

**REPORT ON
THE SURVEY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE
SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION LIVING WITHIN
MINI COMPACT AREAS IN THE AUTONOMOUS
HILL DISTRICTS OF ASSAM**

(MIYUNGDISA M. C. A. P.)



सत्यमेव जयते

Sponsored By
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PREFACE

Shifting cultivation otherwise known as Jhuming has been practised by the tribal communities living in the hill areas of the North Eastern States including two hill districts, Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills of Assam since time immemorial. Jhuming has been regarded as a way of life of the hill tribal people and many festivals, religious rites, etc. are associated with it.

At the same time it is a well recognised fact that shifting cultivation is detrimental to ecological balance and a healthy environment. There are many evil effects of shifting cultivation. During the planned economic development of the country attempts have been made to wean away Jhumiyas from shifting cultivation by introducing a good number of new programmes formulated by the Planning Commission as well as the Tribal Development Division of the Ministry of Welfare, Govt. of India.

In the hill areas of Assam also several attempts have been made to rehabilitate the Jhumiyas in permanent cultivation and also in other development schemes. 'Composite Project', 'Integrated Jhumiya Development Projects', 'Compact Area Projects', etc, are some of the programmes that have been implemented in the hill areas of Assam.

Recently a new approach has been accepted by the Govt. to wean away the Jhumiyas from shifting cultivation. Mini Compact Area where programmes are proposed to be undertaken for a limited number of tribal villages in a small compact area is a new approach in this regard. The present report on the Survey of Socio-Economic Conditions of the Tribal People living in the Mini Compact Area of Miyungdisa (Mini Compact Area Project) in Karbi Anglong District is an outcome of the new approach. The Mini Compact Area programme is proposed to be introduced in 4 Mini Compact Area of two Hill Districts - 2 in each District. This survey has been conducted by our Institute with the financial help and other support from the Development Commissioner, Hill Areas of Assam. This survey covers a wide variety of subjects that would help the authorities in implementing the schemes with a better understanding and the data presented in the survey would also help them in assessing and evaluating the results of the implementation of the schemes.

The survey work was carried out by Shri G.N. Das, District Research Officer, Diphu with the help of Research Investigators, appointed on Adhoc basis, under my over-all guidance.

I am grateful to Shri M.S. Fangtey, I.A.S., Development Commissioner, Hills, and Shri R. Zaman, Project Co-ordinator in the Office of the Development Commissioner, Hills for giving financial assistance for the purpose of conducting the survey. I am also thankful to Shri G.N. Das, District Research Officer, Diphu, and the Research Investigators working under him for completion of the survey as a time-bound programme. My thanks are also due to authorities of the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills District Councils for offering help and co-operation in conducting the field survey.

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MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

The present study is a mild attempt to throw some light on the prevailing socio-economic conditions of the people inhabiting the Miyungdisa Mini Compact Area Project which is located within the jurisdiction of the Lumbajong Development Block of the Karbi Anglong district. Altogether 16 nos. of villages have been covered by this Project and these villages have been selected by the Karbi Anglong District Council, Diphu for implementation of various developmental programmes in order to wean away the jhumiyas from the destructive method of shifting cultivation and to encourage them for adopting settled mode of cultivation for their economic upliftment. On the basis of our field investigation we have presented the Report with detailed analysis and we have tried to furnish below the major findings in a nutshell :

1. All the selected villages are inhabited by a single tribal community i.e. the Karbis. The villages are small in size comprising 6 to 20 households only. In this connection, it may be mentioned here that this smallness in size is the characteristic feature of a traditional Karbi village. The total no. of households in sixteen villages is estimated at 196 and the total population is worked out to be 1,102 only. When we look at the distribution of villages by size of population we find that seven villages (43'8%) fall within the category of '50-100' while 3 nos. (18'7%) fall within the category of '100 & above', On the other hand, in the category 'below 50' the no. of villages is found to be 6 (35'5%). While dealing with distribution of population according to age-group, it is observed that the age-groups '0-15' yrs, '15-30' yrs, '30-45' yrs, '45-60' yrs and '60 yrs & above' constitute 42.6%, 26'6%, 17'5%, 10'5% and 2'7% of the total population respectively. This indicates a diminishing trend of the percentage of population from the age-group '0-15' yrs to the last age-group '60 yrs & above'. Out of the total population of 1,102 of the selected villages, the no. of male and female population is estimated at 591 and 511 respectively. As such, the sex-ratio is found to be 1000 : 864 in the Project Area. Interestingly, there are three villages (18'7%) where the female population exceeds male population and the sex-ratio is worked out to be 1071, 1095 and 1307 per 1000 males.

2. Transport and communication facilities for the people of the Project Area can not be said to be satisfactory. There is only one motorable road running through the heart of the Project Area but due to non-availability of transport system, the people have to face extreme difficulty. Moreover the road is not completely pitched except only few K.M. Our field study reveals that 8 villages (50%) are located at a distance of '0-2' K.M. and 7 villages (43'8%) at a distance of '3-5' K.M. from the nearest motorable road. The remaining village (6'2%) is found to be 9 K.M. away from the existing road. It is, therefore, crystal clear that people of the Project Area will be able to enjoy maximum benefit if the condition of the existing road is improved and regular bus service is maintained throughout the year. In respect of railway facilities, it may be pointed out that only one village (6'25%) lies within the range of '0-5' K.M. and two villages (12'5%) within '5-10' K.M. from the nearest railway station. The remaining villages are located beyond 10 K.M. This reveals that the people are not in a position to utilise properly the services rendered by the railway authority.

3. The distance of all the surveyed villages from the Block H.Q. located at Manja is more than 20 K.M. When we look at the distance of the villages from the District H.Q., Diphu we find that 7 nos. (43'75%) and 6 nos. (37'5%) of villages lie within the distance of '0-20' K.M. and '20-30' K.M. respectively. On the other hand, 3 nos. of villages (18'75%) are located in the range of '30-40' K.M. from Diphu.

4. So far as postal and telegraphic facilities are concerned, we observe that the location of the post office is within easy reach of the people in comparison to that of the telegraph office. In the range of '0-20' K.M. we find the location of 14 nos. of villages (87'5%) from the nearest post office against 7 nos. of villages (43'75%) from the nearest telegraph office. The no. of villages located within the range of '20-30' K.M. is 2 (12'5%) having postal facilities and 5 (31'25%) in respect of having telegraphic facilities. On the other hand, there is no village situated at a distance of '30-40' K.M. from the post office but we find the location of 7 nos. of villages (43'75%) from the telegraph office.

5. In the context of medical facilities it may be mentioned here that people from 3 nos. of villages which are

located within the distance of 8 K.M. from Diphu, the District H.Q. derive maximum benefit from various types of medical institutions. On the other hand, there are two villages which are located more than 20 K.M. away from the nearest hospital or dispensary. Out of the remaining 11 nos. of villages, 5 nos. are located at a distance of '0-10' K.M. and 6 nos. at a distance of '10-20' K.M. from the nearest dispensary. In short, it may be said that the no. of medical institutions with adequate facilities should be increased for the treatment of various diseases of the people as well as their live-stock population.

6. With regard to educational infrastructure it is observed that children from 3 nos. of villages of the Project Area may attend L.P. school without any difficulty due to the location of the concerned institution within the jurisdiction of each village. Again, there are 8 nos. of villages located in the range of '1-2' K.M. from the nearest L.P. school. On the contrary, children from 5 nos. of villages have to attend primary school covering a distance of '2.5-5' K.M. Our field investigation also reveals that children from 3 nos. of villages have not attended L.P. school in the year 1990 although we find a good no. of children in the age group '6-10' yrs in these villages. The reasons may perhaps be attributed to the location of the educational institution at a long distance from the respective village and also negative attitude of the people towards female education etc. It is found that out of 237 nos. of children in the age group '6-10' yrs of the surveyed villages, 100 nos. (42.6%) have attended L.P. school during the year 1990. The no. of males is 65 (64.4%) and that of females is 36 (35.6%).

7. Students from the selected villages of the Project Area may prosecute their studies in 3 nos. of M.E. schools. The no. of students from these villages in the year 1990 is estimated at 28 (Male-20, Female - 8). Again, we find the no. of students from the selected villages attending classes in High Schools (2 nos.) to be 15 only (Male - 13, Female- 2) during that period. This is more than sufficient to understand that most of the students say goodbye to education after completion of primary standard. In other words, the people of the Project Area do not exhibit a positive outlook towards imparting proper education to their children.

8. The no. of literates among the total population of 1,102 in the Project Area is worked out to be 186 (16'8%) out of which the males constitute 134 (22'8%) and the females 52 (9'9%). According to 1971 Census, the percentage of literacy in the district of Karbi Anglong accounts for 19'2, the percentage of literacy among the males and the females being 26'9 and 10'3 respectively. This clearly shows that the rate of literacy in the Project Area is absolutely unsatisfactory.

9. The sources of drinking water for the people of the Project Area are katcha well (5 nos.), river (3 nos.) and natural spring (8 nos.) which are generally the carriers of germs of various waterborne diseases. For purification of water the people do not use any scientific method except the traditional way of filtration. That is why, provision of supplying safe drinking water to the people in the shape of piped water, tubewell or reservoir etc. is the need of the hour.

10. In respect of marketing facilities it is observed that the people of the Project Area have to face difficulty in purchasing essential commodities as well as in selling their products. Only two villages are located in the range of '0-5' K.M. from the nearest market against 7 nos. of villages located at a distance of '5-10' K.M. The remaining seven villages are located more than 10 K.M. away from the nearest market place. Moreover, due to the absence of fair price shop within the Project Area, the people have to purchase their essential items at exorbitant rate from the grocery shops (15 nos.) which are available in and around the selected villages.

11. Out of the total households of 196 of the Project Area, 193 nos. (98'47%) do practise cultivation as the primary source of occupation. On the other hand, 2 households (1'02%) and one household (0'51%) have taken up service and business as primary occupation respectively. With a view to augmenting their income the people also resort to secondary occupations. Our field study shows that 103 nos. of households (52'5%) work as daily wage earners. This clearly reveals that most of the people are not in a position to depend completely on primary occupation i.e. agriculture for their sustenance.

12. The total no. of earners and earning dependents in the Project Area is estimated at 196 (17'8%) and 458 (41'5%) respectively. On the contrary, the no. of non-earning dependents is worked out to be 448 (40'7%) only.

13. So far as land-holding pattern of the households, under study, is concerned, it may be mentioned that out of 196 households, 25 nos. (12'75%) have possessed land in the category of '0-10' bighas. In the categories '10-20' bighas, '20-30' bighas and '30 bighas & above' we find the no. of households to be 77 (39'28%), 55 (28'06%) and 39 (19'89%) respectively. The total area of land possessed by 196 nos. of households is estimated at 4,290 bigha out of which 3,427 bighas (79'89%) are brought under cultivation. The total area of land under homestead and fishery is found to be 320 bighas (7'46%) and 15 bighas (0'35%) respectively. The remaining amount of 528 bighas (12'3%) is fallow land. On the whole, the average land-holding per household in the selected villages is 21'8 bighas. Per capita land-holding accounts for 3'8 bighas only.

14. Out of the total cropped area of 1,503 bighas in jhum cultivation, the area of land under paddy cultivation is estimated at 894 bighas (59'48%). In this context, it may be mentioned here that in the same plot of land prepared for paddy cultivation, some other crops like maize, sesame and vegetables etc. are also grown along with paddy i.e. mixed crop is practised by the people. The total area of land brought separately under cultivation of maize and sesame is found to be 203 bighas (13'51%) and 256 bighas (17'03%) respectively. The remaining 150 bighas of land (9'98%) is brought under cultivation of ginger, mustard, chilli and vegetables etc. It is, however, clear that the people of the Project Area practise cultivation of paddy in an extensive manner in the jhum fields.

15. In case of settled cultivation, it is seen that out of the total cropped area of 2,183 bighas, the area of land under cultivation of paddy, sesame and mustard is found to be 1,521 bighas (69'6%), 214 bighas (9'8%) and 296 bighas (13'5%) respectively. Moreover, an amount of 152 bighas (6'9%) is brought under cultivation of maize, chilli, ginger and vegetables etc. It is, therefore, easily understood that the people of the Project Area mainly depend upon cultivation of paddy for their livelihood. It is to be noted that although the people carry out cultivation of paddy in jhum lands with maximum labour, the rate of production of paddy is comparatively less than that of settled cultivation. Our field investigation reveals that the rate of production of paddy is 1'9 Ql per bigha in jhum against 2'3 Ql per bigha in settled cultivation.

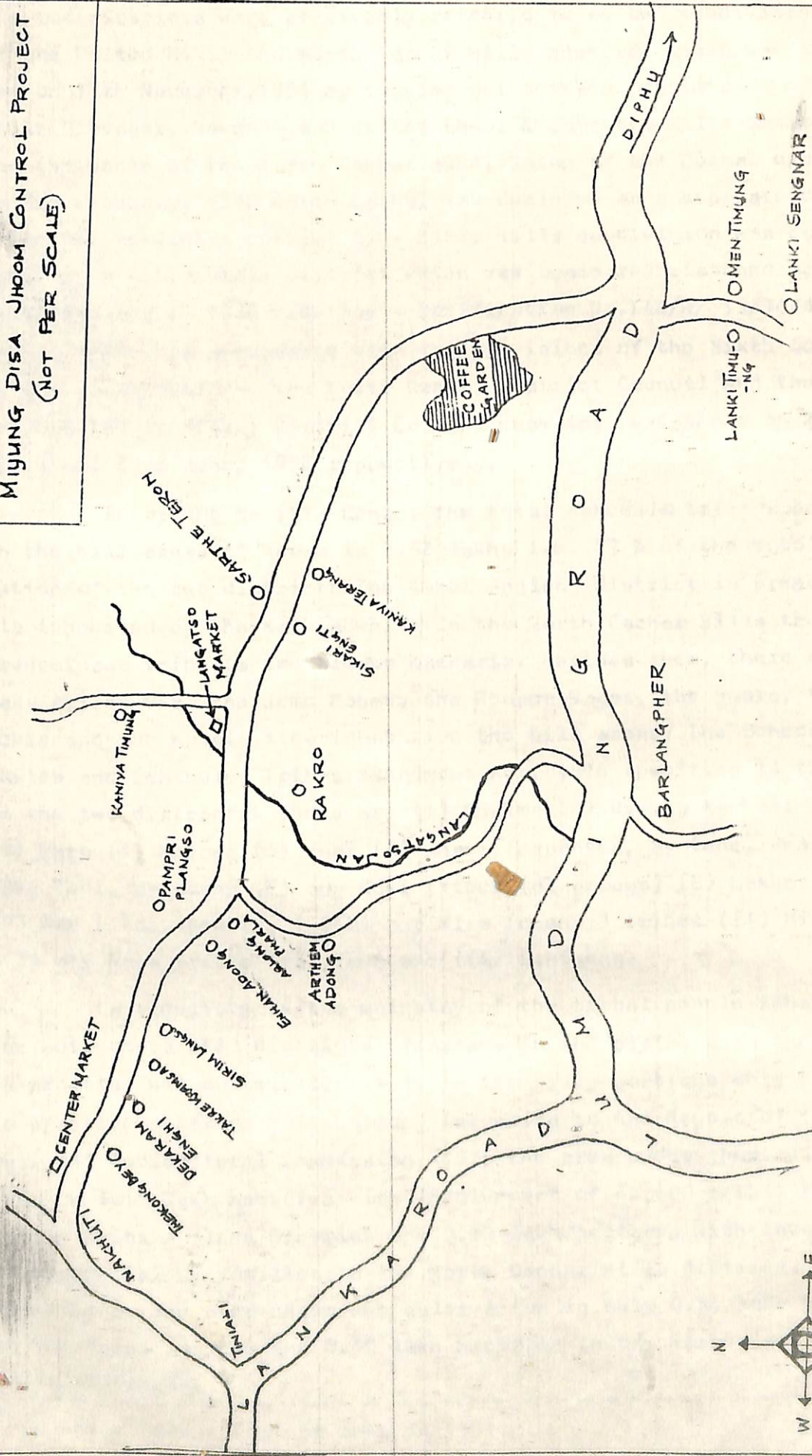
16. With regard to cottage industry, it may be mentioned here that out of a total of 196 households, 159 nos. (81'1%), 67 nos. (34'1%) and 72 nos. (36'7%) are engaged in weaving, bamboo & cane works and sericulture respectively. In fact, these cottage industries are carried out by the people mainly for domestic consumption only. Unless some income-generating schemes are implemented, the cottage industries can not bring any significant change in the economy of the people, under study.
17. While dealing with distribution of livestock population in the Project Area it is found that out of the total livestock of 3,920, the no. of poultry, pigs and goats is 2413 (61'56%), 645 (16'45%) and 406 (10'36%) respectively. Bullocks account for 368 nos. (9.39%) against 82 nos. (2'09%) of cows. On the other hand, the no. of buffaloes is found to be half a dozen only. Our field study further reveals that 177 nos. (90'31%), 172 nos. (78'75%) and 118 nos. (60'2%) of the total households possess poultry, pigs and goats respectively. The no. of households having bullocks is 130 (66'32%) while it is 43 (21'93%) in case of cows. Only 3 households (1'53%) possess buffalo. In short, it may be said that out of livestock population, the people of the Project Area derive considerable amount of income.
18. Among the important household properties mention may be made of bicycle (34 nos.), taprecorder (4 nos.), radio (73 nos.), gun (30 nos.), television (1 no.) and watch (45 nos.) etc.
19. The major source of income for the people of the Project Area is land which contributes 67'64% of the total income alone. Other source of income may be referred to as livestock population (16.23%), trade & commerce (6'82%) and paid employment including daily wage (4'8%) etc. It is to be noted that 12 households (6'12%) out of the total no. of 196 households live below the poverty line. On the basis of 1990 price level, we find the average gross annual income of a household and the per capita annual income to be Rs.14,771'32 and Rs. 2,627'20 respectively.
20. Food is the major head of expenditure and this accounts for 57'45% of the total amount of expenditure. On the other hand, the amount of expenditure in relation to dress & ornaments, furniture & residential building, education and health is estimated at 9.53%, 8'36%, 1'24% and 2'17% respectively. The

average annual expenditure of a household is Rs. 13,650'16 and the per capita expenditure is Rs. 2,427'80 only. On the whole, it may be mentioned here that the average household is having a marginal surplus budget of Rs. 1,121'16 only per annum and as such, the level of economy of the people of the Project Area is of subsistence type.

21. So far as indebtedness among the people is concerned, we find that out of 196 households, 90 households (45'9%) are in debt. Only one household has taken loan (Rs.500/-) from the D.R.D.A., Diphu at a nominal rate of interest while the remaining households have taken loan in cash or kind from the village mahajans and shopkeepers at a higher rate of interest. The average debt per household is Rs. 590'00 and the average debt per indebted household is Rs. 1,285'00.

• Mini Compact Area •

Miyung Disa Jhoom Control Project
(NOT PER SCALE)



CHAPTER - I.

INTRODUCTION

The autonomous hill districts of Assam consist of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills, covering a total geographical area of 15,222 sq.km. and a population of 4.55 lakhs as per 1971 Census.* The two districts were previously referred to as two subdivisions of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district which was created on 17th November, 1951 by curving out certain portions of erst-while Sibsagar, Nowgong and United Khasi & Jaintia Hills districts and the whole of the North Cachar subdivision of the Cachar district. On 2nd February, 1970 North Cachar was declared as a separate district while the remaining portion i.e. Mikir Hills subdivision was constituted into Mikir Hills district which was again rechristened as Karbi Anglong in 1976 vide Govt. Notification No. TAD/R/115/74/47 dt. 14/10/76. In accordance with the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the North Cachar District Council and the Karbi Anglong (Mikir Hills) District Council came into existence on 29th April and 23rd June, 1952 respectively.

According to 1971 Census the total scheduled tribe population in the hill areas of Assam is 2.62 lakhs i.e. 57 % of the total population of the two districts. The Karbi Anglong district is predominantly inhabited by the Karbis while in the North Cachar Hills the predominant tribe is the Dimasa Kacharis. Besides them, there are many tribes viz. the Jeme Nagas, the Rengma Nagas, the Hmars, the Kukis and the Khasis etc. inhabiting the hill areas. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Amendment Act, 1976 specifies 14 tribes in the two districts. These are (1) Chakma (2) Dimasa Kachari (3) Garo (4) Hajong (5) Hmar (6) Khasi, Jaintia, Synteng, Pnar, War, Bhoi, Lyngngam (7) any Kuki tribes (37 groups) (8) Lakhor (9) Man (Tai speaking) (10) any Mizo (Lushai) tribes (11) Mikir (12) any Naga tribes (13) Pawi and (14) Syntheng.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the tribal people inhabiting the autonomous hill districts of Assam. In the plains area they use to practise wet cultivation while in the hilly portions they happen to practise shifting cultivation. According to the Report of the National Agricultural Commission, 1976 the area under jhum cultivation is 4.15 lakh hectares with involvement of 45,600 tribal families in the Karbi Anglong district and 0.83 lakh hectares with involvement of 13,000 tribal families in the North Cachar Hills district. On the other hand, the area under wet cultivation is only 0.54 lakh hectares in the Karbi Anglong and 0.15 lakh hectares in the North Cachar Hills districts.

* In Assam census was not done in 1981.

Jhum or shifting cultivation is an age-old method of cultivation. In various regions of India the shifting cultivation is known by different terms. In Assam, Meghalaya², Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, this type of cultivation is widely known as 'Jhum' and the cultivators as 'Jhumia'. Among the Adis of Arunachal Pradesh the shifting cultivation is known as 'Adi-Arick' whereas in Tripura it is known as 'Hooknismono'. In some parts of Nagaland it is known as 'Tekonglu'. Jhum cultivation goes under a variety of names in other parts of India: Kurwa or Khallu in the Santhal Parganas, Bewara in Ranchi and Palamau in Bihar and Pedu, Rema, Dahi, Kaman, Bringa, Gudia, Dongar Chas in Orissa; Penda, Dahiya, Bewar, Guharh, Farhha, Dippa, Marhan or Erka in Madhya Pradesh; and Kandapady in Andhra Pradesh.¹

The mode of operation of the shifting cultivation is a simple one. Initially, a plot of land on a hill slope is selected for the purpose, trees, bamboos and other plants & shrubs etc. grown in the area are cut in December/January and these are allowed to dry under the blazing summer sun. In the month of March/April these are burnt to ashes. Heavy logs, if unburnt are then placed aside. Ashes are scattered over the whole area. As soon as rains start, seeds of paddy and some other crops are sown broadcast over the ashes. Moreover, seeds of various crops and vegetable are put into holes made by hoe. Thus, mixed crop is raised over the same plot of land. Weeding takes place minimum thrice within a year. Harvesting continues upto December.

In bygone days jhumming was not so unproductive as it stands to-day. Because in the past the jhum cycles were of longer duration from 10 to 15 years, and hence the land could replenish its lost fertility during this period. But now-a-days owing to increasing pressure of a growing population on land the jhum cycles become shorter from 4 to 7 years, and as such it can not replenish its lost fertility to the full. Therefore, the yield is also less. Jhumming is also associated with grave consequence like soil erosion, denundation, loss of forest wealth silting up of river beds etc. Because of constant jhumming some hills have almost become barren. Unless something is done soon and at a faster rate to minimise unproductive jhumming to the least extent possible, the situation will prove itself beyond repair and unmanageable as well in course of time.²

It may be mentioned here that in order to control jhum cultivation in the hill areas of Assam, the two District Councils have enacted certain laws. For example, as per Mikir Hills (Karbi Anglong)

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1. Vidyarthi, L.P.- Art and Culture of North East India, Publication Division, 1986, P.86.
 2. Bordoloi, B.N.- District Hand Book, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, 1972, P.55.

District (jhuming) (Amendment) Regulation, 1966, jhuming ' shall be gregarious and restricted to one particular area for a village irrespective of number of families and shall be selected by villagers in consultation with Sarkari Gaonbura and the local Mouzadar in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation. Any disagreement about selection of jhuming site among the villagers, Sarkari Gaonburas and Mouzadars shall refer it to the Executive Committee and decision of the Executive Committee in this respect shall be final. Individual plots within the selected area may be selected by the people themselves in consultation with the local Sarkari Gaonbura. The villagers shall be jointly and severally responsible for any damage to areas not selected for jhuming by spreading of fire from jhumed areas.' ³

Various measures have been adopted by the Development Departments like Agriculture, Irrigation, Soil Conservation, P.W.D., Sericulture, Forest and APCDC etc. under the different Five Year Plans in order to put an end to the practice of jhum cultivation in the hill areas of Assam. Mention may be made of the scheme for establishment of model villages, cash crop plantation scheme and composite scheme etc. Dr. B. N. Bordoloi, at present, Director of the Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes, Guwahati mentioned in an article entitled ' The Problems of Rehabilitation of the Jhumiya Families in the Hill Areas of Assam' that the scheme for establishment of model villages was only partially successful because of the fact that the sociological factors associated with the tribes were not taken into consideration at the time of rehabilitating the jhumiyas and as a result, many jhumiya families had left the model villages.

Cash crop plantation scheme involves the plantation of coffee, rubber, black pepper and cashew nut etc. Initially the Soil Conservation Department implemented the scheme. Later on, with the creation of the Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation in 1974, there was no scope for expansion of cash crop area by the Soil Conservation Department. Of course, the coffee and rubber plantations under the APCDC have shown encouraging results. There are 1040 hectares of coffee and 855 hectares of rubber plantation in the hill areas of Assam under the APCDC. Actually the plantation areas have to be transferred to the local tribal people at a nominal cost in phased manner. But this has not been done till now.

' With a view to containing depletion of forest cover in Karbi Anglong and N.C.Hills districts as well as to inducing the jhum cultivators to take up settled alternative as means of livelihood, the Planning Commission introduced an interdisciplinary programme viz.

³ The Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council, Code Vol.1, 1982, P.38.

Co-operative Societies (LAMP) have to open retail outlets in the vicinity of the concerned villages so that the people do not face any difficulty in procuring rice and other essential commodities. Emphasis has also been given to provide grants-in-aid to the local Youth Clubs from the Govt. for recreation and amusement.

Under the Integrated Jhumiya Development Programme, seventeen projects were executed in the Karbi Anglong district during 1986-87 - 1990-91. Similarly twenty projects were taken up for execution in the North Cachar Hills district.

Besides IJDP, the two District Councils have also implemented Compact Area Development Programmes with the intention of weaning away the jhumiyas from the destructive method of jhum cultivation. The project area selected for this purpose in the Karbi Anglong district is located within the jurisdiction of the Chinthong Development Block area of the Hamren subdivision. This project will bring about significant change in economic life of 1,488 nos. of households belonging to 36 villages. On the other hand, in the North Cachar Hills district the project area - Hadingma comprises 40 villages of the Jatinga and Diyung Valley Development Blocks. This project is also expected to provide opportunities to 1,076 nos. of households of these villages to improve their economic conditions through adoption of permanent type of cultivation.

In addition to the Compact Area Development Programmes, the two District Councils have undertaken Mini Compact Area Jhum Control Projects. The project areas are four in number- (1) Miyungdisa and (2) Hidipi in the Diphu subdivision of the Karbi Anglong district and (3) Digerkuki in the Maibang subdivision and (4) Jinam valley in the Haflong subdivision of the North Cachar Hills district. In this Report we will deal with the prevailing situation in respect of socio-economic conditions of the people inhabiting the Miyungdisa Mini Compact Area only. It may be mentioned here that this Project Area is inhabited by the Karbis. An attempt has, therefore, been made below to focus light on the life and culture of this particular tribe in a capsule form before presenting an indepth analysis of the main study.

ETHNOGRAPHIC NOTE ON THE KARBIS

Like all other tribes of Assam the Karbis also belong to the Mongoloid race. Linguistically, they may be included in the Kuki-Chin group of the Tibeto-Burman sub-family. The original home of the Karbis, like the other tribes of North East India, was the Western China near the Yang-te-Kiang and the Howang-ho rivers. From these places they went down the courses of the Chindwin and the

Irrawaty rivers and entered Burma and stayed there for some time. From Burma they went down the courses of the Brahmaputra and entered Assam by the north-east route through the Patkai Ranges along with other Tibeto-Burma races before several centuries B.C.⁵ At present the highest concentration of this tribe is found to be in the Karbi Anglong district.

The Karbis generally live on the hill slopes/tops in pile dwelling houses. Each village is usually named after the Gaonbura. They have 5 Nos. of clans (Kur) viz. Teron, Terang, Ingti, Inghi and Timung. Each clan is again subdivided into several sub-clans. As the clans are exogamous, marriage between members of the same clan is strictly prohibited. Monogamy is the usual rule. Cross-cousin marriage (mother's brother's daughter) is highly preferable. Divorce and widow marriage can take place in the society. Junior levirate but not senior levirate is practised, if necessity arises. Bride-price, the so-called evil, is practically absent among the Karbis. Marriage by negotiation and marriage by mutual love are the two general ways of acquiring mates among them. It is interesting to note that the wife does not change her surname obtained by birth. For example, a girl having the surname Teronpi married to a Timung will not change her surname to Timungpi but her children born out of wedlock will assume the surname of their father i.e. boys will be Timung and girls Timungpi. The Karbis practise patriarchal family system and hence the father is the head of the family. Descent is traced through the male line only. Sons but not daughters inherit property after the death of father. In absence of sons the nearest male relatives of the deceased inherit the same.

Agriculture is the primary occupation of the Karbis. They practise jhuming in the hilly areas and wet cultivation in the low lying areas. Terrace cultivation has also been recently introduced. The Karbis rear cattle, pigs and poultry etc. Bamboo and cane products are meant for household purpose only and not for sale. Women are found to be more illustrious than the menfolk. Besides domestic works they remain engaged in agricultural activities practically throughout the year. But the economic condition of the Karbi people is extremely unsatisfactory. In jhuming they get minimum yield results with maximum labour. Consumption of rice beer (Horlang and Her Arak) leads to exhaustion of a huge portion of paddy, Rural indebtedness, land alienation and Paikas system etc. have also played

⁵ Bordolei, B.N.-- The Karbis - Their Origin and Migration, an article published in the Bulletin, Tribal Research Institute, Assam, Vol. 1. No. III, 1985, P.64.

destructive roles on their economy. Among the agricultural festivals practised by the Karbis mention may be made of Rongker and Hacha Kokan. Rongker is celebrated before the beginning of cultivation while the other is done after the harvest. Jirkedam is an institution which is constituted during the agricultural season. Young boys and girls work collectively in the agricultural fields, For their work they take little remuneration which is divided equally among them.

The Karbi people seem to be quite indifferent towards health and hygiene. T.B. and leprosy are the major diseases among them. Propitiation of deity and use of indigenous drugs are favourable for them. At present medical treatment has been adopted by the people to a considerable extent.

As regards religion it may be said that though Hinduism has exerted influence on the Karbis, they have still high regard for their traditional beliefs and rituals. They believe in Supreme God (Arnam). Moreover they believe in the existence of many gods and goddesses, ghosts and sprits etc. and as a result, worship them in different ways. 'Chojun' is observed to appease the God of Heaven in an interval of 2/3 years. Anybody's illness means evil aspect of malevolent spirits. So propitiation of the concerned spirit is essential for convalescence, they believe. But the most important and highly expensive religious performance of the Karbis is the 'Chomangkan' i.e. Shradha ceremony which is generally performed in two ways (Langtuk and Kan Fla Fla) depending upon the financial strength of the household. It may be pointed out that since this festival involves a huge amount of expenditure, it may, therefore, take place after a long lapse of time, even after a decade of the death of a person. The Uchepi (the woman who prepares meal for the deceased), the Lunchepi (female singer who requests the deceased with a pathetic tune to take meal) and the Duhuidi (expert drummer) are indispensable parts of the ceremony. All the village people extend full co-operation and helping hands to the smooth functioning of the ceremony. The people of the surrounding villages and the relatives of the household who performs it also participate. The celebration may continue upto 4/5 days. Regarding prevalence of christianity among the Karbis, it may simply be stated here that christianity has also gradually influenced a section of the Karbi society.

The Karbis cremate the dead bodies in the crematorium (Thiri). But the dead bodies of those who commit suicide/become victims of leprosy/die due to pregnancy/die due to attack by wild animals etc. are cremated by the riverside. The Karbi people offer certain pujas after the birth of offspring for its bright future.

The Karbis have their traditional dresses and ornaments. The women wear mekhala (Pini) around the waist and over it a piece of cloth called 'Wamkok' is worn like a belt. Another piece of cloth (Jiso) is taken over the breasts. The men wear loin cloth (Rikong), shirt (Choi) and traditional hat (Poho). At present the pattern of dress has undergone changes due to the influence of out world civilisation. Of course, the women have not completely given up their traditional dresses and make the necessary clothes with artistic designs in their indigenous looms (Therang). The ornaments used by the women folk are generally made of silver. Gold ornaments are also used nowadays. Bracelet (Roi), string of beads (Led), ear rings (No Thengpi) and ring (Arnam) are some of the ornaments used by them.

So far as the village administration is concerned, the Gaonbura plays the dominant role. He is the president of the Village Council (Me) which consist of village elders. If any dispute occurs in the village, it is then settled by the Village Council. The traditional system of the Karbis is monarchical. The capital is at Ronghang Rongbong which falls within the jurisdiction of the Hamren subdivision.

The Karbis do not have their own script. But they are rich in folk tale, folk song, music and dance etc. From the point of view of literacy it can be said that the light of education has not penetrated into the Karbi society. According to 1971 Census, the percentage of literacy in the Karbi Anglong district is 19.17 which is the lowest among the districts of Assam. The percentage of literacy among the Karbis in the Hill Areas of Assam is 13.15 out of which the males constitute 21.09% and the females 4.95% only.

Methodology :

The Miyungdisa Mini Compact Area which is located within the Lumbajong Development Block of the Diphu subdivision of the Karbi Anglong district is selected by the District Council authority on the basis of the following considerations : i) The extent of jhuming is extensive and the target families are below the poverty line ii) The Project Area is close to the subdivisional headquarter of Diphu iii) The villages are situated in a geographically contiguous area. 6

Although the list of villages furnished by the concerned authority for conducting the socio-economic survey of the scheduled tribe population inhabiting the Project Area contains 416 nos. of households belonging to 17 nos. of villages, in fact, our survey reveals the existence of 16 nos. of villages occupied by 196 nos. of households only. The list of selected villages is furnished overleaf :

6 -----
Project Report - Miyungdisa - Karbi Anglong District Council, P.1.

TABLE I.
List of selected villages

Sl. No.	Name of the village	No. of households as per list provided by the authority	No. of households as per our survey
1	2	3	4
1	Tokre Kramsa	15	14
2	Sikari Engti	8	7
3	Thekong Bey	22	17
4	Sarthe Teron	15	15
5	Dekaram Enghi	12	13
6	Enghan Adong	12	14
7	Arthen Adong	7	6
8	Sirim Langso	17	20
9	Arlong Pharla (Hemari Teron)	20	20
10.	Phampri Plangso	15	15
11	Kania Terang (Etpo Kro Gaon)	17	18
12	Kania Timung	10	7
13	Lanki Sengnar	60	6
14	Lanki Timung	60	8
15	Men Timung	70	9
16	Ra Kro	50	7
17	Longkoi Kro (Langbu Kro)	6	-
Total		416	196

The above table shows that the no. of households in the selected villages, as per our field study, varies from minimum 6 to maximum 20, although the list provided by the authority shows the no. of households in some villages to be more than 50. The field study also reveals that shifting of households has not taken place from the selected villages since establishment except few minor cases. Moreover, the Ra Kro and Longkoi Kro villages constitute one village only, although the list shows the existence of two villages. It may be mentioned here that Ra Kro is the son of Longkoi Kro and they have not established separate villages. As a result, the no. of villages surveyed in the

Project Area is reduced to 16 from 17. All the villages were physically visited by the Research Investigators for the purpose of field work. Household and village schedules were prepared for systematic collection of all relevant data. At least one adult member of every household, preferably the Head was contacted and interviewed for recording necessary information in the household schedule. Moreover, particulars in relation to the general health of the people, transport, communication, civic, educational and other infrastructural facilities etc. in and around each village were taken into account in the village schedule. The survey was carried out in this Project Area during the month of November/90. Tabulation and analysis of data came to an end in the next month i.e., December. Report writing was started from the first week of February/91 and the Draft Report was prepared within that month.

CHAPTER - II
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

In the introductory chapter we have mentioned that 16 nos. of villages inhabited by 196 nos. of households are covered by the Miyungdisa Mini Compact Area Project. The total population in the selected villages is estimated at 1,102 only. The following table shows the distribution of villages by size of population :

TABLE II
Distribution of villages by size of population

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Total population		
		below 50	50-100	100 & above
1	2	3	4	5
1	Tokre Kramsa		96	
2	Sikari Engti	45		
3	Thekong Bey			104
4	Sarthe Teron		66	
5	Dekaram Enghi		84	
6	Enghan Adong		71	
7	Arthen Adong	31		
8	Sirim Langso		97	
9	Arlong Pharla			113
10	Phampri Plangso		86	
11	Kania Terang			112
12	Kania Timung	44		
13	Lanki Sengnar	29		
14	Lanki Timung	43		
15	Men Timung		51	
16	Ra Kro	30		

A cursory glance on the above table reveals that 7 nos. of villages fall within the category of '50-100'. The no. of villages in the category 'below 50' is worked out to be 6. On the other hand, only 3 villages fall within the category of '100 & above'.

It has already been stated that the total population belonging to 196 nos. of households is found to be 1,102. Table III indicates the distribution of population according to age-group.

• AGE DISTRIBUTION •

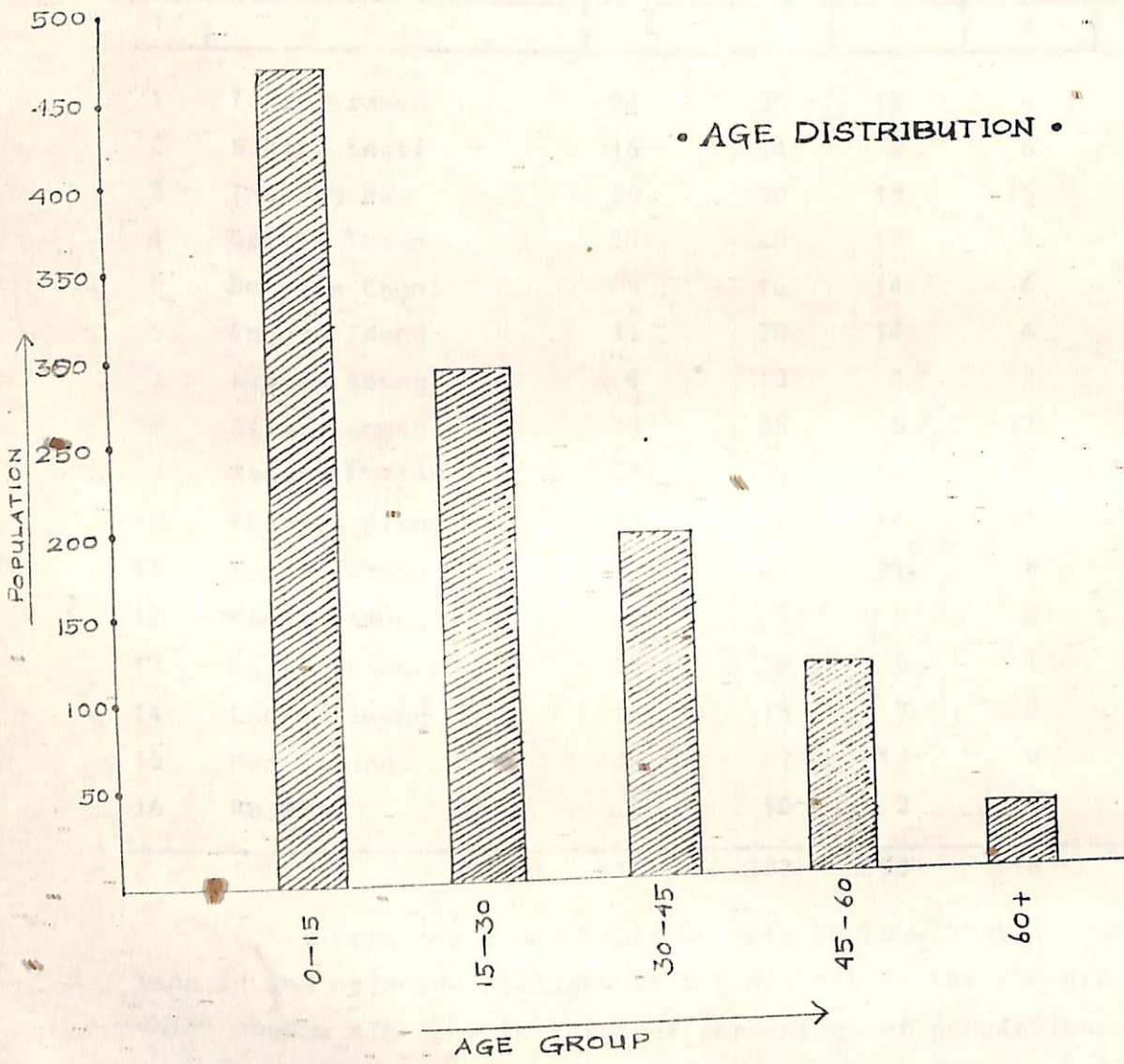


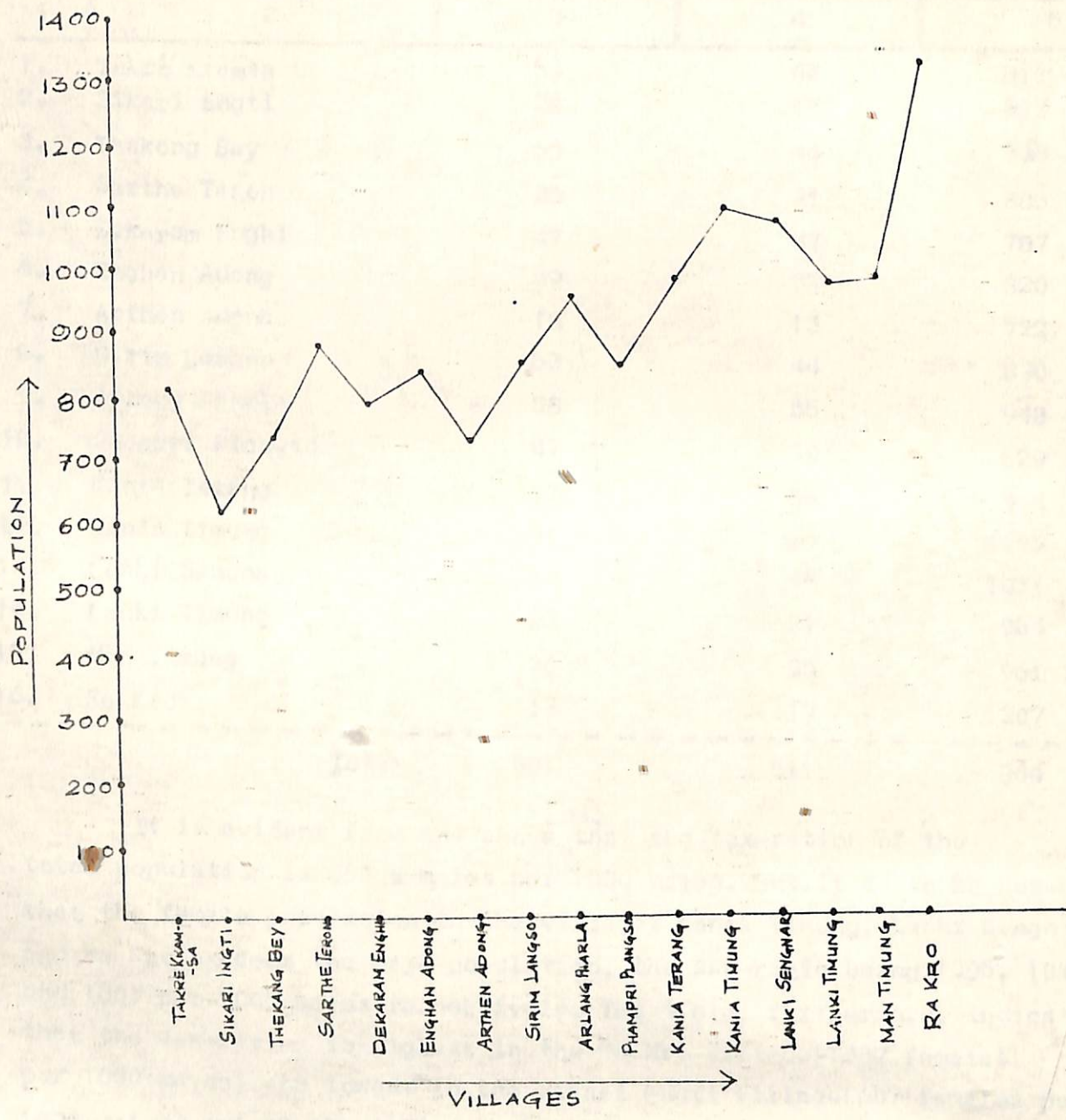
TABLE III

Distribution of population according to age-group

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Age-group					Total
		0-15 yrs.	15-30 yrs.	30-45 yrs.	45-60 yrs.	60yrs & above	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Tokre Kramsa	34	30	15	8	9	96
2	Sikari Engti	16	14	9	6	-	45
3	Thekong Bey	39	30	19	15	1	104
4	Sarthe Teron	25	20	13	5	3	66
5	Dekaram Enghi	45	16	14	6	3	84
6	Enghan Adong	31	20	14	4	2	71
7	Arthen Adong	8	13	8	2	-	31
8	Sirim Langso	39	29	15	12	2	97
9	Arlong Pharla	52	30	14	16	1	113
10	Phampri Plangso	33	23	14	16	-	86
11	Kania Terang	58	25	21	6	2	112
12	Kania Timung	20	5	9	8	2	44
13	Lanki Sengnar	15	8	5	1	-	29
14	Lanki Timung	18	13	7	2	3	43
15	Men Timung	29	7	13	2	-	51
16	Ra Kro	8	10	3	7	2	30
Total		470	293	193	116	30	1102

From the above table we come to know that the no. of population in the selected villages is the highest in the age-group '0-15' yrs which covers 470 nos. In terms of percentage of population, this group constitutes 42.6. In the next age-group i.e. '15-30' yrs., the no. of population is 293 which accounts for 26.6% of the total population. In the age-group '30-45' yrs, we find the number to be 193 and the percentage in this respect becomes 17.5. Again, the no. of population in the age-group '45-60' yrs is estimated at 116 which is 10.5% of the total population. But the age-group '60yrs and above' covers 30 persons only. In this case, the percentage of population is worked out to be 2.7. This analysis clearly indicates that from the age-group '10-15' yrs upwards, the percentages of population to the total population of the selected villages in the Project Area have shown a sign of gradual decline.

In the Project Area, out of a total population of 1,102, the no. of males and females is found to be 591 and 511 respectively. Table IV shows the sex-ratio of the total population living in sixteen villages.



• FEMALE PER 1000 MALES •

TABLE IV

Sex-ratio of the total population of the selected villages within the Project area.

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Male	Female	Female per 1000 males.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tokre Kramsa	53	43	811
2.	Sikari Engti	28	17	607
3.	Thekong Bey	60	44	733
4.	Sarthe Teron	35	31	885
5.	Dekaram Enghi	47	37	787
6.	Enghan Adong	39	32	820
7.	Arthen Adong	18	13	722
8.	Sirim Langso	53	44	830
9.	Arlong Pharla	58	55	948
10.	Phampri Plangso	47	39	829
11.	Kania Terang	57	55	964
12.	Kania Timung	21	23	1095
13.	Lanki Sengnar	14	15	1071
14.	Lanki Timung	22	21	954
15.	Men Timung	26	25	961
16.	Ra Kro	13	17	1307
Total		591	511	864

It is evident from the above ^{table} that the sex-ratio of the total population is 864 females per 1000 males. But it is to be noted that the female population in the villages Kania Timung, Lanki Sengnar and Ra Kro exceeds the male population, the sex-ratio being 1095, 1071 and 1307 per 1000 males respectively. The table, furthermore, indicates that the sex-ratio is highest in the Ra Kro village (1307 females per 1000 males) and lowest in the Sikari Engti village (607 females per 1000 males) out of the selected villages within the Mini Compact Area Project.

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CHAPTER - III

AN INSIGHT INTO THE INFRASTRUCTURAL
FACILITIES

One of the main factors for socio-economic development of any tribal community is attributable to the availability of infrastructural facilities and basic amenities without which formulation and implementation of developmental plans and programmes will not yield satisfactory result. In this chapter, an attempt is, therefore, made to bring into light the basic infrastructural facilities available in and around the selected villages of the Project Area .

Transport and Communication :

It is needless to say that adequate transport and communication facilities provide opportunities to the people for transforming their economy to a higher level. In this respect, the Project Area presents a gloomy picture. Although a motorable road runs through the heart of the Project Area, the people cannot derive much benefit due to lack of public transport system. Only a fraction (say, 5 K.M.) of the total length of the road which extends from Panchmile to Nakhuti Tinali, covering about 40 K.M. is pitched while the remaining portion is still ungravelled. Moreover, several bridges over the road are under construction. People have to move on foot from one place to another. Occasionally they receive the services of the trucks carrying logs from the forest,

The following table shows approximate distance of the villages from the nearest motorable road :

TABLE V

Distance of the villages from
the nearest motorable road

Sl.No.	Distance (K.M.)	No. of villages	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1	0	4	25
2	0.5	1	6.25
3	1	1	6.25
4	1.5	1	6.25
5	2	1	6.25
6	3	4	25
7	4	1	6.25
8	5	2	12.5
9	9	1	6.25
Total		16	100 %

Table V reveals that 50% of the selected villages are located within the range of '0-2'K.M. Seven villages (43.8%) lie within the distance of '3-5'K.M. Only one village (6.2%) is located 9 K.M. away from the nearest motorable road. So, it can be expected that people of the Project Area will be benefitted by a good network of road communication in the coming years.

So far as railway facilities are concerned, the people of the selected villages appear to be in a disadvantageous position to derive maximum benefit because of the fact that most of the villages are located beyond 10 K.M. from the railway station. The following table shows the distance of the villages from the nearest railway station:

TABLE VI

Distance of the villages from the nearest railway station.

Sl.No.	Distance (K.M.)	No. of villages	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1	0 - 5	1	6.25
2	5 - 10	2	12.50
3	10 - 15	5	31.25
4	15 - 20	4	25.00
5	20 - 25	3	18.75
6	25 & above	1	6.25
Total		16	100 %

The above table clearly shows that out of the sixteen selected villages, only a single village (6.25%) is located within the range of '0-5'K.M. On the other hand, in the range of '5-10'K.M., '10-15'K.M., '15-20'K.M., and '20-25'K.M., we find the location of 2 nos. (12.5%), 5 nos. (31.25%), 4 nos. (25%) and 3 nos. (18.75%) of villages respectively. Moreover, another village (6.25%) is located in the range of '25 K.M. & above'. In fact, the services of the railway authority are not within easy reach of the people of the Project Area.

It has already been mentioned that all the selected villages of the Project Area are located within the jurisdiction of the Lumbajong Development Block. The headquarters of this Block is at Manja which is situated at a distance of 16 K.M. from Diphu. Table VII shows the distance of the selected villages from the Block headquarters.

TABLE VII

Distance of the villages from the Block H.Q.

Sl.No.	Distance (K.M.)	No. of villages	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1	Below 20	-	-
2	20 - 30	4	25.0
3	30 - 40	6	37.5
4	40 - 50	6	37.5
Total		16	100 %

A cursory glance on the above table reveals that not a single village is located within 30 K.M. of the Block headquarters. Four villages (25%) are situated in the range of '20 - 30' K.M. Out of the remaining twelve villages, 6 nos. (37.5%) are located in the range of '30-40' K.M. and another six villages (37.5%) are in the range of '40-50' K.M. from the Block H.Q.

Our field study indicates that with the location of the District H.Q. at Diphu, 7 nos. of villages (43.75%) are lying at a distance of '0-20' K.M. and six villages (37.5%) are in the range of '20-30' K.M. Only three villages (18.75%) are situated at a distance of '30-40' K.M.

Civic & Educational Facilities :

To have an understanding about resourcefulness of a particular locality we have to take into account the civic and educational facilities viz. post and telegraph, medical and educational institutions etc. The following table shows the approximate distance of the selected villages from the nearest places having post and telegraph facilities :

TABLE VIII

Distance of the villages from the nearest Post & Telegraph Office (in K.M.)

Sl.No.	Name of the village	Post Office	Telegraph Office
1	2	3	4
1	Tokre Kramsa	12 (Nakhuti)	35 (Diphu)
2	Sikari Engti	18 (Diphu)	18 (Diphu)
3	Thekong Bey	7 (Nakhuti)	36 (Diphu)
4	Sarthe Teron	18 (Diphu)	18 (Diphu)
5	Dekaram Enghi	8 (Nakhuti)	34 (Diphu)

1	2	3	4
6	Enghan Adong	21 (Borlangfer)	28 (Diphu)
7	Arthen Adong	9 (Borlangfer)	22 (Diphu)
8	Sirim Langso	10 (Borlangfer)	31 (Diphu)
9	Arlong Pharla	20 (Borlangfer)	27 (Diphu)
10	Phampri Plangso	10 (Borlangfer)	30 (Diphu)
11	Kania Terang	20 (Borlangfer)	18 (Diphu)
12	Kania Timung	27 (Diphu)	27 (Diphu)
13	Lanki Sengnar	5 (Diphu)	5 (Diphu)
14	Lanki Timung	7 (Diphu)	7 (Diphu)
15	Men Timung	8 (Diphu)	8 (Diphu)
16	Ra Kro	15 (Borlangfer)	20 (Diphu)

If the location of the above mentioned villages is grouped according to distance, we find that 8 nos. (50%) of the villages are situated at a distance of '0-10'K.M. from the nearest post office and 3 nos. (12.5%) of the villages are located from the nearest telegraph office in the same range. Again, in the range of '10-20'K.M., the no. of villages having postal and telegraphic facilities is found to be 6 (37.5%) and 4 (25%) respectively. It is also seen that only two villages (12.5%) are located at a distance of '20-30'K.M. in respect of having postal benefits. But in the same range 5 nos. of villages (31.25%) are situated to derive benefits from the telegraph office. No village is, however, located at a distance of '30-40' K.M. from the locality having post office. On the other hand, 4 nos. of villages (25%) are located in the same range for deriving facilities from the telegraph office. On the whole, out of the selected villages, 14 nos. (87.5%) are situated at a distance of '0-20' K.M. from the nearest post office while in the same range, the no. of villages located in respect of having telegraphic facilities is 7 (43.75%) only. In other words, the people of the Project Area are in a better position to derive maximum benefit from the post office in comparison to that of the telegraph office.

With regard to medical facilities it has been observed that the people of the selected villages covered by the Project Area may visit Civil Hospital/Veterinary Hospital located at Diphu or the nearest dispensary for treatment of disease. Table IX shows the distance of the villages from the nearest medical institutions.

TABLE IX

Distance of the villages from the nearest medical institution (in K.M.)

Sl. No.	Name of the villages	Civil Hospital	Dispensary	Veterinary Hospital	Veterinary Dispensary
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Tokre Kramsa	35 (Diphu)	12 (Nakhuti)	35 (Diphu)	12 (Nakhuti)
2	Sikari Engti	18 (Diphu)	18 (Diphu)	18 (Diphu)	18 (Diphu)
3	Thekong Bey	36 (Diphu)	7 (Nakhuti)	36 (Diphu)	7 (Nakhuti)
4	Sarthe Teron	18 (Diphu)	18 (Diphu)	18 (Diphu)	18 (Diphu)
5	Dekaram Enghi	34 (Diphu)	8 (Nakhuti)	34 (Diphu)	8 (Nakhuti)
6	Enghan Adong	28 (Diphu)	21 (Borlangfer)	28 (Diphu)	21 (Borlangfer)
7	Arthen Adong	22 (Diphu)	9 (Borlangfer)	22 (Diphu)	9 (Borlangfer)
8	Sirim Langso	31 (Diphu)	10 (Borlangfer)	31 (Diphu)	10 (Borlangfer)
9	Arlong Pharla	27 (Diphu)	20 (Borlangfer)	27 (Diphu)	20 (Borlangfer)
10	Phampri Plangso	30 (Diphu)	10 (Borlangfer)	30 (Diphu)	10 (Borlangfer)
11	Kania Terang	18 (Diphu)	20 (Borlangfer)	18 (Diphu)	20 (Borlangfer)
12	Kania Timung	27 (Diphu)	27 (Diphu)	27 (Diphu)	27 (Diphu)
13	Lanki Sengnar	5 (Diphu)	5 (Diphu)	5 (Diphu)	5 (Diphu)
14	Lanki Timung	7 (Diphu)	7 (Diphu)	7 (Diphu)	7 (Diphu)
15	Men Timung	8 (Diphu)	8 (Diphu)	8 (Diphu)	8 (Diphu)
16	Ra Kro	20 (Diphu)	15 (Borlangfer)	20 (Diphu)	15 (Borlangfer)

From the above table, we come to know that 3 nos. of villages are located within 8 K.M. from the District H.Q., Diphu and as a result, the people of these villages may take full advantage of the facilities provided by the medical institutions. On the contrary, the people of two villages viz. Enghan Adong and Kania Timung have to take the trouble of visiting a hospital or dispensary after covering more than 20 K.M. On the whole, the no. of villages lying at a distance of '0-10' K.M., '10-20' K.M. and '20-30' K.M. from the nearest dispensary is found to be 8 (50%), 6 (37.5%) and 2 (12.5%) respectively.

In this connection, it may not be out of place to mention here that some of the people of the Project Area, initially use indigenous drugs or worship various deities as curative measure for different types of disease. If the result is not at all satisfactory they visit the medical institutions already referred to or the nearest private medical practitioners who are available at Diphu, Borlangfer and Nakhuti. Our field study reveals that 8 nos. of villages (50%) are located at a distance of '0-10' K.M. from the residence/chamber of the private medical practitioners. Again, the no. of villages located in the range of '10-20' K.M. and '20-30' K.M. is 6 (37.5%) and 2 (12.5%) respectively. This indicates that the people of the selected villages except those of Enghan Adong and Kania Timung may approach a physician in urgent cases for immediate help and guidance.

Education plays an important role in accelerating the pace of development among the tribal population. In fact, the spread of education is dependent upon the educational infrastructure available in and around their habitat. The following table shows the distance of educational institutions in respect of Lower Primary standard from the selected villages of the Project Area alongwith no. of children attending schools in the year 1990:

TABLE X

Distance of the nearest L.P. school from the selected villages alongwith no. of children attending schools from the villages in 1990

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Distance of the school from the village (in K.M.)	No. of children in the age-group '6-10' yrs.		No. of children attending school from the village	
			M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Tokre Kramsa	2	9	7	3	-
2	Sikari Engti	1	7	3	4	-
3	Thekong Bey	-	12	10	9	9
4	Sarthe Teron	1	55	2	2	1
5	Dekaram Enghi	2	15	11	8	4
6	Enghan Adong	1	10	6	3	1
7	Arthen Adong	4	4	2	-	-
8	Sirim Langso	3.5	7	12	1	1
9	Arlong Pharla	-	15	14	9	5
10	Phampri Plangso	2.5	5	4	1	-
11	Kania Terang	-	18	9	10	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12	Kania Timung	4	4	5	-	1
13	Lanki Sengnar	5	4	4	-	-
14	Lanki Timung	2	5	4	5	3
15	Men Timung	2	13	10	10	8
16	Ra Kro	2	-	3	-	-
		Total	133	104	65	36

The above table reveals that children from three villages viz. Thekong Bey, Arlong Phaxly and Kania Terang are in a position to attend schools without facing difficulty because of the fact that the schools are located within each village. It may be mentioned here that children from the surveyed villages attend any one out of 5 nos. of L.P. schools, according to their convenience. These schools established in 1962, 1965, 1982, 1987 and 1989 are under the administrative control of the Karbi Anglong District Council. It has also been observed that children from 8 nos. of villages have to attend schools located at a distance of '1-2' K.M. from their respective villages. Children from 5 nos. of villages have to cover a distance of '2.5 - 5' K.M. for attending schools. Again, we find that children from 3 nos. of villages of the Project Area have not attended L.P. school at all during the year 1990. The village Arthen Adong is 4 K.M. away from the nearest L.P. school and it is located in the midst of dense jungle. The village Lanki Sengnar is located in isolation at a distance of 5 K.M. from the nearest L.P. school. Again, in the village Ra Kro we find that in the age-group '6-10' yrs the no. of children is 3 and incidentally, these three children are females and they belong to one household. Perhaps due to parent's apathetic attitude towards female education, children are not sent to school. From the above table we come to know that the total no. of students coming from the selected villages to the L.P. schools in the year 1990 is 101 out of which male and female students are 65 nos. (64.4%) and 36 nos. (35.6%) respectively. On the other hand, out of 237 nos. of children in the age-group '6-10' yrs, 101 nos. attend L.P. schools, the percentage being 42.6 only. If we calculate the percentages of male and female students attending L.P. school out of 133 nos. of males and 104 nos. of females in the age-group '6-10' yrs we will get 48.8 and 34.6 respectively.

The total no. of students from the surveyed villages in the year 1990 to 3 nos. of Middle English schools (Govt. - 1982,

Provincialised -1988 and Venture- 1987) is found to be 28 out of which the no. of boys is 20 (71.4%) and that of the girls is 8 (28.6%) only. This indicates a sharp decline of attending schools by the students after primary stage of education. From the previous table we know that the no. of children in the L.P. standard in 1990 is 101 whereas, in the same year the no. of students in the M.E. schools from the selected villages is 28 only. The situation turns from bad to worse when we look into the position of students attending High School standard. There are 2 nos. of High Schools (one is Govt : 1978 and the other is Govt-aided : 1986) in which students from the selected villages may prosecute studies. But our field study reveals that the no. of students from these villages is 15 (Male-13 and Female -2) only. Nobody is found to be reading in Higher Secondary or College level. What we can assume from the above analysis is that the people of the Project Area are still unaware of imparting proper education to their children for a better future.

It may not be irrelevant to mention here about the percentage of literacy among the population of the surveyed villages. According to our field study, the total population in the selected villages of the Project Area is 1,102 out of which the no. of literates is estimated at 186. As a result, the percentage of literacy has been worked out to be 16.8 (Male -22.8% and Female-9.9%). As per 1971 Census the percentage of literacy in the Karbi Anglong district is 19.2 (Male-26.9% and Female -10.3%). This reveals that the literacy rate in the Project Area is comparatively less than that of the district. Again, the no. of illiterates (748) in the selected villages constitutes 67.9% of the total population. If we count the no. of population below the age of 6 yrs (166) as illiterates, the percentage of illiteracy will rise upto 83.1. On the whole, the rate of literacy in the Project Area is extremely unsatisfactory. Table XI indicates clearly the no. of literates with educational level, population below 6 yrs of age and no. of illiterates in the selected villages of the Project Area.

TABLE XI

No. of literates with educational level, population below 6 yrs. of age and illiterate in the selected villages of the Project Area

Sl. No.	Name of the village	L.P.		M.R.		H.E.		H.S.L.C.		H.S.S.L.C. & P.U.		College		Below 6 yrs.		Illiterate		Total Population
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Tokre Kramsa	5	-	4	-	4								5	4	35	39	96
2.	Sikari Engti	4												4	2	20	15	45
3.	Thekong Bay	9	10	10	6	5	2	1		1		1		5	3	28	23	104
4.	Sarthe Teron	2	2	1		1								8	7	23	22	66
5.	Dekaram Enghi	9	5											9	3	29	29	84
6.	Enghan Adong	7	1	2		1								8	9	21	22	71
7.	Arthen Adong			1										1	7	16	6	31
8.	Sirim Langso	1	2	1										6	2	25	40	97
9.	Arlong Pharla	9	5	4	3	5								5	16	35	31	113
10.	Fhampri Plangso	1												7	9	39	30	86
11.	Kania Terang	10	3					1						6	13	40	39	112
12.	Kania Timung		1	1	1									2	5	18	16	44
13.	Lanki Sengnar	3		2										2		7	15	29
14.	Lanki Timung	5	3	3		5								1	7	8	11	43
15.	Men Timung	10	8	2		1								3	4	10	13	51
16.	Ra Kro.			2										1	4	10	13	30
		75	40	33	10	22	2	2		1		1		73	95	384	364	1102

Sources of Drinking Water :

It has been observed that there is no provision of supplying drinking water in the shape of piped water, tubewell or reservoir by any Agency within the Project Area. The people have to depend upon katcha well or natural spring and river for which they are likely to suffer from various water-borne diseases. The following table shows the existing sources of drinking water in the surveyed villages :

TABLE XII
Sources of Drinking Water

Sl.No.	Name of the village	Source	No.
1	2	3	4
1	Tokre Kramsa	River	1
2	Sikari Engti	Spring	2
3	Thekong Bey	Well	12
4	Sarthe Teron	Spring	3
5	Dekaram Engti	Spring	6
6	Enghan Adong	Spring	4
7	Arthen Adong	Well	6
8	Sirim Langso	Spring	7
9	Arlong Pharla	River	1
10	Phampri Plangso	River	1
11	Kania Terang	Well	12
12	Kania Timung	Spring	2
13	Lanki Songnar	Spring	2
14	Lanki Timung	Well	8
15	Men Timung	Well	8
16	Ra Kro	Spring	1

From the above table we come to know that out of sixteen selected villages, 3 nos. (18.75%) depend upon the nearby river while 8 nos. (50%) use to take water from the natural spring. The remaining 5 nos. of villages (31.25%) consider katcha well as the main source of drinking water. It is therefore, easily understood how the people of the Project Area are facing acute problem for drinking water.

Marketing Facilities :

So far as marketing facilities are concerned, the people of the Project Area are in a disadvantageous position due to location of the daily/weekly markets at a distance not easily accessible to them.

Moreover, lack of fair price shop within the Project Area has also multiplied their problems. As a result, they are compelled to purchase their daily necessities at exorbitant rate from the grocery shops (15 nos.) located in and around the selected villages. The following table indicates the name of the market with its type and distance from the villages :

TABLE XIII

Name of the market with its type and distance from the villages

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Name of the market	Type	Distance from the village (in K.M.)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Tokre Kramsa	Nakhuti	Daily/Weekly	12
2	Sikari Engti	Diphu	Daily/Weekly	18
3	Thekong Bey	Nakhuti	Daily/Weekly	7
4	Sarthe Teron	Diphu	Daily/Weekly	18
5	Dekaram Enghi	Nakhuti	Daily/Weekly	8
6	Enghan Adong	Borlangfer	Weekly	21
7	Arthen Adong	Borlangfer	Weekly	9
8	Sirim Langso	Borlangfer	Weekly	10
9	Arlong Pharla	Borlangfer	Weekly	20
		Nakhuti	Daily/Weekly	25
		Diphu	Daily/Weekly	27
10	Phampri Plangso	Borlangfer	Weekly	10
11	Kania Terang	Borlangfer	Weekly	20
		Nakhuti	Daily/Weekly	29
		Diphu	Daily/Weekly	18
12	Kania Timung	Diphu	Daily/Weekly	27
13	Lanki Sengnar	Diphu	Daily/Weekly	5
14	Lanki Timung	Diphu	Daily/Weekly	7
15	Men Timung	Diphu	Daily/Weekly	8
16	Ra Kro	Diphu	Daily/Weekly	20
		Langetso	Weekly	3
		Borlangfer	Weekly	15

From the above table, we can find out that out of sixteen surveyed villages of the Project Area, people from only two villages (12.5%) have the privilege of visiting a market at a distance of 5 K.M. while people from 7 nos. of villages (43.7%) have to take the trouble of going to the nearest market located at a distance of 10 K.M. People from one village (6.3%) have to proceed to the market

covering a distance of '10-15'K.M. But there are 4 nos. of villages (25%) from which people have to visit the nearest market place located at a distance of '15-20'K.M. Again, people from 2 nos. of villages (12.5%) have to cover a distance of more than 20 K.M. to derive benefits from the market. The people usually purchase essential commodities viz. cloth, salt, sugar, tea, rice, atta, kerosine, bidi and tobacco etc. from the market. On the other hand, they use to sell their domestic products like rice, maize, ginger, chilli and other vegetables and also pork and poultry in the market.

Co-operative Societies :

The primary objective of the co-operative societies is to extend all possible facilities to the members for upliftment of their economic condition. There are various types of co-operative societies functioning in the Karbi Anglong district. Mention may be made of 25 nos. of Large Areas Multipurpose Societies (LAMP) located in different parts of the district and 2 nos. of Wholesale Consumers' & Marketing Co-operative Societies at Diphu and Hamren. So far as the Project Area is concerned, out of 16 (sixteen) selected villages, only 6 nos. (37.5%) enjoy the facilities offered by the Wholesale Consumers' & Marketing Co-operative Society, Diphu. The remaining villages are yet to derive economic benefit from any type of co-operative society including LAMPs. We may, therefore, assume that the people of the Project Area are not so much conscious about the facilities provided by the co-operative societies.

Cottage Industry :

The important cottage industries prevalent among the people of the Project Area are weaving, bamboo & cane works and sericulture. Our field study reveals that the people are not interested in taking up these industries on commercial level. In other words, the products are mainly used for consumption purpose only. Necessary raw materials for carrying out the industries are purchased by the people from the markets or collected from the nearby forests. The womenfolk prepare clothes of artistic design in the traditional looms. Of course, some of them are, now-a-days, in the habit of weaving clothes in the improved variety of handloom also. There are 159 nos. of households (81.1%) engaged in weaving in the selected villages of the Project Area. Again, we find that 67 nos. of households (34.1%) practise various types of bamboo & cane works which are of day-to-day use. Moreover, we observe that 72 nos. of households (36.7%) are engaged in sericulture industry. They rear silkworms and prepare endi chaddars out of the cocoons, in their looms. Sometimes they sell the cocoons in the market also. It may

be mentioned here that weaving and rearing of silk worms are exclusively the works of women while bamboo & cane works are mainly practised by men. In the light of above discussion, it may be said that these cottage industries which are being practised by the people from generation to generation may be modernised by means of execution of suitable schemes by the Govt. agencies for large-scale production. Otherwise, cottage industries can not be expected to play any significant role in improving the economic condition of the people concerned. In the long run, we would like to quote the following few lines for favour of necessary consideration by the concerned authority :

' While Dimasa, Karbi and Naga loom products are gaining increasing acclaim of the non-tribals, we still do not have a proper perception of weaving as a craft in the context of total culture. An artificial lease of life given to such a vital craft through sponsored weaving centres in the towns is no guarantee to future growth. If this and other crafts have to thrive as a vital aspect of material culture and economy, then due attention must be given for their incorporation in the familial and village settings. The threat to endi silk industry in the Assam Hills is very real. While endi is cultured widely in Karbi Anglong, most of it goes out of the hills as raw material. Actual spinning and weaving take place elsewhere outside the State. Talking of native skill and craftsmanship, I was fascinated by the ability of Karbi villagers of Kolonga area who made attractive and ingenuous toys for their children out of nothing but strips of bamboo twigs, strings and areca-plam leaves. Indigenous skills and technology of the hill tribesmen need to be properly assessed and understood as a basis for modern technological interventions in their societies. Much of the time it is the indigenous technology that has helped maintain a balance between man and nature in the hills.' ⁷

⁷ Bhagabati, A.C. - Anthropological perspectives on Tribal Development in the Assam Hills : A preliminary statement, an article published in the book entitled 'Constraints of Tribal Development in North East India', 1990, P.14

CHAPTER -IV
ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of Karbi Anglong which is one of the most backward district of Assam. Nearly 90% of the total population of this district depend upon agriculture including shifting cultivation as the main source of livelihood. As such, the economy of the Project Area which is practically an invisible portion of the district may be referred to as absolutely agrarian and this chapter is devoted to highlight the economy of the people inhabiting the Project Area with emphasis on occupational structure, land-holding pattern and extent of income and expenditure etc. of the people.

Occupational Structure :

To analyse the occupational structure of the households, under study, for the purpose of reflecting the economic condition of the people, we have taken into consideration the classification of primary and secondary occupations. The source which contributes the largest single share to the total family income is considered as the primary occupation of the household. Other associated sources of income, if any, are taken as secondary occupations of the household.⁸

The following table shows the distribution of primary occupation in the selected villages :

TABLE XIV
Distribution of Primary Occupation in the selected villages

Sl.No.	Name of the village	Total no. of households.	No. of households engaged in		
			Cultivation	Service	Business
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Tokre Kramsa	14	14	-	-
2	Bikari Engti	7	7	-	-
3	Thekong Bey	17	17	-	-
4	Sarthe Teron	15	15	-	-
5	Dekaram Enghi	13	13	-	-
6	Enghan Adong	14	13	1	-
7	Arthen Adong	6	6	-	-
8	Sirim Langso	20	19	-	1
9	Arlong Pharla	20	20	-	-
10	Phampri Plangso	15	15	-	-

⁸ Saikia, P.D.- Changes in Mikir Society, P. 26.

1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Kania Tengah	18	18	-	-
12	Kania Timung	7	7	-	-
13	Lanki Sengnar	6	6	-	-
14	Lanki Timung	8	7	1	-
15	Men Timung	9	9	-	-
16	Ra Kro	7	7	-	-
Total		196	193	2	1
Percentage			98.47	1.02	0.51

The above table clearly shows that 98.47% of the total households practise cultivation as the primary occupation. Only 1.02% of the households are in service while a negligible percentage of households (0.51%) have adopted business as primary occupation. This analysis is perhaps more than sufficient to draw conclusion that the people of the Project Area are entirely dependent on agriculture and there is hardly any noticeable change among them in case of acceptance of non-agrarian occupation as the primary source of livelihood.

Secondary Occupations :

The people of the Project Area resort to secondary occupations also for augmenting their income to a considerable extent. It has been found that out of 196 nos. of total households, 103 households (52.5%) work as daily wage earners in or outside their habitat and this indicates that complete dependence on primary occupation by the people is not at all possible. Moreover, we have mentioned in the previous chapter that 159 households (81.1%), 67 households (34.1%) and 72 households (36.7%) of the Project Area are engaged in weaving, bamboo & cane works and sericulture respectively. Although these products are mainly for domestic consumption, sometimes they are bound to sell the products in the local markets out of dire necessity. In case of fishing, we have found only 10 nos. of households (5.1%) to have fisheries which provide a source of income. One household (0.5%) is found to have practised cultivation as secondary occupation. It is a fact that most of the households like to earn some amount of income by means of selling domesticated animals and birds for purchase of essential commodities. Also we have observed that nearly 63% of the households have taken up business as secondary occupation. But it should not be taken for granted that they are all businessmen in the true sense. In fact, the people use to sell the local products in the markets and thereby earn some amount which they utilise in procuring

their essentials. In fine, it may be opined that although the people of the Project Area practise cultivation as primary occupation for their livelihood, they can not think of their survival without resorting to secondary occupations, already referred to.

Now let us have a look at the position of workers and non-workers in the selected villages of the Project Area. We have, for this purpose, classified the total population into earners, earning dependents and nonearning dependents. In case of earners, only one person, preferably the head of household or the person whose share of income is proportionately high, is taken into account while all persons between 15-65 yrs, excluding the students, if any, are included in the category 'earning dependents'. On the other hand, those below the age of 15 yrs and above 65 yrs, alongwith physically handicapped persons, irrespective of age and students are considered as non-earning dependents. The following table indicates the position of workers and non-workers in the Project Area :

TABLE XV

Distribution of workers & non-workers
in the selected villages

Sl.No.	Name of the village	Earner	Earning dependent	Non-earning dependent	Total population
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Tokre Kramsa	14	46	36	96
2	Sikari Engti	7	24	14	45
3	Thekong Bey	17	50	37	104
4	Sarthe Teron	15	29	22	66
5	Dekaram Enghi	13	24	47	84
6	Enghan Adong	14	24	33	71
7	Arthen Adong	6	14	11	31
8	Sirim Langso	20	44	33	97
9	Arlong Pharla	20	52	41	113
10	Phampri Plangso	15	38	33	86
11	Kania Terang	18	43	51	112
12	Kania Timung	7	20	17	44
13	Lanki Sengnar	6	10	13	29
14	Lanki Timung	8	15	20	43
15	Men Timung	9	13	29	51
16	Ra Kro	7	12	11	30
Total		196	458	448	1102
Percentage		17.8	41.5	40.7	100

From Table XV we come to know that 17.8% and 41.5% of the total population are earners and earning dependents respectively. In this respect, it should be kept in mind that although the percentage of earners appears to be somewhat less, in fact, in a tribal community particularly practising shifting cultivation, the contribution of other adult members including females of the household can not be ignored. That is why, if we take into account the earning dependents (458) and earners (196) as the potential working force in the Project Area, we will find 59.3% of the total population to be workers. On the other hand, 40.7% of the population are found to be non-earning dependents.

Land-holding Pattern :

It is rather a difficult task to deal with land-holding pattern not only in the Project Area but also in the hill districts as a whole due to the prevalence of shifting cultivation. The quantity of land possessed by a household may vary from year to year depending upon the practice of this type of cultivation. Moreover, lack of land records from the Cadastral Survey also stands in the way of presenting the actual position. The following few lines will help in understanding the matter clearly : (a) One important relevant point concerning the hill areas of the districts of Assam is that, not to speak of the hilly areas, even the limited plains area of the hill districts of Assam are yet to be completely covered by cadastral survey and preparation of land records of rights. As a part of Assam Hill Areas Sub-Plan, a scheme is under vigorous implementation of the District Councils with support from the State Govt. to complete this job of the preparation of the cadastral survey and the preparation of records of rights in respect of the plain areas of the hill districts and the target date for completion of the same is the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. The vast hilly areas will be taken up for such survey thereafter and obviously, it would take a considerable period for completing the same. As it stands now, the vast hilly areas of the hill districts of Assam are not covered under any cadastral maps or records of rights. (b) According to prevailing custom the Gaon Bura (Village Headman) is the custodian of the village land under the overall control of the District Council. A household is free to select a suitable plot out of the village land for the annual jhuming with the consent of the Gaon Bura, but without having ownership right on that plot and such arrangement remains valid for the period of cultivation only. Flat lands suitable for wet cultivation or other permanent

cultivation are, however, given allotment by the District Council to individual villagers on an annual basis. The allottee is also devoid of any right of inheritance and transfer without the prior approval of the District Council authorities ..⁹

In spite of the difficulties stated above, we have attempted to present the land-holding pattern available in the Project Area in Table XVI on the basis of the field report.

⁹ Control of Shifting Cultivation Project (Compact Area Approach) prepared by N. C. Hills Autonomous District Council; P.C.1.

TABLE XVI

Land-holding pattern of households

Sl. No.	Name of the village	No. of households													Total household holds
		0-5 bighas	5-10 bighas	10-15 bighas	15-20 bighas	20-25 bighas	25-30 bighas	30-35 bighas	35-40 bighas	40-45 bighas	45-50 bighas	50 bighas & above			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
1	Tokre Kramsa			2	3	5	1	1		1				14	
2	Sikari Engti		1	1	2	1		1					1	7	
3	Thekong Bey				4	2	7	1	1				1	17	
4	Sarthe Teron			4	4	4	2	1	1				1	15	
5	Dekaram Engthi			3	1	2	3	1					3	13	
6	Enghan Adong		4	4	2	1	1	1	1					14	
7	Arthen Adong			2	1	1	1							6	
8	Sirim Langso	3	4	8	2	2	1							20	
9	Arlong Pharla		1	4	4	4	1	5	1					20	
10	Phampri Plangso			1	2	4	2		1					15	
11	Kania Terang	1		4	8	3	1		1	2			3	18	
12	Kania Timung			3	1	3	1			1				7	
13	Lanki Sengnar		2	2	2									6	
14	Lanki Timung	2	1	1	1		2	1	1					8	
15	Men Timung		1	1	1		1	2	1				3	9	
16	Ra Kro		4	1	1	1								7	
Total		6	19	39	38	33	22	14	6	5	2	12	196		
Percentage		3.06	9.69	19.89	19.38	16.83	11.22	7.14	3.06	2.55	1.02	6.12	100		

Table XVI shows that out of 196 nos. of total households, 39 households (19.89%) possess lands in the category '10-15' bighas. Again, in the categories '15-20', '20-25' and '25-30' bighas we find the no. of households to be 38 (19.38%), 33 (16.83%) and 22 (11.22%) respectively. In brief, the no. of households having lands in the wide category '10-30' bighas is worked out to be 132 i.e. 67.3% of the total households. Out of the remaining 64 households, 39 nos. (19.89%) possess lands in the category '30 bighas & above' while 25 nos. (12.75%) have lands in the category '0-10' bighas.

In the following table, we have shown land holding of various types prevalent among the households of the selected villages.

TABLE XVII

Land-holding of various types of the households (in bigha)

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Total households	Area of land under cultivation	Area under homestead	Area under fishery	Fallow land	Total area of land possessed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Tokre Kramsa	14	318	21.5		6	345.5
2	Sikari Engti	7	118	7.5		27	152.5
3	Thekong Bey	17	392	42	2	13	449
4	Sarthe Teron	15	200	20.5		62	282.5
5	Dekaram Enghi	13	271	35		70	376
6	Enghan Adong	14	184	14.5		38	236.5
7	Arthen Adong	6	76	11		10	97
8	Sirim Langso	20	228	29			257
9	Arlong Pharla	20	418	32	3	10	463
10	Phampri Plangso	15	389	29		62	480
11	Kania Terang	18	263	20		36	319
12	Kania Timung	7	118	7.5			125.5
13	Lanki Sengnar	6	63	7			70
14	Lanki Timung	8	137	22	8		167
15	Men Timung	9	189	14	2	182	387
16	Ra Kro	7	63	7.5		12	82.5
Total		196	3427	320	15	528	4290
Percentage			79.89	7.46	0.35	12.3	100

Table XVII reveals that the total area of land possessed by 196 nos. of households is 4290 bighas out of which the area of land under cultivation is 3427 bighas i.e. 79.89% of the total amount of land. Under homestead, we find 320 bighas of land (7.46%) being occupied by the households of the Project Area. The total area of land under fishery is found to be 15 bighas (0.35%) only. On the other hand, the total area of fallow land is estimated at 528 bighas (12.3%). In case of cultivation, it may be pointed out here that 3 nos. of households do not have any cultivable land. Hence, the no. of households practising cultivation is estimated at 193. In other words, 98.47% of the total households remain engaged in agricultural operations. Again, it has been calculated that out of 3427 bighas of cultivable land, the total area of land under jhum and settled cultivation is 1503 bighas (43.85%) and 1924 bighas (56.14%) respectively. It transpires from this analysis that besides settled cultivation the people of the Project Area do practise jhum cultivation extensively. In fact, it has been found that out of 193 nos. of households, only 9 households (4.6%) do not practise jhum whereas 13 households (6.7%) do not have settled cultivation. The practice of terrace cultivation is absent in the selected villages of the Project Area. On the whole, we may arrive at conclusion that the average land-holding per household and per capita land-holding in the selected villages of the Project Area are 21.8 bighas and 3.8 bighas respectively. To be more specific, the average land-holding per household and per capita land-holding in respect of jhum cultivation relating to 184 nos. of households (out of 196 households, 3 nos. do not have cultivable land and 9 nos. do not have jhum) and 1035 nos. of total population (after deduction of 67 nos. from 1102) are estimated at 8.2 bighas and 1.4 bighas respectively. On the other hand, the average land-holding per household and per capita land-holding in case of settled cultivation pertaining to 180 households (out of a total of 196 nos, 3 households do not have cultivable land and 13 households do not practise settled cultivation) and 1029 nos. of total population (after deduction of 73 nos. from 1102) are worked out to be 10.6 bighas and 1.8 bighas respectively.

With regard to the type of land according to payment of revenue, it is not possible to present a clear picture due to non-availability of land records relating to cadastral survey. Moreover, the people of the Project Area are not in the habit of payment of revenue for their land in a regular manner. As a result, they are reluctant to speak openly about the matter at the time of interview.

The people need not pay any amount for the land occupied for jhum cultivation. In general, they have to pay Rs. 1.75 per bigha as revenue for the land used for wet cultivation. Previously, an amount of Rs. 5/- was levied against each household as House Tax for the year. The system is, at present, obsolete. According to the field study, the amount of land under annual patta is 1230 bighas (28.7%) out of a total land of 4290 bighas in the selected villages of the Project Area against 103 bighas of land (2.4%) under periodic patta. No revenue is paid for the remaining 2957 bighas of land (68.9%) which include area under jhum cultivation also.

So far as total land under ownership cultivation is concerned, we find that out of 3427 bighas of cultivable land, the amount of land brought under own agricultural operation is 3227 bighas. In Adhi system which indicates distribution of products on 50 : 50 basis, 172 bighas of land are cultivated. Again, cultivation is carried out in 3 bighas of land in the Paikas system which means that the actual owner of the land does not cultivate himself but offers the plot of land to another person for the purpose of cultivation against cash payment for a limited period. On the other hand, 25 bighas of land are cultivated by means of Sukti Bandhak. 'Under Sukti Bandhak, land is generally given to a non tribal on mortgage usually for a year, which is renewable, against the payment of paddy to the owner of the land at a certain rate per Bigha per annum. During the period of agreement the owner will have no rights to cultivate his land or to question its utility. The non-tribal who takes the land on mortgage becomes the virtual owner of the land during the period of agreement. Land will again be under the possession of the actual owner as soon as the period of agreement is over' ¹⁰

Area of land under crop :

We have already found the total area of land under jhum and settled cultivation to be 1503 bighas and 1924 bighas respectively in the Project Area. Now the problem is to find out the actual amount of land utilised for cultivating various crops. It is generally seen that the people use to cultivate mixed crops in the same plot of jhum land and as such lack of demarcation of area for each type of crop grown creates difficulty in calculating separately the actual amount of land under operation. Of course, cultivation of single particular crop in jhum lands is also not uncommon and in this case, a rough estimate in relation to the area of land under cultivation may be drawn up. In Table XVIII an attempt is made to present the area of land under various crops in jhum cultivation :

¹⁰ Bordoloi, B.N.- Alienation of Tribal Land and Indebtedness, P.138

AREA OF LAND UNDER MAJOR CROPS

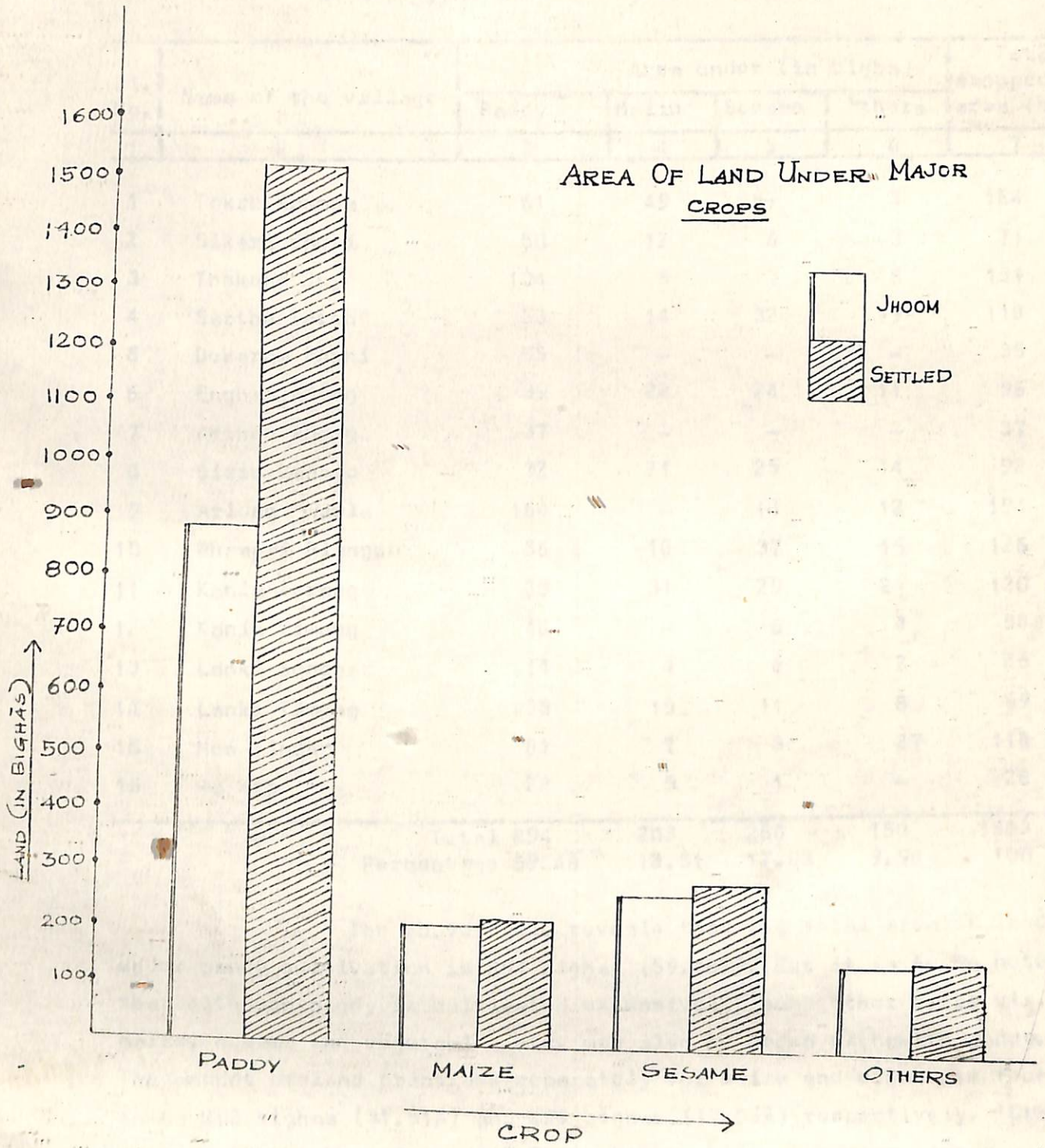


TABLE XVIII

Area of jhum land under major crops

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Area under (in bigha)				Total cropped area (bigha)
		Paddy	Maize	Sesame	Others	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Tokre Kramsa	61	49	51	3	164
2	Sikari Engti	50	12	6	3	71
3	Thekong Bey	134	5	7	5	151
4	Sarthe Teron	53	14	32	19	118
5	Dekaram Enghi	35	-	-	-	35
6	Enghan Adong	39	22	24	11	96
7	Arthen Adong	37	-	-	-	37
8	Sirim Langso	32	21	25	14	92
9	Arlong Pharla	164	-	18	12	194
10	Phampri Plangso	56	18	37	15	126
11	Kania Terang	33	31	29	27	120
12	Kania Timung	48	-	6	4	58
13	Lanki Sengnar	14	4	6	2	26
14	Lanki Timung	35	15	11	8	69
15	Men Timung	81	7	3	27	118
16	Ra Kro	22	5	1	-	28
Total		894	203	256	150	1503
Percentage		59.48	13.51	17.03	9.98	100

The above table reveals that the total area of land under paddy cultivation is 894 bighas (59.48%). But it is to be noted that although paddy is cultivated extensively, some other crops viz. maize, sesame and vegetables etc. may also be grown alongwith paddy. The amount of land practised separately for maize and sesame is found to be 203 bighas (31.51%) and 256 bighas (17.03%) respectively. 'Others' include 150 bighas of land (9.98%) which usually comprise ginger, mustard, chilli and vegetables etc. From this analysis, we come to know that paddy is the predominant crop practised by the people of the Project Area in jhum cultivation.

Table XIX indicates the area of land under settled cultivation in the selected villages.

TABLE XIX

Area of land under major crops in settled cultivation

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Area of land (in bigha)				Total cropped area (in bigha)
		Paddy	Sesame	Mustard	Others	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Tokre Kramsa	120	5	24	5	154
2	Sikari Engti	17	8	19	3	47
3	Thekong Bey	208	51	21	25	305
4	Sarthe Teron	52	2	33	8	95
5	Dekaram Enghi	127	6	10	3	146
6	Enghan. Adong	58	-	26	4	88
7	Arthen Adong	14	16	20	33	83
8	Sirim Langso	133	-	3	6	142
9	Arlong Pharla	224	80	36	-	340
10	Phampri Plangso	253	22	15	10	300
11	Kania Terang	117	-	13	6	136
12	Kania Timung	48	10	34	13	105
13	Lanki Songnar	35	-	6	-	41
14	Lanki Timung	39	-	8	31	78
15	Men Timung	52	8	28	-	88
16	Ra Kro	24	6	-	5	35
Total		1521	214	296	152	2183
Percentage		69.6	9.8	13.5	6.9	100

From the above table we come to know that the area of land under paddy cultivation accounts for 1521 bighas i.e. 69.6% of the total cropped area. Besides paddy, the people use to practise cultivation of sesame and mustard in 214 bighas (9.8%) and 296 bighas of land (13.5%) respectively. On the other hand, the area of land comprising 152 bighas (6.9%) practised by the people for cultivation of maize, chilli, ginger and vegetables etc. is included in the category 'Others'. The total cropped area in the selected villages is found to be 2183 bighas whereas the area of land under settled cultivation is 1924 bighas only. This has happened due to the practice of cultivation in a particular plot of land for more than once. Again, it is observed that in the village Dekaram Enghi, the total cropped area is 146 bighas in settled cultivation and 35 bighas in jhum. But the total area under cultivation is estimated at 271 bighas. This is primarily due to non-availability of sufficient rainfall at appropriate time. In fine, it may be said that the people of the Project depend mainly on cultivation of paddy for their livelihood.

TABLE XX

PRODUCTION & VALUE OF MAJOR CROPS

* IN QL. (QTY) * IN BIGHA (LAND)

Sl No	Name of the village	Area of Land	JHUM CULTIVATION														
			CROPS GROWN IN MIXTURE							CROPS GROWN SEPARATELY							
			PADDY		MAIZE		SESAME		Others	MAIZE		SESAME		OTHERS			
			Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Value	Area of Land	Qty	Value	Area of Land	Qty	Value	Area of Land	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Tokre Kramsa	61	121	24,200	50	10,000	23	11,500	8,000	49	50	10,000	51	39	19,500	3	3,525
2	Sikari Engti	50	91	18,200	25	5,000	13	6,500	3,000	12	18	3,600	6	3	1,500	3	2,400
3	Thekong Bey	134	200	40,000	50	10,000	30	15,000	5,000	49	105	21,000	51	40	20,000	3	3,000
4	Sarthe Teron	53	104	20,800	48	9,600	21	10,500	5,200	14	20	4,000	32	28	14,000	19	8,910
5	Dekaram Enghee	35	73	14,600	22	4,400	25	12,500	7,500								
6	Enhan Adong	39	85	17,000	25	5,000	10	5,000	3,000	22	45	9,000	24	20	10,000	20	7,500
7	Arthen Adong	37	75	15,000	14	2,800	6	3,000									
8	Sirim Langso	32	70	14,000	16	3,600	22	11,000	13,000	21	20	4,000	25	36	18,000	14	12,200
9	Arlong Pharla	164	246	49,200	150	30,000	80	40,000	11,050				18	21	10,500	12	11,800
10	Phampri Plangso	56	107	21,400	20	4,000	15	7,500	5,000	18	25	5,000	37	30	15,000	15	8,500
11	Kaniya Terang	33	82.5	16,500	20	4,000	26	13,000	13,500	31	32	6,400	21	24	12,000	27	12,000
12	Kaniya Timung	48	120	24,000			15	7,500	2,500				6	5	2,500	4	4,100
13	Lanki Sengnar	14	35	7,000	10	2,000	10	5,000	3,000	4	10	1,600	6	5	2,500	2	1,500
14	Lanki Timung	35	60	12,000	15	3,000	10	5,000	2,400	15	14	2,800	11	13	6,500	8	3,000
15	Man Timung	81	150	30,000	10	2,000	5	2,500	3,020	7	10	2,000	3	4	2,000	27	7,820
16	Ra Kro	22	45	9,000	12	2,400	10	5,000	2,300	5	8	1,600	1	1	500		
		894	1,664.5	3,32,900	489	97,800	321	1,60,500	87,470	247	355	71,000	292	269	1,34,500	157	86,255

TABLE XXI
Production & Value of Major Crops

* In Quintal (Yield)
In Bigha (Land)

Sl. No.	Name of village	Settled Cultivation										
		Paddy			Sesame			Mustard			Others	
		Area of Land	YIELD	Value	Area of Land	Yield	Value	Area of Land	Yield	Value	Area of Land	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Tokre Kramsa	120	253	50,600	5	5	2,500	24	25	12,500	5	7,500
2	Sikari Engti	17	51	10,200	8	6	3,000	19	15	7,500	3	2,500
3	Thekong Bey	208	450	90,000	51	35	17,500	21	15	7,000	25	13,750
4	Sarthe Teron	52	140	28,000	2	4	2,000	38	22	11,000	8	6,000
5	Dekaram Enghi	127	259	51,800	6	8	4,000	10	15	7,500	3	5,400
6	Enghan Adong	58	155	31,000	-	-	-	26	22	11,000	4	5,300
7	Arthen Adong	14	36	7,200	16	15	7,500	20	12	6,000	33	7,625
8	Sirim Langso	133	380	76,000	-	-	-	3	7	3,500	6	8,575
9	Arlong Pharla	224	448	89,600	80	50	25,000	36	25	12,500	-	-
10	Phampri Plangso	253	500	1,00,000	22	20	10,000	15	10	5,000	10	6,885
11	Kania Terang	117	351	70,200	-	-	-	13	26	13,000	6	10,790
12	Kania Timung	48	125	25,000	10	10	5,000	34	30	15,000	13	7,500
13	Lanki Sengnar	35	85	17,000	-	-	-	6	5	2,500	-	-
14	Lanki Timung	39	70	14,000	-	-	-	8	10	5,000	31	3,460
15	Men Timung	52	100	20,000	8	7	3,500	28	20	10,000	-	-
16	Ra Kro	24	60	12,000	6	5	2,500	-	-	-	5	2,098
		1,521	3,463	6,92,600	214	165	82,500	296	259	1,29,500	152	83,383

Production & Value of Major Crops :

We have already shown the area of jhum land under major crops in Table XVIII and the area of land under major crops in settled cultivation in Table XIX. Now, to get an idea about the approximate production of the various crops practised in both types of cultivation we have presented Table XX and Table XXI. From the analysis shown in the two tables, we can easily find out the total production and value of each crop. It is estimated that the total amount of production in case of paddy is 5,127.5 Q1, the value of which is to the tune of Rs. 10,26,500/-. In this connection, it may be pointed out that the rate of production of paddy from jhum land and settled mode of cultivation is found to be 1.9 Q1 and 2.3 Q1 per bigha respectively. Maize is generally practised in jhum cultivation. That is why, we have not shown production of maize out of settled cultivation separately. Instead, the amount of production available from settled cultivation is included in the column 'Others' of Table XXI. Any way, we have seen that the people obtain 844 Q1 of maize in jhum cultivation and the value of the said product is worked out to be Rs. 1,68,800/-. In respect of sesame, it is estimated that the total production is 755 Q1 and the total value accounts for Rs. 3,77,500/-. It is to be noted that sesame is extensively grown in jhum cultivation. Out of 755 Q1. of sesame, an amount of 590 Q1 is derived from jhum. The quantity of mustard available from settled cultivation is 259 Q1, the value of which is fixed at Rs. 1,29,500/-. The quantity of mustard from jhum land is included in Table XX under column 'Others' due to low yield. We have observed that the people also receive an amount of Rs. 2,57,108/- for the products included in the column 'Others' of the tables. This indicates that the products which are not specifically mentioned in the two tables are included in this column.

Fishery :

The role of fishery in the economy of the Project Area is quite negligible. We have already mentioned that out of 196 households, only 10 nos. (5.1%) possess fisheries covering 15 bighas of land i.e. 0.35% of the total area of land available in the selected villages. The type of fishery may be classified into tank (9 nos.), beel (2 nos.) and channel (2 nos.). The amount of expenditure incurred on fishery during the last year is estimated at Rs. 5,300/- as per our field study. On the other hand, the quantity of fish caught in the fisheries is found to be 7 Q1.88 Kg. only, the approximate value of which accounts for Rs. 12,800/-. It is observed that the people generally use the production of fish for consumption purpose. Only in some cases,

they happen to sell in the nearby markets/growth centres etc. Not a single household has received any assistance/subsidy from the Government during the last year.

Cottage Industry :

While discussing about cottage industry in Chapter III, we have mentioned that 159 nos. (81.1%), 67 nos. (34.1%) and 72 nos. (36.7%) of households remain engaged in weaving, bamboo & cane works and sericulture respectively out of a total of 196 households. Women are expert weavers and they weave varieties of clothes in their looms at leisurely hours. Moreover, they rear silk worms for weaving eri chaddars. Bamboo and cane works are generally done by the menfolk at convenient time. Most of the households carry out these industries mainly for their own purpose. They do not have any motive for selling the products except in rare cases. Raw materials are purchased from the markets and some of them are also collected from the forests. The amount of expenditure incurred for the above mentioned cottage industries is roughly estimated at Rs. 61,530/- only during the last year. Our field investigation further reveals that no household has received any assistance in the form of loan or subsidy for the cottage industries from the Government.

Livestock :

In the Project Area, we observe that the people are in the habit of possessing domesticated animals and birds like bullocks, cows, goats, pigs and poultry etc. Bullocks are mainly used for cultivating low-lying lands. Rearing of poultry is a common sight because of the fact that the people use to worship various deities by means of offering poultry. Table XXII indicates the distribution of livestock population in the Project Area .

TABLE XXII
Distribution of livestock population

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Bullock	Cow	Buffalo	Goat	Pig	Poultry	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Tokre Kramsa	38	10	2	22	45	198	315
2	Sikari Engti	17	4	4	8	16	68	117
3	Thekong Bey	30	2	-	48	119	236	435
4	Sarthe Teron	27	10	-	37	40	179	293
5	Dekaram Enghi	18	7	-	31	32	198	286
6	Enghan Adong	17	7	-	23	37	169	253

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	Arthen Adong	9	1	-	6	17	112	145
8	Sirim Langso	49	8	-	38	54	249	398
9	Arlong Pharla	46	8	-	41	137	236	468
10	Phampri Plangso	26	12	-	45	51	135	269
11	Kania Terang	55	6	-	28	29	188	306
12	Kania Timung	21	6	-	34	34	30	125
13	Lanki Sengnar	2	-	-	12	5	112	131
14	Lanki Timung	5	-	-	8	2	70	85
15	Men Timung	6	1	-	25	17	172	221
16	Ra Kro	2	-	-	-	10	61	73
Total		360	82	6	406	645	2413	3920
Percentage		9.39	2.09	0.15	10.36	16.45	61.56	100

The above table reveals that out of 3920 nos. of total livestock in the Project Area, the no. of poultry is 2413, the percentage being 61.56. There are also 645 nos. of pigs and 406 nos. of goats which account for 16.45% and 10.36% respectively. Bullocks numbering 368 constitute 9.39%. The no. of cows is estimated at 82 (2.09%) only. It may be mentioned here that the people generally do not like to drink milk and as a result, they pay least attention in keeping cows. Again, we come to know from our field investigation that out of the selected villages, there are only two villages having buffaloes. The no. buffaloes is found to be 6, the percentage being 0.15 of the total livestock population.

It is a fact that all the households of the selected villages in the Project Area do not possess livestock. The distribution of households according to possession of livestock is furnished in the following table :

TABLE XXIII
Distribution of households according to possession of livestock

Sl No	Name of the village	Total households	No. of households possessing					
			Bullock	Cow	Buffalo	Goat	Pig	Poultry
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Tokre Kramsa	14	12	4	1	6	14	12
2	Sikari Engti	7	6	2	2	3	7	7
3	Thekong Bey	17	12	1	-	11	17	17
4	Sarthe Teron	15	11	6	-	13	13	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5	Dekaram Enghi	13	4	3	-	8	12	12
6	Enghan Adong	14	5	3	-	8	12	13
7	Arthen Adong	6	4	1	-	1	6	6
8	Sirim Langso	20	17	4	-	12	17	20
9	Arlong Pharla	20	17	5	-	14	20	19
10	Phampri Plangso	15	10	7	-	10	14	14
11	Kania Terang	18	16	3	-	13	18	14
12	Kania Timung	7	7	3	-	7	7	2
13	Lanki Sengnar	6	1	-	-	3	4	6
14	Lanki Timung	8	3	-	-	2	1	4
15	Men Timung	9	4	1	-	7	4	9
16	Ra Kro	7	1	-	-	-	6	7
Total		196	130	43	3	118	172	177
Percentage		66.32	21.93	1.53	60.2	87.75	90.31	

From the above table we come to know that rearing of poultry is being practised by 177 nos. of households i.e. 90.31% of the total households. Again, the no. of households possessing pigs and goats is found to be 172 (87.75%) and 118 (60.2%) respectively. 130 nos. of households (66.32%) have bullocks while 43 nos. (21.93%) have cows only. On the other hand, the no. of households having buffalo is found to be 3, the percentage being 1.53 only. On the whole it may be stated that the role played by livestock population in the economy of the people concerned is somewhat satisfactory. The economic condition of the people may further be elevated by means of implementing suitable schemes by the Government through the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, in the near future.

Household Properties :

In a traditional tribal society, we do not generally observe either movable or immovable properties to be mentioned. Moreover, the Karbis used to shift their houses from one place to another in search of jhum land. They did not consider it necessary to preserve important properties. Their life-style was very simple. Since every society is dynamic in nature, some changes have also taken place among the people of the Project Area. The list of important household properties according to our field investigation in the selected villages is furnished below :

Bicycle - 34 nos., Tap Recorder - 4 nos., Radio - 73 nos.
 Gun - 30 nos., Television - 1 no., Watch - 45 nos.

The traditional housing pattern which is known as pile dwelling has also undergone noticeable change. Except one pile dwelling house, the remaining 368 nos. of thatched houses available in the Project Area are constructed on grounds. However, we do not find any Assam Type or R.C.C. building in the Project Area.

Annual Income :

While dealing with annual income of the households, under study, it must be pointed out that necessary data were collected on the basis of the respondents' verbal statements because of the fact that the people did not have any written records of their annual income. It is, therefore, quite natural that the figures quoted in Table XXIV may not throw sufficient light on their economic conditions although all-out efforts were directed towards collection of the relevant data with due care.

TABLE XXIV

Gross annual income of the households from various sources (in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Total no. of households	Total No. of members	Land	Livestock	Fishery	Cottage Industries	Trade & Commerce	Paid employment including Daily Wage	Others	Total Income	Per capita Income
1	Tekre	14	96	1,59,825	42,150	-	2,200	5,100	9,100	-	2,18,375	2,274.74
2	Sikari Engti	7	45	63,400	26,400	-	2,600	10,000	8,000	7,500	1,17,900	2,620.00
3	Thekong Bey	17	104	2,42,750	30,000	300	4,000	9,500	1,500	-	2,88,050	2,769.71
4	Sarthe Teron	15	66	1,20,010	61,550	-	7,670	17,300	3,500	9,500	2,19,530	3,326.21
5	Dekaram Enghi	13	84	1,07,700	46,800	-	1,200	21,400	13,500	-	1,90,600	2,269.05
6	Enghan Adong	14	71	1,03,800	44,500	-	5,200	19,200	27,000	5,700	2,05,400	2,892.96
7	Arthun Adong	6	31	45,125	4,750	-	3,625	4,000	4,000	1,200	62,700	2,022.58
8	Sirim Langso	20	97	1,63,875	34,250	-	7,500	21,800	10,100	5,500	2,43,025	2,505.41
9	Arlong Phairla	20	113	2,79,650	40,550	1,600	6,500	18,250	1,500	-	3,48,050	3,080.09
10	Phampri Plangso	15	86	1,88,285	42,000	-	4,800	10,900	5,000	5,500	2,56,485	2,982.38
11	Kania Terang	18	112	1,71,390	38,450	-	4,900	21,600	9,300	9,100	2,54,740	2,274.46
12	Kania Timung	7	44	93,100	10,400	-	3,000	5,500	1,850	-	1,13,850	2,587.50
13	Lanki Sengnar	6	29	42,100	13,200	-	1,000	5,900	4,100	-	66,300	2,286.21
14	Lanki Timung	8	43	57,160	4,900	8,500	1,500	12,500	25,000	5,000	1,14,560	2,664.19
15	Men Timung	9	51	82,840	28,600	2,400	2,000	11,000	8,700	7,000	1,42,540	2,794.90
16	Ra Kro	7	30	37,398	1,500	-	2,275	3,400	6,700	1,800	53,073	1,769.10
Total		196	1,102	19,58,408	70,000	12,800	59,970	1,97,350	1,30,850	57,800	28,95,178	2,627.20
Percentage				67.64	16.23	0.44	2.07	6.82	4.80	2.00	100.00	

A cursory glance on Table XXIV reveals that land is the major source of income of the people inhabiting the Project Area. In terms of percentage we find 67.64 of the total income to be derived from land only. That is why, it may be said that agriculture is the backbone of the economy of the people, under study. The income from livestock has also contributed a considerable proportion towards maintenance of the households. It is found that the people derive 16.23% of the total income from livestock population. The percentage of annual income from trade and commerce is worked out to be 6.82. It has already been mentioned elsewhere in the Report that the people are not, in fact, businessmen in the true sense. They use to sell household & forest products in the nearby markets and thereby purchase their daily necessary items. In the Project Area there is only one household whose primary occupation is business. Again, we find 4.8% of the total income to be earned by the people from the source 'Paid employment including daily wage'. There are only two households having income from service. This indicates that the people of the Project Area have to depend upon daily wage or similar activities for their sustenance. From this analysis we can assume that although land is the primary source of income, the people can not entirely depend upon agriculture for maintenance of their families throughout the year. As a consequence, they are compelled to resort to some other secondary occupations, even to the extent of daily wage to derive substantial income for meeting their minimum needs.

In this context, it may be pointed out that out of 196 nos. of total households in the selected villages of the Project Area, a dozen households (6.12%) happen to live below the poverty line (Rs.6,660 & below). The no. of these households is furnished villagewise: Thekong Bey - 1 no, Arthen Adong - 1 no, Sirim Langso - 3 nos, Kania Terang - 1 no, Lanki Timung -1 no, Men Timung - 2 nos, and Ra Kro - 3 nos.

In the Project Area, the average gross annual income of a household is estimated at Rs. 14,771.32 and the per capita annual income is worked out to be Rs. 2,627.20 only, on the basis of 1990 price level. The highest per capita income amounting to Rs. 3,326.21 is observed at Sarthe Teron and the lowest amounting to Rs. 1,769.10 is seen at Ra Kro, according to our analysis.

Annual Expenditure :

To deal with the annual expenditure of the households of the selected villages we have attempted to cover all possible heads of expenditure so that a clear picture in relation to the economic conditions of the people emerges. In this connection, it is to be noted that it is next to impossible for any informant to recapitulate the whole amount of expenditure incurred on various items throughout the year. As a result, the figures shown in Table XXV, do not necessarily mean the actual amount of expenditure but, on the contrary, they exhibit the pattern of annual expenditure of the households only.

TABLE XXV

Average annual expenditure of the households (in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Total households	No. of members	Food	Dress & Ornaments	Du-cation	Health	Betelnut Tobacco Beverage	Travelling & Transport	Festivals & Ceremonies	Other social obligations	Land Revenue & purchase of Land.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Tokre Kramsa	14	96	1,03,100	22,750	2,500	4,600	9,250	3,350	5,800	2,600	520
2	Sikari Engti	7	45	86,000	12,000	1,500	1,150	2,600	1,050	1,700	600	558
3	Thekong Bey	17	104	1,13,300	18,250	10,150	6,100	11,450	4,000	11,750	1,500	921
4	Sarthe Teron	15	66	1,28,500	25,500	1,500	3,050	7,500	3,300	3,000	2,100	79
5	Dekaram Enghi	13	84	1,03,100	20,200	1,600	4,400	6,900	6,500	6,100	1,400	267
6	Enghan Adong	14	71	1,04,500	22,300	1,800	4,550	7,700	5,500	16,500	1,600	550
7	Arthen Adong	6	31	40,700	4,900	500	1,600	3,600	525	3,250	500	90
8	Sirim Langso	20	97	1,26,800	18,200	200	5,800	10,500	5,600	7,700	1,400	85
9	Arlong Pharla	20	113	1,76,400	24,050	3,450	7,850	14,200	3,950	21,510	1,610	430
10	Phampri Plangso	15	86	1,23,300	25,000	200	4,600	9,600	3,800	6,400	3,400	720
11	Kania Terang	18	112	1,58,000	18,850	2,300	3,950	9,450	3,850	7,550	2,750	288
12	Kania Timung	7	44	67,500	7,300	650	1,900	4,350	650	7,700	2,000	109
13	Lanki Sengnar	6	29	30,500	5,700	-	2,400	3,300	3,400	3,300	200	6
14	Lanki Timung	8	43	65,300	10,400	2,200	1,650	4,300	2,600	2,650	700	25
15	Men Timung	9	51	80,200	15,800	3,550	2,400	4,400	2,100	2,700	2,100	1,085
16	Ra Kro	7	30	29,900	3,900	1,000	2,100	3,000	3,100	700	200	22
Total		196	1,102	15,37,100	2,55,100	33,100	58,100	1,12,100	53,275	1,08,310	24,660	5,763
Percentage				57.45	9.53	1.24	2.17	4.19	1.99	4.05	0.92	0.22

TABLE XXV (Contd)

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Furniture, residential building	Radio, Watch Bicycle	Amusement	Kerosine, Toilet, Utensil	Miscellaneous	Total amount of Expenditure	Per capita Expenditure
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Tokre Kramsa	9,400	700	2,600	8,600	9,900	1,85,678	1,934.15
2	Sikari Engti	5,700	-	700	2,300	4,500	1,20,358	2,674.22
3	Thekong Bey	32,400	1,200	2,550	14,300	10,700	2,38,571	2,293.95
4	Sarthe Teron	15,900	-	2,600	5,550	13,550	2,12,129	3,214.08
5	Dekaram Enghi	11,500	-	6,200	5,950	9,300	1,83,417	2,183.54
6	Enghan Adong	19,100	700	5,400	5,950	7,750	2,03,900	2,871.83
7	Arthen Adong	5,950	1,950	200	2,800	950	67,515	2,177.90
8	Sirim Langso	25,700	-	5,300	10,800	5,700	2,23,785	2,307.06
9	Arlong Pharla	32,500	2,850	5,100	12,300	7,300	3,13,500	2,774.34
10	Phampri Plangso	25,300	1,500	4,600	8,200	13,300	2,29,920	2,673.49
11	Kania Terang	16,350	2,900	2,850	7,700	5,150	2,41,938	2,160.16
12	Kania Timung	5,700	3,250	650	4,075	1,500	1,07,334	2,439.41
13	Lanki Sengnar	5,800	400	3,400	2,400	2,300	63,106	2,176.07
14	Lanki Timung	4,150	2,000	1,400	3,700	4,100	1,05,175	2,445.93
15	Men Timung	5,500	1,700	900	2,850	3,700	1,28,985	2,529.12
16	Ra Kro	2,800	-	1,100	2,100	200	50,122	1,670.73
	Total	2,23,750	19,150	45,550	99,575	99,900	26,75,433	2,427.80
	Percentage	8.36	0.72	1.70	3.72	3.73	100.00	

It transpires from Table XXV that food is the only major head of expenditure constituting 57.45% of the total expenses of the households. The amount of expenditure in dress & ornaments is worked out to be 9.53% and in respect of furniture & residential building it is found to be 8.36%. With regard to education, we find the percentage of expenditure to be 1.24 only. This indicates that the people are quite at dark about the vital role played by education in the present age. The people of the Project Area spend only 2.17% of the total expenditure for treatment of diseases. The percentage of expenditure in relation to the head 'betelnut, tobacco & beverage' is estimated at 4.19. In case of festivals & ceremonies, the people use to spend 4.05% of the total expenditure. On the whole, the average annual expenditure of a household is found to be Rs. 13,650.16 only. We have already seen that the average gross annual income of a household is to the tune of Rs. 14,771.32. As a result, the average household is found to have possessed a very insignificant surplus budget amounting to Rs. 1,121.16 only. The per capita expenditure is worked out to be Rs. 2,427.80 only against the per capita annual income of Rs. 2,627.20. This shows that per capita surplus is Rs. 199.40 only per annum. In short, it may be said that the pattern of livelihood of the people inhabiting the Project Area is not satisfactory and their economy is still at subsistence level, having only a marginal surplus.

Before we come to the end of this chapter, let us discuss briefly about the extent of indebtedness in the Project Area. Our field investigation reveals that out of a total of 196 households, 90 households (45.9%) are in the habit of taking loans for the purpose of solving their problems, which mainly consist of maintenance of family and operation of agricultural activities etc. It has been observed that except one household who has taken loan amounting to Rs. 500/- only from the DRDA, Diphu, other households approach the village people, mahajans or shopkeepers etc. for obtaining loan, either in cash or in kind (Table XXVI). In terms of percentages, we find 0.43, 17.46 and 82.11 of the total amount of loan to be taken from DRDA, village people including mahajans and shopkeepers respectively. The rate of interest is found to be 10% per annum in respect of loan from DRDA. On the other hand, the rate of interest is much higher in case of loan availed from other sources. Normally, the people have to pay 10-20% interest per month. In some cases, the rate of interest is fixed at 50% per annum. The average debt per household is estimated at Rs. 590/- and the average debt per indebted household is worked out to be 1,285/-. We may, therefore, assume that indebtedness has a deleterious effect on the economy of the people concerned.

TABLE XXVI

Extent of Indebtedness in the Project Area

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Total households	No. of households having debts	No. of households without debts	Amount of loan alongwith source (Amount)Rs.)					Amount of Loan
					D.R.D.A.	Village people/Mahajan		Shopkeeper		
						Cash	Kind	Cash	Kind	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Tokre Kramsa	14	6	8	500	1,000	-	2,800	-	4,300
2	Sikari Engti	7	3	4	-	1,500	-	4,500	-	6,000
3	Thekong Bey	17	11	6	-	2,000	-	15,600	-	17,600
4	Sarthe Teron	15	1	14	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
5	Dekaram Enghi	13	9	4	-	3,800	1,000	6,300	4,000	15,100
6	Enghan Adong	14	7	7	-	1,600	-	4,200	2,300	8,100
7	Arthen Adong	6	6	-	-	-	-	10,400	-	10,400
8	Sirim Langso	20	5	15	-	800	-	1,600	800	3,200
9	Arlong Pharla	20	14	6	-	-	-	17,475	-	17,475
10	Phampri Plangso	15	4	11	-	400	-	-	3,200	3,800
11	Kania Terahg	18	7	11	-	900	-	10,800	-	11,700
12	Kania Timung	7	6	1	-	-	-	5,600	-	5,600
13	Lanki Sengnar	6	3	3	-	800	-	400	-	1,200
14	Lanki Timung	8	3	5	-	2,100	-	-	1,000	3,100
15	Men Timung	9	3	6	-	4,300	-	-	-	4,300
16	Ra Kro	7	2	5	-	-	-	1,000	2,000	3,000
		196	90	106	500	19,200	1,000	81,675	13,300	1,15,675

CHAPTER V
CHANGING TRENDS

Every society, tribal or non-tribal, has to undergo some sort of changes with the passage of time. As such, the Karbis who constitute the Project Area have also been influenced by a host of changes in some way or other. The system of joint family which was predominant a few decades back has gradually disappeared and in its place the nuclear family system has emerged. Our field investigation reveals that out of 196 families of the selected villages, the no. of joint and nuclear families is 48 and 148 respectively. In terms of percentages we find 24.5 and 75.5 to be joint and nuclear families in the Project Area. It is likely that the existing percentage of joint family will decrease in the near future and as a result, the percentage of nuclear family will increase proportionately. In respect of health, it may be said that previously, the people used to depend upon the traditional methods of treatment of diseases. Although they have not completely given up the old methods, they like to visit the doctors off and on. With regard to education, no significant changes have taken place in the Project Area. The people do not think of sending their wards to the school for proper education. However, it is seen that children in large number attend the classes in L.P. schools which are located within their respective village. Drastic changes have taken place in respect of dress and ornaments. The traditional pattern of dress is confined to the womenfolk only. The young boys are in the habit of wearing latest design shirts and pants while the young girls like to use cosmetics, vanity bags and chemical ornaments etc. extensively. We have also observed certain changes in the context of household properties. Some of the households of the Project Area possess cycle, radio, watch, tap recorder etc. which were quite unknown to the people in the recent past. Moreover, the people constructed pile-dwelling house previously. But, now-a-days, they like to construct houses on grounds. Our field study indicates that in the Project Area there is only one pile-dwelling house whereas the no. of thatched houses constructed on grounds is 368. So far as change in agriculture is concerned we find that the people cultivate low-lying lands for settled cultivation although the traditional method is jhum or shifting cultivation. The people are, of course, not interested in using chemical fertilisers or improved variety of seeds at present, but they will perhaps adopt the scientific methods of cultivation in the years to come.

In fine, it may be said that although the Project Area is geographically located in between Diphu, the District H.Q. of the Karbi Anglong district and Lumding, an important railway town of the Nowgong district, the people have not exhibited any remarkable change in their path of progress,

CHAPTER-VI

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The socio-economic survey of the scheduled tribe population inhabiting the Miyungdisa Mini Compact Area Project is supposed to present a vivid picture in relation to all relevant aspects of the people, under study. The data collected from the surveyed villages, after proper tabulation and analysis, have been systematically arranged under several chapters to have a final shape of the present Report. The first chapter is, of course, devoted to a preliminary discussion about the formation of the two hill districts which include various ethnic groups of diverse origin. Moreover, earlier attempts at controlling the destructive method of jhum cultivation by the Government Departments during the different Five Year Plan Periods have been discussed in a capsule form. An ethnographic note on the Karbis who solely constitute the Project Area is also incorporated into this chapter. Finally, the list of selected villages of the Mini Compact Area Project is furnished.

While dealing with basic demographic aspects of the Project Area in the second chapter, we have shown the distribution of villages by size of population (Table II). It has been found that the no. of villages within the category of population '50 - 100' is 7 and in the category 'Below 50' it accounts for 6. But, only 3 nos. of villages fall within the category '100 & above' out of sixteen villages. From this analysis, we understand that most of the selected villages are small in size and in this connection, it may be mentioned here that this smallness in size is the characteristic feature of a typical Karbi village. When we look at the distribution of population according to age-group (Table III), we find the percentage of population in the surveyed villages to be 42.6 and 26.6 in the age-groups '0 - 15' yrs and '15-30' yrs respectively. In other words, these two groups cover 69% of the total population. Sex-ratio in the Project Area is estimated at 1000 : 864 (Table IV).

In the third chapter, an attempt is made to focus light on the infrastructural facilities which are available in and around the surveyed villages of the Project Area. It is seen that transport and communication facilities are not at all satisfactory. A motorable road runs through the Project Area. But there is no provision of public transport system. People have to move on foot unless they receive the services of the trucks which carry logs from the forests. We come to know from Table V that 8 nos. of villages lie within the distance of '0-2' K.M. from the nearest motorable road against 7 nos. of villages at a distance of '3-5' K.M. A single village is only located at a distance

of 9 K.M. from the nearest motorable road. It is, therefore, quite clear that the people of the Project Area will be able to derive much benefit, if buses ply on the existing road in a regular manner. With regard to railway facilities, it may be said that out of 16 nos. of selected villages, 13 nos. are located beyond 10 K.M. from the nearest railway station (Table VI). As a result most of the people are not in a position to derive much benefit out of the facilities offered by the railways. It has been observed that all the selected villages of the Project Area are located at a distance of 20 K.M. & above from Manja, the H.Q. of the Lumbajong Development Block. On the other hand, we find 7 nos., 6 nos, and 3 nos, of villages located at a distance of 0-20 K.M., 20-30K.M. and 30-40K.M. respectively from the District H.Q., Diphu. Table VIII shows the distance of the surveyed villages from the nearest Post & Telegraph office. It has been observed that location of the Post Office is more convenient to the people rather than that of Telegraph Office. 14 nos. of villages are located within the distance of 0-20 K.M. from the nearest Post Office while 7 nos. of villages are located in the same range from the nearest Telegraph Office. Regarding medical facilities it may be pointed out that 50% of the selected villages are located within the distance of '0-10' K.M. from the nearest dispensary. Again, 37'5% and 12'5% of the villages are located in the range of '10-20' K.M. and '20-30' K.M. respectively from the place of the nearest dispensary (Table IX). So far as educational institutions are concerned, we have observed that out of 237 nos. of children in the age-group '6-10' yrs, the no. of children attending L.P. schools is 101 out of which male and female students are 65 and 36 respectively. In this connection it may be mentioned here that children from 3 nos of villages go to lower primary schools located within their villages. On the other hand, children from 8 nos. and 5 nos. of villages have to attend L.P. schools located at a distance of '1-2' K.M. and '2.5-5' K.M. respectively. In respect of M.E. standard, we find the no. of students in the year 1990 to be 28 (Male -20 and Female -8) only. But the no. of students reading in High Schools from the surveyed villages is estimated at 15 out of which male and female students are 13 and 2 respectively. This indicates that most of the students discontinue their studies immediately after completion of lower primary standard. On the whole, the people of the Project Area appear to be less conscious about the role of education in the present-day world. The no of literates in the selected villages is found to be 186 out of the total population of 1,102. The percentage of literacy accounts for 16.8 which is comparatively less than that of the Karbi Anglong district (19.2% as per

1971 Census). The existing sources of drinking water in the selected villages are found to be natural spring, well and river. Table XII reveals that 8 nos., 5 nos., and 3 nos. of villages depend upon natural spring, well and river respectively as the sources of drinking water. It is, therefore, quite clear that people of the Project Area can not expect good drinking water until and unless water supply schemes are executed by the concerned authority. With regard to marketing facilities, it may be said that non-availability of fair price shop within the Project Area has compelled the people to purchase their necessary commodities at a higher rate from 15 nos. of grocery shops located in and around the surveyed villages. Moreover, location of the daily/weekly markets is also not within easy reach of the people. From Table XIII, we come to know that two villages are located at a distance of '0-5' K.M. from the nearest market place. People from 7 nos. of villages have to visit the nearest market located at a distance of '5-10' K.M. The remaining villages are found to be located beyond 10 K.M. from the nearest market. The role played by the co-operative societies in the Project Area can not be said to be satisfactory because of the fact that out of 16 villages, only 6 nos. derive some amount of benefit from the Wholesale Consumers' & Marketing Co-operative Society, Diphu. People of the remaining ten villages are quite ignorant of the facilities extended by the co-operative societies. In respect of cottage industry, it may be said that 81.1% of the households are engaged in weaving traditional clothes in their looms. Again, 36.7% of the total households practise rearing of silkworms. On the other hand, the percentage of households engaged in various types of bamboo & cane works is estimated at 34.1 only. It may be mentioned here that all the products are mainly used for domestic purpose. The economic condition of the people may be elevated to a certain degree by means of revamping the cottage industries through execution of suitable schemes for the purpose of large-scale production.

To present a clear picture of the prevailing economy amongst the people of the Project Area, we have furnished a systematic analysis of the relevant data in the fourth chapter. We have come to know from Table XIV that out of 196 nos. of total households, 193 nos. (98.47%) have taken up cultivation as the primary occupation. Service is found to be primary occupation for two households (1.02%). Again, only one household (0.51%) has taken up business as the primary occupation. Our field study reveals that 103 nos. of households have adopted daily wage as secondary occupation. This implies that most of the households of the Project Area can not depend entirely on primary occupation for their livelihood. Table XV shows the distribution of

workers and non-workers in the surveyed villages. We find that earners and earning dependents constitute 17.8% and 41.5% of the total population respectively. The percentage of non-earning dependents accounts for 40.7%. A cursory glance on Table XVI will reveal the land-holding pattern of the households, under study. It is seen that 25 nos. of households possess lands in the category '0-10' bighas. Again, we find 132 nos. of households having lands in the category '10-30' bighas. The no. of households possessing lands in the category '30 bighas & above' is estimated at 39. On the other hand, Table XVII shows land-holding of various types of the households. It has been found that the total area of land possessed by 196 nos. of households in the Project Area is 4,290 bighas out of which the area of land under cultivation is estimated at 3,427 bighas. Homestead and fishery occupy 320 bighas and 15 bighas of land respectively. Moreover, the total area of fallow land is found to be 528 bighas. The average land-holding per household and per capita land-holding in the surveyed villages are worked out to be 21.8 bighas and 3.8 bighas respectively. While dealing with area of jhum land under major crops (Table XVIII), we have observed that the total area of land brought under paddy cultivation is 894 bighas which constitute 59.48% of the cropped area. It may be mentioned here that cultivation of some other crops viz. sesame, maize and different kinds of vegetables etc. is also practised alongwith paddy in the same plot of land. Whatever it may be, it is seen that cultivation of paddy is carried out in an extensive manner. The area of land cultivated separately for maize and sesame is estimated at 203 bighas (13.51%) and 256 bighas (17.03%) respectively. Cultivation of ginger, mustard, chilli and vegetable etc. is also practised by the people in 150 bighas of land which constitute 9.98% of the total cropped area. In respect of the area of land under settled cultivation (Table XIX) we find 1,521 bighas of land (69.6%) brought under paddy cultivation. On the other hand, the area of land utilised for the cultivation of sesame and mustard is found to be 214 bighas (9.8%) and 296 bighas (13.5%) respectively. Moreover, 152 bighas of land (6.9%) are put into use for cultivation of maize, chilli, ginger and other vegetables etc. We have thus observed that out of the total cropped area, the area of land brought under paddy cultivation, jhum or non-jhum is the highest and it can, therefore, be assumed that cultivation of paddy plays a significant role in the economy of the people, under study. It may be pointed out here that the rate of production of paddy in jhum is comparatively less than that of wet cultivation. We have observed that in case of jhum land yield of paddy per bigha is 1.9 Ql. whereas in case of settled cultivation, it is 2.3 Ql. Table XXIII shows the distribution of households according to possession of livestock. It

is found that out of 196 nos. of households, 177 nos. (90.31%) have the habit of rearing poultry. Again, 172 nos. of households (87.7%) have possessed pigs. Moreover, the no. of households having bullocks is worked out to be 130 (66.32%). This indicates that the people of Project Area derive some amount of benefit out of livestock population. Therefore various programmes may be taken up by the Department of A.H.& Vety. to motivate the people to adopt scientific methods of rearing animals and birds so as to enable them to derive substantial income. In respect of annual income of the households from various sources (Table XXIV) we have observed that land is the primary source of income of the people, contributing 67.64% of the total income. The next source of income is found to be livestock population which provide 16.23% of the total income to the people. The average gross annual income of a household is worked out to be Rs. 14,771.32 and the per capita annual income is found to be Rs. 2,627.20 only, according to 1990 price level. Table XXV shows the pattern of annual expenditure of the households, under study. It has been observed that in respect of food item the amount of expenditure is the highest i.e. 57.45% of the total amount of expenditure. Again we find that 9.53% and 8.36% of the total expenses are incurred for dress & ornaments and furniture & residential building respectively. The total amount spent for treatment of diseases is worked out to be 2.17% while it is 1.24% only in case of education. The average annual expenditure of a household accounts for Rs. 13,650.16 only. This shows that the average household is having a marginal surplus amount of Rs. 1,121.16 only per annum. It may, therefore, be assumed that the economy of the households is at subsistence level. At the end of this chapter we have furnished Table XXVI showing the extent of indebtedness in the Project Area. From this table we come to know that 45.9% of the total households are in debt. The average debt per household is found to be Rs. 590/- whereas the average debt per indebted household is estimated at Rs. 1,285/-.

In Chapter V we have tried to bring into focus certain changes that have taken place among the people of the Project Area. It has been observed that disintegration of joint family system has led to the formation of nuclear family system. The attitude of the people towards treatment of diseases has also undergone some changes. They visit the nearest medical institutions if necessity arises. Practice of settled cultivation in addition to jhum has also been adopted by the people. We find striking changes in respect of material culture particularly in dress and ornaments, household properties and house type etc. In short, it may be said that implementation of various plans and programmes by the concerned authorities might generate tremendous change in socio-economic life of the people.

Suggestions :

Before we come to the end of the Report we would like to put forth the following few suggestions for necessary consideration by the concerned authority for socio-economic upliftment of the people inhabiting the Miyungdisa Mini Compact Area Project :

1. As the people of the Project Area are already accustomed to settled mode of cultivations, attempts may, therefore, be made to motivate the people for adopting high yielding varieties of crops, chemical fertilisers and pesticides etc. to derive maximum production. Irrigation facilities should be provided to the people for carrying out agricultural activities in a scientific manner because of the fact that the cultivator can not expect satisfactory result simply on the mercy of Nature. Moreover the plantation of suitable varieties of coffee and rubber should be encouraged for supplementing their income.
2. The tendency of the children in discontinuing their studies after primary stage of education should be thoroughly checked and for this purpose, emphasis should be given to make the people realise the importance of education in shaping the destiny of their children for a bright future. Special efforts may be channelised to infuse enthusiasm among the people to send their female children to school since the rate of female literacy in the Project Area presents a dismal picture.
3. For all-round development of the people, road communication system connecting all the selected villages of the Project Area must be improved and transport facilities should be provided as far as practicable. Immediate attention should be paid for complete black topping of the total length of the existing road which runs through the heart of the Project Area.
4. Scheme for scientific rearing of improved varieties of livestock may be taken up by the Department of Animal Husbandary & Veterinary for strengthening the economy of the people. It has been observed that the amount of income derived by the people of the Project Area out of livestock population is next to that of cultivation.
5. Suitable steps may be undertaken by the Department of Fishery to motivate the people for developing pisciculture which will provide sufficient scope for enhancement of their economy. At present, it is seen that those households having cultured fisheries in the Project Area are interested in producing fish mainly for household consumption. It is expected that a good no. of households

will come forward to develop fisheries provided proper demonstration and supply of fish seedlings at subsidised rate etc. are made easily available to them.

6. Medical institutions have to be provided with adequate facilities so that the people do not face difficulty in case of treatment of various diseases. Special attempts may be made to eradicate malaria which frequently occurs in the selected villages. The attitude of the people towards treatment of diseases by means of propitiating deities or other traditional methods will undergo sea-change in course of time and they will automatically come to the well-equipped medical institutions without any hesitation.

7. The extent of indebtedness among the people of the Project Area is a matter of grave concern. It has been observed that most of the people take loan either in cash or kind from the village mahajan or shopkeeper at a higher rate of interest. Therefore, the co-operative societies, banks and other institutional agencies may grant loans in cash/kind on easy procedure to the people to improve their economic condition.

8. Cottage industries have to be given a new shape by means of implementing various income-generating schemes by the competent authority for the benefit of the people. Marketing facilities for the finished products should be provided at any cost. The traditional method of weaving clothes in loom looms may be replaced by improved technology and raw materials have to be provided to the people at subsidised cost. For development of sericulture industry various schemes viz. provision of disease-free seeds, proper plantation of food plants, construction of rearing house in a scientific manner, demonstration and training facilities etc. to the rearers may be undertaken.

9. Drinking water facilities in the form of piped water, tubewell and ringwell etc. should be provided to the people who, at present, do not have any alternative source but to collect water from the katcha well, natural stream and river which are usually the carriers of germs of water-borne diseases.

10. People use to spend huge amount of paddy in brewing rice-beer (Horlang and Hor Arok) which is required not only for daily use but also for performing various socio-religious functions. This leads to an adverse effect on the economy of the people. Therefore, vigorous efforts may be directed towards bringing consciousness among the people to minimise excessive amount of expenditure in connection with consumption of ricebeer.

11. Top priority should be given on operation of cadastral survey in the Project Area to obtain necessary land records which are highly essential for execution of development programmes.

12. Suitable steps may be adopted in order to make the people more conscious about the welfare measures and constitutional provisions meant for them. During our field investigation it was found that most of the people are quite at dark about these aspects.

13. Corruption in any form must be rooted out for the purpose of effective implementation of the schemes designed to wean away the people of the selected villages from the practice of shifting cultivation.

14. All the selected villages of the Project Area should be brought under electrification so as to enable the people to utilise it for domestic consumption as well as agricultural operations.

15. During formulation and implementation of the developmental plans and programmes, the outstanding views of the renowned scholars in the field of tribal development should also be taken into account so that the ethnic identity of the particular tribe is not lost for ever in the name of tribal development.
