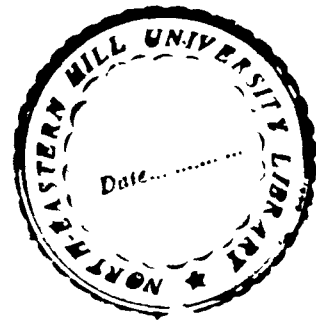


# A STUDY OF UNORGANISED ACTIVITIES IN EAST KHASI AND RI-BHOI DISTRICTS, MEGHALAYA

ABSTRACT



Submitted by  
Medarishisha Diengdoh

In Partial Fulfillment of The Degree of Master of Philosophy in Geography.

*Examined*  
*P. M. S.* 28/07/03

Supervised by  
Prof. Surendra Singh

Department of Geography  
School of Human and Environmental Sciences  
North-Eastern Hill University  
Shillong

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# **A STUDY OF UNORGANISED ACTIVITIES IN EAST KHASI AND RI-BHOI DISTRICTS, MEGHALAYA**

## **1.0 Introduction**

The State of Meghalaya has been passing through the primary phase of development from traditional to modern with changing its activities as well as work pattern. Of course, work pattern is influenced by various factors, specially the physiographic conditions of the land, socio-cultural ties, economic requirements and demographic structure of the society. Rapid growth of urban population and infrastructural development for upliftment of society also influence the areal variation of work pattern. In fact, in the tribal traditional societies, the work pattern and engagement of people are more concentrated towards unorganised and unproductive activities. The organisation and performance of activities in such areas are towards social welfare rather than economic benefits. As a result, most of the activities are included neither in organised sectors of economy nor in the National Accounting System because they do not come under the definition of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Consequently, non-inclusion of such activities reflects low level of State Domestic Products compare with other states of the country.

## **2.0 Statement of the Problem**

Unorganised activities play an important role in the daily life and welfare of the household members in the society especially in hill areas. It has a special impetus on the life of the people as it has thoroughly engaged the people in a number of ways. The second important aspect of the unorganised sector is that the people spend most of their time in non-market activities whether they are productive or unproductive in nature. For example, especially women spend their time in domestic activities but their activities are not considered in the accounting system. Therefore, there is a need to study the characteristics and pattern of unorganised activities that are related with the household domestic and social aspects. The validity of such facts may be tested to consider two

districts of the Meghalaya State, namely, Ri-Bhoi and East Khasi Hills, which are true representatives of cross-section of entire plateau. Urban impact on work pattern may also be studied because of rapid urbanisation arising out the presence of the National Highway and also of the state capital.

### **3.0 Objectives**

Keeping these aspects in mind, the present study focuses attention towards the following main objectives as:

- (1) to study the nature and characteristics of unorganised activities in the study area,
- (2) to examine the areal variation of such activities with reference to the different physiographic features,
- (3) to find out the factors for the variation and pattern of those services, and
- (4) to suggest the activities which are relevant and influence the work pattern in the districts.

### **4.0 Research Questions**

According to the objective of the present proposed study, the following research questions may be answered.

- (i) How do we identify an unorganised sector?
- (ii) What is the main work pattern evolving in different physiographic conditions in study area?
- (iii) How do the geographical factors influence such activities?

### **5.0 Data Collection**

The answers and explanation of the above research questions may be given by highlighting the basic structure of whole of the economy including organised as well as unorganised sectors of the state as well as districts. The economic performance and the activities have been classified on the criteria given by System National Accounting (SNA) in 1993, which records the complex economic activities including non-marketed ones.

The methods for elaborating and interpreting the results are based on the sample design of the households and collection of data. It has three main aspects as:

**5.1 The Household Survey:** For this purpose, Department of Statistics and Economics, Government of Meghalaya Shillong has conducted a survey called 'Time Use Survey' for selecting 567 households in Meghalaya during the years 1998 and 1999 taking household samples from rural as well as urban areas. The surveyed data of individual households are used for the analysis of present results. The criteria for the selection of sample households given by NSS is followed.

**5.2 Compilation and Tabulation:** The data collected during Time-Used Survey of individual household is available in the office of Directorate of Statistics and Economics, Government of Meghalaya for the entire Meghalaya State. The household data of the 10 villages (rural) and 5 towns (urban) are compiled for the present study. The entire data schedule is prepared in its three main parts: (a) General information of sample village and its identification level (ID Level 1.0), (b) the household details (ID Block 2), (c) particulars of household members (level 2). The second step of the procedure of the data compilation is related to the data and its processing. This have been classified for showing the nature, characteristics and pattern of job participation in marketed and non-marketed basis of unorganised sectors of the study area for their comparison and detail patterns. The tabulation work is done that is based on the following criteria.

A. Demographic Base of respondents for showing the work participation considering following criteria:

1. Sex variation
2. Age variation
3. Marital status
4. Educational status of households

#### B. Rural - Urban basis of respondents' classification:

Classification of household is also followed on rural-urban basis so that the nature and characteristics of such activities may be interpreted in relation to urban influence on the work pattern.

C. The work pattern with respect to physiographic characteristics for which the parameters of physiography, namely, the Relief, Climate, Natural vegetation, and Soils are considered to highlight the impact of physiographic on the work pattern.

The recent data of Time-Use Survey are of the immense use for the explanation of imposed research questions. Besides, the geographical personality of the area is highlighted by collecting data from various sources like the District Census of Hand Books, the topo-sheet with the scale of RF 1/250,000 for the delineation of geographic features of the area.

### **6.0 Methodology**

The survey was conducted by the Department of Directorate of Economics and Statistics. It was conducted for 567 households with 48 sample villages/urban blocks and 12 households in each of the sample village/urban blocks. A stratified three stage sampling design with districts as the first stage units, village/urban blocks as the second stage units and the household as the third (ultimate) stage unit has been adopted for the survey. Road accessibility and physiographic conditions have been considered for the sample selection.

Out of total samples collected, the samples falling in the study area were selected for the present study. The total household samples which were selected for rural was 120 and for urban was 72. The selected sample villages were taken as ten in numbers whereas five blocks for urban areas. Their locational characteristics are given below

### **7.0 Main Findings**

Present study is primarily based on the primary data collected by the Directorate of Statistics and Economics, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong during 1998-99 under

the format prepared by NSSO, New Delhi. The data are used only of the households falling under the study area. The data are compiled by keeping in mind the objectives of our own study. Chapter IV and V of the present study organised in such a manner, so that the detail analysis of work pattern and respondents' characteristics may be forwarded.

The following main conclusions are inferred from the present work.

- (1) The unorganised sector dominates the work pattern in rural as well as urban areas because 92 percent people of the study area are engaged in the activities related to unorganised sectors. The remaining 8 percent people are employed in organised activities that are related to 'salaried/wage/permanent employees'. A variety of activities including 'casual and contractual wage labour in public works', 'attended educational work' and 'domestic duties' are performed in the rural as well as in urban areas also.
- (2) As per the characteristic features of respondents and work pattern, it has been emerged from the study that work pattern is influenced by the physical factors of terrain especially in the hill and mountain areas and also by the socio-economic characteristics of the people performing the activities. The classification of total respondents was laid down by considering their sex, marital status, age differences and educational status for rural and urban areas separately for different physiographic conditions of the districts. The main findings of the distribution are highlighted in the following manner:
  - (a) The sex ratio figures for rural as well as urban areas indicates that male are more engaged in all types of activities whether organised or unorganised especially in rural areas. As a result, the sex ratio is noticed lower than 1000. It varies spatially. The areas of northern and southern parts of the Meghalaya plateau where the rural activities are dominated by agricultural activities, the sex ratio is calculated 900 females per thousand male. As compared to the above two zones, the sex ratio is noticed higher in the central parts where male-female participation in the work is almost equal.

- (b) Further, it is interesting to note that female influence the work pattern of urban areas where sex ratio is recorded more than 1000. Thus, the females are more active in urban areas. For example, the localities of Shillong Urban Agglomeration namely, Shillong (C) in which Bara Bazar (Iewduh) is included has the highest sex ratio (2000 females per 1000 males).
- (c) Out of total four categories of respondents by marital status, it is observed that nearly half of the rural populations belong to never married group. It means that those who are unmarried, they are more active because people are free to do any type of work. It is also noted that people before marriage are more active; this is the case of tribal population where there is equal opportunity between male and female in all sphere of life. Secondly, whereas the currently married contingent consists of one-third of the respondents. This shows that they are still coming out from their active life of youth where they do not want to stay back but remained active in the society. But the widowed and the divorced group are less active as they are still not coming out from their own self of nervousness and breakdown. So they are still not so active in the society.

Nevertheless, urban areas are more or less similar with rural areas where the highest respondents were in never married group, which is half of the urban respondents, and one-third are from the currently married group. This shows that marriage is the restriction, which poses the limit to the work pattern in the area.

- (d) By age, the distribution shows that there are three important age-groups combined together to show the strength of contribution of workers in the study area of both the districts. The age-group between 0-5 and 15-20 years are group together to form one category of respondents by age. These groups fall under the children and teenagers categories and, at the same time, the school going children. Another important age-group belongs to the categories between 20-25 years and 40-45 years. These groups of respondents are the most active as they form the adult group who are mostly engaged in the

earning purposes and also they are the strength of the society as everyone in the family are solely dependent on this age group. The third important age-group belong to the old aged people combined together from 50-55 years to 60 years and above. These groups of aged people are less active as they are mostly retired from work and solely dependent on the others. The children group dominates the school going activities and the adult group of population is engaged in domestic activities in rural as well as in urban areas.

- (e) The inference from the classified data of respondents with respect to their educational status shows that, in the northern zone, the highest respondents are in the illiterate group (43.64%). The second highest are those who are in the educational level of Bachelor in Agriculture which is 16.94 percent. While in the central upland zone, the highest share of respondents is enumerated under the category of pre-primary level (41.43%). This shows that nearly half of the population is still in a pre-primary level and one-fourth is still illiterate. In the southern zone, the highest respondents are from illiterate level, which is 37.74 percent of the average and the second highest are from pre-primary level, as 32.31 percent of the average.

In urban areas, the highest percentage share of respondents is from middle school to higher secondary level of education. It is also seen that there is a peculiar case in urban area where 15 persons from medicinal level was quite involved in responding the questionnaire as compared to very small number in rural areas. In northern zone, there is only one person from medicinal level who are quite active in this activity in rural areas. This concludes that the level of education is very low in rural areas and there is dominance of unskilled labour.

The main characteristic features of dominance of activities are emerged as:

- (a) The dominance of activities is mostly of unorganised sector of economy in rural as well as urban areas except the activity 'regular salaried/wage permanent employee'.

- (b) The 'own account work' and 'others' categories of work are most dominant and these work are related to domestic purpose in the rural household.
- (c) Attended educational institution and attended domestic duties as well as domestic services are also having important in the activity-pattern in East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts of Meghalaya state.

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In Partial Fulfillment of The Degree of Master of Philosophy in Geography.

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*Examined*  
*P. Singh*  
*28/7/03*

Department of Geography  
School of Human and Environmental Sciences  
North-Eastern Hill University  
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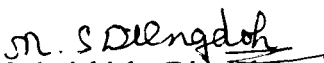
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Most of all I thank God, The Creator for given me refuge and strength throughout and with His help my work becomes a complete one.


  
Medarishisha Diengdoh

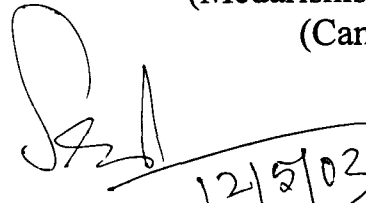
**NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY**


May, 2003

I, Medarishisha Diengdoh, hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this thesis did not form basis of the award of my previous degree to me or to the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and that the thesis has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other University/ Institute.

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

  
Prof. B.S. Mipun  
(Head)

  
Prof. S. Singh  
(Supervisor)

  
(Medarishisha Diengdoh)  
(Candidate)

12/2/03

Department of Geography  
NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY  
SHILLONG-786014

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## CHAPTER – I

### INTRODUCTION

The State of Meghalaya has been passing through the first phase of development from traditional to modern with changing its activities as well as work pattern. Of course, work pattern is influenced by various factors, specially the physiographic conditions of the area, socio-cultural ties and economic requirements and demographic structure of the society. Rapid growth of urban population and infrastructural development for upliftment of society also influence the work pattern and its areal variation. In the tribal traditional societies, the work pattern and engagement of people are in fact more concentrated towards unorganised and unproductive activities, which are not controlled by the market forces. However, an increasing influence of market organisation may now be seen on such activities. The organisation and performance of activities in such areas are towards social welfare rather than economic benefits. As a result, most of the activities are not included in the National Accounting System (NAS) because they do not come under the definition of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Consequently, non-inclusion of such activities reflects low level of State Domestic Product (SDP) in the states where traditional economies are prevailing compare with other states of the country.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

Unorganised activities play an important role in the daily life and welfare of the household members in the society especially in hill areas. It has a special impetus on the life of the people as it has thoroughly engaged the people in a number of ways. The second important aspect of the unorganised sector is that the people spend most of their time in non-market activities whether they are productive or unproductive in nature. For example, especially women spend their time in domestic activities but their activities are not considered in the NAS. Therefore, there is a need to study the characteristics and pattern of unorganised services that are related with the household domestic and social aspects of the people residing in the hill areas. The validity of such facts may be tested to consider two districts of the state of Meghalaya, namely, Ri-Bhoi and East Khasi Hills, that are true representatives of cross-section of the entire plateau. The impact of urbanisation and market forces on work pattern may also be studied because of rapid urbanisation arising out the presence of the National Highway and also of the state capital.

### **1.2 Objectives**

Keeping these aspects in mind, the present study focuses attention on the following main objectives as:

- (1) to study the nature and characteristics of unorganised sectors in the study area,
- (2) to examine the areal variations of such activities with reference to the different physiographic factors,

- (3) to find out the factors for the variation and pattern of those activities, and
- (4) to suggest the activities which are relevant and influence the work pattern in the districts.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

According to the objective of the present proposed study, the following research questions may be answered.

- (i) How do we identify an unorganised sector?
- (ii) What is the main work pattern evolving in different physiographic conditions in study area?
- (iii) How do the geographical factors influence such activities?

### **1.4 Data Collection**

The answers and explanation of the above research questions may be given by highlighting the basic structure of whole of the economy including organised as well as unorganised sectors of the state as well as the districts. The economic performance based on evolving activity patterns <sup>?</sup> would be classified on the criteria given by System National Accounting (SNA) in 1993, which records the complex economic activities including non-marketed ones (Government of Meghalaya, 2000). According to the SNA, the entire services, productive as well as unproductive have been classified into their nine broader groups such as:

Group - I: Primary Production Activities,

Group - II: Secondary Activities,

Group - III: Trade, Business and Services,

Group - IV: Household maintenance, management and shopping for own household,

Group - V: Care for children, the sick, elderly and disabled for own households,

Group – VI: Community services and helps to other households,

Group - VII: Learning,

Group - VIII: Social and Cultural Activities, Mass Media, etc., and

Group - IX: The Personal Care and self-maintenance.

There is a detail listing of activities under each broad group, which will consider as basis for the selection of non-marketed unorganised activities for the completion of present work (Appendix–I). After identification of such activities from the given list, the characteristics and pattern of these activities are interpreted and the causes of variation are elaborated.

The methods for elaborating and interpreting the results are concerned with the sample design for the household. It has three main aspects as:

**(a) The Household Survey:** For this purpose, Department of Statistics and Economics, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong has already conducted a survey that is called ‘Time-Use Survey’ for about 1859 households in Meghalaya during the last years (1998-1999) taking household samples from rural as well as urban areas. The

surveyed data of individual households are used for the analysis of the results. The criteria for the selection of sample households given by NSS are followed. There are three parts of household scheduled which is used for the collection of information (Appendix-II A, B, C,).

**(b) The Compilation and Tabulation of Data:** Data collected during Time-Used Survey of individual household are available in the office of Directorate of Statistics and Economics, Government of Meghalaya for the entire Meghalaya state. The household data of the 10 villages (rural area) and 5 towns (urban centres) are compiled which fall under the domain of present study area. The entire data schedule is prepared in its three main parts: (a) the general information of sample village and its identification level with household details, (b) particulars of household members, and (c) time disposition of persons on selected days. The second step of the procedure of data compilation is to fill the data and its processing.

**(c) The Processing and Calculation of Work:** The given data are classified in such a way so that it should show the nature, characteristics and pattern of job participation in marketed as well as non-marketed basis of unorganised and organised sectors of the study area. The comparisons of these sectors would explain the causes of variation and concentration of activity pattern. The tabulation work is done by following the criteria as:

(A) The demographic basis of respondents for showing the pattern of work participation with reference to: (1) the sex variation, (2) Age variation, (3) Marital status of the respondents, and (4) the educational status of households.

**(B) The Rural - Urban basis of respondents' classification:**

Classification of household is also done on the basis of rural-urban differences basis so that the nature and characteristics of activities may be interpreted and compared two specific scenarios of work pattern, namely, the traditional (rural) and the modern (urban) where the influence of market may be visualised.

**(C) For interpreting the results of work pattern with respect to Physiographic features, the following parameters of physiography are considered as:**

1. Relief,
2. Climate,
3. Natural vegetation, and
4. Soils.

Needless to say, the heterogeneity prevails in the physiographic characteristics of the state. The areal variations of work participation especially in the unorganised sectors have been interpreted for different physiographic conditions. It would provide the important clues and causes of its areal variations and the effects of physiographic features on work pattern.

The recent data of 'Time-Use Survey' may be for the explanation of imposed research questions. Besides, the geographical personality of the area would be highlighted by collecting data from various sources like the census of India, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Handbook, the National Sample Survey Organisation and the

National Accounts Statistics. The topo-sheets with the scale of 1:253,440 are used for the delineation of geographic features of the area. However, the present study is mainly based on secondary data.

### **1.5 Methodology**

The Department of Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Shillong conducted the survey for a total number of 576 households with 48 sample villages/urban blocks and 12 households in each of the sample village/urban blocks. A stratified three stage sampling design with districts as the first stage units, village/urban blocks as the second stage units and the household as the third (ultimate) stage unit has been adopted for the survey.

Out of total sample collected by the Directorate, a few samples, which were accounted for in the areal domain of present study were selected. The total number of household samples, which were selected from rural areas, was 120 and the selected household from urban centres was 72. These households were selected from the villages as ten in numbers whereas five blocks were selected for the representation of urban areas. The sample villages are Zero-point, Kalapangti, Kyrdem, Byrwa, Lawsohtun, Pomlakrai, Weikyang, Rimai, Khrang and Syntung whereas the selected towns were Nongthymmai, Cherrapunji, Mawlai, Shillong (Municipal), Shillong (Cantonment) (Fig. - 1).

**(A) The Location of Sample Villages**

Selected samples for the present study are drawn from East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts of the Meghalaya state. The locations of sample villages are given in Table-1.1.

Location of sample urban localities was somewhat similar because they are more or less situated within the same extents of its longitudes and latitudes and also within the zone of similar elevations. Therefore, the longitudinal extension is  $25^{\circ}34'N$ , whereas the elevation falls between 1400 and 1900 m from mean sea level. However, Nongthymmai and Cherrapunji have a longitudinal extension between  $91^{\circ}55'E$  and  $91^{\circ}44'E$  respectively and the latitudinal extension between  $25^{\circ}33'N$  and  $25^{\circ}16'30''N$  respectively. Nongthymmai is located at an elevation of 1600 m, while the Cherrapunji town falls within an elevation of 1400 m (Table-1.2).

**Table-1.1: Location of Sample Villages.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Sample Villages	Longitude	Latitude	Elevation (m from mean sea level)	Village Accessibility (distance from road in Km)
1	Rimai	$91^{\circ}57'$	$25^{\circ}15'$	800	83 Km from Shillong, 3 Km from NH 40 junction to Umfiuh
2	Lawsotun	$91^{\circ}52'$	$25^{\circ}33'$	1900	3 Km from Shillong (C), NH 40
3	Kalapangti	$92^{\circ}5'$	$25^{\circ}45'$	900	43 Km from Umroi junction NH 40
4	Syntung	$92^{\circ}3'$	$25^{\circ}22'$	1300	40 Km from Shillong, NH 40
5	Khrang	$91^{\circ}48'$	$25^{\circ}18'$	300	28 Km from a junction on the way to Sohra NH 40
6	Kyrdem	$92^{\circ}5'$	$25^{\circ}45'$	900	28 Km from Umroi junction NH 40
7	Weikyang	$91^{\circ}57'$	$25^{\circ}15'$	800	79 Km from Shillong, 2 Km from NH 40 junction to Umfiuh Tmar
8	Zero-point	$91^{\circ}48'$	$25^{\circ}45'$	900	10 Km from Umsning NH 40
9	Pomlakrai	$91^{\circ}53'$	$25^{\circ}31'$	1800	4 Km from 5 <sup>th</sup> Mile Upper Shillong junction NH 40
10	Byrwa	$91^{\circ}52'30''$	$25^{\circ}42'$	800	5 Km from Sumer junction NH 40.

Source: PWD (Road).

**Table-1.2: Location of Sample Towns and Urban Localities.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Sample localities of towns	Longitude	Latitude	Elevation (m)	Village Accessibility (distance from road in Km)
1	Shillong (M)	91°53'	25°34'	1400	0
2	Shillong (C)	91°53'	25°34'	1400	0
3	Mawlai (NM)	91°53'	25°36'	1000	4 Km from Shillong (C)
4	Nongthymmai (NM)	91°55'	25°33'	1600	3 Km from Shillong (C) NH 40
5	Cherrapunji	91°44'	25°16'30"	1400	52 Km from Shillong NH 40

Source: PWD (Road).

The village accessibility is based as per the records taken from the milestone PWD (Road). The distances are taken in kilometers and both rural and urban areas are based from the National Highway. The National Highway 40 is common as based in both the rural and urban areas. The distance in kilometers is as follows:

1. **Rimai** has a distance of 83 km from Shillong and was only 3 km from a junction to Umñiuh Tmar.
2. **Lawsotun** - only 3 km from Shillong (C).
3. **Kalapangti** - 43 km from Umroi junction.
4. **Syantung** - 40 km from Shillong.
5. **Khrang** - 28 km from a junction on the way to Sohra.
6. **Kyrdem** - 28 km from Umroi junction.
7. **Weikyang** - 79 km from Shillong and 2 Km from a junction to Umñiuh Tmar.
8. **Zero-point** - 10 km from a junction underway to Umsning.
9. **Pomlakrai** - 4 km from 5<sup>th</sup> mile Upper Shillong junction.
10. **Byrwa** - only 5 km from Sumer junction.

As per the distance of sample villages of interior areas is concerned, it is seen that all the sample villages fall within the three physiographic zones of Meghalaya. The areas which falls in the northern zone of the Meghalaya are – Zero-point, Byrwa, Kalapangti and Kyrdem. The sample villages which falls in the central zone are Lawsohtun and Pomlakrai and the sample villages which falls in the southern zone consists of Khrang, Cherrapunji, Weikyang and Rimai.

Similarly the town accessibility in kilometers are as follows:

1. *Mawlai* - 4 km from Shillong (Cantonment),
2. *Nongthymmai* - 3 km from Shillong (Cantonment), and
3. **Cherrapunji** - 52 km from Shillong (Cantonment).

It is important to mention here that all the urban areas fall within the central zone of Meghalaya. They are more or less fall within the same longitude and latitude and also within the same elevation of tableland.

#### **(B) *Survey and its Seasonality***

The field survey is conducted during three months period of time each to take care of seasonal variations in four sub-rounds. The survey was conducted in Weikyang, Zero-point and Pomlakrai villages during July-September 1988, in Khrang and Byrwa villages during October-December 1998, in Kalapangti and Syntung during January-March 1999, in Rimai, Lawsohtun and Kyrdem in April-June 1999. These villages come under the jurisdiction of village samples.

So far as the sample household characteristics in the towns/localities are concerned, the survey was conducted in Cherrapunji during July-September 1998. It was conducted in Shillong (M) and Shillong (C) during October-December 1998. In Mawlai, it was conducted during January-March 1999 and in Nongthymmai during April-June 1999.

***(C) Household Characteristics (based on their Size and Expenditure)***

The total population of these villages is recorded 1,362 persons (1991 Census) whereas the total household members are 500 of all the sample villages. However, the average land area owned per household in acres are 532.42 in Rimai, 6.83 in Lawsohtun, 156.08 in Kalapangti, 112.33 in Syntung, 389.16 in Khrang, 120.91 in Kyrdem, 12.16 in Weikyang, 185.41 in Zero-Point, 96.66 in Pomlakrai and Byrwa have 80.66 acres. However, the average size of households in Rimai, Lawsohtun, Kalapangti and Syntung is recorded 4, 6, 4 and 5 respectively, whereas Khrang, Kyrdem, Weikyang, Zero-Point, Pomlakrai and Byrwa villages have an average size of household of 4, 4, 4, 3 and 4 respectively. The average total household member is 4 in all the villages. Nevertheless, the average monthly expenditure of people was calculated as Rs. 527.91 in Rimai, Rs. 875.66 in Lawsohtun, Rs. 554.16 in Kalapangti, Rs. 432.08 in Syntung, Rs. 523.25 in Khrang, Rs. 636.50 in Kyrdem, Rs. 1009.66 in Weikyang, Rs. 615.50 in Zero-Point, while the sample villages like Pomlakrai and Byrwa have an average expenditure of Rs. 633.26 and Rs. 551.25 respectively. The total population of the sample towns were 2,08,474 (1991 Census) and the total number of household members were enumerated as

297. It means that average size of household is enumerated 4 persons, whereas the average household members according to survey conducted is 3 in Shillong (M) and 4 in Shillong (C) while 9 in Mawlai and 4 for both Nongthymmai and Cherrapunje. The average household member in all is 4. The average land area own in acres is 5.41 in Shillong (M), 1.25 acres in Shillong (C), 1.5 acres in Mawlai. The Nongthymmai and Cherrapunje had 0 and 100 acres of land respectively. The zero figures show non-availability of data of these household samples. However, the average monthly expenditure per household is calculated as Rs. 1169.41 in Shillong (M), Rs. 1066 in Shillong (C) Rs. 1940.58 in Mawlai, Rs. 1338.83 in Nongthymmai and Rs. 1865.41 in Cherrapunje (Table-1.3 and 1.4).

**Table-1.3: Village-wise Sample Households Characteristics.**

Sample Village	No. of Households	Survey Seasonality				Total No. of Respondents	Av. Size of HH	Av. Land area owned	Av. Monthly expenditure (RS)
		Jul-Sept 1998	Oct-Dec 1998	Jan-Mar 1999	Apr-Jun 1999				
Rimai	12	0	0	0	12	46	4	532.42	527.91
Lawsotun	12	0	0	0	12	70	6	6.83	875.66
Kalapangti	12	0	0	12	0	43	4	156.08	554.16
Syntung	12	0	0	12	0	57	5	112.33	432.08
Khrang	12	0	12	0	0	52	4	389.16	523.25
Kyrdem	12	0	0	0	12	59	4	120.91	636.50
Weikyang	12	12	0	0	0	46	4	12.16	1009.66
Zero-point	12	12	0	0	0	45	4	185.41	615.50
Pomlakrai	12	12	0	0	0	35	3	96.66	633.25
Byrwa	12	0	12	0	0	47	4	180.66	551.25
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>170.13</b>	<b>635.92</b>

**Table-1.4: Town- wise Sample Households Characteristics.**

Sample Urban/Localities	Survey Seasonality					Total No. of Respondents	Av. Size of HH	Av. Land area owned	Av. Monthly expenditure (Rs)
	No. of Households	Jul-Sept 1998	Oct-Dec 1998	Jan-Mar 1999	Apr-Jun 1999				
Shillong (M)	12	0	12	0	0	36	3	5.41	1169.41
Shillong (C)	12	0	12	0	0	50	4	1.25	1066.00
Mawlai (NM)	24	0	0	24	0	15	5	1.5	1940.58
Nongthymmai (NM)	12	0	0	0	12	49	4	0	1338.83
Cherrapunji	12	12		0	0	47	4	100	1865.41
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21.63</b>	<b>1476.05</b>

**Table-1.5: Classification of Respondents by their Relation with Head of the Household in Rural Areas.**

Sample Village	No. of Respondents	Self	Spouse of head	Married child	Spouse of married child	Unmarried child	Grand-child	Father/mother/father-in-law/mother-in-law	Brother/sister/brother-in-law/sister-in-law
Rimai	46	12 (26.08)	5 (10.56)	3 (6.52)	1 (2.17)	9 (19.56)	4 (8.69)	0	12 (26.08)
Lawsotun	70	12 (17.14)	8 (11.42)	4 (5.71)	0	31 (44.28)	0	0	15 (21.42)
Kalapangti	43	12 (27.90)	11 (25.58)	0	0	18 (41.86)	0	0	2 (4.65)
Syntung	57	12 (21.05)	13 (22.80)	1 (1.75)	1 (1.75)	24 (42.10)	3 (5.26)	0	3 (5.26)
Khrang	52	12 (23.07)	9 (17.30)	1 (1.92)	1 (1.92)	27 (51.92)	2 (3.84)	0	0
Kyrdem	59	12 (20.33)	8 (13.55)	0	0	31 (52.54)	7 (11.86)	0	1 (1.69)
Weikyiang	46	12 (26.08)	4 (8.69)	2 (4.34)	0	19 (41.30)	9 (19.56)	0	0
Zero-point	45	12 (26.66)	10 (22.22)	0	0	23 (51.11)	0	0	0
Pomlakrai	35	12 (34.28)	8 (22.85)	2 (5.71)	2 (5.71)	8 (22.85)	2 (5.71)	1 (2.85)	0
Byrwa	47	12 (25.53)	7 (14.89)	1 (2.12)	0	23 (48.93)	2 (4.25)	0	2 (4.25)
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>120 (24.00)</b>	<b>83 (16.60)</b>	<b>14 (2.80)</b>	<b>5 (1.00)</b>	<b>213 (42.60)</b>	<b>29 (5.80)</b>	<b>1 (0.2)</b>	<b>35 (7.00)</b>

NB: Figures in parentheses show the percentages.

Table-1.6: Classification of Urban Respondents by their Relation with Head of the Household.

Sample Urban Localities	Respondents	Self	Spouse of head	Married child	Spouse of married child	Unmarried child	Grand-child	Father/ mother/ father-in-law/ mother-in-law	Brother/ sister/ brother-in-law/ sister-in-law	Servant/ Employees/ other non-relatives
Shillong (C)	36	12 (33.33)	5 (16.66)	0	0	15 (41.66)	1 (2.77)	0	2 (5.55)	0
Shillong (M)	35	3 (8.57)	2 (5.71)	3 (8.57)	1 (2.85)	8 (22.85)	6 (17.14)	4 (11.42)	7 (20.00)	1 (2.85)
Mawlai (NM)	15	24 (20.86)	18 (15.65)	1 (0.86)	0	57 (49.56)	3 (2.60)	0	12 (10.43)	0
Nongthym mai (NM)	49	12 (24.48)	7 (14.28)	1 (2.04)	1 (2.04)	23 (46.93)	0	1 (2.04)	0	4 (8.16)
Cherapunji	28	12 (42.85)	6 (21.42)	0	0	9 (32.14)	0	0	1 (3.57)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>63 (23.95)</b>	<b>39 (14.82)</b>	<b>5 (1.90)</b>	<b>2 (0.76)</b>	<b>112 (42.58)</b>	<b>10 (3.80)</b>	<b>5 (1.90)</b>	<b>22 (18.36)</b>	<b>5 (1.90)</b>



**(D) Household Characteristics (Social Relation with Head)**

No doubt, family is a social unit in which each member of family is interrelated and has right to take the decision of work. The relation of respondents with head would give an idea to know the decision making process in families/households. In general, a large parts of respondents (nearly one-third) are either self (head of the household) or the spouse of head. Married children account for nearly 2 to 5 percent of the total respondents while unmarried children of the households also include a significant share of respondents in rural areas as urban areas for the decisions in their families (Tables-1.5 and 1.6).

The sample village *Rimai* has 46 respondents; 26.08 percent were responded by self and by brother-sister in law and other relatives, 19.56 percent by unmarried child, 10.86 percent by spouse of head and the rest were responded by others for their family decisions. *Lawsotun* sample village has a total number of 70 respondents, out of which 44.28 percent by unmarried child, 21.42 percent by brother-sister in law and other relatives, 17.14 percent by head only (self) and only 11.42 percent and 5.71 percent by spouse of head and married child respectively. *Kalapangti* has 43 respondents, unmarried child, 27.90 percent and 25.58 percent by head of the household and spouse of the head and only 4.65 percent responded 41.86 percent by brother-in-law, sister-in-law and other relatives. In *Syntung* the highest respondents were 42.10 percent and was done by unmarried child followed by spouse of head (22.80%) and 21.05 percent by the head himself, 5.26 percent by grandchild and brother-in-law, sister-in-law and other relatives. *Khrang* village has 52 respondents and 51.92 percent were responded by unmarried child, followed by 23.07 percent by the head of the household himself, 17.30 percent by spouse

of head and 3.84 percent by grandchildren and 1.92 percent by married child and spouse of married child. *Kyrdem* has 59 respondents and the highest was responded by unmarried child (52.54%) followed by the head himself (20.33%), 13.55 percent by spouse of head and only 1.69 percent by brother-in-law, sister-in-law and other relatives. *Weikyiang* has 46 respondents out of which 41.30 percent responded by unmarried child, 26.08 percent by the head himself, 19.56 percent by grandchild, 4.34 percent by married child respectively. *Zero-point* which is located in the northern part of the study area, has 45 respondents and the highest respondents were made by unmarried child (51.11%), 26.66 percent by the head himself and 22.22 percent by the spouse of the head. *Pomlakrai* has 35 respondents out of which 34.28 percent were responded by the head himself, 22.85 percent by the spouse of the head and unmarried child and 5.71 percent by married child and 2.85 percent by father-in-law, mother-in-law and father and mother. *Byrwa* has 47 respondents and 48.93 percent were responded by unmarried child, 25.53 percent by head himself, 14.89 percent by spouse of the head and 4.25 percent by grandchild and brother, sister, brother-in-law, mother-in-law and other relatives, and 2.12 percent by married child. Total respondents in the villages were 500 and the highest respondents were unmarried child (42.60%) followed by the head himself (24%), then by the spouse of the head (16.60%) and the rest has very less respondents. It is to be noted here that the servants/employees and other non-relatives were not part of the respondents in the survey in rural areas.

As per the distribution of responds in towns is concerned, Shillong (C) has 36 respondents in relation to head of the household out of which 41.66 percent were responded by the unmarried child, 33.33 percent were responded by the head of the

household himself and 16.66 percent were responded by the spouse of the head of the household. *Shillong (M)* has 35 respondents out of which 22.85 percent by unmarried child, 17.14 percent by grandchild and 11.42 percent by father/mother, father-in-law and mother-in-law. Others have very less respondents. *Mawlai (NM)* has 115 respondents in relation to head of household. Unmarried child responded a significant share of respondents that is 49.56 percent, 20.86 percent by the head of the household and 15.65 percent was responded by the spouse of the head of the household. *Nongthymmai (NM)* has 49 respondents; out of which 46.93 percent were responded by unmarried, head of household responded child 24.48 percent and spouse of head responded 14.28 percent. *Cherrapunji* has 28 respondents; out of which 32.14 percent were responded by unmarried child, 42.85 percent were responded by the head of the household and 21.42 percent were responded by the spouse of head of the household. The total respondents in the towns was 263; out of which 42.58 percent were responded by unmarried child, and 23.95 percent by the head of the household and 14.82 percent by spouse of the head. It means that unmarried child in takes more than 40 percent decisions for the families rural as well as in urban areas. It shows an immaturity in the household decisions.

In the end, it may be said that, before going through the detail analysis of work pattern in unorganised sector of economy of the area, the background material and critical review of the available literature is required.

#### **Chapterisation Scheme:**

The entire body of the work is arranged in the following Chapters

**Chapter – I: Introduction - Statement of the problem, Objectives, Research Question, Data Collection, Methodology, Chapterisation**

**Chapter – II: Review of Literature**

**Chapter – III: Geographical Background of the Study Area**

**Chapter – IV: Nature and Characteristics of Unorganised Sectors**

**Chapter – V: Socio-Economic characteristics of the users of dominant activities**

**Chapter – VI: Conclusion, Findings and Suggestions.**

**Bibliography**

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

According to the preceding discussion, a thorough review of literature is required on the activity pattern and work participation. Citing the literature for this purpose, three important aspects of literature review may be considered here:

1. Definition and criteria of classifying the activities.
2. The importance of these activities and work pattern and their related factors.
3. The findings of the research work done especially for the hill states of North-Eastern States.

#### **2.1 Concepts and Definition**

*(a) The Concept adopted in 1991 census:* Work is defined as participation in any economically productive activity; such participation may be physical or mental in nature. It involves not only actual but also effective supervision and direction of work. It also includes unpaid work or farm or in family enterprises.

Work has been classified into Primary (P), Secondary (S) and Tertiary (T) sectors. This is based on nature of economic activities in which a person is engaged. Main workers have been classified into main industrial categories as under:

(i) Cultivator; (ii) Agricultural-labourers; (iii) Workers in livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation, orchards and allied activities; (iv) Workers in mining and quarrying; (v) Workers in manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs (a) in household industry and (b) in other than household industry; (vi) Workers in construction; (vii) Workers in trade and commerce; (viii) Workers in transport and communication; (ix) Workers in other services.

The workers in the above industrial categories have been grouped under (P), (S) and (T) sectors. Primary sector consists of the categories from (I) to (IV). Secondary sectors consist of (V)(a&b) and (VI). Tertiary sectors included category (VII), (VIII) & (IX). These proportions presented the main workers in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary to the total workers.

*(b) The Comparison with International Labour Organisation (ILO) concept:* According to resolution number-1 of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour of Statisticians 1982, the economically active population comprises persons of either sex, who furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services as defined by the United Nation Systems of National Accounts and Balances, during a specified time reference period. Thus, according of this definition, economic activities can be market activities or non-market activities. Market activities are those in which one produces goods or services for pay or for profit. The non—market activities are: (a) Production of primary commodities for owns consumption, (b) Processing of primary commodities for owns consumption, and (c) Own account production of fixed assets.

*(c) Comparison with the concept of “work” adopted by The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSS):* The NSSO has defined ‘work’ or ‘gainful activity’ as the activity pursued for pay, profit or family gain or, in other words, the activity, which add value to the ‘National product’.

Normally, it is an activity, which results in production goods and services for exchange. However, all activities in the “agricultural sector” in which a part or whole of the agricultural production is used for own consumption and does not go for sale are also considered as gainful. In short, work is defined as any market activity and any non – market activity relating to the agricultural sector. As in the census, attending to household chores does not constitute work or gainful activity in the NSSO. Further, both in the census and in the NSSO, beggars, prostitutes etc are not included/considered as workers although they may have some earnings.

According to National Account Statistics Factor Incomes (New Series) March 1994 have been designed to present the estimates by organised and unorganised sectors as well as categories of public sectors namely – administrative departments, departmental enterprises and non – departmental enterprises.

The estimates of factor incomes are required for study the relative shares of the factors of production in the domestic product from different sectors of the economy. The United Nations System of National Accounts (*SNA*) recommends the presentation of domestic factors’ incomes according to kind of economic activities and institutionalised of origin. The basic concept recommended in the *SNA* originates from the production account of domestic product. The factors incomes comprised of compensation of

employee and operating surplus. The SNA measures unorganised sectors into the following considerations:

In order to fill the vital data gaps for planning, policy formulation and the estimate of national income, a central scheme called “Economic Census Surveys” was launched by the government of India during the fifth five year plan period. The scheme envisaged organising periodically a country wide census of all economic activities (excluding those engaged in crop production and plantation) followed by detailed sample surveys of unorganised segment of any sector of the economy in India, is defined to comprise those operating units whose activity is not regulated under any legal provision so that the required data are available in a regular fashion. Thus, the survey under the Economic Census covered the private non – agricultural sector in the manner that all factory units not registered under Factory Act constitute unorganised segment of manufacturing. In the sector of trade, transport, hotel and restaurants, storage and warehousing and services - all non-public operating units constitute the unorganised segment on the consideration of non-availability of regular accounts of their activities.

## **2.2 Importance of Activities and Work-Pattern**

The topic on “Social Accounting” which has taken from the book *Women And Household Labour* discusses about the current concern of social indicators and social accounting gathered momentum about twenty years ago. This period has taken the world into economy through a boom into a recession. In the earlier days, it was a cynical

common place that concern for the non- economic aspects and the quality of life was closely related with the growth in real per -capita income.

The limited amount of empirical work in this field does not give much support to this hypothesis, practical application of social accounting have never been particularly wide spread or very informative and the flow seems different now then in more prosperous years. The social accounting movement is probably a more complex phenomenon than was once supposed. The provision of social care takes different forms in different society and a possible alternative hypothesis might be that the impact of prosperity or adversity on the incidence of social accounting dependent much on how the society value are viewed social concern as a matter of public taxation or private charity. This could provide the reason why interest in accounting to society is not the same everywhere amongst those countries, which pursue the issues at all.

Social Accounting took place in USA is because each of the major Business Corporations are expected to devote a considerable amount of time to community activities. There is an element of small -town America about this; local fund raising committee to help rising young man to meet peoples and make his mark (Treior-gambling, University of Birmingham, 1980).

The topic on “Satisfaction with Household” from the same book as has been mentioned, further discusses that although it could justly be claimed a few years ago that housework was one of the most neglected sectors of the economy, recent years have witnessed a rapid expansion on this issues and topics. In the first phase, there is a growing recognition that the housework’ is work. Even in industrial or post-industrial

societies, the home is a work place in which a large proportion of the population labours. Understanding the economy is seemed to require consideration of this large non-marketed sector. Moreover, society's allocation of housework to women is increasingly acknowledged as a crucial part of the mechanism of gender stratification. Housework itself is not only a task i.e. inequitably assigned to women and under valued by society as a whole, but also plays a substantial part in disadvantaging women in the rest of a society. Finally, it is noted that for many, if not most, women housework constitutes a major aspect of the lives and shapes much of their daily experience of the world. Thus, in addition to its economic and political importance housework is of major social – psychological significance to women (Myra Mar Ferree, 1980, p-99).

But according to the book *Human Resource Management*, it is written that academicians, politicians and statesmen say that the days of treating man as a commodity or a factor of production has gone and write that the approaches towards human factor have also been shifted from commodity to human relations approach and to human resources approaches. The researches do not fully agree to these changes in approach even in organised sector of the economy and some studies concluded that these approaches are not in force even in most of the organised and large industries. It is quite uncertain to comment upon the approach in force in unorganised sectors as the study conducted in the areas of human factor in this sector, are limited in number and partial in coverage and as such the results are not well established.

However, human factors are equally significant in unorganised sectors. It is the main capital in determining the nature and level of economic activities in this sector. It is

the crucial resource in converting the input into output. Further, unorganised sector, which plays a pivotal role in Indian economic activities, absorbs more than 90% of the human resources. However, this vital factor has not received the attention of the researchers and as such no comprehensive study has under taken in this area.

In view of this backdrop, an attempt is made to present the bases and conditions of employment, wages, including differentials, employee benefits, employee-employer relations in unorganised sector in this book. This book is based on four studies conducted by the author through human factor in domestic sector, agricultural sector, small-scale industrial sectors and wage differential among agricultural workers (Roa, 1989).

Another book on *Human Resource Accounting* has given an insight picture of how accounting scenario across the world has undergone substantial changes. Various organisations in recent times in their published account annex a supplementary report embracing Human Resource Accounting, social accounting, value-added statement. Thus, inclusion of the new concept in the financial reports not only provides more logical and efficient decisions and control. Whatever development in the accounting concept have been made, they are restricted to application in the profit seeking organisations only. Neither any urgency has been felt in applying these new concept in non-profit seeking organisations nor does any body think about development in the accounting and financial reporting – practises of the non-profit organisation entities.

The accounting for non-profit organisations is based on the principles of Conventional Accounting System and represents the sources from which various funds are generated and the avenues they are expanded during a particular accounting period.

Nevertheless, it does not provide any information on their service potentiality nor makes any attempt for valuation of the human resources associated with the entity. The book is designed to fill the vacuum to some extent and to provide further discussion in the field (Saha 1997).

While the book on *Working: Conflict and Change* takes occupation as a pivotal concept, which is defined in the following ways:

An occupation is the social role performed by adult members of the society that directly or indirectly yield social and financial consequences and that constitute a major focus in the life of an adult. The authors in this book are concerned with a wide array of broad types of occupation as well as innumerable specific occupations. Although they are generally, operate in the assumption that the concepts of work and occupation are intimately related to one another, it is important to recognise that there are a number of important examples of 'non-occupational work'. Non-occupational work involves work rules that are not organised as jobs from which income is derived for example housewife (Ritzer, 1997).

Whereas on the book *Class Counts: Comparative Studies in Class Analysis* which discusses in chapter-1 that is *Class Analysis* and in section 1:6 of this particular chapter discussed on people not in the paid labour force included children, retirees, permanent-disabled people, students, people on welfare, the unemployed and full time home-makers. The people in these categories do not participate directly in production is simply enough for the unemployed and others which has been mentioned, but it is problematic for housewife, since housewives obviously work and produce things in the home. This has

led some theorists to argue that the work of housewives should be treated as domestic labour performed within a domestic mode of production (Delphy 1984 and Wright-1997).

From the chapter- v on Organisation which was taken from the book, *Human Stress and Stressors* discussed on work-situation and how persons spend amount of their time in working situation, where the organisational setting exerts its direct control, pressures and demands. The degrees of these demands differ in different work –situations and the degrees to which the pressures are felt from one person to person. Nonetheless, they were putting in more hours of work, while they do not get holidays to the extent of medical prescription and failed in their efforts to secure a promotion or converted pieces of work in their occupational sphere, which resulted into over stimulation and over load on their capacities in comparison to control group.

Researchers on occupational stressors and pressurise-excessive responsibilities and insufficient resources, too much work and too little time, concerns about better performance, have been found to be associated with the poor health of workers (Chaturvedi, 1983).

So also the chapter on ‘Pattern of Labour Force Participation’ in the book *Labour Force Participation and Development* discusses on how labour force approach is based on the notion of economic activity, which in turn is based on two criteria: the distinction between economic and non-economic uses of time and the distinction between active and inactive. Neither distinction has been easy to make. Some critics contend that the low income countries, particularly in rural areas dominated by subsistence agriculture, the concept of economic activity is effectively meaningless because it is either impossible to

have any clear conception of what is work and what is not, or absurd to distinguish between labour force work and other forms of work which are typically excluded from the term 'economic activity'. When the specialization of activities has not been developed, work, leisure and consumption will tend to be inter-mingled without any sharp distinction of one from another. For instance, men sitting under a tree deciding what action to take over some local dispute would probably not be called working, yet in another country their informal deliberations would be replaced by the salaried employment of judges and barristers.

In practice, economic activity is based on the notion of gainful employment which is usually defined as any occupation by which is usually defined as any occupation by which the person who pursue, it receives in money or in kind, or in which he assists in the production of marketable goods and services. However, in certain respects, this definition seems defective. For example, a beggar could be counted as gainfully employed since, hopefully, he occasionally receives compensation. Consequently, so that the beggar would not be counted, gainful employment might be defined by some reference to production. Nevertheless, when a beggar attempts to increase his income by singing to passer-by, he would produce a service or sorts. In that case, it might seem that one could be either relate gainful employment to expect demand or to the 'recognition' aspects of employment. If the existence of demand, rather than its expectation, was taken as a criterion then it would tend to result in the inclusion of many handicraftsmen, for instance, who produce articles hoping to stimulate a demand for their products- (Guy Standing, 1978).

### 2.3 Literature Available on North-East India

Literature survey has also been done to find out the research work on the mentioned topic in Meghalaya in particular and North –east in general. However, according to the survey that has been done no research work on the related survey has been found. The research work on *Work And Employment in A traditional Society - An Ecological Approach to the Study of an Ao Village* discusses on the spatial variation in the structure and workplace. In chapter (iii), the author has mentioned about household industry and other work but these work are not included in the organised sector. Though household industry occupies a significant position in work- patterns in the Naga society, but fails to emerge as main workers. This is mainly due to the time allocation to such works and census definition of main work does not met many as main workers in household industries (Yaden, 1991).

However, the book on *North–Eastern Economy: Problem and Prospects* has mentioned in its chapter (iii) on the problem of unemployment and mentioned about employment in the organised sector. The organised sector and non-agricultural establishments employing 10 or more workers in the private sectors. The data do not cover the self–employed persons in agriculture, house-private sector employing less than 10 workers.

In his study, the author has taken the case study of Assam. It appears that employment in Assam is heavily concentrated with agricultural and livestock activities and, in more particular, in plantation while the share of other sectors and industrial activities are relatively significant, less significant or insignificant. The employment in

the plantation in Assam having reached the optimum, there is not so much scope of further employment generation without more areas being brought into tea cultivation and technically efficiency enhanced. Whereas, mining was not included in organised sector but employing a very negligible proportion of total work in the State though there are immense possibilities of developing the sector. The absence of a sound and diversified industrial base with poor-infrastructural facilities limits the possibility of a major shift in the occupational pattern. Now, there is an urgent need or the necessity to built a diversified industrial base to create new opportunities of employment in the region.

Because of unemployment problems, employment-generation is not synonymous with creating wage employment. It is necessary to combine the provision of wage employment with the creation of conditions for additional self-employment. Besides, the productivity of labour, intensive unorganised urban sector must be raised through better urbanisation and introduction of modern technology (Agarwal, 1988).

Keeping these aspects in mind, it is clearer that unorganised sector is flourishing in tribal economies in the hill areas of North-east. Therefore, there is a need of detailed study on work participation, its nature and characteristics taken as a case study of Meghalaya State.

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## CHAPTER – III

### GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

#### 3.0 Introduction

Meghalaya, 'the abode of cloud' became a full-fledged State on January 21, 1972. It consists of seven administrative districts and 32 C.D Blocks. The seven administrative districts are Jaintia hills, East Garo hills, East Khasi hills, West Khasi hills, Ri-bhoi, South Garo hills, West Garo hills districts, in which Ri-bhoi district and East Khasi hills district taken as the study area.

Physiographically, the East Khasi hills are divided into three regions. The first division is the **Ri-bhoi** in the north that forms itself a compact plateau and gradually slopes towards the Brahmaputra valley. The second division is the **Ri-lum**, an irregularly dissected plateau on higher elevation with Shillong peak (1961m) as the highest peak situated in this part. The Cherrapunji has the highest rainfall in the world is also located in this area. The last division is the **Ri-war** forming the narrow belt full of oblong and sturdy ridges. The East Khasi hills are drained by many perennial and seasonal rivers system in the south. The climate is relatively cool and humid. Impact of high humidity of the Bay of Bengal has resulted in very high rainfall. The East Khasi hills cover an area of about 5196 sq. kms. The total population of district (including Ri-Bhoi) is accounted 6,65,218 persons according to 1991 census.

### **3.1 The Study Area**

East Khasi hills and Ri-bhoi districts are selected for the present study because they have a complete physiographic unit of Shillong plateau and have a variety of people within Khasi tribes. Ri-Bhoi district, which was part of East Khasi hills district was carved out on June 1992. It falls in the northern part of Meghalaya, the East Khasi Hills on the central and southern parts of the Shillong plateau. The area lies between 25°N to 26°N Latitudes and 90°15'E to 92°15'E Longitudes. The present area of study is covered in the Survey of India toposheet No.78 (K), 78(O) and 83 (C) with a scale of R.F. 1/250,000. Assam bound the study area in the north, Bangladesh in the south, Jaintia in the east and part of Assam in the extreme east whereas in the west it is bounded by the West Khasi hills district (Fig-3.1).

### **3.2 Location and extension**

#### ***(a) The Ri –Bhoi District***

Ri-bhoi district has been formed recently. Earlier this area was under the East Khasi Hills District. This newly formed District consists of the Nongpoh C.D. Block and Bhoi Area C.D. Block. This District lies to the northern and north-eastern parts of the East Khasi hills. It is bounded by the state of Assam in its north. The district of East Khasi Hills binds it from the south; the district of West Khasi Hills from the west and partly by Assam and Jaintia Hills district from the East and North-Eastern sides.

### Location Map of the Study Area

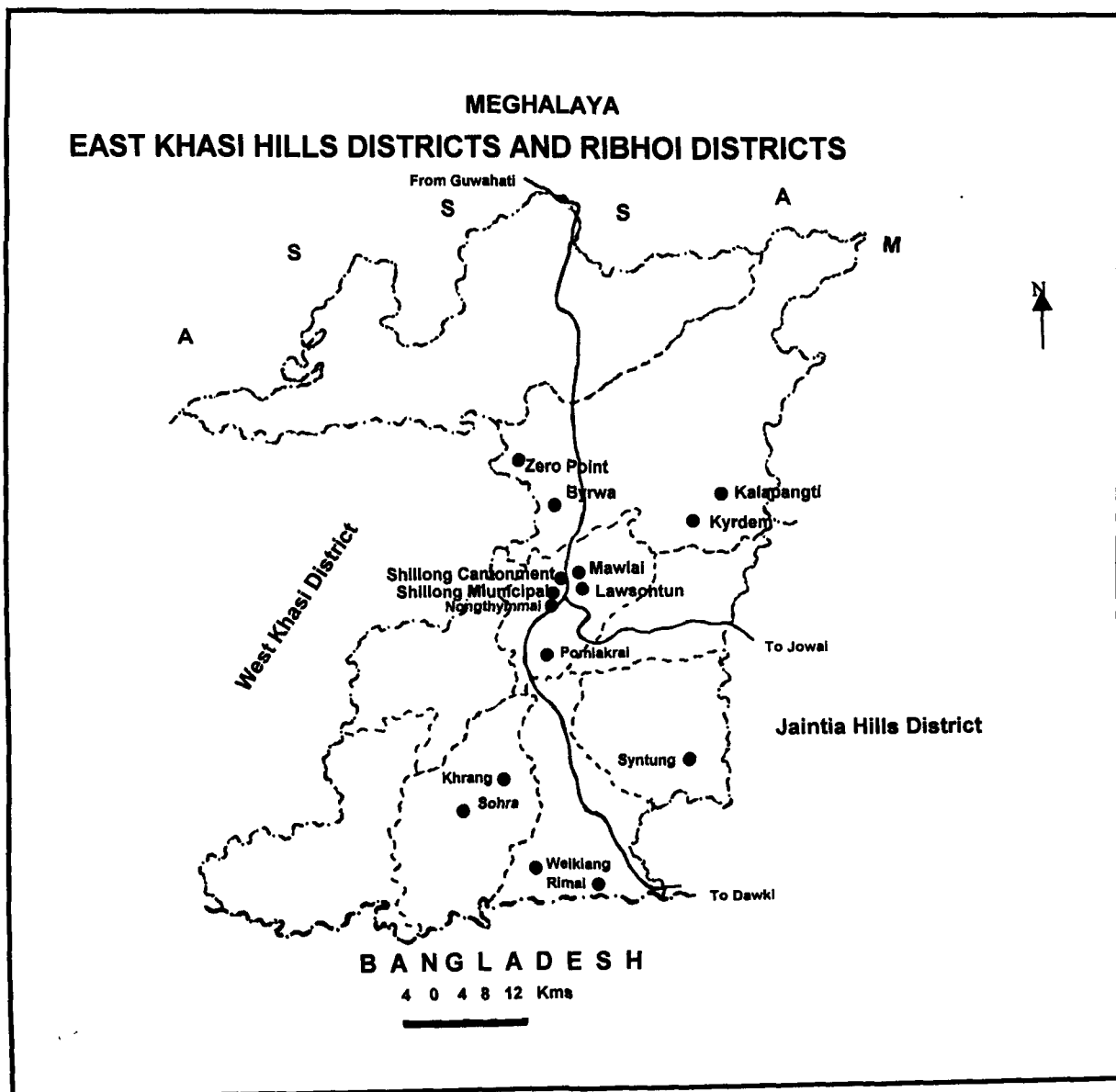


Fig-3.1

RI-Bhoi District, although parts of the Meghalaya plateau, is a region of alternating ridges and trough with structural and stream terraces. It was once a malarial area and till recently considered unworthy of habitation by both the hill-people and the plainsmen. However, there has been a large –scale migration to this area from Jaintia hills and from Assam.

***(b) The East Khasi District***

According to 1991 census, East Khasi Hills included nine C.D. Blocks. But after the formation of Ri Bhoi District in June 1992 under the inclusion of Nongpoh and Bhoi Area Community Block, the East Khasi Hills District were left with seven C.D. Blocks only. Ri Bhoi District binds it in the east, by Jaintia Hills district in the north, West Khasi Hills in the west and the international border of Bangladesh in the south.

The Shillong plateau named after the highest peak of the area. Shillong peak is situated slightly on the eastern part of the state and the capital city of Shillong. Towards the east, the plateau extends across the gorges of the Umngot River and continues into the highland of Jaintia Hills District, which is nearing the eastern –west border of the state. However, when coming down to the elevation of 900-600 m ending in the gorges of Kupli River, forming the eastern most boundary of the state. The northern parts of East Khasi Hills as high above the ridges, were slopes down to the Ri Bhoi area of the district. Some undulating hills are found scattered here and there. Towards the south of the plateau, it extends almost to the edge of the cliffs over looking Bangladesh forming the elevation of 900 m and suddenly sloping from that elevation to 150 m below. The

Shillong plateau forms the watershed of all the principal rivers of the District. The river drained their ways either to the Brahmaputra River or to the Surma River in Bangladesh.

### **3.3 Terrain Features**

For a clear understanding of the distribution of work-pattern and the different activities in the study area, there is a need to study the ecological characteristics influencing the work pattern of the area. The physical setting goes along way in determining the classification of work pattern, as the work of the people differ from region to region and area to area. For example, people who settle in the plain areas, the work pattern is mostly toward agriculture and other allied activities, whereas people residing in the hilly slopes are toward allied other activities like lumbering and other cultivation and their pattern is not so influential like that of the plain area. Therefore, to understand the areal pattern of the work in the region, there is an important need to know the physical setting of the region.

*A. Relief:* The northern part of the study area comprises of rolling and undulating hills, while the central part of the study area falls in the central upland zone with high hills and dissected plateaus. Whereas the southern part comprises mainly of the deep gorges and forms the southern slope of the area.

*B. The Average-Slope:* It has seen that the large portion of the area has an average slope category of 20°-40° and is followed by an area having an average of 40°-60°. It has also

seen that the small pocket in the north, north-western, central and southern part, the average slope is observed very steep  $60^{\circ}$ - $80^{\circ}$  and  $80^{\circ}$  above respectively. In some pockets located in the extreme north-west, central, north and the central portion of the area, the average-slope is calculated below  $10^{\circ}$  (Fig-3.2 & 3.2a).

The map shows that the area in the north is mostly the plain area and some gentle slope of undulating hill was scattered here and there. However, in the north-western side of the north, the slope is steep somehow. In the central part of the area, the slope is steep and this area falls mostly of the Shillong Plateau. In the central-eastern side, and central part of the area, the gentle slopes are visible. In the southern side, the three platforms of Meghalaya Plateau are highly visualised on the map. The Average Slope shows that the study area falls exactly on the North, Central and Southern part of Khasi Hills District.

*C. Contour Profile:* Cross-section line for the cross profile is being taken from the combined toposheets No.78 (K), 78 (O), and 83 (C). The cross line starts from north-east to south-west directions with a scale of 1 inch= 1000 feet. The average contour crossing is between 1000 ft. to 5000 ft. It crosses the undulating slope in the north and part of the plain area. In the central part, it mostly crosses the plateau area. Then there is an abrupt slope, which descends, formed by river Umngi that shows the depression in the profile. The rest of the tableland is a platform known as the Mawsynram platform (Fig-3.3, Profile).

CONTOUR  
UNITED KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS

No 78 O & 83 C

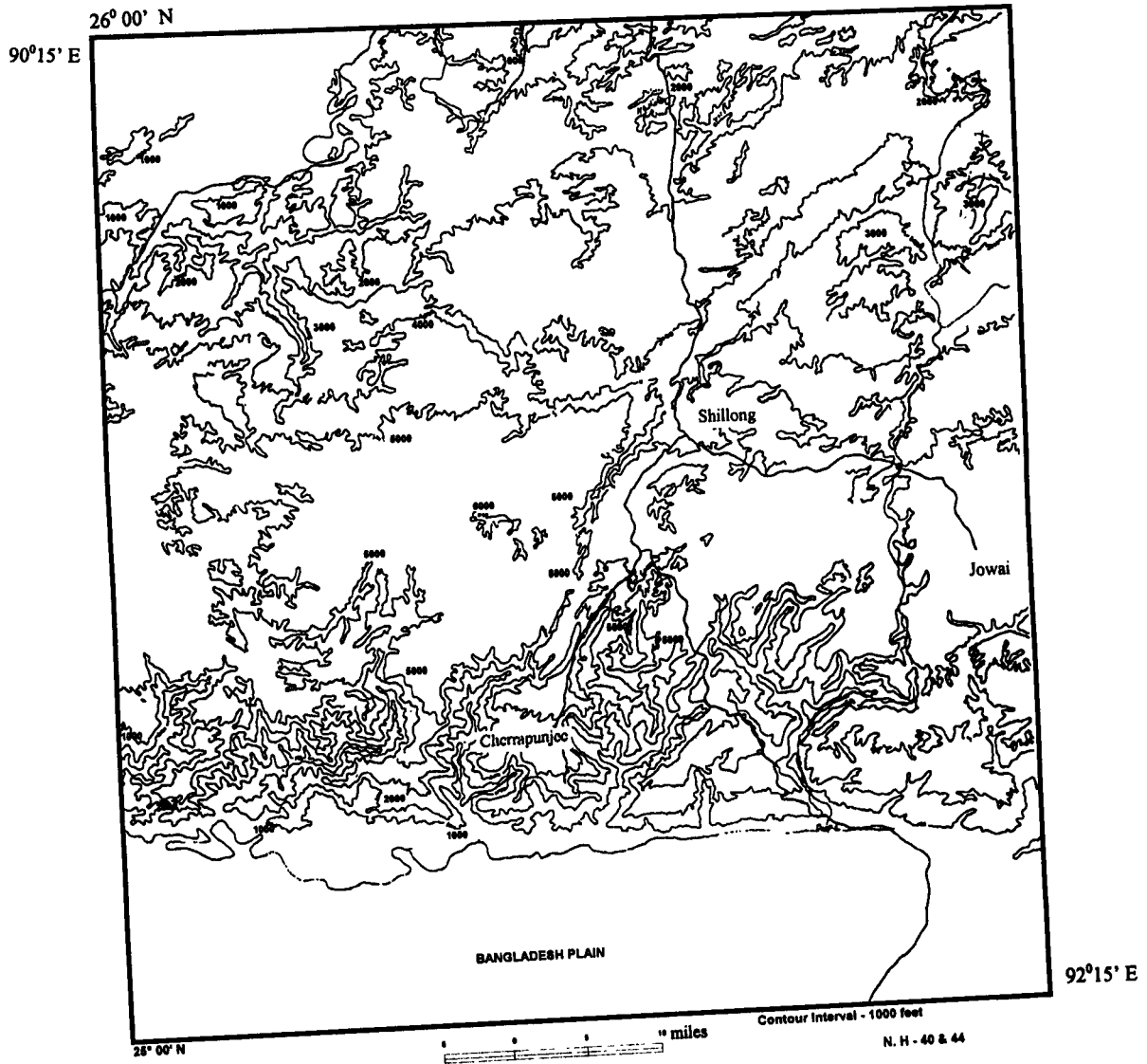
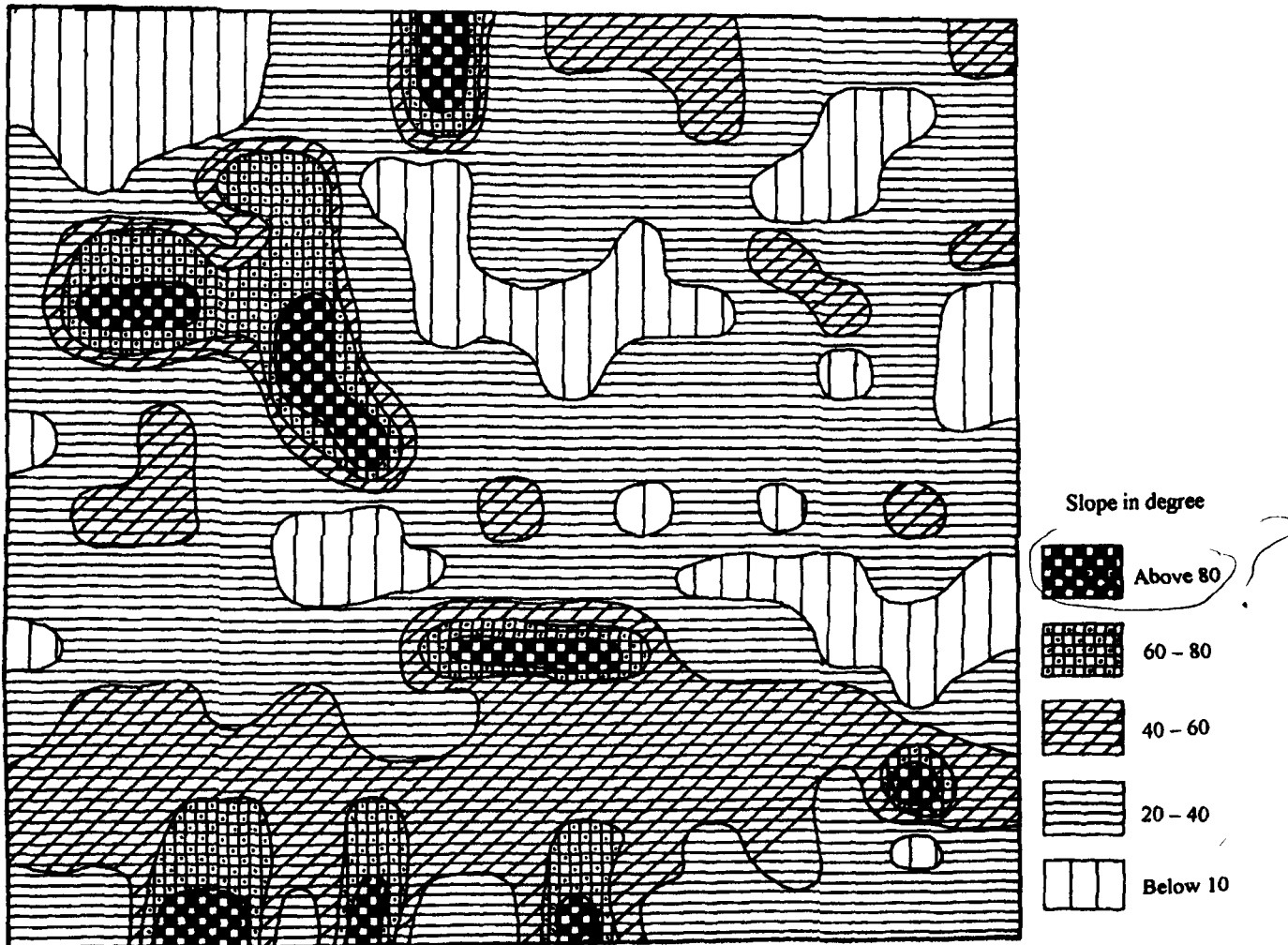


Fig-3.2

**AVERAGE SLOPE MAP**  
**United Khasi and Jaintia Hills**



**Fig-3.2a**

CROSS PROFILE OF NORTH - SOUTH DIRECTION OF UNITED KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS

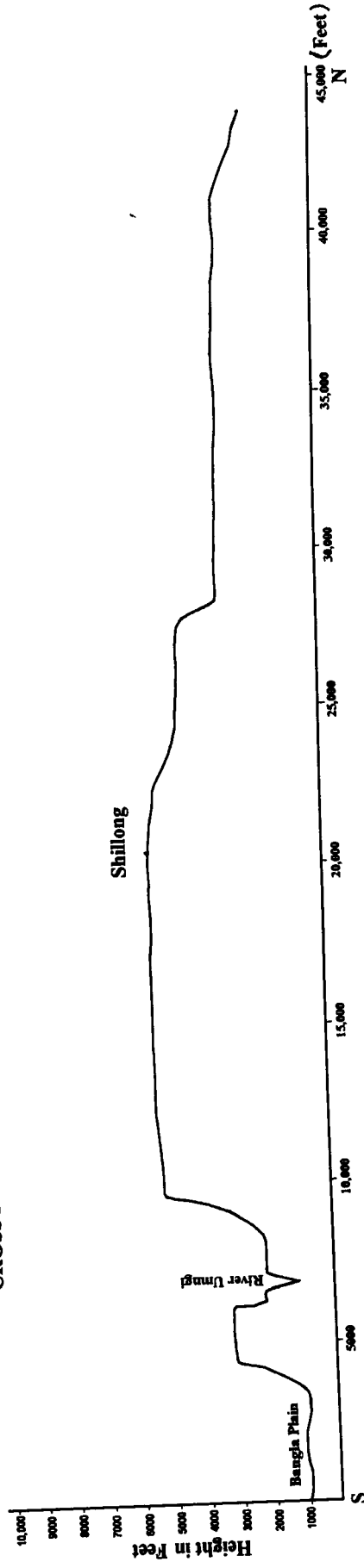


Fig-3.3

*D. Drainage:* Most of the rivers, which flow to the northern and southern sides of the Meghalaya Plateau, originated from the plateau itself. There are about three drainage networks, which flow in the northern side of Meghalaya. The big rivers, which flow to the northern side, consist of river Khri, Umtrew, Umling, Umran and their tributaries. Most of the rivers are perennial. River Umiam is another network that flows to the northern side of Meghalaya. Rivers that flow towards the south-east are the river Umngot and river Umsong and to the south-west are river Umngi and join the river Muksi in the extreme south where these rivers join river Surma in Bangladesh. Whereas the river Kynshi originates from the northern side flow south-west and ultimately join Jadukata in the extreme south (Fig-3.4).

### **3.4 Climate**

*(a) The Ri-Bhoi District:* The climate of the area is sub-tropical. Warm months starts from March-April and temperature gradually increases by the month of May till the onset of winter season. During the winter months, that is, from November to March, the weather conditions are warm in the day time and cold in the night time. The maximum temperature is recorded 32.73°C and occurs in the month of June and the minimum temperature is recorded 5.42°C in the month of January.

Relative humidity is maximum (92.58%) during the month of August and the minimum (34.64%) during the month of March. Total annual precipitation received during the year 2001 was 4557.89 mm. Most of the share of rain precipitates during the



months of June to August with the significantly more number of rainy days. The high intensity of rainfall continues till the month of October.

**Table-3.1: Climatic Conditions of Ri-bhoi District recorded for the year 2001.**

Month	Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )		Relative Humidity (%)		Rainfall (mm)
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	
Jan	5.42	23.53	55.8	73.41	2.5 (1day)
Feb	7.97	24.41	60.22	72.33	106.9 (4day)
Mar	9.37	31.35	34.64	71	40.8 (3day)
Apr	13.76	32.53	58.6	81.6	64.9 (5day)
May	16.62	32.48	71.61	89.12	529.75 (19day)
Jun	18.59	32.73	80.73	90.6	855.25 (21day)
Jul	21.13	30.7	77.29	90.58	105.5 (24day)
Aug	19.99	31.68	79.32	92.58	847 (22day)
Sep	19.46	30.61	78	92	595.25 (16day)
Oct	15.38	31.65	67.77	91.64	492.8 (16day)
Nov	13.43	27.64	71.66	86.1	26.95 (4day)
Dec	6.9	23.52	62.48	81.61	16 (1day)

Source: Research Extension centre, Central Silk Board, Govt Sericulture Silk Farm, Govt of Meghalaya, Nongpoh.

NB: figures in parentheses show the number of days.

**(b). The East Khasi Hills District:** The area has a temperate climate. The weather conditions are moderately warm during the summers but very cold during the winters. Part of the area falls under rain shadow conditions and part of it comes under the rain-fed zone, so the annual rainfall is comparatively higher than Ri Bhoi District which is wholly located in the rain shadow area. The maximum temperature recorded is  $23.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  and minimum temperature during winter is  $4.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Relative humidity is maximum (84.4 %) during the month of July while minimum relative humidity (73.1 %) is recorded during

the month of April. Total annual rainfall received in the area is 1568.3 mm. Most of the rainy days occurred during the month of July. However, it decreases with the onset of winter season.

**Table-3.2: Climatic Conditions of East Khasi Hills District (2001).**

Month	Temperature ( $^{\circ}$ C)		Relative Humidity (%)		Rainfall (mm)
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	
Jan	4.5	14.5	75.1	78	4.5 (1 day)
Feb	6.3	15.5	77.8	80.2	187.5 (2 days)
Mar	9.1	18.8	75.2	77.7	28 (1 day)
Apr	12.3	21.9	73.1	78.8	36.25 (7 days)
May	13.4	22.9	78.1	79.7	282.5 (10 days)
Jun	13.6	22.6	80.2	78.5	160.25 (7 days)
Jul	16.6	23.3	81.4	84.4	380.3 (17 days)
Aug	17.2	23.1	81.9	83.2	139.85 (7 days)
Sep	17.3	22.7	83.4	84.3	202.5 (13 days)
Oct	15.2	20.3	85.8	84.1	145 (7 days)
Nov	14.6	19.2	86.4	84.0	2 (1 day)
Dec	9.5	15.3	79.4	80.5	Nil

*Source: Research Extension centre, Central Silk Board, Govt Sericulture Silk Farm, Govt. of Meghalaya, Lawsohtun Block VI. P.O. Laban*

NB: figures in parentheses show the number of days.

### 3.5. The Soils

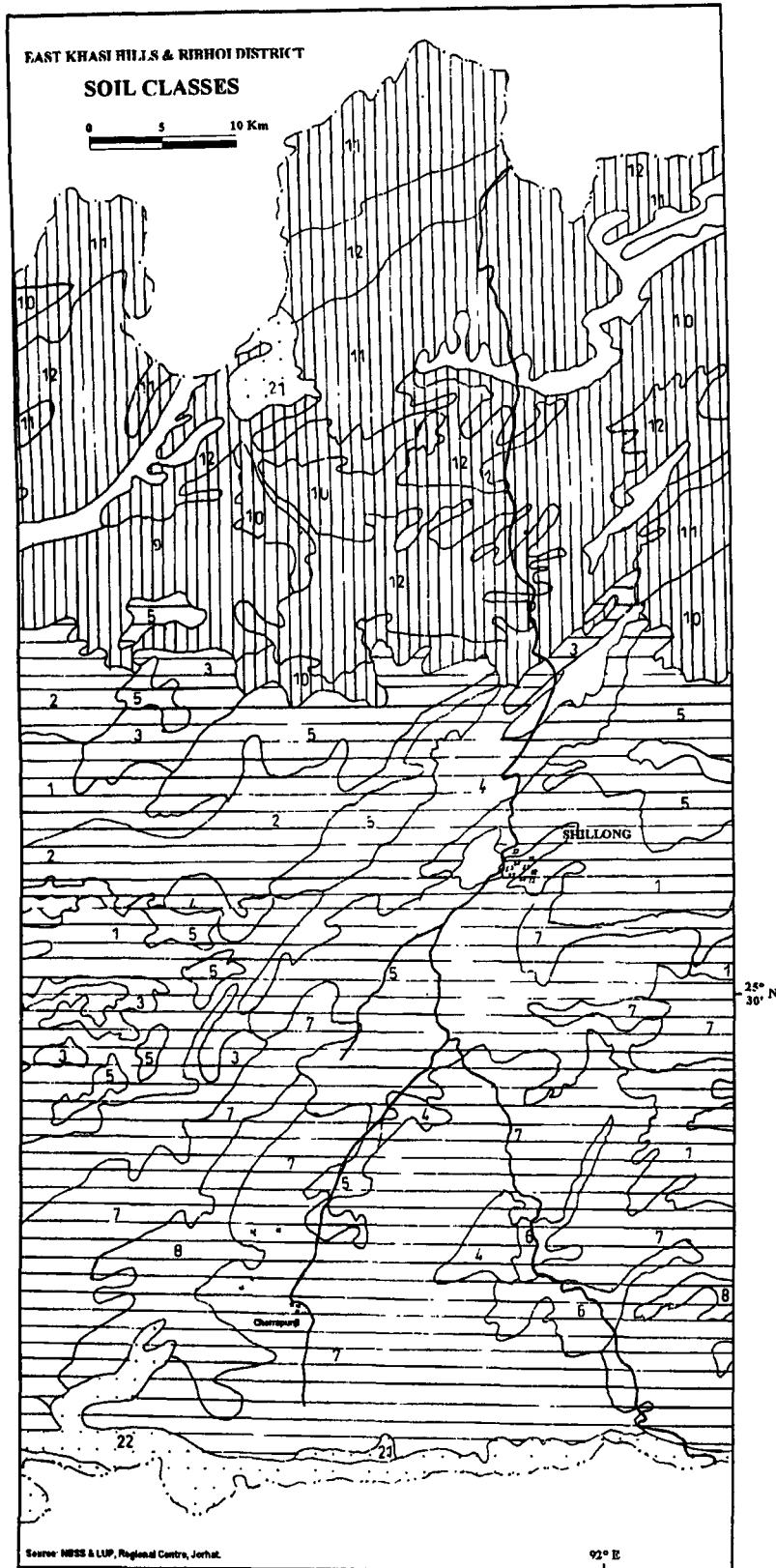
*(a) Ri-Bhoi District:* Because of the regional variations in the underlying rock materials, relief, climate, etc, the soils vary from one area to another. The rainfall being high in some parts, even excessive in some other parts of the region; the soil is generally acidic. But except on the hill plateau, one can find mature soils with characteristics profiles; the slope of the hill may present thin skeletal profiles or no clear profiles at all. The mineral deposits are also less in these soils. As a result of its gentle slope and warm climate, the

Bhoi area has lateritic soils. These soils have formed through the weathering of quartzites, schist, conglomerate, etc. Normally, reddish or yellowish in colour, they have a vesicular structure. They are often massive and firm, which can be cut into blocks when moist. These have formed under the conditions of heavy rainfall and the soil is deficient in base ions and organic matter and rich in oxides of iron and aluminium. In this soil, long-leaf plants can flourish well. However, as result of jhum cultivation practised by the inhabitants in the area, it does not contain any thick and tall forests. Along the northern fringes of the area, alluvial soils are found. They vary from sandy to clayey loam with varying amount of nitrogen content. They are highly acidic and rich in potash but poor in phosphate. In general, the soils are thin, immature and light in colour. They are clayey and fertile on the hilltops and thick in nature, deep in colour, more clayey and fertile in the valleys.

**(b) East Khasi Hills District:** East Khasi hills have different types of soils, especially the red loamy soil, which is found in its central upland zone. It varies from clay to sandy loam. It is rich in organic matter and nitrogen but deficient in phosphate and potash. Laterite soils occur in a broad belt extending from west to east in the northern region. They are generally reddish or yellowish in colour and poor in organic matter, but acidic in reaction. Red and yellow soils are found in the belt running from east to west in the foothills. The red colour is due to high degree of hydrogenisation. The soils are usually fine textured ranging from loam to silty loam. Alluvial soils also occur along the northern, western and southern fringes of the region. They are good for cultivation of

rice, jute and fruits. The important crops, which are grown in this area due to the present of different soils, are rice, sugarcane, cotton, maize and potato. Other important commercial crops are orange, pineapple, banana, betel-leaf and turmeric, etc. In other words, the Ri-Bhoi district which falls on the northern side of the plateau, the characteristics of soils vary from deep, loamy-skeletal hyperthermic with slight erosion in the extreme north and of the central part of the north to deep loamy-skeletal hyperthermic soil with moderate stoniness in the north and the extreme west of the north. Whereas in the extreme southwest, the soil characteristics are dominated by deep, fine loamy, mixed hyperthermic with moderate erosion. Whereas the soil with moderately deep, fine loamy hyperthermic soils with strong stoniness is partly dominates in the north, east, south and extreme west of the north (Fig-3.5).

According the classification given by the NBSS & LUP, Regional Office, Jorhat, *The Soil characteristics of East Khasi Hills District* which includes the central and southern part of Meghalaya plateau, are dominated by deep, fine loamy thermic and excessively drained of moderate to severe Erosion in the eastern-central part of the district followed by deep, fine loamy skeletal thermic soil of moderate to severe erosion of the same. Deep, fine and mixed thermic soil with excessively drained with moderate erosion is also scattered in and around the eastern the eastern-central part of the district. The soil of deep fine and loamy with excessively drained conditions of severe erosion was also found in an around the area. Whereas the southern part of the district is dominated by moderately shallow-loamy, skeletal mixed thermic with strong stoniness to deep fine loamy thermic and excessively drained of moderate to severe erosion. The area



**SOIL CLASSES**

**(A) THERMIC SOIL REGIME :**

- 1 Deep, fine and loamy with excessively drained conditions of severe erosion
- 2 Deep, fine and mixed thermic soils with excessively drained with moderate erosion
- 3 Moderately deep, loamy, skeletal thermic soils of strong stoniness with excessively drained and moderate erosion
- 4 Deep, fine, loamy, skeletal thermic soils of moderate to severe erosion
- 5 Deep, fine loamy thermic and excessively drained of moderate to severe erosion
- 6 Moderately deep, excessively drained coarse loamy with mixed and thermic with strong stoniness
- 7 Moderately shallow, loamy, skeletal, mixed thermic with strong stoniness
- 8 Moderately deep, loamy, skeletal thermic soils with severe erosion

**(B) HYPERTHERMIC SOIL REGIME**

- 9 Deep, fine, loamy, mixed hyperthermic with moderate erosion
- 10 Deep, loamy-skeletal hyperthermic soils with slight erosion
- 11 Deep, loamy-skeletal hyperthermic soils with moderate erosion
- 12 Moderately deep, fine loamy hyperthermic soils with strong stoniness
- 22 Moderately deep, coarse-loamy, mixed hyperthermic soils with moderate erosion
- 23 Deep, well drained, fine-loamy and mixed hyperthermic soils with strong stoniness

Fig-3.5

are also covered by deep fine loamy thermic and excessively drained of moderate to severe erosion. The soil characteristics in the western side of Cherrapunji are moderately deep loamy, skeletal thermic soil with severe erosion and, on the eastern, it is dominated by moderately deep, excessively drained coarse-loamy, mixed hyperthermic soil with strong stoning.

### **3.5. Natural Vegetation**

*(a) The Ri-Bhoi Area:* The original cover of natural vegetation has been stripped of from the plateau as a result of years of cutting and burning of forests for jhum cultivation and because of unregulated grazing. The present vegetation, therefore, comprises of secondary growth.

The areas with low sloping grounds and flat lands have natural vegetation ranging from tropical to temperate. Tropical-moist deciduous forests are mainly found in this region. Dense jungles still cloche the higher submits of the whole area. Besides the valuable timber, medicinal plants, hard and softwood are found abundantly. Due to the variation in rainfall, there are considerable differences in the distribution of vegetational cover. The sub-tropical pine forests dominate the southern side of the Bhoi district. Grassland and quick growing bamboo and cane with occasional trees form the thickets here. A large quantity of orchids, medicinal plants and herbs too are found in the different parts of the district. The main species of trees which are found in these tropical-moist deciduous are *sal*, *nehar*, *champa*, *gomari*, etc. Large thickets of bamboo were scattered

all over along with wild banana. Rolling grasslands are formed between 900-1350 m and pine-forests were found above 1350 m.a.s.l.

Main species of pine are found mixed with willow magnolia, oak, etc. Due to constant felling of trees, many of the forested areas have been cleared. This has led to the change of climate and become hotter, besides huge destruction of forests, it has posed a problem such as shortage of arable land and causes of frequent movement of farming communities.

Besides the growth of vegetation, the region is also gifted with beautiful fauna. There is a variety of species such as birds, snakes, tigers, etc. The tropical and moist-tropical deciduous forests ensure the survival of rich mammalian fauna as also other groups of animals, birds, reptiles, etc. The work pattern of local people is directly influenced by such agro-ecological and forest conditions.

**(b) The East Khasi Hills:** East Khasi Hills falls in the central part of Meghalaya Plateau and sub-tropical pine forests in its upper part dominate the vegetation cover. This is also known as *Khasi Pine* or *Pinus Khasiyana* that are the principal trees in the whole of East Khasi Hills. The East Khasi Hills are further known for flora of infinite varieties, which spread near Shillong, Cherrapunji, Mairang and other places. Bamboo and sal are the important trees found in this area. Apart from the valuable trees, the East Khasi Hills also have a huge abundant of medical plants and herbs. Orchids are also found in different region of East Khasi Hills. Grassland covers part of the extreme east of the area near Smit Village. Some pockets in the central parts of the district are also covered by denuded area

because of the practice of jhumming. Whereas in the southern side of the East Khasi Hill, it was dominated by denuded area and some pockets in sal forests dominate the eastern side. In the western side, most of the areas are seen as cloud shadow or unclassified areas (Fig-3.6).

It can be summed up by saying that the natural vegetation of Ri-Bhoi and East Khasi Hill comprises of tropical moist deciduous in the northern part and pine forest in most of the hilly area of the central part of Meghalaya plateau and scattered grassland in the extreme east. The common Khasi pine namely *Pinus Khasiyana* dominates most of the slopes where habitation, roads and shifting cultivation have not reduced the forest to grasslands.

The central and eastern parts of the Meghalaya are a true plateau with its senile topography and flat skyline. This can physiographically be well divided into three distinct units on zones: (1) The northern undulating hills, (2) The central upland zone, and (3) The southern precipitous face of the upland.

The northern hills on northern zone with accordant summits (170-820 m) gradually slope down towards the Brahmaputra valley and form, therefore, the sub-montane region of the central Meghalaya, called the Ri-Bhoi country by the Khasi and Jaintia people. There are two terraces indicating two peneplain surfaces, one from Khanapara to Jorhat and the other from Byrnihat to Nongpoh.

The central portion or the central upland zone running east-west consists of the plateau proper and covers more than one-third of the central and eastern Meghalaya. The Khasis and Jaintias call this plateau section Ri-Khasi and Ri-Jaintia in their respective

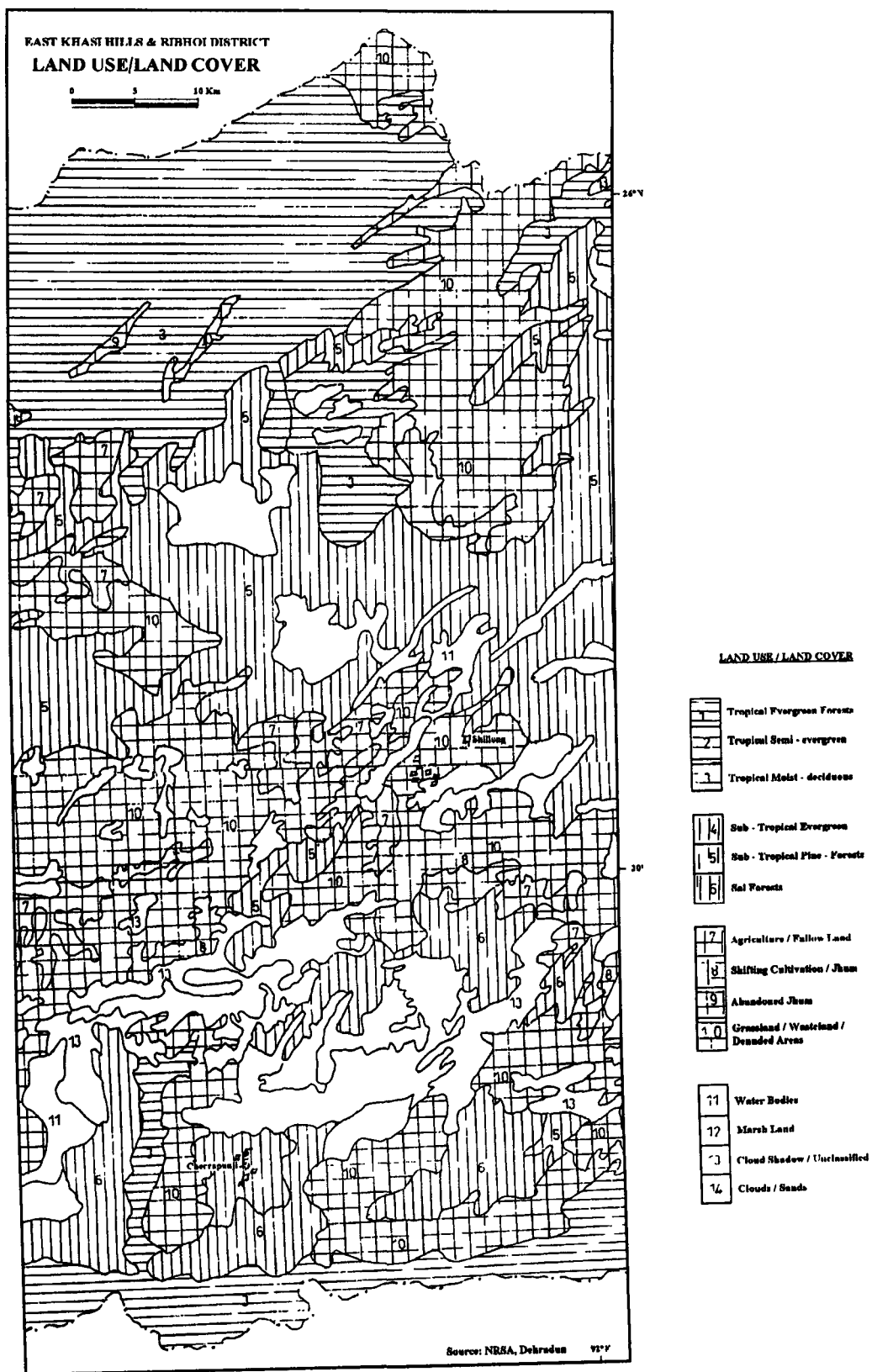


Fig-3.6

areas. In general, this zone consists mostly of rolling grassy downs, intersected with river valleys and dotted all over with soft rounded hills with fresh soft turf which from a distance looks as soft as a velvet.

The southern zone or the southern face of the plateau locally known as War country consists of the steepest parts of the region. This part in its northern fringe, to the south of Shillong hills has a typical granitic topography with rounded hills and shallow valleys composed of the Myllem granite. Farther south beyond Myllem there is a vast structural platform on which stands Cherrapunjee. This part is built of gently dipping sandstones and over its edge is located the magnificent Mawsmat waterfalls. This structural platform stands as an escarpment and its face has been attacked by fluvial erosion due to extremely heavy rainfall and as a result of which a number of platforms, namely Cherrapunji, Lyngkyrdem and Mawsynram, have been formed.

### **3.6 Population Characteristics**

Geography is the study of spatial variations of natural as well as socio-economic phenomena. This idea calls for the understanding of the basic features of any region or area before one tries to comprehend the impact of these phenomena on different types of the activities (in regard to the environment). For this reason, there is a need to study the relationship between population and occupational characteristics of the study area as well as the sample villages which are representative of geographic reality of the study area. This may be portrayed the socio-economic pattern of the selected areas of study.

As per the 1991 census, the population of East Khasi Hills district was enumerated as 6,65,218 persons, out of which the population in the age group (0-6) years was 1,34,015 (20.15 % to the total population), whereas the total literates was enumerated as 31,895 (47.95 % to the total population). But the total workforce consists of 38.25 percent share to the total population. Therefore, the dependency ratio is recorded very high while the proportion of non-working population is much higher.

The study of occupational characteristics of East Khasi hills district is based on total working force. So the total workers in East Khasi Hills were enumerated 2,54,471, out of them total cultivators were 70168, (27.57% to the total workers), the total number of agricultural labourers was 32708 (only 12.85%), the total numbers of people engaged in livestock, forestry and fishing, hunting and allied activities and also in mining and quarrying were 42,362 (16.64%) as per the census of 1991 figures. Thus, primary activities dominate in the occupational structure of the district. The workers who was engaged in manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairing was enumerated 10,140 (that is only 3.98% to the total workers), the workers employed in others activities consist of 99,093 (38.94%). It means secondary sector of economy is weak and a very small share of workforce is engaged in such activities, whereas the tertiary sector is flourishing in the 1980s according to the census data.

For more detail and at micro areal (village) level, the collected statistics of 10 sample villages and 5 urban localities are used to understand the rural-urban contrast in the demographic and occupational structure of the district.

**Table-3.3: Population characteristics of Sample Villages and Towns in their different Demographic Divisions of East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi Districts**

(Figures in Percent)

	Total Population	Child population (0 -6 years)	Literates	Workers	Dependency Ratio
<b>Rural Areas</b>					
<i>Northern Zone</i>					
Zero Point	1003	19.84	54.33	35.59	1.81
Byrwa	311	25.08	49.19	34.4	1.91
Kalapangti	116	19.82	NA	43.1	1.31
Kyrdem	612	26.63	34.8	44.44	1.21
<b>Average</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>22.84</b>	<b>46.10</b>	<b>39.38</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>Central Upland Zone</i>					
Lawsotun	4502	20.07	67.43	29.34	2.41
Pomlakrai	3097	20.07	18.95	38.29	1.61
<b>Average</b>	<b>3799</b>	<b>20.07</b>	<b>43.19</b>	<b>33.81</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>Southern Zone</i>					
Weikyang	123	7.31	44.71	47.96	1.08
Rimai	46	23.91	28.26	43.47	1.30
Khrang	414	29.22	39.37	45.58	1.25
Syntung	792	33.73	18.85	45.36	0.15
<b>Average</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>23.54</b>	<b>32.79</b>	<b>45.36</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Urban Areas</b>					
Cherrapunji (CT)	7777	20.99	60.15	30.19	2.18
Shillong(M)	131719	14.45	78.73	34.18	1.91
Shillong(Cantt)	11076	13.29	25.16	38.16	1.62
Mawlai(NM)	30964	20.23	63.31	29.55	2.40
Nongthymmai	26938	14.4	73.84	31.56	2.16
<b>Average</b>	<b>41695</b>	<b>16.67</b>	<b>60.23</b>	<b>32.72</b>	<b>-</b>

Population characteristics of the sample villages and towns are studied by considering child population, literacy rate, dependency ratio and the work pattern of the workers for the different physiographic zones. The physiographic zones have already studied in early part of the same chapter.

Among the three zones, southern zone accounts for the highest percentage share of child population between 0-6 years, which is 23.54 percent to the total population. Syntung accounts the highest child population within this zone (33.73%). The southern zone falls in the Ri-War area, which has warm climate, and the soil is fertile. This can support the largest population. As Syntung falls in this zone; it can support the largest population because it is rich in mineral resource like coal besides agricultural activity. The second highest area in connection with the percentage share of child population is noticed in the northern zone, which has 22.84 percent to the total population. The physiographic set-up was more or less the same like the southern zone. So there is also an increase in child population because of the warm climate and the soil fertility is high as it can support the largest population. The central zone has moderate share of child population as an average 20.07 percent. In both the sample villages of this zone, child population is more or less the same. This shows that the climate in this area is cool and the soil fertility is very low which led to the less share of child population. Among the literates, the highest rate was recorded in the northern zone and sample village Zero-Point that is located in this zone accounts for the highest (54.33%). This shows that in Zero-Point, the literacy rate is high because there are government offices like MESEB situated in this area. Many people within and outside the villages flux to this area to cater to this activity and in the mean time it activate the people to understand the value of literacy in this area. The central upland zone comes on second highest ion connection with the literacy rate. The highest rate between the two sample villages, the village Lawsohtun (67.43 % literates to total population). It is the highest because it is situated very near to

the Shillong city. So many people do come and avail the facility provided by the city. The third highest figure of literacy rate is accounted from southern zone. With this zone, the sample village Weikyiang, which is very near to the Community Development Block has the highest value of literacy rate. In terms of worker share in the occupational structure, the highest percentage of workforce is accounted for in southern zone, where Weikyiang accounts for the highest share of workers as it is very near to the Community Development Block. The second highest area in terms of workforce is the northern zone, in which Kyrдем sample village accounts the highest percentage of worker in this zone. This is because most of the people in this village are engaged in agricultural activities and everyone can participate in this activity. The central-upland zone comes on the third place in terms of workforce strength in which Pomlakrai sample village has quite significant number of workers. This is also the area where people always engaged in agricultural activities and everyone can participate in this activity (Table-3.3 and Fig-3.7 & 3.8).

Dependency ratio indicates a demographic presence on the population. The areal variation of dependency ratio shows that the areas of northern slopes and central dissected plateau topography have the very high ratio of more than 1.50. It means there is heavy burden of dependents (children + aged people) on the workforce. Surprisingly, Lawsohtun village of central zone has the highest figure of this ratio (2.41) (Table-3.3). In spite of higher literacy rate of the village and moderate child population share, the dependency ratio is recorded extremely high. It may be because the dependents population of too aged people would be very high in the demographic structure of the village. The village is located close to Shillong city where more medical and health

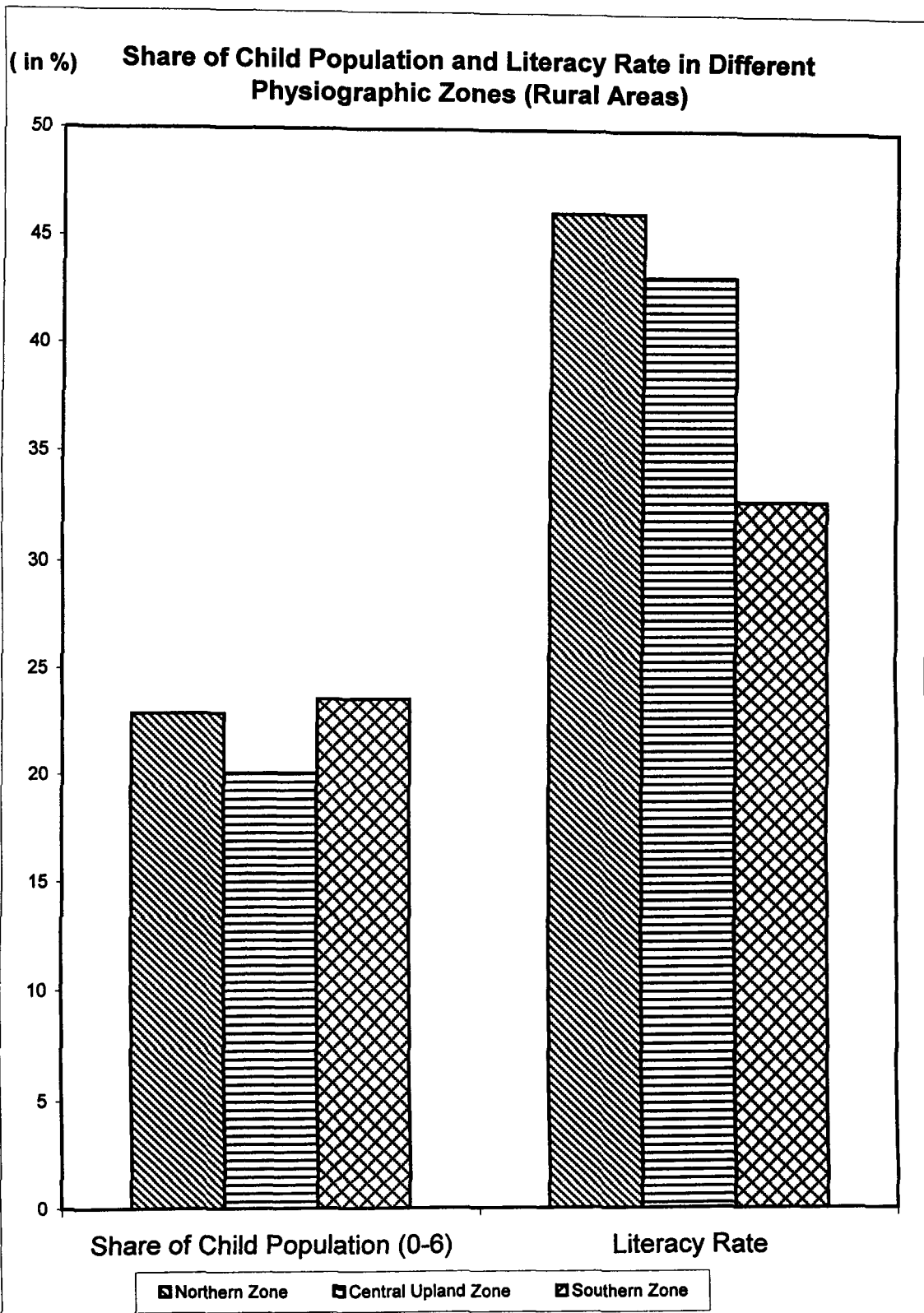


Fig-3.7

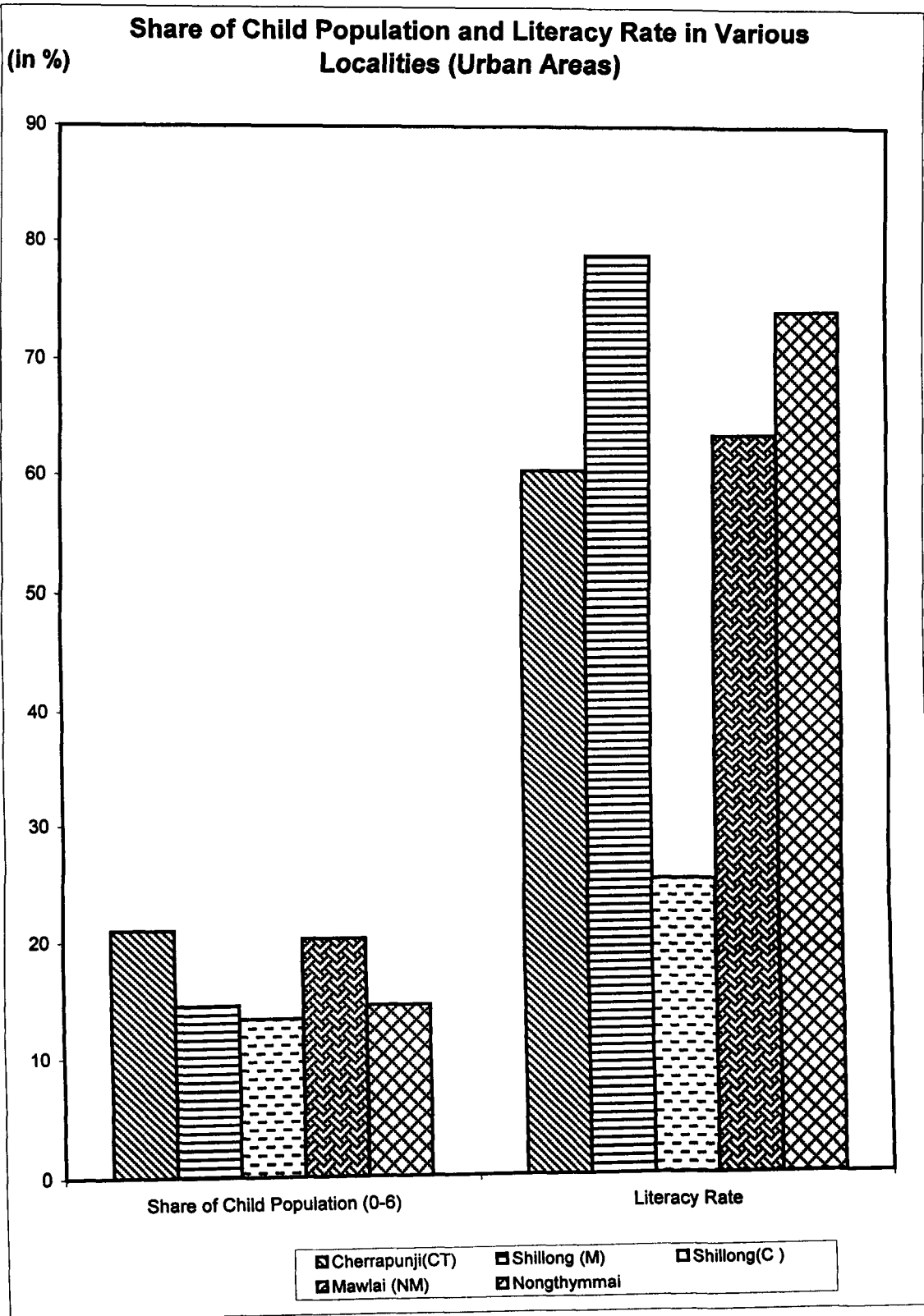


Fig-3.8

facilities are available. More medical facilities and awareness are the major factors reduce the mortality rate and increase life expectancy in this area. On the other hand, the areas of southern slopes comparatively have the lower dependency ratio (3.3).

Over all, comparatively low figures of dependency ratio have been observed in the towns. However, surprisingly, the Mawlai locality of Shillong town has the highest figure of dependency ratio (2.40) where 240 persons are recorded dependents on 100 workers. It means that child population share is recorded very high in the population composition. However, though Mawlai has a good percentage of literacy rate but still dependency is very high in this area, it may be because of the easy availability of health facility and at the same time Mawlai is in the lower elevation as the area of Ri-Bhoi such as Zero-Point and Kyrdem where the soil is fertile and it can support a large population.

On the whole, it may be said that the percentage of child population and low share of workforce in the composition of population increases dependency ratio in the rural areas of the Ri-Bhoi and East Khasi Hills districts.

#### **Area Variation in Occupational Structure:**

The physiographic zone-wise variation of occupational structure shows the effects of physiography on work pattern. The biggest size of workers population is recorded in the central zone that is 371 persons). The northern and southern zones of the plateau include 316 and 294 persons respectively of the average size of workers in the village (Table-3.4). The percentage share of cultivators is recorded highest in the northern zone. This shows that these areas have gentle slope and as it moves farther north it joins the

plain area of Assam. The soil here is fertile and many agricultural activities are being taken place in this area. Whereas in terms of agricultural labourers, the highest is also in the northern zone and is consists of 13.71 percent of the total workers. This shows that there is a close relationship between cultivator and agricultural labourers in this zone. In terms of livestock, mining and quarrying, the highest share of workers (31.97 %) is observed in the southern zone. This is because this zone falls in the sedimentary belt where coal-mining and quarrying are major activities in this area. Similarly, in terms of manufacturing, processing and servicing, the southern zone of the plateau is noticeable and includes nearly a half of its total workforce (49.31%). This is because mining and quarrying is being done in this zone and many industries such as cement and limestone is also seen in this area. In terms of other activities, the northern zone is prominent for agricultural activities.

In the urban areas, the concentration of workforce is towards the occupational category namely 'Others' which includes tertiary activities like market, construction, trade and services. These activities dominate in all the localities of urban areas. For example, Shillong (M), Shillong (Cantt) and Nongthymmai localities of Shillong Urban Agglomeration account for more than 80 percent workforce under this category of tertiary activities.

As per the data records, the highest percentage of total cultivators and agricultural labourers is in Mawlai as Mawlai is close to the rural area so in the fringe of Shillong town. The cultivation of various types of crops is dominant in this area. In terms of livestock, mining and quarrying, the highest worker is in Cherrapunji which accounts

for 20.27 percent of the total worker. Cherrapunji falls in the sedimentary belt where mining and quarrying activities are performed. Cherrapunji also dominates in terms of manufacturing, processing and servicing, which is 17.46 percent of the total worker. There is also a close relationship between mining, quarrying and manufacturing, processing and servicing. In terms of 'Others' activities, the highest percentage share of workers is engaged in Shillong (C) which is 90.39 percent, followed by Shillong (M) as 89.38 percent and Nongthymmai as 88.0 percent. This area is most probably the administrative area where most of the people engaged in administrative activities and it is also the main centre for commercial and other activities. The state capital is also located here and so many activities are being activated from this area. All the headquarters of both the Central and the State are located here. The headquarters of NEC, 101, Assam Rifles, Assam Regiment Centre, Oil India Limited, Auditor General of India, Department of Telecommunication, Custom and Excise and the State Secretariat and office of the Deputy Commissioners of the District are also located here. Even Raj Bhavan is located in this area. This area is, thus, important in administrative as well as the strategic location in the Shillong city (Fig-3.9).

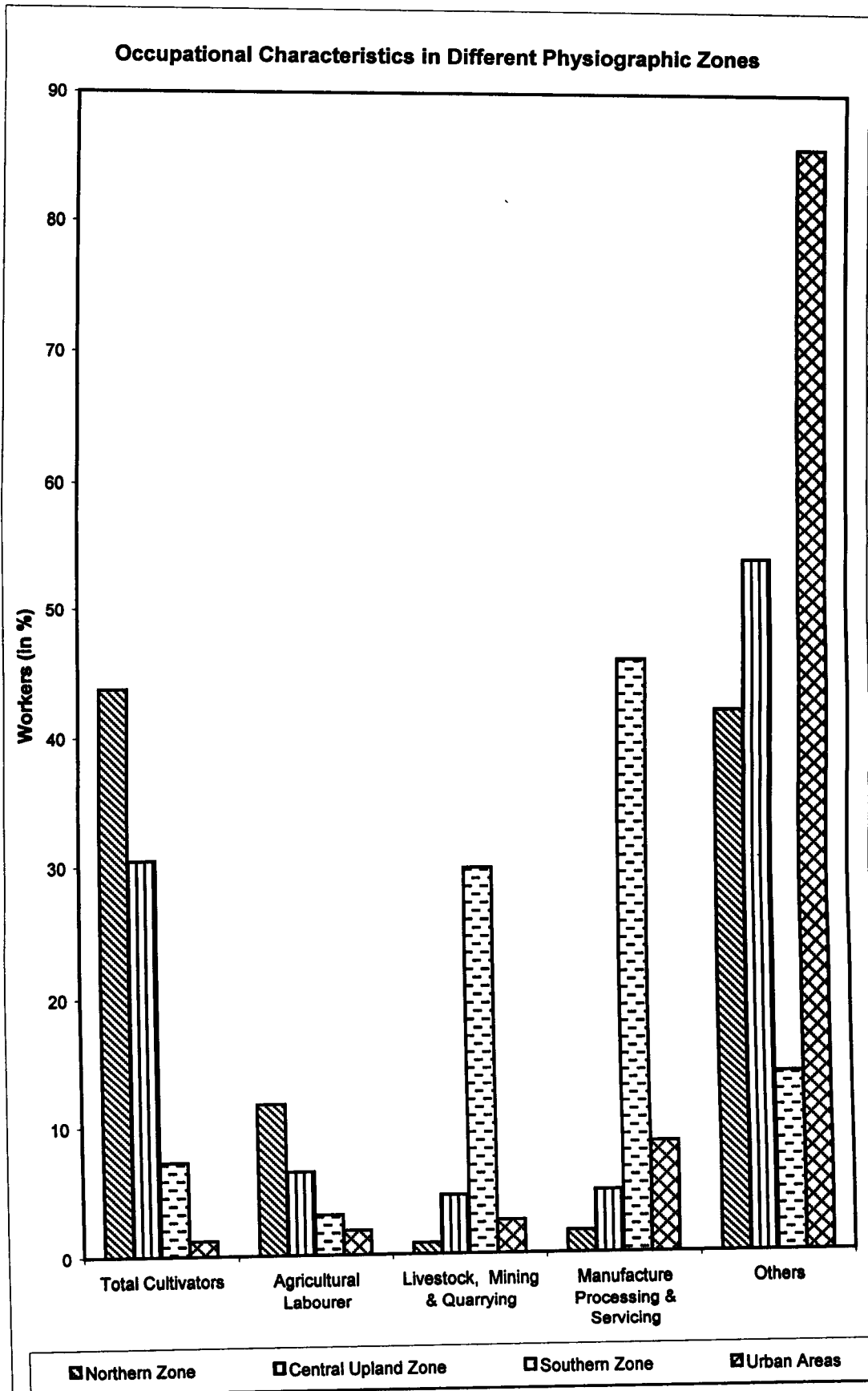


Fig-3.9

**Table-3.4: Occupational Characteristics of Sample Villages and Towns in their different Physiographic Divisions of East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi Districts**

	Worker	Total Cultivators	Agricultural Labourer	Livestock, Mining & Quarrying	Manufacture Processing & Servicing	Others
<b>Rural Areas</b>						
<b>A. Northern Zone</b>						
Zero-point	357 (35.59)	63 (17.60)	61 (17.04)	2 (0.56)	4 (1.12)	228 (63.69)
Byrwa	107 (34.40)	54 (50.47)	11 (10.28)	NA	NA	42 (39.25)
Kalapangti	50 (43.10)	41 (82.00)	9 (18.00)	NA	NA	NA
Kyrdem	272 (44.44)	246 (90.44)	NA	NA	4 (1.47)	22 (8.09)
<b>Average</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>101(43.72)</b>	<b>27(11.68)</b>	<b>2 (0.86)</b>	<b>4.00 (1.73)</b>	<b>97.33 (41.99)</b>
<b>B. Central Upland Zone</b>						
Lawsotun	1321 (29.34)	175 (13.24)	39 (2.95)	NA	NA	359 (27.18)
Pomlakrai	1186 (38.29)	52 (4.38)	9 (0.76)	17 (1.43)	18 (1.52)	39 (3.28)
<b>Average</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>1130 (30.45)</b>	<b>24 (6.46)</b>	<b>17 (4.58)</b>	<b>18 (4.85)</b>	<b>119 (53.63)</b>
<b>C. Southern Zone</b>						
Weikyang	59 (47.96)	NA	NA	59 (100)	NA	NA
Rimai	20 (43.47)	NA	NA	20 (100)	NA	NA
Khrang	184 (44.44)	4 (2.17)	NA	19 (10.32)	145 (78.80)	16 (8.69)
Sytung	361 (45.58)	43 (11.91)	10 (2.77)	280 (77.56)	NA	28 (7.75)
<b>Average</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>23. (7.82)</b>	<b>10 (3.40)</b>	<b>940 (31.97)</b>	<b>145 (49.31)</b>	<b>22(7.48)</b>
<b>Urban Zone</b>						
Cherrapunji(CT)2	2348 (3.39)	33 (1.40)	17 (0.72)	476 (20.27)	410 (17.46)	1412 (60.14)
Shillong(M)	45026 (67.29)	97 (0.21)	95 (0.21)	1011 (2.24)	3540 (7.86)	40247 (89.38)
Shillong(Cantt)	4227 (6.10)	133 (3.15)	10 (0.23)	15 (0.35)	351 (8.30)	3821 (90.39)
Mawlai(NM)	9150 (13.21)	496 (5.42)	1103 (12.05)	229 (2.50)	889 (9.71)	6433 (70.35)
Nongthymmai(NM)	8502 (12.27)	92 (1.08)	94 (1.10)	75 (0.88)	759 (8.93)	7482 (88.00)
<b>Average</b>	<b>13850.60 (20.00)</b>	<b>170.20 (2.25)</b>	<b>263.80 (2.86)</b>	<b>361.20 (5.25)</b>	<b>1184.90 (10.45)</b>	<b>11879 (79.65)</b>

In the end, it can be said that, increasing burden of dependents especially child population on the workers and growing market activities in urban areas of the Meghalaya plateau, the work-pattern changes in rural as well as urban areas. Such areal variations may only be justified to study the activity pattern in detail considering physiographic zones as its basis.

## **CHAPTER – IV**

### **NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF UNORGANISED SECTOR**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

According to the concept adopted in 1991 Census – ‘Work’ is defined as participation in any economically productive activity, such participation may physical or mental in nature. Work involves not only actual but also its effective supervision and direction. It also includes unpaid work on farm or in family enterprises. Work has been classified into Primary (P), Secondary (S) and Tertiary (T) sectors. This is based on nature of economic activity in which a person engaged.

The Table-4.1 shows that the occupational status of East Khasi Hills .Out of a total working force of 254471 persons, the 145238 persons (which accounts for 57.07 %) are engaged in Primary sectors, 16606 persons (6.63 %) are engaged in Secondary sector and 92627 persons (26.4 %) are engaged in Tertiary sectors of the economy. The activities, which are mentioned here, show that they are mainly organised one. The occupational status is much stronger in the primary sector while the secondary sector is weak in the economy. It shows that industrial development is very less in the district except the small and cottage industries.

**Table-4.1: Occupational Status of East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi Districts (1991).**

District	Total Workers	Primary Sector	Secondary Sector	Tertiary Sector
East Khasi Hills & Ri-Bhoi	254471 (100.00)	1495238 (57.07)	16606 (6.53)	92627 (36.40)

NB: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage share of sectoral workers.  
Source: District Census Handbook, East Khasi Hills, Census of India, 1991.

The United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) recommends the presentation of domestic factors income according to the kind of economic activities and institutionalised of origin. The basic concept recommended in the SNA originates from the production account of domestic product. The factors income comprised of compensation of employee and operating surplus. System National measures unorganised sector as those operating units whose activities are not regulated under any legal provision. As a result, the required data are available in a regular fashion. Thus, the survey under the economic census covered the private non-agricultural sector in the manner that all factory units not registered under Factory Act constitute unorganised segment of manufacturing. In the sector of trade, transport, hotel and restaurants, storage and warehousing and services – all non-public operating units constitute the unorganised segment on the consideration of non-availability of regular accounts of their activity.

So the Time Use Survey conducted by the Directorate of Economic and Statistics during July 1998 to June 1999 also depicts the nature of activities both on organised and unorganised sectors. This Survey is based on the principal usual activity status and

subsidiary usual activity status. The activities have been classified into nine categories which is also further divided. The main groups are as follows:

- Group I: Primary Production Activities
- Group II: Secondary Activities
- Group III: Trade, Business and Services
- Group IV: Household maintenance, management and shopping for own household
- Group V: Care for children, the sick, elderly and disabled for own household
- Group VI: Community services and help to other households
- Group VII: Learning
- Group VIII: Social cultural activities, mass media, etc
- Group IX: Personal care and self-maintenance

However in both the activity status that is principal and subsidiary, a division has already been made on organised and unorganised sectors. There are eighteen activities status and the number codes which have 11, 12, 21, 32, 33, 41, 51, 52 and 53 refer to 'Employed'; 81 to 'Unemployed' and the remaining from 91 to 97 refer to 'Not in Labour Force' (for detail, see Tables-4.2 and 4.3). Both the people in rural and urban areas engaged in these activities. The status of these activities can be discussed in detail the areas as per the Tables-4.2 and 4.3. The tables are prepared by compiling the data of 497 respondents from rural areas and 230 from urban areas for which the data collection

design has been given in Chapter-I. For the present study, the principal as well as subsidiary usual activities are a major classification for which organised and unorganised sectors are also analysed separated.

#### **4.2 (a) The Principal Usual Activity Status in Rural Areas**

The classified Table-4.2 depicts that, out of 497 of the total respondents of the rural areas, the unorganised sector is highly dominant which shows that 457 persons (92%) are engaged in these activities of this sector. Whereas only 40 persons (who account for 8%) are engaged in organised sectors in the district. In organised sector, the highest are those who engaged as salaried wage/permanent employee which are of 31 persons (93.93%) of the total respondents.

**Table-4.2: Classification on the Basis of Principal Usual Activity Status (Rural Areas).**

Activity Code	Principal Usual Activity Status	Total Respondents	Organised Sector	Unorganised Sector
11	Own account workers	113 (22.73)	1 (0.88)	112 (99.11)
12	Employer	-	-	-
21	Unpaid family worker	15 (3.01)	-	15 (100.00)
22	Work as home base worker	-	-	-
32	Worked as salaried wage/permanent employee	33 (6.63)	31 (93.93)	2 (6.06)
33	Worked as regular salaried/wage non-permanent employee	8 (1.61)	1 (12.50)	7 (87.50)
41	Worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works	19 (3.82)	-	19 (100.00)
51	In other types of works	38 (7.64)	-	38 (100.00)
52	Worked as trainee intern paid	-	-	-
53	Worked as exchanged labour	-	-	-
81	Did not work but was seeking and/or available for work	-	-	-
91	Attended educational institution	86 (17.30)	7 (8.00)	79 (92.00)
92	Attended domestic duties only	21 (4.22)	-	21 (100.00)
93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	22 (4.26)	-	22 (100.00)
94	Rentiers/Pensioners remittance/recipients	3 (.60)	-	3 (100.00)
95	Disabled person	2 (0.40)	-	2 (100.00)
96	Beggars/prostitutes	-	-	-
97	Others	137 (27.56)	-	137 (100.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>497 (100.00)</b>	<b>40 (8.00)</b>	<b>457 (92.00)</b>

Note – Values in parentheses indicate percentages

#### 4.3 (a) Principal Usual Activity Status in Urban Areas

The concerned Table-4.3 depicts that there is also dominance of unorganised sector in the urban areas of Meghalaya plateau. In this sector, the activities related to

educational institutions in unorganised sectors are in its highest order (98%). It means that the children and young boys may be accounted for these activities. The detail characteristics of these activities will be described separately in the next chapter. However, it can be concluded that there is a dominance of unorganised sector in the economy of the district.

**Table-4.3: Classification based on Principal Usual Activity Status (Urban Areas).**

Activity Code	Principal Usual Activity Status	Total Respondents	Organised Sector	Unorganised Sector
11	Own account workers	6 (2.60)	1 (16.67)	5 (83.33)
12	Employer	2 (0.86)	-	2 (100.00)
21	Unpaid family worker	-	-	-
22	Work as home base worker	4 (1.73)	-	4 (100.00)
32	Worked as salaried wage/permanent employee	55 (23.91)	50 (90.90)	5 (9.09)
33	Worked as regular salaried/wage non-permanent employee	1 (0.43)	-	1 (100.00)
41	Worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works	4 (1.73)	-	4 (100.00)
51	In other types of works	4 (1.73)	-	4 (100.00)
52	Worked as trainee intern paid	-	-	-
53	Worked as exchanged labour	-	-	-
81	Did not work but was seeking and/or available for work	1 (0.43)	-	1 (100.00)
91	Attended educational institution	97 (42.17)	2 (2.00)	95 (98.00)
92	Attended domestic duties only	31 (13.47)	2 (6.00)	29 (94.00)
93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	-	-	-
94	Rentiers/Pensioners remittance/recipients	2 (0.86)	2 (100.00)	-
95	Disabled person	-	-	-
96	Beggars/prostitutes	-	-	-
97	Others	24 (10.43)	-	24 (100.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>230 (100.00)</b>		

Note – Values in parentheses indicate percentages

#### 4.2 (b) The Subsidiary Usual Activity Status in Rural Areas

The classified data depicts that unorganised sector also highly dominates here. The quite good strength of respondents, i.e., 131 persons (96.00 %) out of a total of 137 respondents. The work category as 'own account workers' has a dominance in unorganised sector of subsidiary activities, which is 98 percent of the total respondents. It means that most of the people prefers to work for their own maintenance at home at their second preference of work (Table-4.4).

**Table-4.4: Classification on the Basis of Subsidiary Usual Activity Status (Rural Areas).**

Code	Subsidiary Usual Activity Status	Total Respondents	Organised Sector	Unorganised Sector
11	Own account workers	57 (41.60)	1 (2.00)	56 (98.00)
12	Employer	4 (2.91)	-	4 (100.00)
21	Unpaid family worker	6 (4.37)	-	6 (100.00)
22	Work as home base worker	-	-	-
32	Worked as salaried wage/permanent employee	1 (0.72)	1 (100.00)	-
33	Worked as regular salaried/wage non-permanent employee	-	-	-
41	Worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works	-	-	-
51	In other types of works	16 (11.67)	1 (6.25)	15 (93.75)
52	Worked as trainee intern paid	-	-	-
53	Worked as exchanged labour	11 (8.02)	-	11 (100.00)
81	Did not work but was seeking and/or available for work	-	-	-
91	Attended educational institution	5 (3.64)	1 (2.00)	4 (98.00)
92	Attended domestic duties only	17 (12.40)	-	17 (100.00)
93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	16 (11.67)	2 (12.00)	14 (88.00)
94	Rentiers/Pensioners remittance/recipients	-	-	-
95	Disabled person	-	-	-
96	Beggars/prostitutes	-	-	-
97	Others	4 (2.91)	-	4 (100.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>6 (4.00)</b>	<b>131(96.00)</b>

Note – (Values in parentheses indicate percentages)

### 4.3 (b) Subsidiary Usual Activity Status in Urban Areas

In urban areas also, the work pattern is almost similar and the urban people prefers the work for their own purpose in organised as well as unorganised sectors. The subsidiary activity status is negligible in urban areas. However, under this classified category of work, cent per cent of respondents is accounted for unorganised sector (Table-4.5).

**Table-4.5: Classification on the Basis of Subsidiary Usual Activity Status (Urban Areas).**

Code	Subsidiary Usual Activity Status	Total Respondents	Organised Sector	Unorganised Sector
11	Own account workers	4 (50.00)	-	4 (100.00)
12	Employer	-	-	-
21	Unpaid family worker	-	-	-
22	Work as home base worker	2 (25.00)	-	2 (100.00)
32	Worked as salaried wage/permanent employee	-	-	-
33	Worked as regular salaried/wage non-permanent employee	-	-	-
41	Worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works	-	-	-
51	In other types of works	-	-	-
52	Worked as trainee intern paid	-	-	-
53	Worked as exchanged labour	-	-	-
81	Did not work but was seeking and/or available for work	-	-	-
91	Attended educational institution	1 (12.50)	-	1 (100.00)
92	Attended domestic duties only	1 (12.50)	-	1 (100.00)
93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	-	-	-
94	Rentiers/Pensioners remittance/recipients	-	-	-
95	Disabled person	-	-	-
96	Beggars/prostitutes	-	-	-
97	Others	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8(100)</b>	-	<b>8 (100.00)</b>

Note – Values in parentheses indicate percentages)

As compared to the Principal Usual Activity Status in Rural as well as Urban Areas, the Subsidiary Usual Activity Status in both areas is observed weak. It shows that the Principal Usual Activity Status is highly dominant and people choose one work as main activity. There is no diversification in the work pattern.

#### **4.4 The Principal Usual Activity Status of Rural and Urban Areas as per the Overall Total of Organised and Unorganised Sectors**

The strength of work pattern may be interpreted by calculating the percentage share of respondents engaged in a particular activity with respect to the total strength of respondents under that sector.

The classified Table-4.6 depicts that the organised sector is not very strong in the district in which the activities related to salaried wage/permanent employee (77.55%) are dominant. The activity related to educational institutions (17.50%) comes on second priority in the district. However, the unorganised sector seems much stronger in which 457 residents are accounted for. Out of which 29.97 percent respondents are engaged in the category of 'others' activity. The second dominant activity is 'own account workers' in which 24.50 percent respondents of total unorganised sector are engaged. The third priority of work performance in the study areas is towards educational institution, in which 17.28 percent respondents are engaged.

In urban areas, the prevalence of unorganised sector may also be seen. It means that the work, which is not registered under Factory Act, is more dominant in urban areas. The total strength of unorganised sector in the urban areas is 174 persons out of a total of

221 respondents. The highest strength in unorganised sector was those who attended educational institution which is of 54.50 percent. As compared to unorganised sector, the highest strength of organised sector was those who engaged in worked as salaried wage/permanent employee which are of 87.71 percent.

In urban areas, the activity strength is mostly recognised for those who worked as salaried wage/permanent employee in organised sector and those who attended educational institution were from unorganised sector. Those workers who attended educational institutions and purely unorganised sector as these are the people who depended on others for their livelihood (Table-4.6).

**Table-4.6: Classification on the Basis of Principal Usual Activity Status (Rural and Urban Areas).**

Code	Principal Usual Activity Status	Organised Sector		Unorganised Sector	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent
<b>A. Rural Areas</b>					
11	Own account workers	1	2.50	112	24.50
12	Employer	-	-	0	-
21	Unpaid family worker	-	-	15	3.28
22	Work as home base worker	-	-	0	-
32	Worked as salaried wage/permanent employee	31	77.50	2	0.43
33	Worked as regular salaried/wage non-permanent employee	1	2.50	7	1.53
41	Worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works	-	-	19	4.15
51	In other types of works	-	-	38	8.31
52	Worked as trainee intern paid	-	-	-	-
53	Worked as exchanged labour	-	-	-	-
81	Did not work but was seeking and/or available for work	-	-	-	-
91	Attended educational institution	7	17.50	79	17.28
92	Attended domestic duties only	--	-	21	4.59

93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	-	-	22	4.81
94	Renters/Pensioners remittance/recipients	-	-	3	0.66
95	Disabled person	-	-	2	0.43
96	Beggars/prostitutes	-	-	-	-
97	Others	-	-	137	29.97
	<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>99.94</b>
<b>B. Urban Areas</b>					
11	Own account workers	1	1.75	5	2.87
12	Employer	-	-	2	1.14
21	Unpaid family worker	-	-	-	-
22	Work as home base worker	-	-	4	2.29
32	Worked as salaried wage/permanent employee	50	87.71	5	2.87
33	Worked as regular salaried/wage non-permanent employee	-	-	1	0.57
41	Worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works	-	-	4	2.29
51	In other types of works	-	-	4	2.29
52	Worked as trainee intern paid	-	-	-	-
53	Worked as exchanged labour	-	-	-	-
81	Did not work but was seeking and/or available for work	-	-	1	0.57
91	Attended educational institution	2	3.50	95	54.59
92	Attended domestic duties only	2	3.50	29	16.67
93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	-	-	-	-
94	Rentiers/Pensioners remittance/recipients	2	3.50	-	-
95	Disabled person	-	-	-	-
96	Beggars/prostitutes	-	-	-	-
97	Others	-	-	24	13.79
	<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>99.96</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>99.36</b>

#### 4.5 The Subsidiary Usual Activity Status of Rural and Urban Areas as per the Overall Total of Organised and Unorganised Sectors

The total strength of organised sector under subsidiary activity is enumerated only 23 respondents and of unorganised sector as 116 respondents. It means that unorganised

sector dominates in rural as well as urban areas. Under unorganised sector, most of the people are engaged in domestic duties (which are 74%). Whereas the dominance of 'own activity work' category can be seen in unorganised sector, because the majority of rural people are engaged in household maintenance, management and shopping for own household. Similarly, the urban people have dominance in organised sector especially permanent-employed/salaried class. They are more systematic and regular earners from the salaries.

**Table-4.7: Classification based on Subsidiary Usual Activity Status (Rural and Urban Areas).**

Code	Subsidiary Usual Activity Status	Organised Sector		Unorganised Sector	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent
<b>A. Rural Areas</b>					
11	Own account workers	1	4.00	56	48.00
12	Employer	-	-	4	3.00
21	Unpaid family worker	-	-	6	5.00
22	Work as home base worker	-	-	-	-
32	Worked as salaried wage/permanent employee	1	4.00	-	-
33	Worked as regular salaried/wage non-permanent employee	-	-	-	-
41	Worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works	-	-	-	-
51	In other types of works	1	4.00	15	13.00
52	Worked as trainee intern paid	-	-	-	-
53	Worked as exchanged labour	-	-	11	9.00
81	Did not work but was seeking and/or available for work	-	-	-	-
91	Attended educational institution	1	4.00	4	3.00
92	Attended domestic duties only	17	74.00	2	2.00
93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	2	9.00	14	12.00
94	Rentiers/Pensioners remittance/recipients	-	-	-	-
95	Disabled person	-	-	-	-

96	Beggars/prostitutes	-	-	-	-
97	Others	-	-	4	3.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>99.00</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>98.00</b>
<b>B. Urban Areas</b>					
11	Own account workers	-	-	4	50.00
12	Employer	-	-	-	-
21	Unpaid family worker	-	-	-	-
22	Work as home base worker	-	-	2	25.00
32	Worked as salaried wage/permanent employee	-	-	-	-
33	Worked as regular salaried/wage non-permanent employee	-	-	-	-
41	Worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works	-	-	-	-
51	In other types of works	-	-	-	-
52	Worked as trainee intern paid	-	-	-	-
53	Worked as exchanged labour	-	-	-	-
81	Did not work but was seeking and/or available for work	-	-	-	-
91	Attended educational institution	-	-	1	12.50
92	Attended domestic duties only	-	-	1	12.50
93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	-	-	-	-
94	Rentiers/Pensioners remittance/recipients	-	-	-	-
95	Disabled person	-	-	-	-
96	Beggars/prostitutes	-	-	-	-
97	Others	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.00</b>

#### 4.6 Characteristic Features of Respondents and Work Pattern

Work pattern is influenced by the physical factors of terrain especially in the hill and mountain areas and also by the socio-economic characteristics of the people performing the activity. Therefore, the characteristic features of the respondents engaged in different type of activities and their distributional patterns by their social and demographic parameters are important to note. The classification of total respondents was

laid down by considering their sex, marital status, age differences and educational status for rural and urban areas separately for different physiographic conditions of the districts. The main features of the distribution are highlighted in the following manner.

**4.6 (a) Distributional Pattern of Respondents by Sex:** The sex ratio figures for rural as well as urban areas which indicates that the males have dominance in all types of activities whether organised or unorganised. The males are more active especially in rural areas of the Meghalaya plateau. As a result, the sex ratio is noticed 938 as lower than 1000. It varies spatially. The areas of northern and southern parts of the Meghalaya plateau where the rural activities are dominated by male and sex ratio is calculated 900 females per 1000 male. These shows that in these areas where activities are especially domestic activities and are more or less related to agricultural activities, the males of the workforce are more engaged in such activities. The main crops here are mostly commercial products like ginger, pineapple, tea, beetle-nut, and beetle-leaf, which need to be male-dominated activities. This was the case of Ri-Bhoi district whereas, in the southern zone, which is of the Ri-War area, male mostly dominates the activities (Table-4.8). The female was lesser in position than male in terms of the inheritance of property and there is also an equal share of property between male and female members. As compare to the above two zones, the sex ratio is noticed higher in the central parts where male-female participation in the work is almost equal. The main activities in this zone are also of agricultural in nature. The main crops here are potato, cabbage, radish and cauliflower. These types of crops should need the helping hand of both the female and

male members of the society. During sowing season, the male do the ploughing system and the female help in sowing the seed. There is a co-operative work among the villagers where one family helps the other family in completion of the work. There is a close-knit among the members of the society where there is equal division of work between male and female members.

**Table-4.8: Distributional Patterns of Respondents by Sex (Rural and Urban Areas).**

Sl. No.	Sample Village	No. of Respondents	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
<b>(A) Rural Areas:</b>					
<b>A Northern Zone</b>					
1	Zeropoint	45	24 (53.33)	21 (46.67)	875
2	Byrwa	47	22 (46.80)	25 (53.19)	1136
3	Kyrdem	59	32 (54.23)	27 (45.76)	844
4	Kalapangti	43	21 (48.83)	22 (51.16)	1048
<b>Average</b>		<b>48.50</b>	<b>24.75(50.79)</b>	<b>23.75(49.19)</b>	<b>976</b>
<b>B Central Upland Zone</b>					
1	Lawsotun	70	36 (51.42)	34 (48.57)	944
2	Pomlakrai	35	17 (48.57)	18 (51.42)	1059
<b>Average</b>		<b>52.50</b>	<b>26.50(49.99)</b>	<b>26.00(49.99)</b>	<b>1001</b>
<b>C Southern Zone</b>					
1	Weikiang	46	21 (45.65)	25 (54.34)	1190
2	Rimai	46	27 (58.68)	19 (41.30)	704
3	Khrang	52	28 (53.84)	24 (46.15)	857
4	Sytung	57	30 (52.63)	27 (47.36)	900
<b>Average</b>		<b>50.25</b>	<b>26.50(52.70)</b>	<b>30.25(47.28)</b>	<b>913</b>
<b>Average Rural</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>258 (51.60)</b>	<b>242 (48.40)</b>	<b>938</b>
<b>(B) Urban Areas</b>					
1	Shillong 1 (C)	36	12 (33.33)	24 (66.67)	2000
2	Shillong 2 (M)	50	27 (54.00)	20 (40.00)	740
3	Mawlai (NM)	115	48 (41.73)	67 (57.26)	1395
4	Nonthymmai (NM)	49	19 (38.77)	30 (61.22)	1579
5	Cherrapunji	28	17 (60.71)	11 (39.28)	647
<b>Average Urban</b>		<b>55.60</b>	<b>24.60(45.70)</b>	<b>30.40(52.88)</b>	<b>1272</b>

Note: Values in parentheses indicate percentage.

Further, it is interesting to note that the work pattern of urban areas is more influenced by female where sex ratio is recorded more than 1000. Thus, female are more active and they have dominance in the work pattern in urban areas. For example, the localities of Shillong Urban Agglomeration namely, Shillong (C) in which Bara-Bazar is included has the highest sex ratio (2000 female per 1000 male). It means the activities are female dominated. It may be because of social set-up of the Khasis who belong to matrilineal society. The area covered was most probably the Iewduh market where female was highly dominated as the shop-keeper in this area where only few male members was seen as shopkeeper in this market area. This shows that female are dominating in all the commercial complex of the market area (Iewduh Bazar). But such dominance cannot be seen in the work pattern of Ri-Bhoi and War areas of the rural landscape.

**4.6 (b) *Distributional Pattern of Respondents by Marital Status:*** Marital status of society is one of the important factors, which directly or indirectly influences the participation of people in their work pattern in the area. Therefore, there is a need to understand the distributional pattern of respondents by their marital status for the different areas.

In three zones of elevation of both the districts in rural areas, the highest respondents in the never married group is found in southern zone (60.41%). Then in the currently married group the highest respondents is counted from Central zone (42.85%), whereas the widowed respondents is also dominated from the central zone (7.85%). In

case of divorced and separated group of respondents, the highest is in the northern zone (5.94%).

From urban areas, the highest respondents in the never married group are from Shillong (C) (66.66%), whereas the highest currently married respondents are in Cherrapunji (57.14%). Shillong (C) area also has the highest widowed respondents in urban areas. Among all the urban areas, Nongthymmai alone have divorced and separated group of respondents having 2.04 percent (Table-4.9).

**Table-4.9: Distributional Pattern of Respondents by Marital Status**

Sl. No	Sample Village	Respondents	Never Married	Currently Married	Widowed	Divorced/Separated
<b>Rural Areas</b>						
<b>A. Northern Zone</b>						
	Zeropoint	45	25 (55.55)	20 (44.44)	0	0
	Byrwa	47	26 (55.31)	15 (31.91)	2 (4.25)	4 (8.51)
	Kyrdem	59	35 (59.32)	19 (32.20)	3 (5.08)	2 (3.38)
	Kalapangti	43	20 (46.51)	22 (51.16)	1 (2.32)	0
	<b>Average</b>	<b>48.50</b>	<b>26.50(54.17)</b>	<b>19(39.92)</b>	<b>2(3.88)</b>	<b>3(5.94)</b>
<b>B Central Upland Zone</b>						
	Lawsotun	70	42 (60.00)	22 (31.42)	5 (7.14)	1 (1.42)
	Pomlakrai	35	12 (34.28)	19 (54.28)	3 (8.57)	1 (2.85)
	<b>Average</b>	<b>52.50</b>	<b>27(47.14)</b>	<b>20.50(42.85)</b>	<b>4(7.85)</b>	<b>1(2.13)</b>
<b>C Southern Zone</b>						
	Weikiang	46	31 (67.39)	8 (17.39)	4 (8.69)	3 (6.52)
1	Rimai	46	27 (58.69)	15 (32.60)	1 (2.17)	3 (6.52)
3	Khrang	52	30 (57.69)	20 (38.46)	1 (1.92)	1 (1.92)
4	Syntung	57	33 (57.89)	24 (42.10)	0	0
	<b>Average</b>	<b>50.25</b>	<b>30.25</b>	<b>16.75(32.63)</b>	<b>2(4.26)</b>	<b>2.33(4.98)</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>281 (56.20)</b>	<b>184 (36.80)</b>	<b>20 (4.00)</b>	<b>15 (3.00)</b>
<b>Urban Areas</b>						
1	Shillong 1 (C)	36	24 (66.66)	11 (30.55)	1 (2.77)	0
2	Shillong 2 (M)	50	7 (14.00)	1 (2.00)	0	0
3	Mawlai (NM)	115	71 (61.73)	43 (37.39)	1 (0.86)	0
4	Nonthymmai (NM)	49	29 (59.18)	16 (32.65)	3 (6.12)	1 (2.04)
5	Cherrapunji	28	12 (42.85)	16 (57.14)	0	0
	<b>Average</b>	<b>55.60</b>	<b>28.60</b>	<b>17.40</b>	<b>1.66</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>143 (51.43)</b>	<b>87 (31.29)</b>	<b>5 (1.79)</b>	<b>1 (0.35)</b>

Note: Values in parentheses indicate percentage.

In both rural and urban areas, the never married group dominates the highest respondents by marital status, which is 52.20 percent as they consist of the most active part of the population. Whereas, currently married group has second largest respondents by having central zone as the highest percentage (42.85%). Compare to the above two groups, widowed and divorced have very less respondents distributive over space by marital status.

Out of the total four categories of respondents by marital status, it is observed that nearly half of the rural population belong to never married group. It means that those who are unmarried, they are more active because people are free to do any type of work. It may also be that people before marriage they are more active, this is the case of tribal population where there is equal opportunity of joining the work between male and female in all sphere of life but, in case of non-tribal population, the people are more active after marriage. It may be because of joint family system where male and female have to look after the family matter within their own household besides their earning purposes. Secondly, whereas the currently married contingent consists of one-third of the respondents. This shows that they are still coming out from their active life of youth where they do not want to stay back but remained active in the society. But the widowed and the divorced group are less active as they are still not easily coming out from their own self of nervousness and breakdown. So they are still not so active in the society.

Nevertheless, urban areas are more or less similar with rural areas where the highest respondents are in never married group which is half of the urban respondents

and one-third are from the currently married group. This shows that marriage is the restriction that poses the limit to the work pattern in the area.

**4.6 (c) Distributional Pattern of Respondents by Age in Rural and Urban Areas:** Age is also another important factor, which directly or indirectly influences the participation of people in their work pattern in the area. Therefore, there is a need to understand the distributional pattern of respondents by their age-group for the different area.

There are three important age groups combined together to show the strength of contribution of workers in the study area of both the districts. The child and teenagers age group between 0-5 and 15-20 years are group together to form one category of respondents by age. These groups fall under the children categories and at the same time the school going children. Another important age group belongs to the categories between 20-25 years and 40-45 years. These groups of respondents are the most active as they form the adult group who are mostly engaged in the earning purposes and also they are the strength of the society as everyone in the family are solely dependent on this age group. The third important age group belongs to the old and aged people combined together from 50-55 years to 60 years and above. These groups of aged people are less active as they are mostly retired from work and solely dependent on the others.

In all the three elevation zones of rural areas, the highest percentage share of respondents falls under the category of age group 0-5 years. This shows that there may be some errors in collection as well as calculation of data. However it is possible that the respondents of five years old have started participating in the activities like school going

children at early age. The second highest category of respondents belongs to the age group 5-10 years followed by 10-15 years and 15-20 years respectively. The most active part of the population is accounted for between the age groups of 20-25 years and 40-45 years. The highest respondents in this group are from the age group 20-25 years and central zone of Meghalaya plateau accounts for the highest percentage (17.86%) of the average. The northern part of the plateau is characterised with the dominance of active population belonging to the age-group of 35-45 years. The people of retired age group (60+ years) are less engaged in the work pattern (4.2%) in rural areas. However, a significant percentage share (13.98%) is employed in different type of work pattern in the northern areas of plateau.

In urban areas, the respondents of the age-group between 0-5 years and 15-20 years are distributive throughout. Between the age-group 20-25 years and 45-50 years the respondents here also spread throughout. The only exception to above is of Shillong (M) having the highest respondents between the age group 20-25 years (Table-4.10). It shows that, in urban areas, most of the people are literate and they are enthusiastic enough to respond to the questionnaire and are engaged intensively in work. The third category of respondents by age falls between 50-55 years and 60 years and above. The respondents of this group in the urban area are highly distributive and well responsive because the old people are always at home and are ready to answer the questionnaire.

**Table-4.10: Distributional Pattern of Respondents by Age (Rural and Urban Areas).**

Sample Village	Respon- dents	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60	60+
<b>Rural Areas</b>														
<b>A. Northern Zone</b>														
Zerpoint	45	17 (36.95)	6 (13.33)	0	0	1 (2.22)	6 (13.33)	7 (15.55)	7 (15.55)	1 (2.22)	0	0	0	0
Byrwa	47	11 (23.40)	8 (17.02)	1 (2.12)	6 (12.76)	0	3 (6.38)	5 (10.63)	5 (10.63)	3 (6.38)	18.75 (2.12)	3 (6.38)	0	1 (2.12)
Kyrdem	59	12 (20.33)	10 (16.94)	2 (3.38)	3 (5.08)	8 (13.55)	6 (10.16)	1 (1.69)	4 (6.77)	3 (5.08)	0	3 (5.08)	0	7 (11.86)
Kalapangti	43	8 (18.60)	4 (9.30)	5 (11.62)	1 (2.32)	6 (13.95)	6 (13.95)	1 (2.32)	5 (11.62)	1 (2.32)	3 (6.97)	2 (4.65)	1 (2.32)	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>48.50</b>	<b>12(24.82)</b>	<b>7(14.15)</b>	<b>2.66(5.71)</b>	<b>3.33(6.72)</b>	<b>5(9.91)</b>	<b>5.25(10.96)</b>	<b>3.50(7.55)</b>	<b>5.25(11.14)</b>	<b>2(4.00)</b>	<b>10.88(14.55)</b>	<b>2(5.37)</b>	<b>1(2.32)</b>	<b>4(13.98)</b>
<b>B. Central Upland Zone</b>														
Lawsohuan	70	14 (20.00)	10 (14.28)	2 (2.85)	7 (10.00)	7 (10.00)	5 (7.14)	4 (5.71)	3 (4.28)	4 (5.71)	2 (2.85)	5 (7.14)	1 (1.42)	6 (8.57)
Pomiakrai	35	3 (8.57)	0	0	3 (8.57)	9 (25.71)	3 (8.57)	3 (8.57)	2 (5.71)	4 (11.42)	3 (8.57)	1 (2.85)	1 (2.85)	3 (8.57)
<b>Average</b>	<b>52.50</b>	<b>8.5(14.29)</b>	<b>10(14.28)</b>	<b>2(2.85)</b>	<b>5(9.29)</b>	<b>8(17.86)</b>	<b>4(7.86)</b>	<b>3.50(7.14)</b>	<b>2.50(5.00)</b>	<b>4(8.57)</b>	<b>2.50(5.71)</b>	<b>3(5.00)</b>	<b>1(2.14)</b>	<b>4.50(8.57)</b>
<b>C. Southern Zone</b>														
Weikiang	46	8 (17.39)	9 (19.56)	6 (13.04)	6 (13.04)	3 (6.52)	2 (4.34)	2 (4.34)	3 (6.52)	3 (6.52)	1 (2.17)	0	0	3 (6.52)
Rimai	46	9 (19.56)	4 (8.69)	2 (4.34)	2 (4.34)	7 (15.21)	7 (15.21)	1 (2.17)	7 (15.21)	2 (4.34)	2 (4.34)	0	0	2 (4.34)
Khrang	52	16 (30.76)	8 (15.38)	1 (1.92)	3 (5.76)	2 (3.84)	2 (3.84)	3 (5.76)	5 (9.61)	5 (9.61)	5 (9.61)	1 (1.92)	0	0
Sybung	57	17 (29.82)	9 (15.78)	3 (5.26)	2 (3.50)	5 (8.77)	10 (17.54)	6 (10.52)	1 (1.75)	1 (1.75)	1 (1.75)	0	1 (1.75)	1 (1.75)
<b>Average</b>	<b>50.25</b>	<b>12.50(24.38)</b>	<b>7.50(14.85)</b>	<b>3(6.14)</b>	<b>3.25(6.66)</b>	<b>4.25(8.59)</b>	<b>5.25(10.23)</b>	<b>1.75(5.70)</b>	<b>4(8.27)</b>	<b>2.75(5.56)</b>	<b>2.25(4.47)</b>	<b>1(1.92)</b>	<b>1(1.84)</b>	<b>2(4.20)</b>
<b>Total (Rural)</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>115 (23.00)</b>	<b>68 (13.60)</b>	<b>22 (4.40)</b>	<b>33 (6.60)</b>	<b>48 (9.60)</b>	<b>50 (10.00)</b>	<b>33 (6.60)</b>	<b>42 (8.40)</b>	<b>27 (5.40)</b>	<b>18 (3.60)</b>	<b>15 (3.00)</b>	<b>5 (1.00)</b>	<b>23 (4.60)</b>
<b>Urban Areas</b>														
Shillong 1 (C)	36	6 (16.66)	1 (2.77)	2 (5.55)	1 (2.77)	9 (25.00)	3 (8.33)	6 (16.67)	1 (2.77)	3 (8.33)	2 (5.55)	1 (2.77)	0	1 (2.77)
Shillong 2 (M)	50	0	1 (2.00)	0	0	49 (98.00)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mawlat (NM)	115	12 (10.43)	23 (20.00)	14 (12.17)	12 (10.43)	5 (4.34)	9 (7.82)	10 (8.69)	13 (11.30)	6 (5.21)	5 (4.34)	2 (1.73)	1 (0.86)	3 (2.60)
Nongthymmai (NM)	49	4 (8.16)	8 (16.32)	5 (10.20)	8 (16.32)	2 (4.08)	2 (4.08)	7 (14.28)	3 (6.12)	5 (10.20)	2 (4.08)	2 (4.08)	0	1 (2.04)
Cherrapunji	28	4 (14.28)	2 (7.14)	2 (7.14)	2 (7.14)	3 (10.71)	6 (21.42)	4 (14.28)	2 (7.14)	0	1 (3.57)	2 (7.14)	0	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>55.60</b>	<b>6.50(12.38)</b>	<b>8.75(12.06)</b>	<b>5.75(8.77)</b>	<b>5.75(9.17)</b>	<b>17(35.53)</b>	<b>5(10.41)</b>	<b>6.75(13.48)</b>	<b>4.75(6.83)</b>	<b>4.66(7.91)</b>	<b>2.50(4.39)</b>	<b>1.75(3.93)</b>	<b>1(0.86)</b>	<b>1.33(2.47)</b>
<b>Total (Urban)</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>26 (9.35)</b>	<b>35 (12.58)</b>	<b>23 (8.27)</b>	<b>23 (8.27)</b>	<b>68 (24.46)</b>	<b>20 (7.19)</b>	<b>27 (9.71)</b>	<b>19 (6.83)</b>	<b>14 (5.03)</b>	<b>10 (3.59)</b>	<b>7 (2.51)</b>	<b>1 (0.35)</b>	<b>5 (1.79)</b>

Note: Values in parentheses indicate percentage.

**4.6 (d) Distributional Pattern of Respondents by Educational Level in Rural and Urban Areas:** Education is an important factor, which directly activates the people to work and alters the work pattern in an area. However, there are various stages of learning process. In order to differentiate them, the respondents classification is done in their categories starting from illiterate to highly qualified persons of the society. The compiled data shows that, in the northern zone, the highest respondents are in the illiterate group (43.64%). The second highest are those who are in the educational level of Bachelor in Agriculture which is 16.94 percent. This shows that, in the Ri-Bhoi area where the main occupation is agriculture, the majority of active population, which is engaged in agricultural activities, is illiterates. There is a close link between two categories of population in the Ri-Bhoi areas where the educated one help in explaining the illiterate about how to develop the agricultural activities. In recent years, there are quite a number of improvements in the level of agriculture and most of the people are going towards extensive agriculture where the commercial crops like ginger, tea, broomstick, etc are the principal crops. So there is an improvement in the field of agriculture in the Ri-Bhoi area. While in the central upland zone, the highest share of respondents is enumerated under the category of Pre-Primary Level (41.43%). This shows that nearly half of the population are still in a pre-primary level and one-fourth are still illiterate. This shows that illiteracy is still rampant in the central zone. The main occupation is mostly agriculture and the agricultural level is low in this area, as they are mostly cultivated in the hilly terrain. In the southern zone the highest respondents was from illiterate level which is 37.74 percent of the average ( Table-4.11 ). The second highest was from pre-

Table-4.11: Distributional Pattern of Respondents by Educational Level (Rural and Urban Areas).

Sample Village	Respondents	Illiterate	Literate through NFEC/AE	TLC	Others	Pre-Primary	Primary	Middle School	Secondary School	Higher Secondary	Bachelor in Ag	Bachelor in Technology	Medicine	Other Subjects
<b>Rural Areas</b>														
<b>A. Northern Zone</b>														
Zerpoint	45	31 (68.88)	0	0	0	7 (15.55)	1 (2.22)	2 (4.44)	1 (2.22)	0	0	1 (2.22)	0	0
Byrwa	47	13 (27.65)	0	0	0	9 (19.14)	8 (17.02)	8 (17.02)	2 (4.25)	7 (14.89)	0	0	0	0
Kyrdem	59	9 (15.25)	0	0	1 (0.86)	9 (15.25)	7 (11.86)	6 (10.16)	12 (20.33)	3 (5.08)	10 (16.94)	0	1 (1.69)	0
Kalapanngi	43	27 (62.79)	0	0	0	6 (13.95)	8 (18.60)	2 (4.65)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average	48.50	20 (43.64)	0	0	1 (0.86)	7.75 (15.97)	6 (12.43)	4.50 (9.07)	5 (8.94)	5 (9.99)	10 (16.94)	1 (2.22)	1 (1.69)	0
<b>B. Central Upland Zone</b>														
Lawsotnun	70	16 (22.85)	0	0	5 (7.14)	20 (28.57)	2 (2.85)	5 (7.14)	14 (20.00)	6 (8.50)	0	0	0	2 (8.57)
Pomlakrai	35	4 (11.42)	1 (2.85)	0	4 (11.42)	19 (54.28)	2 (5.71)	1 (2.85)	4 (11.42)	0	0	0	0	2 (5.71)
Average	52.50	10 (17.14)	1 (2.85)	0	4.50 (9.28)	19.50 (41.43)	2 (4.28)	3 (8.57)	9 (15.71)	6 (8.50)	0	0	0	2 (7.14)
<b>C. Southern Zone</b>														
Weikiang	46	10 (21.73)	0	0	3 (6.52)	20 (43.47)	12 (26.08)	1 (1.17)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (2.17)
Rimai	46	15 (32.60)	0	1 (2.17)	6 (13.04)	21 (45.65)	3 (6.52)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khrang	52	32 (61.53)	1 (1.92)	0	0	9 (17.30)	13 (25.19)	1 (1.92)	1 (1.92)	1 (1.92)	0	0	0	0
Syntung	57	20 (35.08)	10 (17.54)	11 (19.29)	1 (1.75)	13 (22.80)	1 (1.75)	1 (1.75)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average	19.25 (37.74)	5.50 (9.73)	6 (10.73)	6 (10.73)	3.33 (7.10)	15.75 (32.31)	7.25 (13.45)	1 (1.61)	1 (1.92)	1 (1.92)	10 (2.00)	1 (0.20)	1 (0.20)	1 (2.17)
Total Rural	500	177 (35.40)	12 (2.40)	12 (2.40)	20 (4.00)	133 (26.60)	51 (10.20)	27 (5.40)	22 (4.40)	17 (3.40)	10 (2.00)	1 (0.20)	1 (0.20)	5 (1.00)
<b>Urban Areas</b>														
Shillong 1 (C)	36	5 (13.88)	0	1 (2.77)	0	3 (8.33)	0	6 (12.00)	4 (8.00)	5 (13.88)	0	0	0	12 (33.33)
Shillong 2 (M)	50	8 (16.00)	7 (14.00)	0	0	2 (0.00)	0	4 (8.00)	0	0	0	0	15 (30.00)	0
Mawlai (NM)	115	12 (10.43)	0	1 (0.86)	2 (1.74)	25 (21.73)	14 (12.17)	11 (9.56)	26 (22.60)	16 (13.91)	4 (3.47)	0	0	4 (3.47)
Nongthym mai (NM)	49	5 (10.20)	0	1 (2.04)	1 (2.04)	9 (18.36)	4 (8.16)	9 (18.36)	13 (26.33)	0	1 (2.04)	0	0	6 (12.24)
Cheerapunji	28	4 (14.28)	2 (7.14)	0	1 (3.57)	3 (10.71)	1 (3.57)	12 (42.85)	3 (10.71)	0	0	0	0	2 (7.14)
Average	6.80 (12.96)	4.50 (10.57)	1 (7.89)	1 (7.89)	1.33 (2.45)	8.20 (12.23)	6.33 (13.59)	8.40 (18.15)	11.50 (16.91)	10.50 (13.90)	2.50 (2.76)	0	15 (30.00)	6 (14.05)
Total	278	34 (12.23)	9 (0.71)	3 (1.07)	4 (1.43)	41 (14.74)	19 (6.83)	42 (15.10)	46 (16.54)	21 (7.55)	5 (1.79)	0	15 (5.39)	24 (8.63)

Note: Values in parent-theses indicate percentage.

TLC - Total Literacy Campaign, NFEC/AE Non-Formal Education Campaign on Adult Education

primary level which is 32.31 percent of the average. This shows that illiteracy is prominent in this zone and the literate people are very less in percentage. However, the one who acquire higher education was very less and also those who pursue study in technical line and medicine is none in this area and those who pursue high and higher secondary school are only more than 2 percent.

In urban areas, the highest percentage shares of respondents are from middle school to higher secondary level of education. This shows that people in urban areas are literate enough and have the responsibility in participation of activity in the area. It is also seen that there is a peculiar case in urban area where 15 persons from medicinal level was quite involved in responding the questionnaire as compared to very small number in rural areas and from rural area only in northern zone there is one person from medicinal level who are quite active in this activity. This shows that the number of people in this field is very less or not at all present.

#### **4.7 Concluding Remarks**

After classifying the respondents by their sex, age, marital as well as educational status for the rural and urban areas, the following main characteristic features of their distributional pattern have been emerged.

- (a) The male population of Ri-Bhoi area (the northern slopes of thick fertile soils with moderate rainfall) is comparatively more active in rural areas not because of their educational status but of the engagement of most share of their young population between 25-45 years.

- (b) The females are dominant in work pattern of central part of plateau because of matrilineal society prevailing in the surroundings of Shillong agglomeration.
- (c) The similar dominance of female may also be seen in the urban areas especially in Shillong town.
- (d) The southern parts, the War areas of Khasi dominance, where the mixed culture is developed, the male are more active with the prevalence of illiteracy and engagement in work at early age.

## **CHAPTER – V**

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE USERS OF DOMINANT ACTIVITIES**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

There are various ways of analysing and interpreting the collected data of sample respondents for showing the distributional patterns and characteristics of activities. In the preceding chapter, the general pattern of activities and the respondents' characteristics have been interpreted to show the characteristics of work pattern. It is also highlighted in the work-pattern analysis that there is a prevalence of unorganised sector in the activity pattern. For more details about work pattern, a few but important dominant activities may be identified and then the socio-economic characteristics of their users can be interpreted by considering and classifying the respondents accordingly.

#### **5.1 Identification of Dominance of Activities**

Definition of work-pattern has been forwarded by various agencies in their own ways as described earlier in the review of literature in chapter-II. However, the identification of such activities, which are important and form a complex nature of work pattern in the study area, is essentially needed to go through the detail analysis. In the previous chapter, the distributional pattern of activity shows that there are many activities, which do not have even 1 or 2 respondents out of total 497 in the rural areas. In

order to delete such activities, a specific criteria has been developed and, accordingly, the major activities have been identified for the rural as well as urban areas for the East Khasi and Ri-Bhoi districts of the Meghalaya.

## **5.2 Criteria**

Calculating the mean of respondents' percentage share in the work-pattern in rural and urban areas, the lowest level for dropping out the activities is fixed. As per this level, the respondents 4.0 percent and above of the total engagement in a particular activity are considered as the dominance of that activity in the area. Following this criteria, the activities as given below has been identified (Table-5.1).

**Table-5.1: Name and Percentage of Respondents in the Dominant Activities.**

Dominant Activities	Number of Respondents	Percentage	Percentage of Respondents in	
			Organised	Unorganised
<b>A. For Rural Areas</b>				
Own account workers	113	22.73	.88	99.11
Worked as regular salaried/wage permanent employment	33	6.63	93.93	6.06
Other type of work	38	7.64	-	100
Attended educational institutions	86	17.3	8	92
Attended domestic duties	21	4.22	-	100
Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, etc.	22	4.26	-	100
Others	137	27.56	-	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>90.00</b>	-	-
<b>(B) For Urban Area</b>				
Worked as regular salaried/wage permanent employment	55	23.91	90.90	9.09
Attended educational institutions	97	42.17	2	98
Attended domestic duties	31	13.47	6	94
Others	24	10.43	-	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>90.00</b>		

The following salient features of the dominance of activities in the study area are noticeable as:

- (a) There is a dominance of unorganised sector of economy in rural as well as urban areas except the activity 'Regular salaried/wage/permanent employee'

- (b) The 'Own account work' and 'Others' categories of work are the most dominant activities which account for 22.73 and 27.56 percent respectively of the share of total respondents in rural areas. In fact, these categories are related to the work performed in the domestic purpose in the rural households. Male and female of the households are commonly engaged in such domestic work.
- (c) Nearly 17.3 percent respondents are engaged in the 'attending educational institution' in rural areas and 42.17 percent in urban areas. It means that this activity is equally important and dominant in the areas. Education, in fact is a dominant activity and most regular in East Khasi Hills. However, it is considered under unorganised sector. It is observed that age of the respondents engaged in educational activities must have positive relationship with the levels of education. It means that the respondents of lower age group (below 15 years) attend school teaching and middle age group respondents are associated as teacher or tutor in such institutions.
- (d) The domestic duties and domestic services are also having dominance in the rural areas, which are unaccounted and do not fall under any category of work-definition. However, it is most important especially in the tribal society where people use to live in groups with community feelings. The social services are common and important in the society (Fig-5.1 a & 5.1 b).

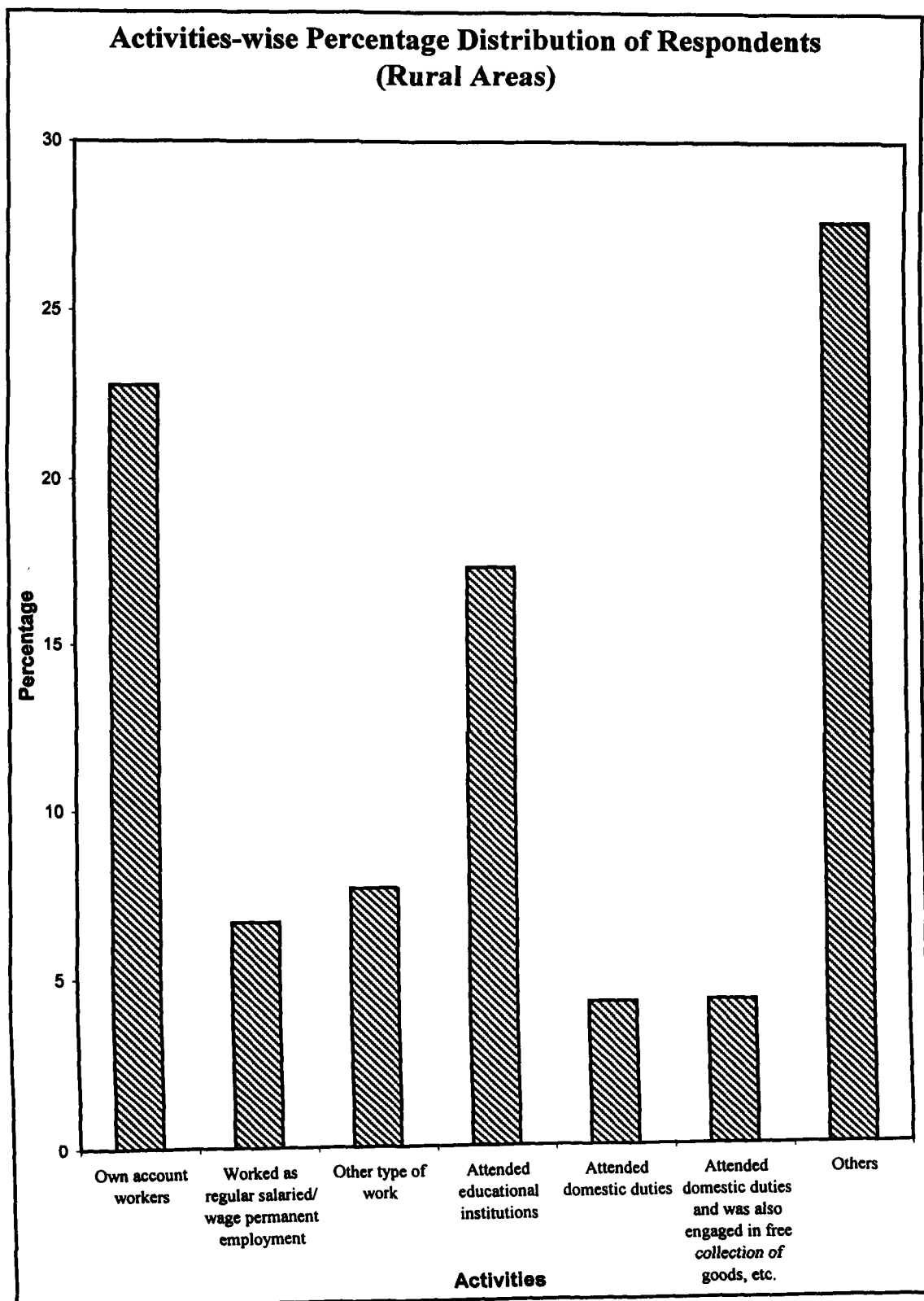


Fig-5.1 a

### Activity-wise Percentage Distribution of Respondents (Urban Areas)

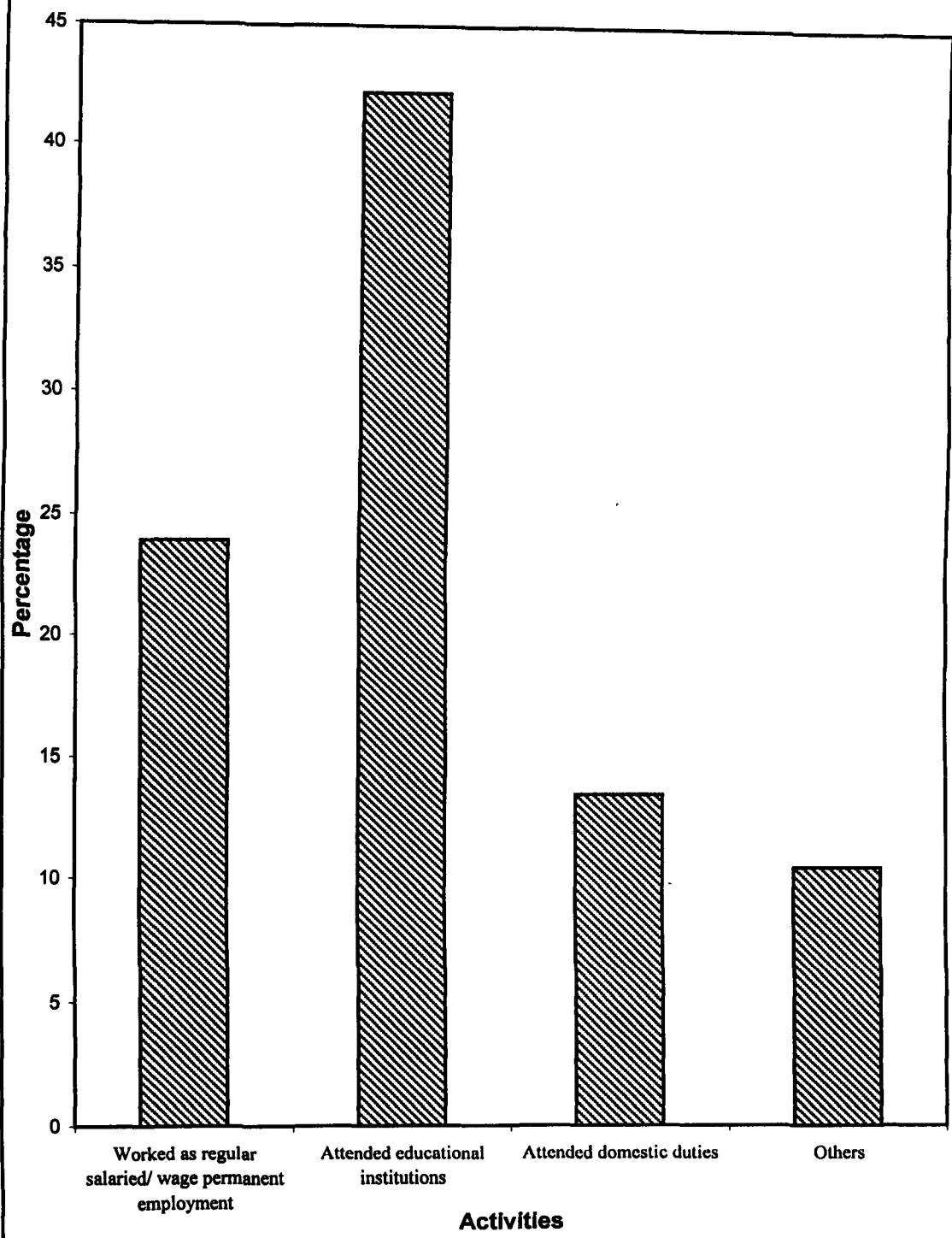


Fig-5.1 b

### 5.3 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Users of Activity

Out of the thirteen Principal Usual Activity Status in both rural and urban areas, five of them are considered to be the most dominant one. These are the different activity status such as own account worker, in other type of work, attending educational institutions, attended domestic duties only, attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, sewing tailoring, weaving etc for household uses and others. The detail account of socio-economic characteristics of the dominant activities are given in the following manner:

*(a) The Own Account Work:* The total respondents were 113 persons in the category of own account workers in rural areas. The wife dominates the relationship with the head. The male respondents are 59.18 percent and the female respondents are 41.59 percent. Sex ratio is less than 1000. It means that males dominate the activity as sex ratio shows 712 females per 1000 males. The average age of respondents is calculated 36 years and average marital status is 'currently married'. There is no count of disabled and 100 percent are non-disable. In terms of average general education, mostly the respondents follow total literacy campaign. This shows that in own account worker, the wife take the initiative to maintain the record of the family budget and their educational level was most probably the others than total literacy campaign. This proves that the Khasi society are matrilineal and all the responsibility at the household level is being taken care of by the woman as mother and wife in the family.

**(b) The Other Types of Work:** In terms of in 'other types of work' the total respondents were 38 and married child dominated the relationship with the head. The male respondents are 52.63 percent and female are 47.36 percent. Hence, sex ratio is 900 females per 1000 males. The respondents' average age is 33 and mostly current married. Hundred percent are non-disabled and the average general education is 'literate below primary level'. It shows that the currently married literate youths are quite active and dominate the work pattern of 'Other type of work' in the family.

**(c) Attended Educational Institution:** Those who attended educational institutions are mostly unmarried and are about 86 of the respondents. 54.65 percent are male and 43.34 percent are female and the sex ratio is 830 female per 1000 male. The average age in this category is 9 years and they are the never married one. There is one disabled and 85 non-disabled and they are all literate below primary. This shows that the children of below 10 years, go to school with almost equal ratio of girls and boys are dominating this category of work.

**(d) Attended Domestic Duties:** Those who attended domestic duties were married child and 95.34 percent are female and only 4.76 percent are male. The sex ratio in this is 20,000 female per 1000 male. The average age is 27 and mostly recently married. There are 100 percent non-disabled and their general education is others than total literacy campaign. Thus, the work 'domestic duties' is performed by the literate young girls those who are married recently.

**(e) Attended Domestic Duties and was also Engaged in Free Collection of Goods, Sewing, Tailoring, Weaving, etc for Household Uses:** Those who attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, sewing, tailoring, weaving, etc for household uses is mostly married child and is highly engaged by female. The sex ratio is 21,000 female per 1000 male and they are mostly recently married and 100 percent are non-disabled and they are literates below primary level. The socio-economic characteristic of this activity is almost same as given above for 'domestic duty' work.

**(f) Others Activities:** In terms of others activities, which include activities like household maintenance, management and shopping for own household, community service, personal care and self-maintenance, etc., there is a dominance of unmarried children who account for equal share of male and female (sex ratio 903) with a significant number of disabled (23 out of total 137 respondents), low economic status and very low educational level.

In urban areas, there are four categories of Principal Usual Activity Status. The main activities are worked as regular salaried permanent employee (organised sector), attended educational institutions, attended domestic duties only and others activity (under unorganised sectors). The last three categories are common in rural and urban areas of the districts. The salient features of these categories are given below.

**(a) Work as Regular Salaried Permanent Employee:** The people who engaged in the work as regular salaried permanent employee are mostly male who account for 70.90

percent to total respondents. As a result, sex ratio becomes very low, i.e., 410. The average age of workers is counted 37 years who are mostly recently married. Non of them are disabled and their general education is mainly higher secondary one. It means that the higher secondary pass young recently married males dominate this type of work in the Khasi dominated urban areas of Meghalaya plateau.

*(b) Attended Educational Institution:* Those who attended educational institutions were mostly unmarried and they consist of 62.88 percent of female and only 37.11 percent were male. The sex ratio was 1694 persons of female per 1000 male and their average age was 11 and they are never married. From the total only 1 are disabled and 96 percent of them are non-disabled. Most of them attended primary school. This work is related to education. The school going children in these institutions are mostly the girls population and they are more dominate is work pattern in the urban areas of Meghalaya plateau.

*(c) Attended Domestic Duties:* The one who attended domestic duties are only married adult women with middle school pass. The table shows that there is 100 percent dominance of females. The average age is calculated 33 years and they are mostly recently married. All of them are non-disabled and their educational level was middle school only.

*(d) The 'Other Activities':* Those who engaged in others activities were the spouse of married child and consist of 62.50 percent of female and 37.50 percent of male. In

terms of sex ratio the female is 1666 per 1000 males. The average age of the respondents of this category is 12 years who come under the never married group. Five of them are disabled and 19 of them are non-disabled. The people who are engaged in this activity are mostly literate through adult education.

Out of a total 207 respondents in urban areas, an overall picture shows that the 59.42 percent respondents are male and 40.57 percent are females. In terms of sex ratio female are 1464 per 1000 male. Their average age is 23years and only 2.89 percent are disabled and 97.10 percent are non-disabled. The picture of urban area shows that male are mostly dominated especially in works as salaried permanent employee in organised sector. It means that the urban areas produce better prospects in terms of economic conditions as compared to the rural areas, where the work in rural area is dominated by unorganised sector (Table 5.2).

**Table-5.2: Socio-Economic Characteristics of Dominant Activities in Rural and Urban Areas.**

C O D E	Principal Usual Activity Status	Total Respondents	Relationship with the Head	Sex Count of Male	Sex count of female	Sex Ratio	Average Age (Yrs)	Average Marital Status	Count of Disabled	Count of non-disabled	Average of General Education
<b>A. Rural Areas</b>											
11	Own Account Worker	113	Wife	66 (59.18)	47 (41.59)	712	36	Recently married	0	113	Others
51	In other types of work	38	Married child	20 (52.63)	18 (47.36)	900	33	Recently married	0	38	Literate below Primary
91	Attended educational institutions	86	Unmarried	47 (54.65)	39 (43.34)	830	9	Never Married	1	85	Literate below Primary
92	Attended domestic duties only	21	Married Child	1 (4.76)	20 (95.23)	20000	27	Recently married	0	21	Others
93	Attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods, sewing, tailoring, weaving etc for household uses	22	Married Child	1 (4.54)	21 (95.45)	21000	27	Recently married	0	22	Literate below Primary
97	Others	137	Unmarried	72 (52.55)	65 (47.44)	903	7	Never married	23	114	Literate through Adult Education
	<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>		<b>207 (49.64)</b>	<b>210 (50.35)</b>		<b>34.75</b>		<b>24 (5.75)</b>	<b>393 (94.24)</b>	

B. Urban Areas											
32	Worked as regular salaried/wage permanent employee	55	2 (Wife)	39 (70.90)	16 (29.09)	410	37	2 (Recently married)	0	55	Higher secondary
91	Attended educational institutions	97	5 (Unmarried child)	36 (37.11)	61 (62.88)	1694	11	Never married	1	96	Primary School
92	Attended Domestic duties only	31	3 (Married child)	0	31 (100)	31000	33	Recently married	0	31	Middle School
97	Others	24	4 (Spouse of Married Child)	9 (37.50)	15 (62.50)	1666	12	Never married	5	19	Literate through Adult Education
	<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>		<b>84 (40.57)</b>	<b>123 (59.42)</b>	<b>1464</b>	<b>(23.25)</b>		<b>6 (2.89)</b>	<b>201 (97.10)</b>	

### **Concluding Remarks**

So far as the socio-economic characteristics of users of dominant activity are concerned, the following main characteristic features of work pattern have been emerged.

(1) The women take the initiative to maintain the record of the family budget.

This proves that the Khasi society is matrilineal and all the responsibilities at the household level are being taken care of by the women as wife and mother in the family.

(2) The activities such as attended domestic duties and other allied activities are dominated by female and are mostly recently married.

(3) The activities such as work as regular salaried permanent employee (of organised sector) are dominated by mostly male ,the recently married males whose general education is mainly higher secondary.

## **CHAPTER – VI**

### **CONCLUSION, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTION**

Present study is primarily based on the primary data collected by the Directorate of Statistics and Economics, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong during 1998-99 under the format prepared by NSSO, New Delhi. The data are used only of the households falling under the study area. The data are compiled by keeping in mind the objectives of our own study. Chapter IV and V of the present study organised in such a manner, so that the detail analysis of work pattern and respondents' characteristics may be forwarded. The following main conclusions are inferred from the present work.

- (1) The unorganised sector dominates the work pattern in rural as well as urban areas because 92 percent people of the study area are engaged in the activities related to unorganised sectors. The remaining 8 percent people are employed in organised activities that are related to 'salaried/wage/permanent employees'. A variety of activities including 'casual and contractual wage labour in public works', 'attended educational work' and 'domestic duties' are performed in the rural as well as in urban areas also.
- (2) As per the characteristic features of respondents and work pattern, it has been emerged from the study that work pattern is influenced by the physical factors of

terrain especially in the hill and mountain areas and also by the socio-economic characteristics of the people performing the activities. The classification of total respondents was laid down by considering their sex, marital status, age differences and educational status for rural and urban areas separately for different physiographic conditions of the districts. The main findings of the distribution are highlighted in the following manner:

The sex ratio figures for rural as well as urban areas indicates that male are more engaged in all types of activities whether organised or unorganised especially in rural areas. As a result, the sex ratio is noticed lower than 1000. It varies spatially. The areas of northern and southern parts of the Meghalaya plateau where the rural activities are dominated by agricultural activities, the sex ratio is calculated 900 females per thousand male. As compared to the above two zones, the sex ratio is noticed higher in the central parts where male-female participation in the work is almost equal.

Further, it is interesting to note that female influence the work pattern of urban areas where sex ratio is recorded more than 1000. Thus, the females are more active in urban areas. For example, the localities of Shillong Urban Agglomeration namely, Shillong (C) in which Bara Bazar (Iewduh) is included has the highest sex ratio (2000 females per 1000 males).

Out of total four categories of respondents by marital status, it is observed that nearly half of the rural populations belong to never married group. It means that those who are unmarried, they are more active because people are free to do any type of work.

It is also noted that people before marriage are more active; this is the case of tribal population where there is equal opportunity between male and female in all sphere of life. Secondly, whereas the currently married contingent consists of one-third of the respondents. This shows that they are still coming out from their active life of youth where they do not want to stay back but remained active in the society. But the widowed and the divorced group are less active as they are still not coming out from their own self of nervousness and breakdown. So they are still not so active in the society.

Nevertheless, urban areas are more or less similar with rural areas where the highest respondents were in never married group, which is half of the urban respondents, and one-third are from the currently married group. This shows that marriage is the restriction, which poses the limit to the work pattern in the area.

By age, the distribution shows that there are three important age-groups combined together to show the strength of contribution of workers in the study area of both the districts. The age-group between 0-5 and 15-20 years are group together to form one category of respondents by age. These groups fall under the children and teenagers categories and at the same time the school going children. Another important age-group belongs to the categories between 20-25 years and 40-45 years. These groups of respondents are the most active as they form the adult group who are mostly engaged in the earning purposes and also they are the strength of the society as everyone in the family are solely dependent on this age group. The third important age-group belong to the old aged people combined together from 50-55 years to 60 years and above. These groups of aged people are less active as they are mostly retired from work and solely

dependent on the others. The children group dominates the school going activities and the adult group of population is engaged in domestic activities in rural as well as in urban areas.

The inference from the classified data of respondents with respect to their educational status shows that, in the northern zone, the highest respondents are in the illiterate group (43.64%). The second highest are those who are in the educational level of Bachelor in Agriculture which is 16.94 percent. While in the central upland zone, the highest share of respondents is enumerated under the category of pre-primary level (41.43) percent. This shows that nearly half of the population are still in a pre-primary level and one-fourth are still illiterate. In the southern zone, the highest respondents are from illiterate level, which is 37.74 percent of the average and the second highest are from pre-primary level, which is 32.31 percent of the average.

In urban areas, the highest percentage share of respondents is from middle school to higher secondary level of education. It is also seen that there is a peculiar case in urban area where 15 persons from medicinal level was quite involved in responding the questionnaire as compared to very small number in rural areas. In northern zone, there is only one person from medicinal level who are quite active in this activity in rural areas. This concludes that the level of education is very low in rural areas and there is dominance of unskilled labour.

The main characteristic features of dominance of activities are emerged five in numbers such as:

- (a) The dominance of activities is mostly of unorganised sector of economy in rural as well as urban areas except the activity 'regular salaried/wage permanent employee'.
- (b) The 'own account work' and 'others' categories of work are most dominant and these work are related to domestic purpose in the rural household.
- (c) Attended educational institution and attended domestic duties as well as domestic services are also having important in the activity-pattern.

### **Suggestions**

Majority of the people in rural and urban areas is engaged in not in labour force or unorganised sector as this is not accounted to the National Accounting System. So there is a need to include these activities into the National Accounting System – as Roa (1989) writes that human factors are equally significant in unorganised sector. It is the main capital in determining the nature and level of economic activity in this sector. It is the crucial resource in converting the input into output. Further, unorganised sector, which plays a pivotal role in India's economic activity, absorbs more than 80 percent of the human resources. Furthermore, according to Guy Standing (1978), the rural areas of low income countries are particularly dominated by subsistence agriculture and the concept of economic activity is effectively meaningless because it is either impossible to have any clear conception of what is work and work is not, or absurd to distinguish between labour force, work and other forms of work which are typically excluded from the term 'economic activity'.

Looking at the whole scenario, it will be important to consider or take into account of organising the unorganised labour, with the limitations and weakness of the law and enforcement machinery, trade unions and voluntary organisations and the inability of the government to perform the task of mobilisation and organisation of the poor, the deprived and the disadvantaged. The question naturally arises as to what could be a rational solution to this mind boggling and intricate problem. Since we are a democracy governed by the rule of law whatever changes we wish to bring about can only be done through the process of law. The legal process must, therefore, be utilised for the purpose of bringing about change in the working and living conditions of the unorganised worker. Permanent redress of the wrong committed and injustice meted out to numerous aggrieved individuals who are otherwise poor and indigent, and therefore, weak and defenceless lies in organising them into viable groups or collectivities. Such organisation can take many forms such as trade unions, co-operatives and associations but more important than the form is the context against which an organisation is formed, the people who formed it, their ethos, culture and conviction, the message and philosophy that the organisation seeks to convey and the objectives that it seeks to fulfil.

To sum up, organisation of the unorganised is not an end by itself, it is a tool, an agency, and instrumentalities of change for something better higher and nobler. More specifically, it is a natural outlet through which the insatiable yearning of men/women for food, water, air and light, freedom, a clean safe and congenial existence has found expression through the ages. This is a stupendous task which requires years of intensive planning and preparation insisting considerable suffering and sacrifice, patience and

tolerance, moderation and restraint which can be partly injected through proper education and orientation but has to largely self propelled and self driven.

An article on Social Security for the Unorganised Sector is increasingly receiving the attention of academics, policy makers, multi-lateral organisation and NGOs, and the writing on the subject is fast approaching the status of a growth industry (Van-Ginneken, 1997, 1998; Jhabvala and Subrahmanya, 2000; Seeta Prabhu, 2001; Mahendra Dev, 1999; and Unni and Rani, 2001). The consensus in the literature is that the definition of social security needs to be broadened from the focus of addressing only contingencies to encompassing programmes that enable individuals to attain a reasonable standard of living. Those programmes providing employment, income and assets required to reach a basic standard of living have been termed as economic security programmes. Whereas those associated with needs such as health care, child care, old age, pensions and food have been termed as basic needs programmes and the two types of programmes are viewed as being mutually reinforcing.

Social security programmes for the unorganised are, thus, meant to provide adequate to beneficiaries – with the adequacy of provision being a replacement of previous earnings due to the occurrence of a contingency, or the provision of a minimum or standard level of benefit to all. In this light they involve redistribution from those better off to those worse off – social equity and the provision of benefits to people equal in expected discounted value to their contributions or taxes – individual equity.

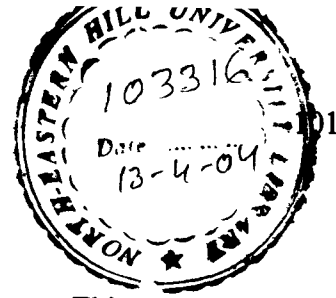
Interestingly, for the year 1994-95 when the National Council conducted the study for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), it was estimated that approximately 37

percent of the population lived below the poverty line. About 97 percent of these poor people belonged to the unorganised sector and only 3 percent to the formal sector. Of those poor in the unorganised sector, 81 percent lived in rural areas and 19 percent in urban areas. Significantly, the poor in the unorganised sector desaved in the aggregate with the savings rate of -4.5 percent. This is the stark given that the overall saving rate of the poor was 13.8 percent. Negative saving is, therefore, a distinguishing feature of the poor in the unorganised sector.

In order to check the above circumstances, active financial markets for savings, credit and insurance services can help households overcome adverse circumstances more easily and protect their consumption and at the same time not eroding their prospective future earnings unlike strategies such as drawing down the stock human capital via withdrawing children from schools, or distress sales of physical assets. In what follows, we stress on this fact that strategies for inter-temporal income and consumption smoothing that are not affected through financial markets for credit and insurance but through adjustments in the stock of physical, human and social assets are second best arrangements.

Another article on the march of thousand of unorganised sector workers in Tamil Nadu has brought to the fore the plight of this huge, neglected workforce and helped raise some of their long-pending demands.

In this background, out of all places in Tamil Nadu which has been reeling under ethnic and caste tension, a march of the working class and that too of the unorganised sector, covering a distance of 880 km in 50 days, is definitely something historic and a



new contribution to the May Day celebrations in the country. This can be a new beginning too. Though the march was covered by the Chennai-based press but not to the extent it deserved. What is more, there is no mention of it in the media in other parts of the country, thanks to the new – localisation of the press even while preaching globalisation. The march was taken at the behest of Joint Action Committee of Unorganised Sector with the Shraman Mazdoor Panchayat Sangam and its core inspired by justice Krishna Ayer had the participation of construction workers, domestic workers, street vendors, tailors, rickshaw-pullers, brick makers, bidi workers, agricultural labourers and others. The Padayatra started from Kanyakumari on March 8, International Women's Day, passed through 15 out of 30 districts of Tamil Nadu and held meetings at many important places of the 30 districts. The march started with 150 activists, mostly from Tamil Nadu and there are representatives from other states also. As the team reached Chennai on April 29, and when it converged on the Marina Beach to celebrate May Day, it was a rally of many thousands. The rally of the unorganised workers was the main function of the May Day this year in Chennai.

In this long march from Kanyakumari to Chennai, one big truth was discovered which was reflected among the participants in the new form of self-confidence, that how big was the unorganised sector and how small was its place in the country. Except the casting vote unorganised workers have no say in politics. The leaders of both ruling and opposition parties generally forget them and the press hardly notices them. After the Padyatra the Tamil Nadu Assembly became suddenly conscious of the plight of the unorganised worker and there was a debate cutting across party lines on the

implementation of the Tamil Nadu Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Work) Act, 1982 and strengthening of the welfare board by increasing the case. Even people engaged in the working class movement do not seem aware that more than 90 percent of the working people belong to the unorganised sector as 90 percent of their time is engaged in looking after 10 percent workers in the organised sector. Combining everything there is a distinct message from this march. That message is, if the working class is the centre of unity, source of strength and vehicle of change in society that is workers of the unorganised sectors with a proper direction and conviction. The march in Tamil Nadu is only a small step in that direction.

In the hills and mountain areas of the North-East, especially the Meghalaya plateau, the unorganised sector dominates in which domestic duties and educational activities are more prevalent in its pattern. Rural-Urban dichotomy in the activity-pattern may be seen clearly in these areas of traditional economies.

## **APPENDIX-I**

### **CLASSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

#### **Group I. Primary Production Activities**

##### **11. *Crop Farming, Kitchen Gardening, etc.***

- 111 – Ploughing, preparing land, cleaning of land
- 112 – Sowing, planting, transplanting
- 113 – Application of manure, fertiliser, pesticides and watering
- 114 – Weeding
- 115 – Supervision of work
- 116 – Kitchen gardening – backyard cultivation
- 117 – Stocking, transporting to home, guarding or protection of crops
- 118 – Sale and purchase related activities
- 119 – Travel to the work

##### **12. *Animal Husbandry***

- 121 – Grazing animals outside
- 122 – Tending animals-cleaning, washing shed, feeding, watering, preparation of feed
- 123 – Caring for animals: breeding, shearing, medical treatment, grooming, shoeing, AI, etc.
- 124 – Milking and processing of milk collecting, storing of poultry products
- 125 – Making dung cakes
- 126 – Poultry rearing, feeding, cleaning
- 127 – Other related activities
- 128 – Sale and purchase related activities
- 129 – Travel to work

##### **13. *Fishing, Forestry, Horticulture, Gardening***

- 131 – Grazing animals outside
- 132 – Tending animals-cleaning, washing shed, feeding, watering, preparation of feed
- 133 – Collecting, storing & stocking of fruits, etc.
- 134 – Wood cutting, chopping & stocking firewood
- 135 – Fish farming, cleaning sea-bed, feeding fish, catching fish, gathering other aquatic life
- 136 – Care of houseplants, indoor and outdoor garden work
- 137 – Flower gardening – landscaping, maintenance, cutting, collecting, storing

138 – Sale and purchase related activities

139 – Travel to work

**14. *Collection of Fruit, Water, Plants, etc, Storing and Hunting***

140 – Fetching water

141 – Collection of fruits, vegetables, berries, mushrooms, etc edible goods

142 – Collection of minor forest produce, leaves, bamboo, etc

143 – Collection of fuel/fuel wood/twigs

144 – Collection of raw material for crafts

145 – Collection of building materials

146 – Collection of fodder

147 – Sale and purchase related activities

148 – Collection of other items

149 – Travel to work

**15. *Processing and Storage***

152 – Milling, husking, pounding

153 – Parboiling

154 – Storing, grading

155 – Grinding, crushing

156 – Any other related activity

157 - Sale and purchase related activities

159 – Travel for the work

**16. *Mining, Quarrying, Digging, Cutting, etc.***

161 – Mining/extraction of salt

162 – Mining/digging/quarrying of stone, slabs, breaking of stones for construction of building, road, bridges, etc.

163 – Digging out clay, gravel and sand

164 – Digging out materials – major and minor

165 – Transportation in vehicles

166 – Storing, stocking

167 – Any other related activities

168 - Sale and purchase related activities

169 – Travel for the work

## **Group II. Secondary Activities**

### **21. *Construction Activities***

- 211 – Building & construction of dwelling (laying bricks, plastering, thatching, bamboo work, roofing) and maintenance and repairing of dwelling
- 212 – Construction and repair of animal shed, shelter for poultry, etc.
- 213 – Construction of wall, storage facility, fencing, etc for farms, irrigation work
- 214 – Construction of public works/common infrastructure – roads, buildings, bridges, etc.
- 217 – Any other activity related
- 218 - Sale and purchase related activities
- 219 – Travel to the work

### **22. *Manufacturing Activities***

- 221 – Food processing and cooking for sale – making pickles, spices and other products; canning fruits, jams & jellies; baking; beverage preparation, selling readymade food, etc.
- 222 – Butchering, curing, processing, drying storing etc. of meat, fish etc.
- 223 – Manufacturing of textiles – spinning, weaving, processing of textiles; knitting, sewing, garment making of cotton, wool and other material.
- 224 – Making handicrafts, pottery, printing and other crafts made primarily with hands. (wood based leather based crafts, embroidery work etc.)
- 225 – Fitting, installing, tool setting, tool and machinery – moulding, welding, tool making,
- 226 – Assembling machines, equipment and other products,
- 227 – Production related work in large and small factories in different industries – as production workers, maintenance workers paid trainees and apprentices, sales, administration and management activities.
- 228 – Sale and purchase related activity.
- 229 – Travel for the work.

### **Group III. Trade, Business and Services**

#### **31. Trade and Business**

- 311 – Buying and selling goods – such as capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer durables, consumer goods – in the organised and formal sectors.
- 312 – Petty trading, street and door to door vending, hawking, shoe cleaning etc.
- 313 – Transporting goods in trucks, tempos and motor vehicles.
- 314 – Transporting in hand carts, animal carts, cycle rickshaws etc. or manually.
- 315 – transport of passenger by motorized and non-motorized transport.
- 317 – Any other activity.
- 319 – Travel to work.

#### **32. Service**

- 321. Service in Government and semi government organisations (salaried)
- 322 – Petty service: domestic servants, sweepers, washers, pujari, barber, cobbler, mali massaging, prostitution, (wages) watching and guarding.
- 324 – Professional services: medical and educational services (private tuition, non formal teaching etc.), financial services and management and technical consultancy services.
- 325 – Professional services: computer services, Xerox/photocopying services, beauty parlours, hair cutting saloons etc.
- 326 – Technical services: plumbing, electronic repair and maintenance and other related services.
- 327 – Others
- 329 – Travel to work.

### **GROUP IV: Household Maintenance, Management and Shopping for own Household**

- 411 – Cooking food items, beverages and serving.
- 421 – Cleaning and upkeep of dwelling and surroundings
- 422 – Cleaning of utensil
- 431 – Care of textiles: sorting, mending, washing, ironing and ordering clothes and linen.
- 441 – Shopping for goods and non-personal services: capital goods, household appliances, equipment, food and various household supplies.
- 451 – Household management: planting, supervision, paying bills, etc.
- 461 – Do-it-yourself home improvements and maintenance, installation, servicing and repair of personal and household goods.
- 471 – Pet care
- 481 – Travel related to household maintenance, management and shopping
- 491 – Household maintenance, management and shopping not elsewhere classified

### **GROUP V: Care for Children, the sick, elderly and disabled for own household**

- 511 – Physical care of children: washing, dressing, feeding
- 521 – Teaching, training and instruction of own children
- 531 – Accompanying children to places: school, sports, lessons, etc. PHC/doctor.
- 541 – Physical care of the sick, disabled, elderly household members: washing, dressing, feeding, helping.
- 551 – Accompanying adults to receive personal care services: such as hairdresser's therapy sessions, temple, religious places etc.
- 561 – Supervising children needing care – with or without other activities
- 562 – Supervising adults needing care – with or without other activities.
- 571 – Travel related to care of children
- 572 – Travel related to care of adults and others
- 581 – Taking care of guests/visitors
- 591 – Any other activity not mentioned above.

### **GROUP VI: Community Services and help to other households**

- 611 – Community organised construction and repairs: buildings, roads, dams, well, ponds etc. community assets
- 621 – Community organised work: cooking for collective celebrations, etc.
- 631 – Volunteering with for an organisation (which does not involve working directly for individuals)
- 641 – Volunteer work through organisations extended directly to individuals and groups
- 651 – Participation in meetings of local and informal groups/castes, tribes, professional associations, union, fraternal and political organisations.
- 661 – Involvement in civic and related responsibilities: voting, rallies, attending meetings, Panchayat.
- 671 – Informal help to other households
- 681 – Community services not elsewhere classified
- 691 – Travel related to community services

### **GROUP VII: Learning**

- 711 – General Education: School/University/other educational institutions attendance
- 721 – Studies, homework and course review related to general education
- 731 – Additional study, non-formal education under adult education programme
- 741 – Non formal education by children
- 751 – Work-related training
- 761 – Training under government programme such as TRYSEM, DWCRA and others
- 771 – Other training/education
- 781 – Learning not elsewhere classified
- 791 – Travel related to learning

**GROUP VIII: Social & Cultural activities, mass media, etc.**

- 811 – Participating in social events: weddings, funerals, births and other celebrations
- 812 – Participating in religious activities: church services, religious ceremonies, practices, kirtans, singing, etc.
- 813 – Participating in community functions in music, dance, etc.
- 814 – Socialising at home and outside home
- 821 – Arts, making music, hobbies and related courses
- 822 – Indoor and outdoor sports participation and related courses
- 831 – Games and other past-time activities
- 832 – Spectator to sports, exhibitions/museums, cinema/theatre/concerts and other performances and events
- 841 – Other related activities
- 851 – Reading other than newspaper and magazines
- 852 – Watching television and radio
- 853 – Listening to music/radio
- 861 – Accessing information by computing
- 862 – Visiting library
- 863 – Reading newspaper, magazines, etc.
- 871 – Mass media use and entertainment not classified elsewhere
- 891 – Travel related to social, cultural and recreational activities: social, cultural and recreational activities not classified, mass media & entertainment
- 892 – Travel relating for search of job

**GROUP IX: Personal Care and Self-Maintenance**

- 911 – Sleep and related activities
- 912 – Eating & drinking
- 922 – Smoking drinking alcohol and other intoxicants
- 931 – Personal hygiene and health
- 932 – Walking exercise, running, jogging, yoga, etc.
- 941 – Receiving medical and personal care from professionals
- 942 – Receiving medical and personal care from household members
- 951 – Talking, gossiping and quarrelling
- 961 – Doing nothing, rest and relaxation
- 971 – Individual religious practices and meditation
- 981 – Other activities
- 982 – Rest and convalescing due to physical illness
- 991 – Travel related to personal care and self-maintenance

## APPENDIX-II

July 1998 – June 1999

### (A) Block

#### (0) Identification of Sample Block

1 (a)	Schedule No.	10
1 (b)	Schedule Type (Code)	
2	State Code	
3	District Code	
4	Tehsil/Village Code	
5	Village/Bloc Sl. No.	
6	Hamlet Group/Sub-Blocks No.	
7	Second Stage Stratum No. (Code)	
8	Sub-Round (Code)	
9	Sample Household No.	
10	Name of Head of Household	
11	Name of Informant	
12	Relation of Informant to Head of Household	
13	Survey Code	
14	Reasons for Substitution of Original household (code)	

Item 1: (b) Rural – 1, Urban – 2

Item 2: **State** – Haryana – 1, Madhya Pradesh – 2, Gujarat – 3, Orissa – 4, Tamil Nadu – 5, Meghalaya – 6

Item 3: Codes to be decided after the selection of district

Item 4: Codes to be decided after the selection of district

Item 7: **Second Stage Stratum** Rural – 1,2,3,4,5 and 6  
Urban – 1,2,3,4,5 and 6

Item 8: **Sub-Round** July-Sept – 1, Oct-Dec – 2, Jan-Mar – 3, April-June - 4

Item 12: **Survey Code** Household surveyed: Original–1, Substitute–2, Casualty–3

Item 14: Reason for substitution of original household: Informant busy – 1,  
Members away from home – 2, Informant non-cooperative – 3, Others – 9

**(B) Block 1****Household Characteristics**

1	Household Size	
2	Principal	
	(a) Industry	
	(i) Description	
	(ii) Code (NIC 1987) (3 digits)	
	(b) Occupation	
	(i) Description	
	(ii) Code (NIC 1987) (3 digits)	
3	Type (Code)	
4	Religion (Code)	
5	Social Group (Code)	
6	Having Homestead (Yes - 1, No - 2)	
7	Land Owned (in 0.00 acres)	
8	Land Possessed (0.00 acres)	
9	Average monthly household expenditure (in Rs.)	
10	Average monthly per capita expenditure (in Rs.)	
11	Type of Structure (Code)	
12	No. of disabled persons	

**Item 3: (For rural areas)**

Self Employed professional in non-agricultural-1  
 Self Employed non-professional in non-agricultural-2  
 Agriculture labour-3  
 Other Labour-4  
 Self Employed in agriculture-5  
 Others-9

**Item 3: (for urban areas)**

Self employed professional-1  
 Self employed non-professional-2  
 Regular wage/salary earner-3  
 Casual labour-4  
 Others-9

**Item 11**

Katcha-1  
 Semi Pucca-2  
 Pucca-3

**Item 4**

Hinduism-1  
 Islam-2  
 Christianity-3  
 Sikhism-4  
 Buddhism-5  
 Zoroastrianism-6  
 Jainism-7  
 Others-9

**Item 5**

Scheduled Tribe-1  
 Scheduled Caste-2  
 Others-9

**(C) Block 2****Particulars of Household Members**

Sl. No.	Name of the Member	Relation with Head of HH (Code)	Sex: Male-1, Female-2	Age (Years) (2-digits)	Marital Status (Code)	Disabled (Yes-1, No-2)	General Education level (Code)	Usual Activity Status (Principal)		
								Status Code	Enterprise Status (Code)	Industry (Code) (3 digits)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Usual Activity Status (Subsidiary)			No. of Days			
Status (Code)	Enterprise Status (Code)	Industry (Code) (3 digits)	Whether participating in decision making (Yes-1, No-2) (for 18 yrs & above)	Normal	Weekly variant	Abnormal
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Col. 3: Relation to Head: Self-1, Spouse of head-2, Married child-3, Spouse of married child-4, Unmarried child-5, Grand child-6, Father/Mother/Father-in-law/Mother-in-law-7, Brother/Sister/brother-in-law/sister-in-law/other relatives-8, Servant/employees/other non-relatives-9

Col. 6: Marital Status: never married-1, currently married-2, widowed-3, divorced/separated-4

Col 8: General Education Level: non-literate-01, literate through attending NFEC/AE-02, TLC-03, Other-04, literate but below primary-05, primary-06, middle-07, secondary-08, higher secondary-09, graduate and above in – agriculture-10, engineering/technology-11, medicine-12, other subjects-13

Col 9 & 12 Status: work in household enterprise (self employed) – own account worker-11, employer-12, worked as helper in household enterprise (unpaid family worker)-21, worked as home base worker-22, worked as regular salaried/wage permanent employee-32, worked as regular salaried/wage non-payment employee-33, worked casual and contractual wage labour in public works-41, in other types of work-51, worked as trainee/intern (paid)-52, worked as exchange labour-53, did not work but seeking and/or available for work-81, attended educational institutions-91, attended domestic duties only-92, attended domestic duties and was also engaged in free collection of goods (vegetable, roots, firewood, cattle feed, etc) sewing, tailoring, weaving, etc for household use-93, rentier/pensioners/remittance recipients, etc-94, not able to work due to disability-95, beggars, prostitutes-96, others-97

Col 10 & 13: Enterprise status (code): Organised-1, unorganised-2,

Col 11 & 14: Industry: As in NIC, 1987 (3 digits).

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## **BRIEF BIO-DATA**

<b>Name</b>	Medarishisha Diengdoh
<b>Date of Birth</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 1974
<b>Marital Status</b>	Unmarried
<b>Address</b>	Department of Geography North-Eastern Hill University Shillong

### **Educational Qualifications**

Passed M.A. (in Geography) in 1999 with 57 percent marks.

Passed a Certificate Course in Ecological Development in 1999-2000

Passed B.Ed. in 2002 with 2<sup>nd</sup> division.