THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF POPULATION IN MYLLIEM BLOCK, EAST KHASI HILLS, MEGHALAYA

A REPORT OF THE PROJECT SPONSORED

BY

UGC-NNFPA, INDIA

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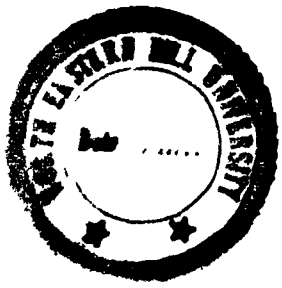

Gift.

PREFACE

The volume in hand is the report of the survey carried out in a few villages of Mylliem Community Development Block, the East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, during 1987-1988. This survey was carried out under a project on preparation of the socio-economic profile of population in Mylliem Block. This project formed a part of a larger project sponsored by the UGC-NNFPA, Government of India to the Centre for Adult and Continuing Education, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya.

First of all, I acknolwedge my gratitude to Dr. M. C. Pandey, Head of the Centre for Adult and Continuing Education, NEHU, Shillong, for providing me a chance to come closer to the area and the people while carrying out the survey. Experiences while surveying and analysing information have certainly enriched my knowledge. Then, I am grateful to the people who took pains to fill in the questionnaires and still greeted me and my investigator, Mr. William J. Lyngskor, with a smile.

I am especially thankful to Mr. W.J. Lyngskor for his readiness to work as Investigator in this project. He could hardly be compensated commensurately with the pains and exertion that he had to undergo for getting the questionnaires filled in. I prepared the questionnaire (in English) with his consultation and he translated it in Khasi with a great aptitude. When questionnaires were filled in, the English translation also was

made by Mr. Lyngskor. His cooperation could save much financial resources of the project which could have otherwise been spent on translation.

In analysing the data obtained from the survey I have been greatly helped by Dr. N. P. Goel, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong, who allowed me to use his Departmental Computer. He was helpful in feeding data also. I acknowledge his help and cooperation with a feeling of gratitude.

Dr. N. Shrivastav of the Department of Economics, NEHU, Shillong, cursorily read the manuscript and encouraged me by expressing his good opinion about it. Amaresh and Bishwambhar, the two young colleagues of mine who love me very much, have encouraged me to complete this work nicely. Prof. K. Bez has always shown an encouraging gesture and my M.A./M.Phil/Ph.D. students did really bear with me for (at least partly) side-tracking their interest. I am thankful to them.

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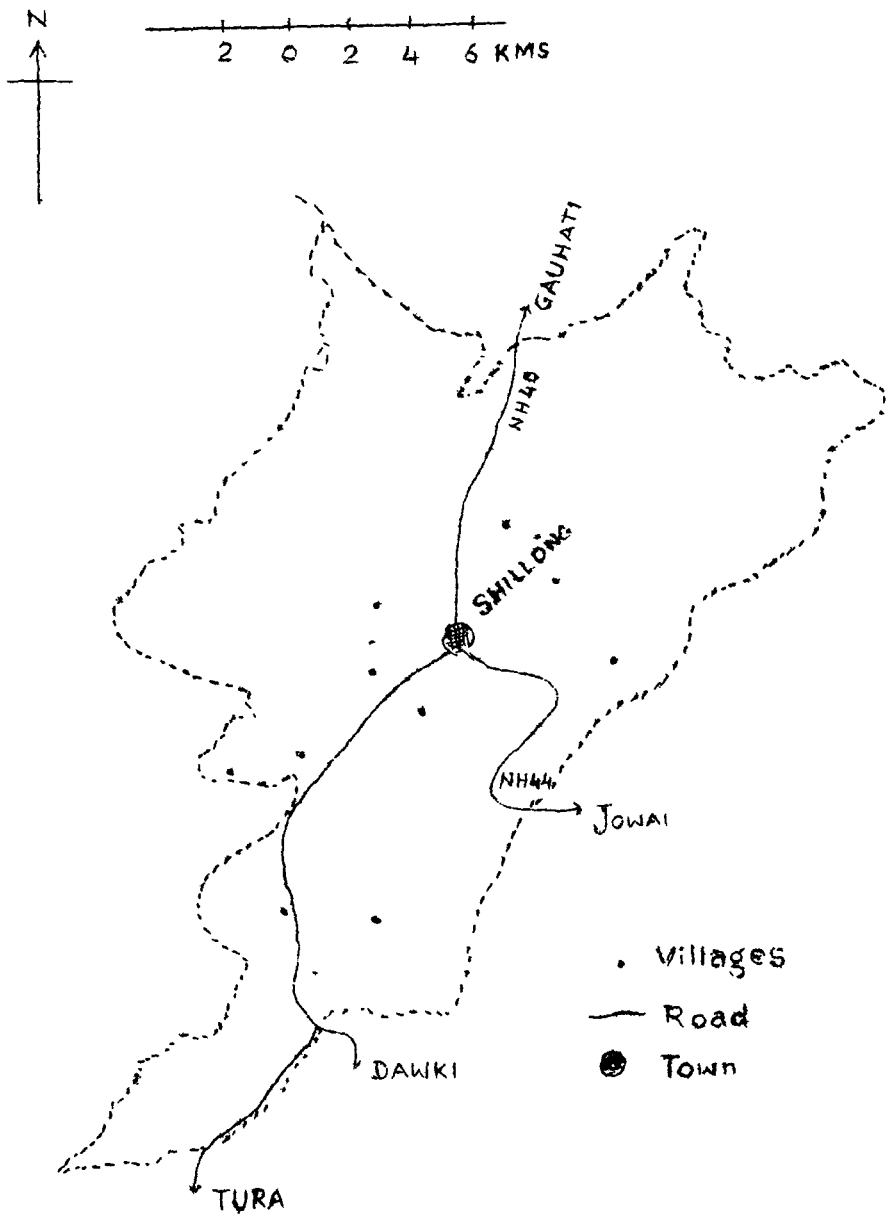


CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Project and the Survey

The volume in hand is the report of the survey carried out in a few villages of Mylliem Block, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, during December 1987 - March 1988. This survey was carried out as a project to prepare a "Socio-economic Profile of Population" in the said C.D. Block of Meghalaya. This project formed a part of a bigger project sponsored by the UGC-NNFPA to the Centre for Adult and Continuing Education, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya.

The prospects of carrying out such a survey to prepare a socio-economic profile of the people/area are certainly great and the usefulness of such a profile is immense. While there are but a few studies of this nature available to those who want to know about the local society and economy of Meghalaya, a study of this type will add to the available literature of interest. From such a study many points emerge that may give us direction to formulate policies, make plans and subsequently help the people of this area to attain a higher level of social and economic well-being.

2. Some Methodological Considerations

In this survey (and report), however, we have not been able to portray all the significant aspects of the society and the economy of the area and the people that we have studied;

nor have we been able to analyse deep-seated reasons and causes and inter-correlations among them, the resultant of which forces and interactions are the indicators that make such a profile. The reasons behind the said limitation of this survey and report therefore, are numerous. The first of them is the fact that from the very beginning this survey was meant for providing an outline or rather a cursory view of the socio-economic profile of the area/people that we have studied. A meagre amount of Rs. 2,500 was allocated to this project which could finance only one investigator, part time and that also for only a small period of time. Such a limitation restricted the scope of the study and therefore we could plan for distributing questionnaires to some selected households of a few villages. In obtaining the filled in questionnaires as well we could obtain only a partial success. That was a time when the area under study had not reached a political equilibrium and we found that the circulation of the questionnaires often aroused a feeling among the people that had some political expectations. When our investigator made it clear to the people that these questionnaires are to be filled in for carrying out a research and this project does not form a programme to provide any material benefit to the people being surveyed — either on behalf of the State Government or that of the Centre we cannot ensure that they will be given some material benefit — the people often discredited the usefulness of our effort to obtain data. The respondents, in many cases, reacted rather coldly. As a result, many of the

questionnaires could not be filled in. In course of the survey we had to change the choice of villages. Some villages originally planned to be surveyed had to be discarded and new one selected. Finally, we could obtain 106 questionnaires from eight villages. Out of these questionnaires thirteen were found to be utterly poor in providing any information and hence we proceeded with 93 questionnaires.

In view of the limitations noted above, we will not indulge in the methodological issues that may be pertinent enough for any scientific study. This is one of the reasons that has refrained us from providing tables and information at the village level. We have pooled the data obtained from all the eight villages and processed the data to draw some inferences at the gross level. We must note that from the very beginning our purpose was not to provide information at village level. We planned to obtain the socio-economic profile at the Block level. To this end, pooling of villages does not detract us from the maintained objectives.

"To what extent and with what degree of bias does this study reveal the parametric profile of the Block" is a question that might be raised. To answer this question we will take only a semi-scientific stand. We will argue that in the cases while we have some idea about the parameters, we have obtained estimates very close to them, though we will not indulge in expressing them in terms of probability or level of significance.

To give some examples, our findings about the average family size, nuclearity of the household, religious faith of the household, dependency ratio, dependency on the sources of livelihood, and some socio-institutional aspects are not at much variance with the parametric magnitudes that have been obtained through Census or other surveys. Further, many types of information that we have gathered here in this survey cannot be compared at all in view of the fact that they have not been recorded or reported elsewhere.

Secondly, while analysing the data we have observed the asymptotic properties in the estimates. The most of the estimates started stabilising around some fixed magnitudes after 55 - 60 questionnaires were included. Such a finding stirred up our analytical sense. As a result, from the pool of 93 we started drawing random samples of gradually increasing sizes and estimating the parameters at each iteration. We observed the asymptotic properties becoming pronounced whenever the sample size grew larger than 55 (or sometimes sixty). From this we conclude that even if we could collect some more samples (by filling in some more questionnaires), our findings could hardly change to any significant degree.

Nevertheless, a methodological question still remains. Suppose, the Block has n types of villages (types defined in terms of parameters). Our eight villages might have been drawn from them which may represent only m (m less than n) types.

Thus n-m types are not represented. Hence the estimates based on the samples do not represent the Block level parameters. We will not make any attempt to defend our study. However, we will point out that the eight villages selected by us are quite varied in characteristics. Some are close to the township while others are far. Some are at the roadside while others are not. Some are smaller in size and others are larger. Such variations may increase the representativeness of these villages. Nevertheless, the methodological question raised above remains grossly unanswered.

3. The Study Area and the Sample Villages

Mylliem Community Development Block is economically and politically central in the East Khasi Hills of the State of Meghalaya. The state capital, Shillong, is centrally located in this Block. Though administratively, Shillong Municipality is different from this Block, but functionally it may not be considered so (socio-economically and politically speaking). In fact, many areas of this Block form the Greater Shillong (the Shillong urban agglomeration).

Mylliem Block is inhabited by over 55 thousand rural people (in rural areas of the Block) and over 30 thousand urban people (in the urban areas forming Greater Shillong). In the rural part of the Block, literacy is about 40 per cent; male literacy is relatively more than the female literacy (44:37).

Dependency ratio is about 0.59 which among the males is substantially lower (.49) than in females (0.70). According to occupation, the distribution of workers is given in the table I.3.1.

Table I.3.1

Occupationwise Distribution of Workers in Mylliem Block (1981 Census)

Occupation	Sex	Cultivators	Agril. Labourers	Forestry, mining, animal husb. service, commerce etc.	Industry & processing	Total
Workers in 1000	Male	5.6	2.7	6.0	0.14	14.4
	Female	5.1	1.5	1.2	0.03	7.8
	Total	10.7	4.1	7.2	0.16	22.2

Unlike many other C.D. Blocks in the East Khasi Hills, Mylliem has threefold advantages to count on. The first is its location very close to the State Capital which has a fairly long cultural and economic history, the second is the relatively less rugged topography and thirdly it gets several spillover benefits from the township of Shillong which is introducing very fast social and economic changes in the rural society of the Block.

To portray an outline of the socio-economic features of this Block we could draw much from the Census reports. However, partly because the census year (1981) had gone far back in the past (in view of the fast changes taking place in the economic

and social profile of the people in the recent years), and partly because we wanted to seek for some information that are not covered in censuses, we decided to draw upon the primary data, collected through sample survey. We decided to select a few villages and in these villages a few households selected rather randomly. (In our case randomness is judged on subjective grounds rather than in the standard statistical manner. The main reasons for such an approach were the pressing constraints of human and financial type).

Initially we started with the following villages:

1. Nongkseh
2. Umpling
3. Mylliem
4. Fifth Mile
5. Fourth Mile
6. Umshing
7. Lawsohtun
8. Umlyngka
9. Nongrim
10. Mawklot
11. Mawlong
12. Mawtawar
13. Twelfth Mile.

We planned to obtain data from any eight of these villages. Finally, we could obtain data from the following of the villages: (1) Nongkseh, (2) Umpling, (3) Umlyngka, (4) Umshing, (5) Fifth Mile, (6) Nongrim, and (7) Mylliem. One village was freshly selected, namely (8) Nongrah.

To the best of our effort to hold on to the criteria of selecting these villages we, nevertheless, do not claim that the selection has been unbiased. However, they fairly represent the villages scattered around the township of Shillong — some very near, some farther; some smaller, some larger, some closer to the roadside and others distant. We thus could control biases as much as they may arise due to population size, or to distances of the villages from the township or their location at distance from the roadside.

4. Organisation of the Report

Proceeding this introductory chapter, the report has been organised into four chapters:

Chapter II : Some Socio-economic Characteristics at the family level.

Chapter III : The Economy of the Households.

Chapter IV : Attitudes, Institutions and Social Participation.

Chapter V : Conclusion.

5. Further Limitations

It would be worth recording what we hold about the report to be its limitations that could be supplemented. First of all, the variety of variables (social and economic) that we have studied mostly in individuality could be studied for the intercorrelations among them. For example, we see that a good

number of respondents have reported to observe some social/ religious restrictions/taboos etc. Does the observance of such restrictions/taboos have some relationship with the level of education or economic status (may be, measured in terms of income)? Does the degree of participation in village level political institutions or social work vary with the level of education or income? Has the educational attainment of the head of the household any impact on the educational attainment of the whole household? Such many questions have not been addressed to in this study. Investment behaviour of the households has not been studied.

A deep study of the opinions on politics could be carried out. Such a study may shed light on the political institutions, beliefs and attitudes.

Many other limitations may go unnoticed at this point. Readers may find some of them just while they go through the report or after some reflection on the findings of the report. All these may make a basis for the further researches.

APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRES

1. Name of the Block : Mylliem

2. Name of the Village :

3. Name of the Head of the Household :

4. Religion :

5. Constitution of the Household :

Sl. No.	Name of the Member	Sex	Age	Relation with Head of the Household	Education Level	Knowledge of Languages
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1.						
2.						
.						
.						
18.						

6. Earning Members (of the family) in service:

Sl. No.	Name of the Member	Profession	Annual Income
1.			
2.			
.			
.			
9.			

7. Is the Household engaged in cultivation:

(a) Holding size:

(b) No. of family members actively engaged in cultivation.

Male	Female	Child (less than 15 years)

(c) Does the Household hire in labourers for working on farm:

No. of labourers	Wage rate

(d) Output raised last year/this year

Crop					
Amount (Rs.)					

(e) Investment in farming (Inputs other than implements)

Item					
Amount (Rs.)					

(f) Did the Household take any loan for farming?

Amount of loan				
Sources				
Interest rate				

(g) Agricultural Implements used by the Household.

Implements				
Amount (Rs.)				

9. No. of Houses owned by the Household.

Sl. No.	House Type	Cost of construc-tion	No. of rooms	For own use	Rented out specify rent received
1.					
2.					
8.					

10. Does the Household run any household industry? Specify the industry:

(a) No. of persons engaged

	A. Male	A. Female	Child
Family Members			
Hired			
Wage			

(b) Turn over from the Industry

	Monthly	Yearly
Amount		

(c) Amount invested:

(d) Source of Investment

Source	Own	Friends/ Relatives	Other persons	Bank	Any other source (specify)
Amount					
Interest rate/amount paid					

11. Does the Household have Income from Livestock?

	Poultry	Piggery	Dairy	Any other
No. of livestock				
Investment (Rs.)				
Cost of maintenance				
Source of Investment				
Turnover in Rs.				

12. Expenditure of the household

Item	Monthly expenditure	Annual expenditure
Cereals		
Pulses		
Vegetables		
Meat, Chicken, Fish		
Fuel/Power		
Clothing		
Education		
Medium		
Kwai, Tobacco, Cigarettes etc.		
Transport		
Rent of house, if any.		
Others, specify		

13. Is any person in the household an active member of any social or religious organisation?

Organisation	Position held					
	Gaon Bura	President/ Chairman	Secre- tary	Trea- surer	Member	Any other specify

14. In what ways any member of the household is exposed to/ connected with the mass/people: Through

(a) Gaonbura

(b) Organisation

(c) Singing

(d) Dancing

(e) Acting

(f) Social work

(g) Physician

(h) Sports

(i) Any other

15. Specify the type of mass media to which the household is exposed.

Radio	Newspapers	Television	Any other

16. Is the household located

	Very Near	Near	Far	Very far
a) Market place				
b) School				
c) Church				
d) Bus Stand				
e) Dispensary				
f) Bar				

17. Does the respondent observe/stick to any social/religious taboo? Specify.

18. What in the opinion of the respondent are the current social/economic/political problems and issues?

19. What measures should be taken to solve these problems:
    (a) Through personal efforts
    (b) Through collective efforts
    (c) Through Government measures
    (d) Through Mass education
    (e) Any other?

20. <u>On Politics</u>
    (a) Do you think that as a citizen you have the responsibility to interfere/involve in politics.
    (b) Is politics a dirty game? Give reasons.
    (c) Should politics be linked with religion/communalism/language etc.
    (d) Are you an active member of any political party?

CHAPTER - II

SOME SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS AT THE FAMILY LEVEL

Introduction

The objective of the discussion and description in this chapter is to portray an outline of the social facet of the society that we are studying in Mylliem Block, Meghalaya. At this juncture, however, we must bear in mind that this facet is made up of the characteristics that may broadly be classified into:

(a) Internal (at the familial/household level: interacting within the household).

(b) External (at the familial/household level: Interacting with other households/families in the society and the society as a whole).

First, let us analyse the internal social facet of the population under study, leaving the second aspect to be discussed later.

1. An Analysis of Family Size (Table II.1)

An analysis of the size of the households reveals that about seven percent of them have three or less number of members The households that have the number of family members ranging from four to six constitute about forty three percent of the total numbers of households studied. About thirty percent of the households have the number of members lying between seven and ten,

both inclusive. Nine percent of households are quite large and have number of members ranging from eleven to fourteen. About three percent of households have reported to be constituted by more than fourteen members. The average size of households computed from the data is seven.

It must be noted that the average size of the household is a little larger in the study area, when compared with that in the state (based on census data).

TABLE II.1

An Analysis of Family Size

No. of family members	Percent of total number of household
1	1.1
2	2.2
3	3.3
4	11.1
5	15.6
6	16.7
7	14.4
8	8.9
9	6.7
10	7.8
11	4.5
12	2.2
13	0
14	2.2
15 & above	3.3
Total	100.00

2. Nuclearity of the Household

It is interesting to observe that about forty four percent of households are non-nuclear, while about fifty six percent of them are nuclear. Here, by nuclear household we understand the type of household which is constituted by the spouses and their children, while by non-nuclear household we understand those ones that include inlaws, grand-children, grand parents, nephews, cousins, nieces, etc. sometimes including servants as well.

Generally, a nuclear family is defined as one which has: (i) spouses, (ii) children, (iii) grand parents of the children. However, we feel that in defining a nuclear family we should include (i) and (ii) only, and hence our definition.

We have classified the households according to the concept noted above and found that about twenty five percent households have grand children/grand parents as their members, seven percent have nephews, nieces, brother, etc, fourteen percent have son-in-laws, daughter-in-laws etc. Four percent households report to have some servants with them.

The reasons of such an accountable percentage of non-nuclear households in the total number of households may be various in kind. The first of them might be purely social on account of which parents or the grand children of the head of the household may stay together. Economic reasons may account for staying of in-laws together. For educational purposes also, nephews, nieces, grand children, etc. may stay with the head of the household.

TABLE II.2

Nuclearity of the Households

Type of Household		Percent in total
I.	Nuclear households	56
II.	Non-Nuclear households	44
	(II.a) have grand children/grand parents	25
	(II.b) have nephews, nieces, brothers etc.	7
	(II.c) have son-in-laws etc.	14
	(II.d) have servants	4

Note: The sum total of II.i would not be 44 because there are households in the group II that fall in (II.a) and (II.b) both, or (II.a) and (II.d) both, and sometimes in (II.a), (II.b) and (II.c) all the three, etc.

3. Distribution of Family Members According to Age

The distribution of population according to age is a very good description of a number of forces that operate within the household. For tracing out such forces we have to study the distribution pattern.

The following table (II.3.a) provides an idea of the distribution of the population according to age. A graphical presentation also has been made.

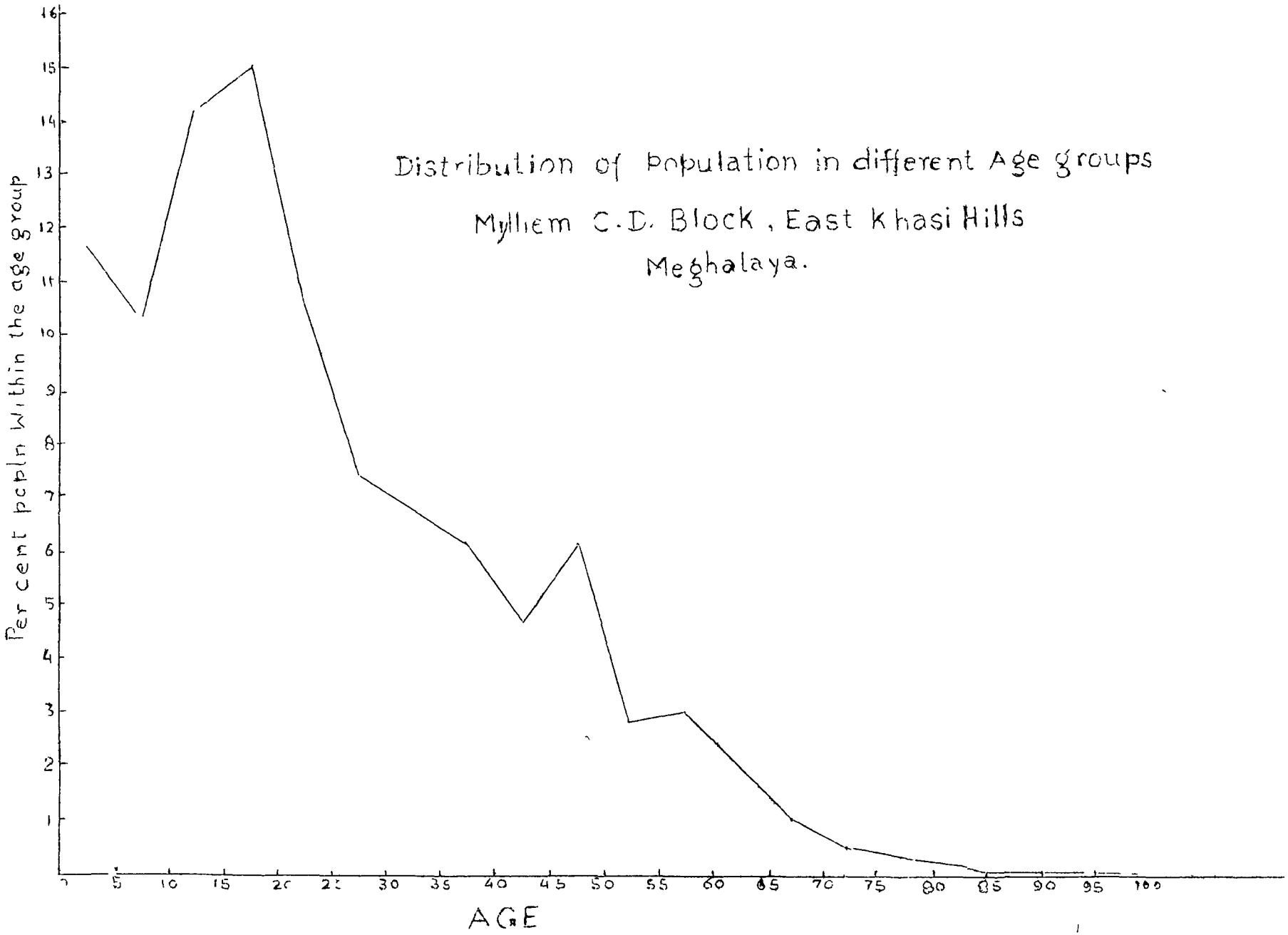

Distribution of population in different Age groups
Mylliem C.D. Block, East Khasi Hills
Meghalaya.
Per cent pop'n within the age group
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100
AGE

TABLE II.3.a

Age Wise Distribution of Population

Sl. No.	Age group (in years)	Percentage	Sl. No.	Age group (in years)	Percentage
1.	0 - 5	11.7	10.	45 - 50	6.1
2.	5 - 10	10.3	11.	50 - 55	2.8
3.	10 - 15	14.2	12.	55 - 60	3.0
4.	15 - 20	15.0	13.	60 - 65	1.9
5.	20 - 25	10.6	14.	65 - 70	1.0
6.	25 - 30	7.4	15.	70 - 75	0.5
7.	30 - 35	4.1	16.	75 - 80	0.3
8.	35 - 40	6.1	17.	80 - 85	0.0
9.	40 - 45	4.7	18.	85 - 90	0.1

An observation of the graph (and table as well) immediately reveals that after the age of 7.5 (years) there is a steep increase in the population upto the age of 17.5. After that it starts a steep decline upto the age of 27.5. Upto 42.5 the decline is gradual. There is again observed a spurt - rather short spanned - after which the decline is more or less gradual.

It is not unlikely that the steep rise in population in the 7.5 to 17.5 age group is due to an influx of student population - grand children, nephews, nieces, etc. The second spurt may be due to economic reasons which reflect themselves, perhaps, in the constitution of households with in-laws.

In view of the exploratory nature and rather limited scope that we have had in this study, it will not be possible to go deep in for testing the hypotheses that may be formulated by these observations. However, we may note that such hypotheses could be formulated and tested in case a further study is carried out in the villages of the Mylliem Block.

Another interesting observation that may be made in this connection is with regard to the percentages of male and female in the different age groups in the sample. In 0-14 age group males constitute about 15.5 percent while females constitute about 18.2 percent of the total population. In 15-30 age group, males constitute 17.7 percent while females constitute about 18.5 percent. These figures in 31-60 age group are 13.2 and 13 (percent) respectively for males and females. In 60+ age group females, by constituting 2.1 percent of the total population, dominate over males who make 1.8 percent of the total population (cf. Table II.3.b.).

TABLE II.3.b

Age Wise Sexwise Distribution of Population

Sl. No.	Age group in years	Percentage of total population		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	0 - 14	15.5	18.2	33.7
2.	15 - 30	17.7	18.5	36.2
3.	31 - 60	13.2	13.0	26.2
4.	61 & above	1.8	2.1	3.9
	Total	48.18	51.82	100.00

4. Religious faith of the household

Among the households in the sample, 88.2 percent have reported that they are christian while 11.8 percent have reported not to be christian; the most of the latter have reported to belong to Khasi religion. Only one percent respondents have reported to be muslim and only one percent has reported the religion as "non-christian".

Of those who have reported of them to belong to the Christian religion, forty six percent have not specified their religious faith as to theirs being a Catholic, or Protestant or Presbytarian, etc. However, 18 percent have reported to be Presbytarians, 3.7 percent to be Protestant, 33.6 percent to be catholics. (cf. table II. 4).

Table II. 4

Religious faith of the households

Sl. No.	Religious faith	Percent of households in the sample
1.	Christians (not specified)	40.86
2.	Christian Presbytarian	16.13
3.	Christian Protestant	3.23
4.	Christian Catholic	22.58
5.	Christian, Roman Catholic	2.15
6.	Christian, Church of God	3.23
7.	Khasi	9.68
8.	Muslim	1.08
9.	Non christian (unspecified)	1.08
10.	Total 1 - 6	88.17
11.	Total 7 - 9	11.83
12.	Total 10 + 11	100.00

5. Sex of the Head of the Household

The Khasi society being matriarchical and matrilineal, it may be considered important to analyse as to how many of the respondent households have reported their "head of the household" to be a male/female. Such a response refers to the perception of the respondent household regarding a familial position with a lot of very important rights and duties and powers, and limitations vested in it.

It is interesting to note (cf. table II. 5) that 31 percent of the households have reported their head of the household to be a female member, while the rest (79 percent) have reported a male member to be the head of the household. Those who reported the household to be headed by a female member happen to be Christians. All households reporting to belong to the Khasi religion are headed by a male member. Among the Christian household, thirty six percent are headed by ladies while 64 percent households are headed by a male member.

Table II. 5

Sex of the Head of the Household

Sex male/female		Religion	Percentage of household
Male	1	Christian	58
	2	Non-Christian (Mainly Khasi)	11
Female	1	Christian	31
	2	Non-Christian (Mainly Khasi)	0

If the sample data collected by us are given a privilege of being relied upon for drawing any inference whatsoever, we must conclude that at an operational level/perception level the male member occupies the head's position in the majority of the families in the study area. Thus, though the society we are studying is surely matrilineal, it cannot however, be said to be a matriarchical one. However, these findings are only tentative in nature owing to the small size of sample drawn by us.

6. Literacy and Educational level

In view of the importanee of literacy and education in determining the performance of the household in social, economie, familial and personal, we have attempted at a rather detailed discussion. We have, therefore discussed literacy and education in the three following sub-sections.

6.1 Literacy and education level of the Head of the Household (cf. Table II. 6.1.a)

It is an important fact to note that about 58 percent of the heads of the households are illiterate and about 21 percent of them are semi-educated. Only 20 percent of them have obtained formal education upto matriculation or above.

The educational attainment of the head of the household has a great role to play in determining economic and social well-being of the family and it may be regretted that a great majority of the heads of the household are either illiterate or semi-educated. This fact immediately calls for the programs of adult education/literacy programs in the study area, which may greatly help the people.

It is further to be noted that the percentage of illiterate heads of the household increase with age. The households that have relatively younger members as their head show better status with regard to the educational attainment of the head of the household. It is obvious (from the table II.6.1.b) that about 46 percent of the heads of the household with age 30 - 40 (years) are illiterate. In 41 - 50 age group, however, about 52 percent of the heads are illiterate. In 51 - 60 age group we find 58 percent of the heads to be illiterate. In 61 plus age group the figure is as high as 80 percent.

Table II. 6.1.a.

Educational Level of the Head of the Household
(Figures in Percentage)

Educational level	Age of the head of the household (years)				
	30 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61 & above	Total
Nil	7.2	20.3	14.5	15.9	58.0
Upto class IX	2.9	10.6	4.8	2.9	21.2
Matriculation	1.5	2.9	1.5	o	5.8
Intermediate or P.U.	1.4	1.5	1.6	0	4.5
Graduate BA/BSC/ B.Com etc.	2.9	2.9	1.5	1.4	8.6
Higher or technical education	0	1.0	1.0	0	2.0
Total	15.8	39.2	24.9	20.0	100.0

Table II.6.1.b.

Age wise literacy/illiteracy of the head of the household

Age group (Years)	Percentage of head of household found to be illiterate
30 - 40	45.6
41 - 50	51.8
51 - 60	58.2
61 & above	79.5
Total	58.0

6.2 Highest Education level of the family

Unlike the educational attainment of the head of the family, however, the highest level of education attained in the family is slightly more encouraging. Only one percent of the households has the highest level of educational attainment as low as nil. About 45 percent of the households have attained non-matr.. level of education at its highest. Sixteen percent households have attained matriculation as their maximum level of education. The table II.6.2 gives a detail of these information.

Table 6.2

Maximum level of education in the Family

Max level of education	Percentage of Household	Cumulative percentage
Nil	1	1
Under matriculation	45	46
Matriculation	16	62
PUC/Intermediate	17	79
Graduation BA/B.Sc/B.Com	20	99
Higher/Technical	1	100
Total	100	

6.3 Percentage of literate members in the family

An analysis of the data collected by us reveals that in case of 40 percent households, all the members are literate. (For finding these percentages we have included only those members whose age exceed 5 years). In case of 29 percent families the percentage of illiterate members range between 0 - 25 (lower limit excluded). In case of 25 percent families, illiteracy is to the extent of 25 - 50 percent (25 excluded). In case of 5 percent families, illiteracy is of the order of 50 - 75 percent (50 excluded). However, only one percent of families have zero literacy The table II.6.3 gives a view of the same.

Table 6.3

Extent of Illiteracy/Literacy

Percent members in the family found to be illiterate	0	0 - 25	25 - 50	50 - 75	75 - 100	0 - 100 (Total)
Percentage of household in the group	40	29	25	5	1	100

Among those who are reportedly illiterate, adults abound in number. Of course, a few in the 6 - 14 age group too are found to be illiterate.

While the problem of adult literacy can well be understood and possibly may suggest for organisation of adult education/literacy programmes to ameliorate the situation, the problem

of illiteracy among the younger members (6 - 14 age group) is a serious matter of concern. It is to be remembered that Meghalaya has a good record in literacy and education. The villages nearer to the township of Shillong should fare better on account of the galaxy of schools in the town. However, illiteracy of 6 - 14 age group people; perhaps rooted in the economic background of the family, is indicative of the need for interest to be taken to ameliorate the situation.

7. A summary of chapter II

Before closing this chapter let us summarise the findings of this chapter.

We found that the average family size is of seven members, the distribution is flat (almost) at the top. Fifty six percent of the households are nuclear families and the rest non-nuclear ones. The age structure of population in the families has two spurts, one very sizeable and acute in the 7 - 18 age group and another small and less acute 42 - 47 age group. The great majority of the households belong to the Christian religion. The society, as perceived by the respondents is not matriarchical as the majority of the households are headed by the male member. There is a substantial percentage of the heads of the household illiterate which increases with the age of the head. The highest education received in the family is matriculation or below in case of 62 percent families, bulging in the undermatriculation class. As high as 94 percent households have half the number of members illiterate, which fact calls for an immediate attention.

CHAPTER - III

THE ECONOMY OF THE HOUSEHOLDS

Introduction

The main concern of this chapter is to explore the characteristic features of the households in the study area with regard to their ways and means of obtaining and disposing off material resources for attaining material well-being. Although it would be unreal to think the independence of these ways and means from the social aspects/characteristics of the household, a seperate discussion may, however, be required for driving the discussion to the point to obtain some tenable conclusions. Nevertheless, we must keep in mind that economic characteristics are shaped up and also shape the social and familial characteristics of the household. Literacy, educational attainment, nuclearity or otherwise of the family, etc. are determined by (and also determine) the economic characteristics like dependency ratio, employment, kind of employment, income, expenditure pattern, ownership of economic resources, capability of organising economic endeavours, productivity. Economic characteristics determine participation and role in social organisation, exposure of the household to mass-media, belief system etc., and in turn, the latter ones determine economic prospects and performance of the household.

1. Dependency Ratio

In a household all the members are not, usually, engaged in economically remunerative activities and hence some of them may depend on other members (who earn) for obtaining the means of their personal material well-being. The ratio of the number of members not earning to the number of members earning provides a good measure of the degree of dependency in the family. In the study area, the observed dependency ratio is provided with in the table III.1.a. From the figures in the above table it is clear that we have defined dependency ratio in a different way than it is usually done. The table (III.1.a) reads that 5.38 percent households have zero dependency ratio meaning thereby that all the members of the household are earning members. Next, 1.08 percent households have dependency ratio lying between 0-0.25, that is to say that there is one member (or less) not earning for every four earning member. As the table progresses to the right, some where in the middle, dependency ratio becomes more or less equal to one which means that for every one earning member in the household, there is one member dependent, not earning. The ratio grows higher to the order of nine meaning that for one earning member there are nine dependents.

TABLE III.1.a

Dependency ratio $\left(\frac{\text{No. of members not earning}}{\text{No. of members earning}}\right)$

Sl. No.	Ratio (Class)	Percent households
1.	0.00	5.38
2.	0-.25	1.08
3.	.25-.50	6.45
4.	0.50-0.75	4.30
5.	0.75-1.0	11.83
6.	1.00-1.50	16.13
7.	1.50-2.00	19.35
8.	2.00-3.00	12.90
9.	3.00-4.00	9.00
10.	4.00-5.00	7.53
11.	5.00-6.00	2.15
12.	6.00-7.00	1.08
13.	7.00-8.00	0
14.	8.00-9.00	1.08
Total	0-9.00	100.00

Of course, dependency ratio could be defined as a ratio of the member of not earning member to the total number of members in the family when the range of measure will lie between zero to unity (both inclusive). Viewed as such, the table III.1.b is constructed.

TABLE III.1.b.

Dependency ratio = ($\frac{\text{No. of not earning members}}{\text{Total No. of Members}}$)

Sl. No.	Class	Percentage of Households
1.	0 - .1	4.3
2.	.1 - .2	1.08
3.	.2 - .3	4.3
4.	.3 - .4	3.2
5.	.4 - .5	5.4
6.	.5 - .6	17.2
7.	.6 - .7	26.9
8.	.7 - .8	21.5
9.	.8 - .9	14.0
10.	.9 - 1.0	2.2
Total	0 - 1.0	100.0

To record some more details about dependency we have tabulated the data in a two-way table (Table III.1.c) the columns of which refer to the number of family members who earn and rows refer to the total number of members in the family. The cluster is interesting.

If we think of partitioning the table III.1.c into 4 subtables, halving in both the dimensions, we find that in the north western cell there is a cluster. This cluster fades away as we move away from this cell. Some interesting inferences may be drawn from this observation. Dependency ratio in the larger families (households) is higher than that in the relatively smaller families may be one of such interesting inferences.

TABLE III.1.c

Two Way Classification of Dependency

(Figures in the cells refer to rounded off percent to total) sum up may not be 100 due to rounding off)

	No. of family members earning (a)								
No. of members in the family (b)	b \ a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
	4	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	9
	5	4	11	2	0	1	0	0	0	18
	6	2	9	1	2	1	1	0	0	16
	7	2	5	4	3	1	0	1	0	16
	8	1	3	2	4	1	0	0	0	11
	9	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	6
	10	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	6
	11	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
	12	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total		19	36	20	15	5	2	2	1	100

2. Distribution of Households According to the Source of Livelihood

An analysis of the sources from which the sample households draw their livelihood reveals that the majority of them depend on service, animal husbandry and agriculture. The following tables (III.2.1 through III.2.13) give a description of the distribution of households drawing their livelihood from different sectors.

Table III.2.1

Households (Percentage) Drawing on Service

Code* (S)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Percent Households	10.6	14.9	19.15	12.8	4.3	1.1	62.80

*The table should be read thus:

Service (S) is a source of livelihood for 62.85 percent of households, either in part or in full. In case of 10.6% households, service is the one and only one source of income and employment. For 14.9% households, service is one of the two sources from which they draw their income. For 19.15 percent households, service is one of the three sources from which they draw their income and so on.

Table III.2.2.

Households (percent) drawing on Agriculture

Code* (A)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Percent Households	3.19	19.15	29.79	13.83	4.26	1.06	71.28

*The table should be read thus:

Agriculture (A) is a source of livelihood for 71.28 percent of households either in part or in full. Of the total households surveyed, 3.19 percent depend solely on agriculture; 19.15% have agriculture as one of the two sources of income; 29.79 percent have agriculture as one of the three sources of income and so on.

Table III. 2.3

Households (percent) Drawing on Animal Husbandry

Code* (H)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Percent Households	0.00	15.96	24.47	13.83	4.26	1.06	59.58

*Table should be read analogously to the tables III.2.1 and III.2.1.

Table III.2.4

Households (percent) Drawing on Rent

Code* (R)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Percent Households	0.00	5.32	6.38	5.32	4.26	1.06	17.27

*Table should be read analogously to Tables III.2.1, etc.

Table III.2.5

Households (percent) Drawing on Industry

Code* (I)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Percent Households	0.00	2.13	1.06	1.06	1.06	0.00	5.32

*Table should be read analogously to Table III.2.1.

Table III.2.6

Households (percent) Drawing on Commerce & Business

Code* (C)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Percent Households	0.00	6.38	8.51	6.38	2.13	1.06	24.46

*Table should be read analogously to Table III.2.1.

Table III.2.7

Households (percent) Drawing on Daily Wages

Code* (W)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Percent Households	0.00	3.19	6.38	2.13	1.06	1.06	13.83

*Table should be read analogously to Table III.2.1.

Table III.2.8

Households (percent) Drawing on Carpentry, Smithy etc.

Code* (T)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Percent Households	0.00	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.06

*Table should be read analogously to Table III.2.1.

A review of the tables III.2.1 through III.2.8 reveals that agriculture provides livelihood to the maximum percentage of households (71.28) followed by service (62.80), animal husbandry (59.58), commerce and business (24.46), rent (17.27), daily wages (13.83) and industry (5.32). Technical occupations like carpentry provides livelihood to a meagre percentage of households (1.06). For a ready reference, the Table III.2.9 has been provided below.

Table III 2.9

Structure of Source of Livelihood to Households

Code* Sector (Source)	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Agriculture	3.19	19.15	29.79	13.83	4.26	1.06	71.28
Service	10.60	14.90	19.15	12.80	4.30	1.06	62.80
Animal Husbandry	0.00	15.96	24.47	13.83	4.26	1.06	59.58
Commerce	0.00	6.38	8.51	6.38	2.13	1.06	24.46
Rent	0.00	5.32	6.38	5.32	4.26	1.06	17.27
Daily Wages	0.00	3.19	6.38	2.13	1.06	1.06	13.83
Industry	0.00	2.13	1.06	1.06	1.06	0.00	5.32
Carpentry etc.	0.00	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.06

It is interesting to analyse how the eight types of sources are combined by the households. From the eight ones taking two at a time, there could be 28 combinations. However, only 12 have been observed. The table below gives a view of the same.

Table III.2.10

Combination of Two Sources of Livelihood

Combination	AH	SA	SR	SC	RC	SI	ST	HC	AW	SH	HW	CW	Total
Percent of Households	12.8	5.32	3.19	2.13	2.13	2.13	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	34.04

Table III.2.11

Combination of Three Sources of Livelihood

Combination	SAH	AHC	SAR	AHW	SRH	ARC	ARW	SAW	SAI	HCW	ARH	ACW	Total
Percent of Households	13.83	5.32	2.13	2.13	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	31.92

Table III.2.12

Combination of Four Sources of Livelihood

Combination	SARH	SAHC	SAHW	AIHC	Total
Percent of Households	5.32	5.32	2.13	1.06	13.83

Table III.2.13

Combination of Five Sources of Livelihood

Combination	SARHC	SAIRH	SARHW	Total
Percent of Households	5.32	1.06	1.06	7.45

Only one percent of households are found to combine six sources of livelihood (SARHCW). Higher order combination are not observed in the sample. A review of the tables III.2.10 through III.2.13 reveals that most of the households have two or three sources of income.

Why do particular combinations emerge and prevail with larger frequency than others do? This question can well be raised and investigated. We see that S, A, H and C frequently make combination. Others make less frequent combination. However, we would restrict ourselves here not to pursue this quest at this juncture.

3. Relationship among various sectors/sources of Income and Employment

It would be interesting to analyse the degree of association between different sources of livelihood in the study area. This analysis may shed some light on the reasons why certain sources of livelihood make frequent combination and why certain others do so less frequently.

We find that correlation between S and C is -0.22 while correlation between I and C is 0.42, and that between H and C

is 0.50. Correlations between any two other sources of livelihood are very small, less than 0.1 in (absolute) magnitude. In fact, organisation of industry, commerce and animal husbandry require entrepreneurial ability and greater degree of the need for achievement (in McClelland's terms). Such an ability is usually not a characteristic feature of those household who depend on service or are traditionally engaged in agriculture.

But one must not conclude from these correlations that they are indicating to any causal connection. The explanation given above is in the vein of a reflection and hypothesis that may be tested if enough information needed for such a study is collected.

We have also observed that correlations of the size of family with income from service, agriculture, rent, animal husbandry and commerce are positive, though quite weak (0.10 to 0.17). That would indicate that with an increase in income from these sources, there is an increase in family size. However, such a conclusion should not be taken very strongly.

4. Household Income (net) from Different Sources of Livelihood

In the earlier section we have noted that service, agriculture, animal husbandry and rent constitute the major sources of income and employment to the households in the study area (as far as revealed by the samples drawn by us). However, it may be noted that this observation may have variances at an individual household level. In this section, therefore, we

present the percentage distribution of households according to the class of percentage income drawn from different sources.

Table III.4.1

Distribution of Households According to Percentage of Total Income Drawn from Different Sources

Percent of total income drawn	From (Figures in these cells are % of total numbers of Households)							
	S	A	H	R	C	W	I	T
Exactly Zero	35.48	29.03	39.78	77.42	74.19	87.10	94.62	98.94
0 - 9.99	1.06	18.28	23.66	13.98	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
10-19.99	7.53	15.05	17.20	3.23	5.38	2.15	1.06	0.00
20-29.99	2.15	9.68	3.23	2.15	4.30	3.23	1.06	0.00
30-39.99	6.45	6.45	6.45	0.00	2.15	1.06	0.00	0.00
40-49.99	4.30	4.30	2.15	2.15	3.23	2.23	0.00	0.00
50-59.99	6.45	2.15	0.00	0.00	4.30	1.06	0.00	0.00
60-69.99	7.53	3.23	2.15	1.06	0.00	2.15	2.15	0.00
70-79.99	5.38	3.23	3.23	0.00	3.23	1.06	1.06	0.00
80-89.99	7.53	3.23	1.06	0.00	0.00	1.06	0.00	0.00
90-99.99	5.38	2.15	1.06	0.00	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
Exactly 100.00	10.75	3.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

A perusal of the table III.4.1 reveals that 35.48 per cent households draw zero percent of their income from service. About 1 percent (1.06) households draw from services the amount of their income that is lying between zero and 9.99 percent of their total income derived from a multiplicity of sources, and so on.

5. Distribution of Households in Net Total Income Classes

It would be interesting to observe the percentage distribution of households in the net income class. The table III.5.1 gives a comprehensive view of the same.

Table III.5.1

Distribution of Households in the Net Total Income Classes

Income in Rs. 1000	Percent of households to total households	Cumulative percentage
0 - 10	11.83	11.83
10 - 20	18.28	30.11
20 - 30	15.05	45.16
30 - 40	18.28	63.44
40 - 50	11.82	75.27
50 - 60	5.38	80.65
60 - 70	3.23	83.87
70 - 80	3.23	87.10
80 - 100	4.30	91.40
100 - 125	3.23	94.62
125 - 150	4.30	98.93
150 - 200	0.00	98.93
200 - 300	1.07	100.00

6. Distribution of Households in Net Per Capita Income Classes

The table III.6.1 provides us with a comprehensive view of the distribution of households according to net per capita income.

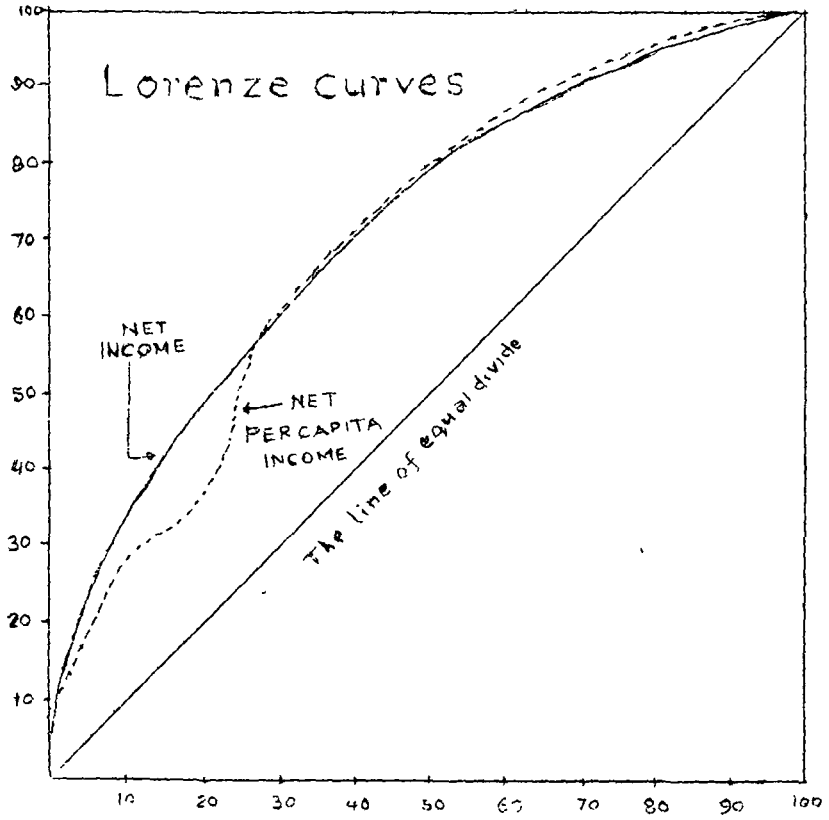
Table III.6.1.

Distribution of Households According to Net Per Capita Income

Per capita net income in Rs.1000	Percent of Households to total number of households	Cumulative percentage
0 - 1	3.23	3.23
1 - 2	11.83	15.05
2 - 3	12.90	27.96
3 - 4	16.13	44.09
4 - 5	12.90	56.99
5 - 6	7.53	64.52
6 - 7	9.67	74.19
7 - 8	4.30	78.49
8 - 10	7.53	86.02
10 - 12.5	4.30	90.32
12.5 - 15.0	3.23	93.55
15.0 - 20.0	2.15	95.70
20.0 - 30.0	2.15	97.85
30.0 - 40.0	2.15	100.00

Inequality in Income-distribution

Mylliem C.D. Block, E. Khasi Hills, Meghalaya



A comparison of table III.5.1 with table III.6.1 reveals that the distribution of income is more skewed than that of percapita income. It is likely to be so as the number of members in the household decrease with an increase in per capita income.

As a matter of fact, there is observed a positive correlation between size of the family and income (net) of the household. The value of the coefficient is 0.279. The value of correlation between per capita income and number of members in the household is -0.12 and that between income and per capita income is 0.86. These facts explain as to why the degree of skewness of per capita income is less than that of income.

In the literature on the topic, there is a convention to measure the degree of inequality in distribution. Such a measurement is made by the Gini Coefficient or the Lorenz Curve. The Lorenz Curves of income and per capita income are given in the Graphs that follow. These graphs also indicate that the degree of inequality in per capita income is less than that in income.

7. Sex-Composition of Earning Members in the Study Area

Males outnumber females as earning members in the household. It is found that about 56 percent of earning members are male while the rest (44 percent) are female.

In general, earning members are adult (over age 15). However, about 3 percent of households have reported that children too participate in work, all such households have reported their participation in agricultural activities.

A study of the sex composition of earning members classified according to the source (sector) of employment reveals that in service males are as large as twice of the females. However, females outnumber males in business. In agriculture, they participate almost in equal proportions. In daily wage earning males are in a great majority. In carpentry, males alone participate. The table III.7.1 gives a comprehensive view of the same. In total, service and agriculture employ a great majority of workers.

Table III.7.1

Sexwise Employmentwise Distribution of Working Members

Profession or the type of Employment	Male	Female	Total
Service (S)	23.53	12.94	36.47
Agriculture (A)	20.00	19.61	39.61
Commerce & Business (C)	4.71	8.24	12.94
Daily Wage Earning (W)	6.67	2.75	9.41
Carpentry	1.57	0.00	1.57
Total	56.47	43.52	100.00

Note: Figures in cells are percentage of households to the total number of households.

It may be observed that various sectors/sources of income and employment have a disproportionate role in providing income vis-a-vis employment. Table III.7.2 provides a view of the same.

Table III.7.2

Percentage of Income and Employment Provided by Different Sources

	Sources					
	S	A	C	W	T	Total
Employment	36.47	38.61	11.94	8.41	1.57	97.00
Income	40.79	19.39	11.31	4.39	0.25	76.13

Such a disproportionality may be caused by various reasons. First of them may be due to the fact that while rent provides about 4 percent of the total income to the households, in the study area, it does not provide any employment of the manpower of the owner of the house/land. Of course, a little differently, animal husbandry generates very less employment in the study area but it generates about 13 percent of the total income in the economy. Attending pigs, poultry or even dairy is not considered to be an employment by the respondents. Industry is very much concentrated among a few households and provides employment only to a few of the members of the household. Of course, industry generates only a meagre amount of income in the economy.

8. Housing

An analysis of data collected by us reveals that about 10 percent of the households are residing in rented house. Average rent paid for housing is about Rs. 2300 per year or Rs. 192 per month. About 25 percent of the households have rented out a portion (attached or unattached to their own residential building) of their house, and 75 percent of the total number of households use their houses for their own residence. The distribution of the total number of households according to the number of rooms (inclusive of both room/rooms) is obtained as follows:

Table III.8.1

Distribution of Households (% to total)

According to rooms in the residential house

No. of rooms	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
Percentage of households	1.5	17.9	29.9	23.9	16.4	4.5	1.5	0.0	3.0	1.5	100.00

The average (modal) number of rooms in the residential house is four, while the median is five. No significant degree of correlation is found between the number of members in the household and the number of rooms in the residential house. Income too has no significant correlation with the number of rooms the households live in.

9. Consumption Pattern

It is interesting to analyse as to how do the households in the study area spend their income for meeting their needs. For such an analysis, we have obtained data on the household expenditure on the following types of commodity.

(a) Cereals
(b) Pulses
(c) Vegetables
(d) Meat, fish, chicken, etc.
(e) Fuel (for cooking and lighting)/energy
(f) Cloth/Clothes/garments, etc.
(g) Education
(h) Medicines
(i) Kwai, pan, cigarettes, etc.
(j) Transport
(k) Rent on the house they live in
(l) Any other/miscellaneous.

The sum of expenditure on the above mentioned twelve groups of item (annually) has been defined as total expenditure on consumption.

First, we have tried to find out the relationship between annual net household income and annual expenditure (consumption). We have run regression analysis for linear and log linear specifications. We have thus obtained two equations:

$$C = 18692.13 + 0.1203Y;\ R^2 = 0.163$$
$$\quad\ (8.24)\quad (3.30)$$

$$\text{Log}\ (C) = 2.5328 + 0.3966\ \log(Y);\ R^2 = 0.382$$
$$\qquad\quad (8.24)\quad\ (5.88)$$

Where C is the consumption expenditure (annual) and Y is the total (annual) net income of the household. We find that both regression equations have the estimates of parameters that are significantly different from zero at 1% level of significance (below the equations, figures in the brackets are computed t values).

However, we may note that consumption expenditure is not a function of net income alone. It is determined by the number of family members in the household as well. In view of this, we have specified the regression model where C is a function of Y and F (family size, i.e. number of members in the household) both. As before we have worked out two regression equations. They are:

$$C = 7055.719 + 0.07146\ Y + 1939.229\ F;\ R^2 = 0.406$$
$$\quad\ (2.25)\quad\ (2.19)\qquad\ (4.74)$$

$$\text{Log}(C) = 2.962 + 0.1887Y^{*} + 0.6332F^{*};\ R^2 = 0.617$$
$$\qquad\quad (11.62)\quad (2.93)\quad (5.82)$$

As usual, figures in the brackets beneath the regression estimates (of parameters) are the computed t values. We observe that the estimated values are significantly different from zero. The elasticity of consumption expenditure with respect to income is

much smaller than that with respect to family size. The marginal expenditure per member of the family is about Rs. 1940 (per year).

Turning to expenditure on different (groups of) commodities we observe that:

(a) $C(\text{Cereal}) = 1301.002 - 0.00441\ Y + 613.72\ F;\ R^2 = 0.097$
$\qquad\qquad\qquad\quad (0.66) \quad (2.37) \quad (0.21)$

and

$C^*(\text{Cereal}) = 2.89 + 0.013Y^* + 0.84\ F^*;\ R^2 = 0.430$
$\qquad\qquad\qquad\quad (7.73) \quad (0.14) \quad (5.28)$

(b) $C(\text{Pulses}) = 50.10 + 0.00026Y + 49.01\ F;\ R^2 = 0.04$

$C^*(\text{Pulses}) = \text{not suitable}$

(c) $C(\text{Veg}) = 45.72 + 0.00447Y + 111.48\ F;\ R^2 = 0.332$
$\qquad\qquad\quad (0.21) \quad (1.99) \quad (3.96)$

$C^*(\text{Veg}) = -0.27 + 0.493Y^* + 1.07\ F^*;\ R^2 = 0.390$
$\qquad\qquad\quad (0.34) \quad (2.44) \quad (3.14)$

(d) $C(\text{meat}) = 1846.59 + 0.0075Y + 305.29\ F;\ R^2 = 0.320$
$\qquad\qquad\quad (3.37) \quad (1.31) \quad (4.25)$

$C^*(\text{Meat}) = 2.4 + 0.21Y^* + 0.46\ F^*;\ R^2 = 0.362$
$\qquad\qquad\quad (6.13) \quad (2.31) \quad (2.96)$

(e) $C\ (\text{Fuel}) = 508.66 + 0.0057Y + 43.99\ F;\ R^2 = 0.172$
$\qquad\qquad\quad (2.25) \quad (2.41) \quad (1.49)$

$C^*(\text{Fuel}) = 1.756 + 0.197Y^* + 0.372F^*;\ R^2 = 0.222$
$\qquad\qquad\quad (3.98) \quad (1.76) \quad (1.97)$

(f) $C(\text{Cloth}) = 608.99 + 0.0073Y + 217.38\ F;\ R^2 = 0.450$
$\qquad\qquad\quad (1.62) \quad (1.86) \quad (5.52)$

$C^*(\text{Cloth}) = 1.847 + 0.212Y^* + 0.721F^*;\ R^2 = 0.557$
$\qquad\qquad\quad (5.65) \quad (2.56) \quad (5.16)$

(g) C(education) = 814.60 + 0.00108Y + 228.94F; R^2 = 0.097
(1.05) (0.13) (2.25)

C*(education) = 2.096 - 0.330Y* + 2.97F*; R^2 = 0.318
(1.40) (0.87) (4.63)

(h) C(Medicine) = - 51.922 + 0.00112Y + 126.45F; R^2 = 0.190
(0.176) (0.36) (3.27)

(i) C(Kwai) = 824.424 + 0.0072Y + 106.196F; R^2 = 0.222
(2.55) (2.12) (2.51)

(j) C(Transport) = 749.11 + 0.024Y + 126.57F; R^2 = 0.140
(0.775) (2.37) (1.00)

Note that in the above equation starred variables represent the logarithmic value (base e) of the original variable such that

C* = log(c); F* = log(F) and Y* = log(y).

In some cases both linear and log linear versions are reported. In case they are reported for linear specification only, it may be understood that log version was not suitable.

It would be interesting to keep on records the correlation coefficients of expenditure on one commodity with other ones. For this we have prepared a table (III.9.1) of correlation coefficients. We restrict ourselves to reporting them and avoid interpretations on account of paucity of space. We presume that the readers will interpret them for themselves.

Table III.9.1

Inter Correlation Matrix of Consumption Expenditure

	F[a]	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	Total expenditure
F	1.00	0.31	0.20	0.53	0.55	0.29	0.64	0.31	0.43	0.40	0.23	0.13	-0.02	0.59
a		1.00	0.05	0.20	0.16	0.03	0.20	0.35	0.18	0.38	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.73
b			1.00	0.27	0.13	0.30	0.24	0.10	0.21	-0.02	-0.09	0.00	0.43	0.24
c				1.00	0.41	0.60	0.38	0.21	0.42	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.11	0.56
d					1.00	0.23	0.44	0.18	0.39	0.32	0.54	0.00	-0.05	0.58
e						1.00	0.28	0.30	0.31	0.28	0.20	0.38	0.31	0.43
f							1.00	0.26	0.24	0.46	0.21	0.03	0.04	0.53
g								1.00	0.18	0.42	0.19	0.10	-0.04	0.59
h									1.00	0.19	0.25	0.36	0.05	0.47
i										1.00	0.31	0.18	0.25	0.65
j											1.00	0.03	-0.12	0.53
k												1.00	0.27	0.23
l													1.00	0.17
Total Expenditure														1.00

Note: F = Family size; a = expenditure on cereals; b = expenditure on pulses; c = expenditure on vegetable; d = expenditure on meat, fish, chicken etc. .... and so on as coded in the opening remarks of this section.

Concluding Remarks

To summarise this chapter we reiterate that we studied the dependency ratio in the study area and analysed the income generating and employment generating behaviour of various sectors like service, agriculture, and so on. We also analysed distribution of income and per capita income in the study area. Further, we analysed the consumption pattern, revealed by expenditure on consumption of different commodity groups. In general, we found that dependency ratio is increasing with family size. We also found that services and agriculture provide major portion of income and employment in the economy that we are studying. So far the expenditure on consumption is concerned, we find family size to be a more powerful explanatory variable than income is found to be.

CHAPTER - IV

ATTITUDES, INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

1. Introduction

In this chapter our main concern is to analyse as to how the households participate in the social activities, provide leadership or support to the leaders, hold opinion and attitude regarding social realities and ideals and so on. By the term "institution" we understand the settled belief of the community in thinking and acting. Institutions have a great role in the formation, sustenance and development of the society and the economy and hence we have put some effort to study them.

In this regard we must note that the data collected by us is the sole basis of the finding that we obtain and report in this chapter. We must also keep in mind that the proclaimed beliefs and revealed attitudes by means of a survey like the one we have carried out, need not represent the reality. The reason is that in general, there can be no rule regarding the relationship between proclaimed beliefs and attitudes and true ones. Only a participant observation may reveal the reality.

2. Membership of Social/Religious Organisation

It is interesting to know that the sample households have shown a significant degree of involvement in social, political and religious activities in the study area. Women welfare organisations and sport/game clubs are abundantly taken

part in by the respondents/family/household members. In case of 27 percent households there is at least one member taking part in such activities.

In village level sociopolitical organisations also there is observed a significant degree of participation. Either as a Gaon Bura (Village Headman) or as a member/treasurer, secretary, etc. of the village organisation, the households taking part make 29 percent of the total member of households.

However, we have observed a pattern in the participation of the family members in such sociopolitical and religious (mainly church) organisations. In some families many members are participating while in some other families one or two are participating and in still other families, no member is participating. Thus, the observed participation is not ubiquitous - nor it is highly concentrated. The table given below (No. IV.2.1) provides an idea about participation concentration.

Table IV.2.1.

Participation in Sociopolitical/Religious Organisation

Number of members participating	0	1	2	3	4	More than 4	Total
Percent of households	54	27	12	5	1	1	100

A few organisations like Artists Guild are joined only by a few households. Participation in Church Council and Youth Organisations is remarkable. However, political (at village level, Durbar) participation is more frequent than in any other type. One of the reasons of the observed participation level in village political organisation is the role of this organisation in social, political and economic life of the village people. The observed rate of participation may suitably be planned to promote the social, economic and political life of the people in these villages.

3. The Activity Through Which the Household is Connected to the Society

In response to the question as to in what ways any member of the respondent household is exposed to/connected with the mass or people, the respondent households have given the following information.

Table IV.3.1.

Action/Role Connecting the Household with Society

Sl.No.	Action	Percent of households
1.	Gaonbura	5.5
2.	Social/Political Organisation	4.6
3.	Singing	1.8
4.	Dancing	0.9
5.	Acting	0.9
6.	Social work	11.9
7.	Physician	0.9

S.No.	Action	Percent of households
8.	Sports	6.4
9.	Fine Arts	0.9
10.	Shop	0.9
11.	Miscellaneous	0.9
12.	None	64.2
	Total	100.0

We observe that over 60 percent households do not acknowledge their relationship with the society through any of the actions listed in the questionnaire. However, in view of the Table IV.2.1, this is inconsistent. The reasons of this inconsistency may be due to vagueness in the questionnaire, or it may be due to the inconsistency in the mind of the respondent in recognising his role (especially with regard to youth organisation).

Social work, sociopolitical organisation and sport take the largest share in connecting the households to the society. The rest of the activities make an insignificant proportion at their individual level. The predominance of the relationship of the households with the society on account of political/social organisation and social service, and sports indicate a particular type of institution, the first type, perhaps, taken part in by older members and the second, perhaps by younger members.

4. Exposure to Mass Media

An exposure of the household to the mass-media has a great role in shaping the social, political and cultural personality of the household. We have observed that 90 percent of the households are not exposed to any of the mass-media like Radio, Newspaper, Television or any other. The table IV.4.1 gives the distribution of households according to their exposure to the mass-media.

Table IV.4.1

Exposure of the households to the Mass Media

Media	Percent of households
Radio only	6.45
Television only	0.00
Newspaper only	1.08
Radio & T.V. only	0.00
Radio & Newspaper only	0.00
T.V. & Newspaper only	0.00
Radio, T.V. & Newspaper	1.08
Any other	1.08
None	90.32
Total	100.00

5. Observance of Social/Religious taboos, etc.

In response to this question we have obtained answers very varied in content. First, about 65 percent of the households have either kept the question unanswered, or have reported 'None', 'Nil', 'do not care', 'we are Christian', 'we do not know their origin and hence do not believe' and so on. The rest of the households have reported to observe some such practices/ taboos/beliefs etc. Among them, the percentage of those who observe the following is about fifty.

i) Not to fill in lime when it is night.

ii) Seeds not to be sown/crops not to be harvested on Bara Bazar day.

iii) Not to marry in certain specified clans.

iv) Not to indulge in extramarital sex.

v) Not to quarrel, boil fresh meat, bring wine to home when somebody at home is suffering from measles.

Those who observe the following are distributed among the rest.

i) Not to clean soot by spinsters.

ii) Not to take snap for three persons in a group.

iii) Not to eat beef.

iv) Not to cut nails on Bara Bazar day.

v) To sow seeds only when there is no moonlight.

vi) Not to eat pumpkin and millet resembling grass.

vii) Not to start journey if a black cat has crossed the way.

viii) Not to touch corpse when wife is pregnant.

ix) Not to tell turmeric at night while buying or borrowing it.

x) Young women are not to attend the funeral of a person dying premature death or mysterious death.

xi) Not to travel in a group of three.

xii) Not to introduce fresh pan or dry fish before harvesting day.

xiii) It is a sacrilege that a cock crows at the midnight.

xiv) Not to throw rubbish during night time.

xv) Not to start/complete any work on Bara Bazar day.

xvi) A girl will not whistle in presence of her elder brother.

xvii) While cutting firewood, not to start from bottom.

xviii) Not to place head side of the bed in the west.

xix) House would not face to the west.

6. Perception of the Current Socio-Economic Issues in the Society

Regarding the perception of the household about the current socio-economic issues in the society, first we must note that about 32 percent of the households have either let the question go unanswered or reported that they have no idea or no comments on that.

Among those who have perceived the problems and responded, the content is very varied. An analysis of the contents, however, reveals that 39 percent of those reporting such problems, have a complain about price rise, inflation and such economic issues that make it "very difficult to maintain". Fortyeight percent of them have reported that the lack of unity and harmony among the citizens is the major problem. Thirtysix percent have reported the evils due to drinking, gambling etc. Twelve percent have reported irresponsibility (of whom!). Twenty percent have reported the difficultires due to Bandh (that took place in mid 1987 in Shillong). Eight percent have reported poverty to be the most important problem. Four percent have expressed matrilineality as a problematic institution and opined to change the same to patrilineality. Eighteen percent have expressed problems due to weak government, lack of political unity, disbelief in the workability of coalition government, etc.

These percentages would not sum up to one hundred because those who have reported to have perceived the problems have given a list of two or three problems.

A summary of those problems enlisted by the respondents indicate that economic problems like price rise and poverty, lack of unity and harmony, and the problems of political nature like lack of political unity, are more pressing. In getting government assistance there are problems due to middlemen and high officials' interference. Reportedly, the citizen has no

enough time to run from one office to another after these middlemen. Some problems like (in the words of a respondent): "In social life we are confronted with so many obstacles in the welfare of the village; things which are on the way to progress remain suspended it takes time to complete it, the economy is affected due to frequent strikes and bandhs of the market and educational institutions. Many things are wasted" are worth considering.

7. Measures suggested for Solving the Socio-Economic problems

Though the number of households that have perceived the socio-economic problem is quite large, the number that have reported to visualise the measures to solve these problems is small enough. Sixty eight percent of the households have let the question go unanswered. Those who have suggested the measure have not much concrete to say. However, they visualise that a comprehensive effort on personal, collective and governmental level can solve the problems. "If one accomplishes his duty well in a proper discipline, if he (political leader/official?) does according to the will of the public" it may solve the problems.

However, a frequency analysis suggests that the belief in the possibility of success on account of collective efforts in solving these problems is much more than that in solving these problems through personal or governmental efforts. This may be due to the prevailing strong belief and involvement in the village administration and its stronghold in the social economic and political life of the people that we have studied.

8. Opinion About Politics

About 43 percent of the households have no comments to make on this question. Those who have to make any, have divided opinion. The majority of them do not see any evil in politics provided that the political leaders do not part with the ideals. However, observations like those that follow are worth consideration.

(i) Corruption is rampant in politics and false promises to the voters during election campaign is disturbing. Politicians never stick to their original principle. They are quick to change their stand at any moment.

(ii) Politics is a dirty game since after the elections it begets hatred and jealousy of one another among the candidates.

(iii) In politics, usually the high class are favoured. There is favouritism and partiality. Corruption is involved in it.

(iv) Politics is not a dirty game. It is quite fair.

(v) We bother about how to earn our daily bread and that is all in life.

(vi) We do not want to interfere in politics since it brings in misunderstanding. It creates lots of problems. If we take part in it we lose our value, time and money but nothing we gain in return.

(vii) There is no peace in politics. They speak ill of each other - hunt after power, prestige and money - quit their own party and join other side, of course forgetting all their supporters and cheating them who have worked hard for their victory.

(viii) The presence of politics begets evils, while at the same time we cannot do without it.

In view of the scope and limitations of the present survey it is not possible to carry out a detailed study on these issues. These opinions, however, lead us to have an idea about politics that is believed by the people.

9. Concluding Remarks

In this chapter we have had a sketchy view of the social, economic and attitudinal aspect of the society that we have studied in this survey. We analysed the membership of the households in various social and religious organisations, the activities that join the household with the rest of the society, the exposure of the households to the mass media, observance of social, religious restrictions and taboos, the perception about the current socio-economic problems and their possible solution and opinion about politics.

We note that social work and village level administration are the major activities joining the household with the society. Sports and games also are effective in this regard.

The exposure of the people to the mass media is very poor and needs programmes for its promotion. The problems perceived by the people are mixed; some about price rise and poverty - others about peace and unity in the society and still others about social evils like drinking and gambling. Many people do not believe politics to have virtues, nor they think that politics can solve the socio-economic problems. They opine in the favour of collective action to solve these problems.

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CHAPTER - V

CONCLUSION

The objective of this study was to portray a sketch of the socio-economic condition of the society in the Mylliem Block, Meghalaya. The scope of this study has been very limited on account of a meagre fund available to conduct this study. Within the limitations of the fund we could collect data from only a few villages employing one part time investigator. The response to the questionnaires distributed among the households in the village has not been much encouraging. Many questionnaires could not be filled in. Out of 106 questionnaires (filled in) that we obtained thirteen are giving not much information and hence were rejected. We analysed ninety three questionnaires that remained.

Insufficiency of the number of filled in questionnaires prohibit any analysis and hence drawing of any conclusion at the village level. Hence we have considered them together. Statistical problems due to such pooling are well-taken. Within these limitations, however, we dare to draw some conclusions at the macro or block level.

In analysing these questionnaires we have divided their content in three major heads: information at the familial level of the respondents, mainly related to characteristics of the

household (Chapter II), economic characteristics (Chapter III) and social and political beliefs, opinions, institutions etc. (Chapter IV).

To reiterate, in Chapter II our main findings are:

(i) The average size of the households is seven members.

(ii) Fifty four percent of the households are of nuclear structure.

(iii) The majority of the households belong to the Christian religion.

(iv) Though the society is matrilineal, it is not matriarchial: about 80 percent households report that the head of the family is a male member.

(v) Literacy of the head of the household is rather poor; 58 percent households have their heads illiterate.

(vi) About 62 percent of the households have not achieved education level beyond matriculation.

(vii) About 40 percent households have no illiterate member.

In Chapter III, our main findings are:

(i) Average dependency ratio is one dependent to one earning member.

(ii) Larger families have higher dependency ratio.

(iii) Most of the households draw their livelihood from service, agriculture or animal husbandry or a mix of them.

(iv) Over seventy five percent of the households have annual income less than 50 thousand.

(v) Fifty six percent of earning members in the family are males.

(vi) Males outnumber females in service/daily wages while the opposite is the case with commerce and business. In agriculture, however, they are equally participating.

(vii) Most of the families live in four roomed houses.

(viii) Consumption pattern varies with income but in general the elasticity is small in magnitude.

In Chapter IV, our main findings are:

(i) A good percentage of households take part in social service and sports. They take part in village level administration.

(ii) Exposure to the mass-media is very poor.

(iii) A good percentage of households observe some social restrictions or taboos, very varied in nature.

(iv) They perceive some social, economic and political problems and believe that they can be solved by the efforts made at a collective level. They exhibit no much faith in the prevailing political ways to solve the problems.