is a sure indicator of economic and social development.

Population control is a modern concept and it needs a change in the value of society. Unless the mother becomes the decision maker of child birth, all attempts at population control are bound to meet with failure. It must be realised that althouht death rate is mainly a technological variables, birth is essentially cultural variable. Hence arises the importance of change of altitutes and value in society.

Lastly, a decentralised approach is needed to make population control the people's programme. Regional and rural biased efforts population control mechanism can be created by organising village level. Panchayat-level population associations which will study and highlight the problems of imbalances between human and non-human resource

In raising the consciousness of the people towards population control programmes Mizoram has certain social institutions with specific advantage.

(1) The first and foremost institutions is the village level institution (the village council) and the prevalent customary laws. It would be impossible to think of any developmental programme without participation of these institutions.

(2) The second important factor is education which is a pre-requisite to making people aware of developmental programmes. Fortunately Mizoram has a high literacy rate (81.23 per cent) and ranks second after Kerala (90.59 percent) in 1991. High level of literacy in Mizoram being a potential input in the programme of family welfare has not been fully exploited.

Conclusion ?

CHAPTER X

CONCLUSION

We have thoroughly studied the population structure, trends, growth pattern, population pressure and problems in Mizoram. Mizoram witnessed a rapid population growth. The decadal growth rate of 39.70 percent during 1981-91 is much higher than the national average of 23.50 percent during the same decades. The analysis of population growth pattern suggests sharp fluctuation after every decades except for the decade between 1931 and 1961.

As a consequence of increase in population, the density of population has gone up from 23 in 1981 to 33 in 1991 signifying an increase of 43.5 percent as against 23.6 percent national average and 21.8 percent for NER. The population density in term of geographical area is low, not only because of inhabitable area, but due to political failure.

In Mizoram, the sex ratio remained favourable for female upto 1961, afterwards it declined sharply and came down to 919 in 1981. By 1991 census, the sex-ratio has shown improvement with 924 female per thousand male.

In respect of literacy, Mizoram is well above the national average. There has been a steady increase in the literacy rates, for both males and females. One interesting feature is the declining gap between male and female literacy in every successive census.

Unlike the rest of the country, Mizoram is unique in its dominance of a single religion and a single language. Christianity is the largest religion and the Mizo language has the speaker accounting for 76 percent of the total population. The scheduled tribe population comprised as much as 94 percent.

A study on population and population pressure on land warned that on equilibrium has not been maintained between capacity of cultivated land and pressure on population.

A fast trend towards urbanisation is causing high pollution and creating environmental problems thereby endangering the health and welfare of the residents.

The occupational structure also reveals that large proportion of population is engaged in agricultural sectors. Although about 64 percent are engaged in agriculture, the state agricultural product could substantiate only about 30 percent of the state requirement. This shows that the jhum system, which is prevalent in Mizoram, is not only uneconomical in terms of work load and subsequent yield, but also wasteful in terms of vegetation and soil lost in this method. The jhum system has been going for over unknown periods has resulted in destroying green plants, trees and fauna of this area. Most of the hills are now bare of greenery and turned into patches of endless dust.

The rapid growth of population is likely to change when there is a change in the mode of production in agriculture. The present mode of jhum shifting cultivation was ^{more labour intensive than alternatives} far either settled farming or allied pursuit like horticulture, vegetable gardening, tea and coffee plantation, cattle raising etc. With the higher productivity from agriculture and allied pursuit and more opportunities for employment in trade, business and industry, the average income and standard of the people would raise. This coupled with greater awareness for small families to maintain high standard of living as well as greater care to children would also promote reduction in birth rate and thus for quicker decline in the population growth rate.

As the government is already well aware of various obstacles in the way of change over from jhum shifting to settled land used and is keen to speed up proceeds, one can expect positive result in this direction.

Rapid growth of population in the region is affecting adversely the economy, resulting in slowing down its pace of development. The alarming rate at which population is growing calls forth the need for a correct population policy to restrict the rapid growth of population. It will also help to quicken the rate of economic development.

Population and economic development is not a one way traffic, both effect and are affected each other. Development could be accelerated by raising the level of literacy and overall social consciousness which can reduce the birth rate and bring the population growth rate down. Rise in the standard of living helps in reducing birth rate without the help of any deliberate policy of population control. But the development process is time taking phenomena, Thus it is become essential to give a high priority to an active population policy along with development of economy.

Mizoram has certain special social institution specific advantages which could be utilised in raising the consciousness of the people towards a small family norms and other issue associated with family welfare programme.

The indepth analysis of demographic record of Mizoram in the light of most progressive way and seek to apply the lesson learned from such as exercise would solves the problem of population and population related issue.

○ According to VKRV Rao " Democgraphy is an essentially an interdisciplinary subjects and it falls more in the realm of arts, historical and comperative experience than of theory and scientific laws" This is what we should apply to our study to the population problems. Therefore, a thorough study of the demography of Mizoram in respect of the role played by historical, cultural, socioligical, developmental and political factor with a view to draw lesson for the remedial demographic policy is necessary to solves the problems.

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