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Jawahar Nagar,
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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

(DIGERKUKI M.C.A.P.)



Sponsored By
Development Commissioner, Hills,
Government of Assam.

**ASSAM INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH FOR TRIBALS AND SCHEDULED
CASTES, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI-28**

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 Digerkuki (Mini Compact Area Project) in North Cachar Hills 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 Hills 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.Pangtey, 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 the North Cachar Hills District Council authority for offering help and co-operation in conducting the field survey.

Dated Guwahati
the 1st May, 1991.

Sd/- Dr. B.N.Bordoloi
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SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Area and the People :

The Digerkuki Mini Compact Area is located within the Maibong Development Block of Maibong sub-division of the N.C.Hills District. It is located at about 50 kms North-eastern side of the Maibong town. The total population of the selected 10 villages is 1773, number of household being 300. Out of 300 households, 230 households belong to the Hmar and Kuki tribe and the remaining 70 households belong to the Dimasa tribe.

2. Demography :

Out of the total population of 1773, 957 are males and 816 are females. '0-15' years category comprises highest population i.e. 779.

3. Dominance of Christianity :

Out of 300 households, 230 (70%) have adopted Christianity. Only 70 (30%) households of the Dimasa Kachari village are followers of Hinduism.

4. Infrastructural Facilities :

Infrastructural facilities are not available within the Project Area. Transportation system is very weak. Medical facilities, educational facilities are also not sufficient to meet the requirements of the local people.

5. Literacy Percentage:

Out of the total population of 1773, only 845 are literates. Hence the literacy percentage is 47.6.

6. Area of Land:

There are altogether 3731 bighas^{of} land, within the Project Area. Out of the total, 1424.5 (38.18%) are jhum, 1321.5 (35.4%) are wet and 295.5 (7.9%) are terrace lands. The remaining parts are used for home-stead, fishery or other purposes.

(ii)

7. Occupational Structure :

Out of 300 households 247 (82.3%) nos. are taking agriculture as their main occupation, followed by 48 (16%) nos. households engaged in service. Number of households taking business as primary occupation are 4 (1.3%), only 1 household is fully dependent upon daily wage.

8. Livestock Population :

Total livestock population is 6427. Almost all the households are engaged in rearing poultry and piggery.

9. Annual Income and Expenditure :

Gross annual income of the 300 households are found to be Rs. 46,31,740, whereas annual expenditure is Rs. 39,64,238.5. Average annual income and expenditure of a household is found to be Rs. 15,439.1 and Rs. 13,214.1 respectively. Thus, every household possesses a surplus budget of Rs. 2,225.

10. Income per Household :

Gross annual income and total no. of households being Rs. 46,31,740 and 300 respectively, income per household is found to be Rs. 15,439.1.

11. Percapita Income :

Gross annual income and the total population being Rs. 46,31,740 and 1773 respectively, percapita income is found to be Rs. 2,612.3.

(iii)

12. Household Indebtedness :

The total debt of 300 households is found to be Rs.80,719. Thus the debt per household is estimated at Rs. 269.06. Ofcourse out of 300 households, only 51 nos. are taking loans from different sources.

13. Poverty Level :

It is observed from the tabulation report of all the households that only 10 households are living below poverty line (Rs.6,600). Ofcourse, quite a good number of households are living just above the poverty line.

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

The N.C. Hills District has a very chequered history. The District passed through different stages of stress and strain before it acquired the present Socio-Economic setup. The history of N.C. Hills shows that the British annexed this part of the land with their empire only in the year 1832. Prior to this the N.C. Hills was a part of Dimasa kingdom, which embraced the whole of Cachar District, the present Karbi Anglong, a segment of Nowgong District and a part of Nagaland including Dimapur. The Dimasa kings had to shift their capital from place to place under the compulsion of historical forces. Thus, at different times, Dimapur (Nagaland), Maibong (N.C. Hills), Khaspur and lastly Haritkar (Cachar) became the capital of Dimasa - kingdom.

With the assassination of last Dimasa king Gobinda Chandra Narayan in 1830 A.D. the Kachari Kingdom saw its rapid decline and ultimately it was annexed by the British by a proclamation, dated 14th August, 1832.

During the British rule N.C. Hills was made a sub-division of cachar District and was administered as an excluded area till India attained Independence in 1947. Later in 1951 it was amalgamated with Karbi Anglong (then Mikir Hill) and a separate civil District of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills was carved out.

In 2nd February, 1970, N.C. Hills attained the status of full-fledged District. Prior to this, N.C. Hills was a sub-division of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District. The North Cachar Hills District is an autonomous District constituted under the provision of the sixth schedule of the constitution of India.

Source;

* Hills In The Twilight

Contd..... 2/-

Directorate of Information And Pub. Relns.
Assam.

Some of the salient features and informations of N.C. Hills District are as follows:

Facts about N.C. Hills at a glance

Boundaries

East - Nagaland and Manipur
West - Meghalaya & Part of Karbi Anglong
North- Nowgong & Part of Karbi Anglong.
South- Cachar District.

Area

Urban - 5 sq.km.
Rural - 4885 sq.km.
Village - 480 Nos.
P.C. of literacy - 27.25
Total Population - 76,047
S.C. - 52,583

Density of population - 16 Per sq.km.

(Source: As per 1971 Census Report)

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of North Cachar Hills District. Majority of the people of the District by and large adopted jhuming or shifting cultivation as an age-old practice. About 70% of the total cultivated land is covered by jhuming. Autumn paddy is mainly grown by jhuming process, either as a single crop or as a mixed crop alongwith ginger, maize, turmeric, potatoes and other vegetables. Jhum or shifting cultivation is an age-old method of cultivation. The mode of operation of the shifting cultivation is as follows-

At first a plot of land is selected, the trees and under growth grown thereon are cut down, which are left to be dried up. After being burnt, the logs are kept aside and

the plot is crudely prepared with hoes and spades. Just after the monsoon seeds of various crops are broadcast. The usual time for this process is April/May.

Sometimes maize seeds are broadcast separately on the prepared soil. In early June when the maize seedlings grow up a little, paddy seeds are broadcast on the same field. In some cases cotton seeds are also broadcast along with paddy and maize.

With the pressure of land increasing at a rapid pace due to the fast population growth the harmful effects of jhuming have attracted immediate attention of the authority concerned. The decline of jhum cycle to 2-3 years, associated with other harmful effects have resulted a poor yield from the jhum. Besides this, it has entailed destruction of valuable forests and consequent problem of soil erosion, denundation etc.

Various measures have been taken up by different departments, like Irrigation, Forest, Soil Conservation, PWD Agriculture etc. to put an end of jhum-cultivation. Land is now being developed under composite schemes covering large areas-with the association of local youths. Over 1000 hectares of land has been made fit for terrace cultivation.

It is seen that more and more people are taking keen interest in high yielding variety of crops and gradually adopting modern methods of cultivation.

Only a few years ago wheat and maize cultivations were virtually unknown to the tribal people. But to-day the high yielding variety of maize is grown in about 1000 hectares of land. Likewise wheat cultivation has also been adopted as an item of agriculture. There is also a scheme to popularise cultivation of long staple cotton in the District

with a varying degree of success. All efforts are now being concentrated towards providing plant protection measures, distribution of improved seeds, use of manures and fertilizers and extension of commercial crops etc. to free the agricultural structure from traditional practices and thus to provide a boost to the economy of the region. Cash crop plantation is another scheme which involves the plantation of coffee and rubber. Initially the scheme was conducted by the soil conservation Deptt. But after the establishment of Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation in 1974, the charge was handed over to APCDC. With a view to attract the jhumiyas to a more profitable agricultural practice, the APCDC took up coffee and Rubber cultivation on a commercial scale. In fact they became quite successful in doing the coffee plantation at Mahur. There are about 1040 hectre coffee plantation and 855 hectre rubber plantation in the two hill Districts of Assam under APCDC.

This success led them to start five estates at Mahur, Laisang, Laikul, Boro Arkup and Gunjung covering 1000 hectares of land each. The Rubber crop however was not found suitable in N.C. Hills, but the quantity and quality of coffee grown in N.C. Hills are very encouraging.

Another worthmentioning scheme is the establishment of model villages. Some households of different villages were selected at random and were established together at one place. But this scheme could not give any encouraging results.

With a view to attract the jhumiyas to more profitable agricultural practices, planning commission introduced an interdisciplinary programme, viz. composite programme during the Fifth Five Year Plan. This composite programme comprises, programmes of land reclamation, land improvement, initiation

of irrigation schemes, supply of fertilizer, supply of improved seeds and agricultural implements etc. The period of implementation of these inter disciplinary measures were fixed during the fifth plan period itself. A gradual change was noticed with the implementation of these interdisciplinary measures.

The District Council Authority of both the hill Districts also took up some villages covering the two districts under the I.J.D.P. Programme. But no fruitful results were noticed with the implementation of this programme.

Another programme called Compact Area Development Programme was also taken by both the District Council Authority.

Lastly, the District Council Authority of both the hill Districts has taken Mini Compact Area Development programme covering both the Districts. The aim of this project is to attract the jhumiya families to more profitable settled cultivation.

ETHNOGRAPHIC NOTE :

The main tribes of the Digerkuki Area are the Hmar, the Kuki and the Dimasa. Out of selected ten villages, only a single village is inhabited by the Dimasa Kachari. Here is a short ethnographic note of the main three tribes living within the Project Area.

The literal meaning of the term Hmar is north. Thus it indicates that the Hmars were the original inhabitants of north side of the Mizo hills. But as to the actual position of the Hmars, opinion differs from writer to writer. In this regard no consensus decision is found. If a group of scholars regard them as a Kuki tribe, another group regards them as a completely Separate tribe. The later group does not think that the Hmars are a sub-tribe of Mizo or of Kuki.

Thus Mr. R. Thanlira, Chitra Mahanta and many other writers have given some contradictory views, regarding the original habitation of the Hmars.

Opinion differs as regards the affinity also. The opinion of Major Shakespear, the then superintendent of the Lushai hills District are worth mentioning here. He has grouped the entire population of the then Lushai hills District under the following fifteen heads.

1) Lushai ; 2) Khawlhiring ; 3) Thado ; 4) Ralte ;
5) Kiangte ; 6) Lakher ; 7) Paithe ; 8) Rōite ; 9) Darlong
10) Pante ; 11) Renthlei ; 12) Poi ; 13) Ngente ;
14) Chongthu ; 15) Hmar. But the opinion of Lieutenant Colonel H.W.G, Gob, the then superintendent of the Lushai Hills ~~Lias~~ is different. He divided the people in to following nine clans.

1) Lushai ; 2) Palte ; 3) Paite ; 4) Hmar ; 5) Thado ;
6) Poi ; 7) Fairi ; 8) Lakher ; 9) Sailo. Originally the Hmars were animists, and their God was PATHIEN, whom they worshiped and very often made sacrifices for his appeasement. But now-a-days, almost all the Hmars of the N.C. Hills District has adopted christianity. The Hmars are very laborious and economically sound compared to other tribes of the District.

They have their own traditional dance and music.

In Chinese the literal meaning of the term 'kuki' is the people of the 'ku' lake. They are known by different names in different places. The plains people call them kuki or kuki chin, while the Dimasa Kacharis call them Thangumsa. In Manipur they are called 'Nhomsai' by the Manipuris. According to the scholars their original Settlement was central Asia. From here they migrated to eastern India through Burma.

The Kukis are Sub-divided into 37 group. They are as follows - 1) baite or Biete; 2) Changsan ; 3) Chongloi ; 4) DOUNGEL ; 5) Gamalhon; 6) Gangte; 7) Guite; 8) Hanneng; 9) Haokip or Hanpit; 10. Haolai; 11) Hengna ; 12) Hong sungh; 13) Hrang ahwal or Rangkhoh; 14) Jongbe; 15) khawchung ; 16) khawathlang; 17) Khelma; 18) Kholhon; 19) kipgen; 20) Kuki; 21) Lengthang; 22) Lhangum; 23) Lhoujen; 24) Lhouvum ; 25) Lumpheng; 26) Manjel; 27) Misao; 28) Riäng; 29) Sairhem; 30) Selram; 31) Singson; 32) Sithlhou; 33) Sukte; 34) Thado; 35) Thangeu; 36) Uibuh; 37) Vaiphei.

Each group again Sub-divided into different clans, and each clan further sub-divided into different sub clans.

The kukis follow monogamous type of marriage. The Kuki society follow patriarchal type of family. Like the Hmars, originally the kukis were also animists. But now-a-days majority of the Kukis of N.C. Hills has adopted christianity. Thus considerable changes have taken place in the Socio-economic life of the Kuki people due to the adoption of Christianity.

Like other tribes of the hilly areas they also practice jhuming. Again they are also good horticulturists. They produce fruits like oranges, Bananas, Sugarcane, pineapple etc. in large quantities. The Kukis like other tribes of Assam has their traditional dresses, ornaments, dance and music.

Among the tribes of the North Cachar Hills of Assam the Dimasa kacharis occupy an important place from the numerical point of view. They inhabit the northern half of the N.C. Hills subdivision and also in the ravines of the Jatinga river.

The origin of the term 'Kachari' is unknown to the people themselves. The Dimasa kacharis of N.C. Hills and the Bodo kacharis in the Plain Districts of Assam seems to be of

same stock of people. They speak almost the same language and have many other customs and traditions are also in common. The literal meaning of the term 'Dimasa' is descendant or son of a big river. 'Di' means water, 'MA' means big and 'SA' means Son. originally they inhabited the hills and slopes of Brahmaputra valley, but under compulsion of historical forces they had to shift their capital from place to place and thus in one point of time they came to Maibong in the N.C. Hills District.

The Dimasa Kacharis has as many as 42 male clans and 40 female clans. They follow the patriarchal system of family and from the point of marriage they are exogamous. As the Dimasa follow a patriarchal system of family, at the death of the father, his son inherit the properties.

From the point of view of religion the Dimasa Kacharis can be said to be animists. They believe in the existence of one supreme being whom they call 'MADAIS'. They follow Hinduism.

Performance of death ceremony is a must for the Dimasa Kacharis. Agriculture is the main occupation of the Dimasa Kacharis. They are in the habit of practising shifting cultivation, where they raise mixed crop. Among the subsidiary occupations mention may be made of weaving, rearing of endi and muga, bamboo and cane products etc.

The Dimasa Kacharis are a colourful tribe. They have their own traditional dresses, ornaments, musical instruments, weapons of war etc.

Source:

* Bordoloi, B.N.- Tribes Of Assam(ii) Contd..... 9
T.R.I., Guwahati, 1988.

METHODOLOGY :

Prior to this project, various other schemes were also conducted by various departments with the object of weaning away the Jhumiya families from the destructive method of cultivation, and to settle them through permanent cultivation. But these schemes were proved almost unsuccessful. The Diger Kuki Mini compact Area which is located within the Maibong Development Block of Maibong Sub-division of the N.C. Hills District is selected by the District Council on the basis of this view point. The extent of jhuming is extensive in this area. But the yield from jhuming is low in comparison with other means of cultivation. So, to have, socio-economic data of all relevant aspects, a socio-economic survey was conducted by the Assam Institute of Research for tribals and Scheduled Castes with the request of District Council Authority under the guidance of District Research Officer Diphu. Our field investigation reveals that the total No. of house-holds of the selected ten villages are 300. Following ten villages are selected for this project. They are given in the tabular form.

Table - 1

List of Selected Villages

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	No. of house-holds as per list provided by the authority	No. of house-holds as per our Survey
1	2	3	4
1.	Thongi kro	70	70
2.	Mougjang	18	21
3.	Old Thingvom	48	44
4.	New Thingvom	9	6

Contd..... 10

Contd. Table-1

1	2	3	4
5.	Simtuiluong	58	62
6.	Muolsang	10	9
7.	Phaiphak	35	34
8.	Muolkok	21	24
9.	Solpidong	19	17
10.	Aivaphai	12	13
Total		300	300

The above table shows that the No. of households in the selected 10 villages, as per our field survey varies from 6 to 70. Two villages, viz. Thongikro and Simtuiluang are considerably big, compared to other 8 villages, which consists of 70 and 62 house-holds respectively. The No. of households of other 8 villages are counted below 50. The field survey also reveals that shifting of households has not taken place from the selected villages since establishment except few minor cases. New Thingvom was established during 1980-81, households being migrated from old Thingvom. Thus, New Thingvom is newly established, compared to other 9 villages. All the villages were physically visited by our Investigators during the month of January, 1991 for collecting necessary informations required for this project. Atleast one adult member of every household was contacted and interviewed for the collection of necessary information. Village Schedule was also prepared accordingly, which consists of all relevant informations regarding Civic and educational facilities, marketing facilities, co-operative societies and socio-economic organisations etc.. Tabulation work was done during the month of April/91.

CHAPTER - II

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

In the first Chapter we have mentioned that 10(ten) numbers of villages inhabited by 300 Nos. of households are covered by the Diger Kuki Mini Compact Area Jhum Control Project. The total population of the selected 10 villages is 1,773. The following table shows the distribution by size of population.

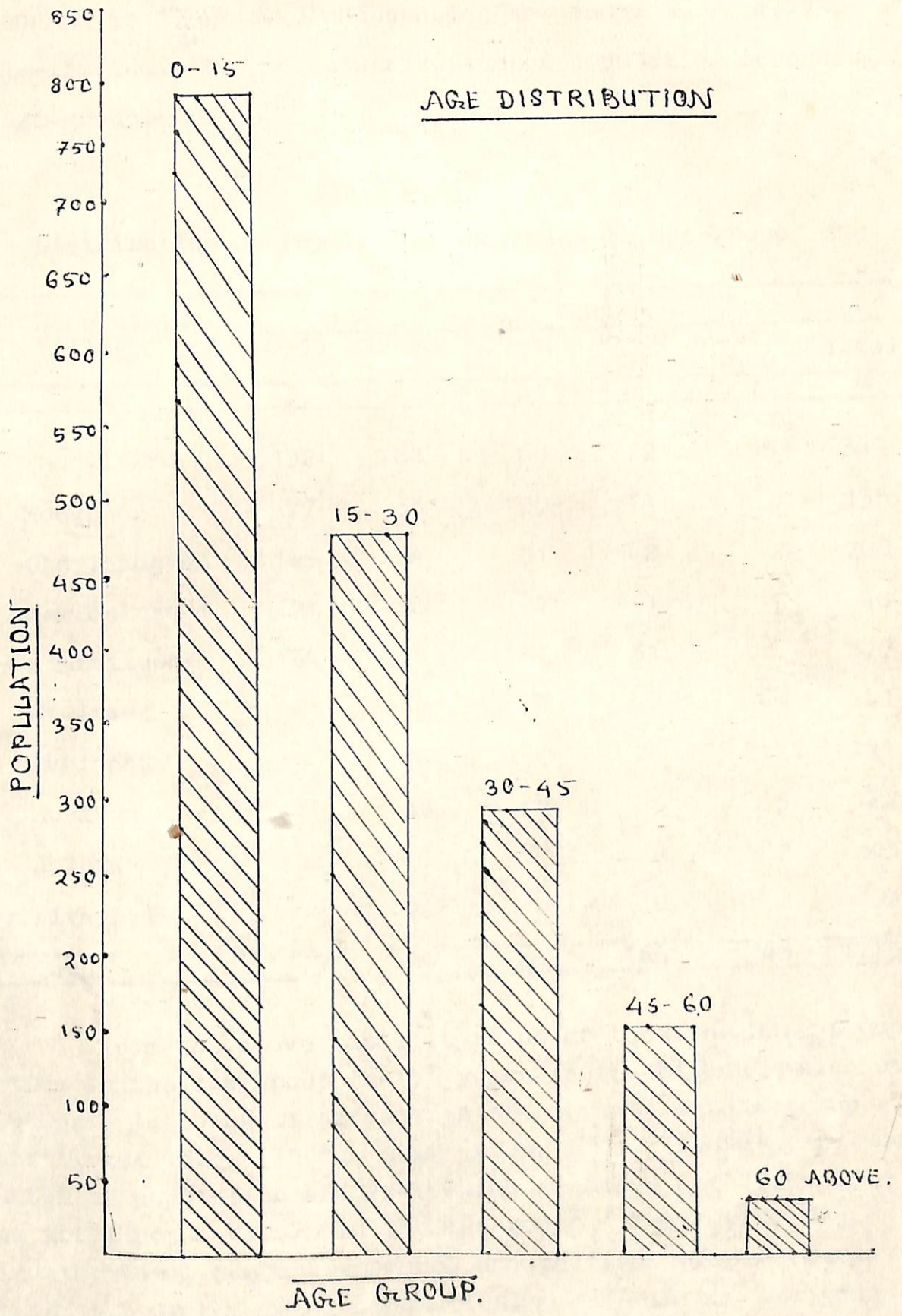
Table - II

Distribution of villages by size of Population.

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	P o p u l a t i o n			
		Below 100	Below 200	Below 300	Below 400
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Thongi Kro	-	-	-	344
2.	Mougjang	-	155	-	-
3.	Old Jhingvom	-	-	168	-
4.	New Jhingvom	40	-	-	-
5.	Simtuiluong	-	-	377	-
6.	Muolsang	51	-	-	-
7.	Phaiphak	-	241	-	-
8.	Muolkon	-	122	-	-
9.	Solpidong	83	-	-	-
10.	Aivaphai	92	-	-	-

The table-II shows that 4 Nos. of villages fall within the category 'Below 100'. 3 Nos. and 2 Nos. of villages fall within the category 'Below 200' and 'Below 300' respectively. Only 1 village, viz. Thongi Kro falls within the category of 'Below 400'.

AGE DISTRIBUTION



It has already been stated that the total population belonging to 300 Nos. of households are found to be 1,773. Table-III indicates the distribution of population according to age-group.

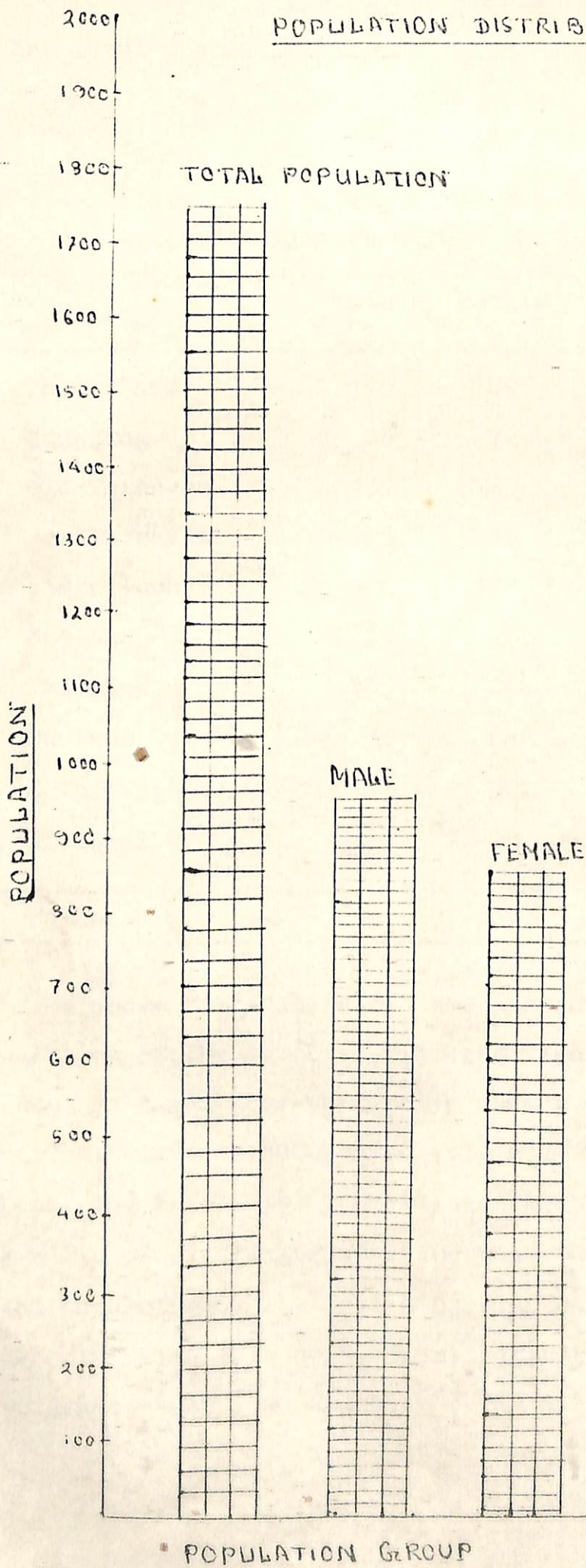
Table - III

Distribution of Population according to age-group

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Age Group					Total
		0-15	15-30	30-45	45-60	Above 60	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Thongi Kro	152	88	68	22	14	344
2.	Mougjang	77	35	28	14	1	155
3.	Old Thingvom	109	84	31	42	2	268
4.	New Jhingvom	21	10	7	1	1	40
5.	Simtuiluong	164	114	62	31	6	377
6.	Muolsang	21	16	7	7	-	51
7.	Phaiphak	98	74	33	24	12	241
8.	Muolkon	52	35	23	9	3	122
9.	Solpidong	38	20	15	8	2	83
10.	Aivaphai	42	20	15	8	2	92
Total		779	496	289	166	43	1773

From the above table it is clear that the No. of population in the age group '0-15' years is the highest which covers 779 nos. In terms of percentage of population this group constitutes 43.9. In the next group, i.e., '15-30' yrs. the number of population ^{is} 496, which accounts for 27.9% of the total population. In the age group '30-45' yrs. we find the total number to be 289 and in terms of percentage it is 16.3 of the total population. Again in the age group '45-69' yrs. total no. of population is 166, and the percentage-wise distribution is 9.3. The No. of population in the age group 'above 60' is 43, which is the lowest and accounts for 2.4% only of the total population. This analysis clearly indicates that from the age group '0-15' yrs. upwards, the percentages of the population to the total population of the selected villages in the Project Area have shown a gradual decline tendency.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION



In the project Area, out of the total population of 1,773 the No. of males and females are found to be 957 and 816 respectively. The following table shows the sex-ratio of the total population living in the ten villages.

Table - IV

Sex-ratio of the total population of selected villages within the Project Area

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Male	Female	Female per 1,000 males
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Thongi Kro	175	169	965
2.	Mougjang	83	72	867
3.	Old Thingvom	139	129	928
4.	New Thingvom	25	15	600
5.	Simtuiluong	204	173	848
6.	Muolsang	31	20	648
7.	Phaiphak	145	96	662
8.	Muolkon	58	64	1103
9.	Solpidong	43	40	930
10.	Aivaphai	54	38	703
Total		957	816	852

The above table indicates the Sex-ratio of the total population of the selected villages within the Project Area. It becomes clear from this table that over all sex-ratio of the 10 villages is 1000:852, i.e., 852 females per 1000 males. The sex-ratio of 5 villages is higher whereas the sex-ratio of 5 villages is lower than the sex-ratio of the total population. The female population of Muolkon is higher than its male population, ratio being 1000:1103 i.e., 1103 females per 1000 males.

CHAPTER - III

INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES

Infrastructural facilities plays an important role in the process of socio-economic development of a community. Thus it is important to see, wheather some of these facilities are available or not, within the Project Area.

1. Transport and Communication Facilities:

The process of a country's economy depends on the extent of the availability of a good system of transport. Lack of adequate means of transport create bottlenecks in the economy and retards economic development. "Transport may be regarded as the arteries of the economy. It has been rightly said that 'if agriculture and industry are the body and the bones of a national organism, communications are it's nerves'. The economic and industrial development of a country is bound up with the development of the means of communication. It is only by an extensive and well-organised transport system that Europe, North America and Japan have risen to the pinnacle of economic and industrial development."

Table- V

Distance of Each Village from the nearest motorable
Road and other important places (in km.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Motorable Road	Railway station	Block Office	District H.Q.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Thongi Kro	0 Khepre	54 Maibang	54 Maibang	124 Haflong
2.	Mougjang	0 khepre	61 Maibang	61 Maibang	131 Haflong

Contd. Table-V.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Old Thingvom	12 Simtuiluong Hazadise Road	60 Maibang	60 Maibang	115 Haflong
4.	New Thingvom	9 Simtuiluong Hazadisa Road	57 Maibang	57 Maibang	112 Haflong
5.	Simtuiluong	0 Simtuiluong Hazadisa Road	49 Maibang	49 Maibang	104 Haflong
6.	Muolsang	10 Simtuiluong Hazadisa Road	54 Maibang	54 Maibang	111 Haflong
7.	Phaiphak	3 Simtuiluong Hazadisa Road.	51 Maibang	51 Maibang	106 Haflong
8.	Moulkon	6 Simtuiluong Hazadisa Road.	53 Maibang	53 Maibang	110 Haflong
9.	Solpidong	10 Simtuiluong Hazadise Road	55 Maibang	55 Maibang	115 Haflong
10.	Aivaphai	7 Simtuiluong Hazadisa Road	53 Maibang	53 Maibang	110 Haflong

The Table-V shows that all the villages, under study are located at a distance ranging from 0 Km to 12 km. only from the nearest motorable road. 3 Villages Viz. Thongi Kro, Mougjong and Simtuiluong are located at a distance of 0 Km. from the nearest motorable road. Although these three villages appear to be suitably located, infact, the benefits derived by the people cannot be said, to be satisfactory.

Condition of the Khepre Old Thingvom gravelled road (length 12 K.M.) which runs through Thongi Kro and Mougjang is not good. Several culverts have already been damaged, but the Department concerned has not taken any action for its reconstruction. Vehicular movement is possible only up to Thongi Kro. The simtuiluong-Hazadisa road is not gravelled, but simply a katcha fair weather motorable road. Only one District Council bus plies on this road every alternate day. But the service offered by the bus is very disheartening, as it does not follow any time table.

The mode of communication from the motorable road to other 7 villages is found to be walking. There has to be crossed 2 to 3 nos. of hills, which are of high altitude. As the selected villages are located within a hilly area, i.e., located on hilllock or plateau, people have to face much difficulties for their movement. On the whole, it can be said that better transport and communication facilities in the near future will help the people in improving their condition to a great extent.

The table also reveals that all the villages are located at a distance covering 49 to 61 Kms. from the nearest railway station. So, they are not in a position to enjoy the railway facilities. Of course, there are two other railway stations located at Langting and Kalachand covering about 18-26 and 42-60 kms. respectively. But these two stations are meant only for passenger trains, Express trains do not stop there. Thus, people cannot enjoy full benefit out of these two stations.

Furthermore, the table reveals that all the villages under study, are located at a distance covering 49 to 61 kms. from the Block H.Q. From the Socio-economic survey we come to know that, the Block Development Offices have not extended any significant contribution towards upliftment of economic condition of the tribal people. As per the rules of the Block Development Office, every Gram Sevak has to consult the Gaonbura or leading persons of the area, at least once in a month. But this is not so in case of those villages.

Civic & Educational Facilities :

Civic and Educational facilities available in a particular locality indicate resourcefulness of the locality. With regard to Civic amenities, viz. Post Office, Telegraph Office, Health Dispensary, Veterenary Dispensary etc. we have observed that the people of the villages have to face much difficulties in getting these benefits. Table-VI shows the distance of each village from the nearest places where such amenities are available.

Table - VI

Distance of each village from the nearest places of
Public importance (In km.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Post Office	Tele- phone Office	State Dispen- sary	Veteri- nary Dis- pensary	Private Medical practio- ner
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Thongi Kro	7 Khepre Maibang	54 Maibang	18 Nablaidisa	23 Hazadisa	54 Maibang
2.	Mougjang	10 Khepre Maibang	61 Maibang	21 Nablaidisa	29 Hazadisa	61 Maibang

Contd. Table-VI

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Old Thingvom	18 Hazadisa	60 Maibang	19 Nablaidisa	18 Hazadisa	60 Maibang	
4. New Thingvom	16 Hazadisa	57 Maibang	18 Nablaidisa	16 Hazadisa	57 Maibang	
5. Simtuiluong	14 Hazadisa	49 Maibang	18 Nablaidisa	14 Hazadisa	49 Maibang	
6. Muolsang	9 Hazadisa	51 Maibang	8 Nablaidisa	9 Hazadisa	54 Maibang	
7. Phaiphak	17 Hazadisa	51 Maibaong	20 Nablaidisa	17 Mazadisa	51 Maibang	
8. Moulkon	16 Hazadisa	53 Maibang	22 Nablaidisa	16 Hazadisa	53 Maibang	
9. Solpidong	19 Hazadisa	55 Maibang	23 Nablaidisa	18 Hazadisa	55 Maibang	
10. Aivaphai	10 Hazadisa	53 Maibang	10 Nablaidisa	10 Hazadisa	53 Maibang	

Post and Telegraph Facilities :

Table - VI reveals that all the villages under study are located at a distance of 7-19 Km. from the nearest Post Office. While four villages are situated at a distance of 7-10 km. other six villages are found at a distance of 11-19 Km. But to avail the telegraph facilities people have to travel 49-61 kms.

Medical Facilities :

From the table VI, it is found that Medical facilities are also not satisfactory. People have to walk 8-23 kms. for getting medical facilities. While only two villages are situated at a distance of 8-10 kms; other eight villages are found at a distance of 11-23 kms. Moreover, medicines supplied by the dispensary are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the native people. Administrative machinery being low, often Doctors are not

found in the Dispensary. Private Medical Practitioners are also not found in the nearby areas.

Hospital facilities are not easily accessible to the people, as the hospital of Maibang is located at a distance of 49-61 Kms. Due to the long distance and non-availability of transport and good motorable roads most of the villagers are unable to bring the patients timely to the hospital.

Veterinary Dispensary :

Veterinary Dispensary of Hazadisa cannot serve the people sufficiently due to the long distance of the villages from the institution. All the villages are located at a distance of 9 to 29 Kms. A large number of domestic animals are reported to die due to attack of various disease every year.

Table - VII

Distance of each Village from the nearest L.P. School and the No. of Children attending these Schools. (Distance in Km.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Distance Km.	Boy	Girl	Type
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Thongi kro	0	25	24	District Council
2.	Mougjang	0	16	14	District Council
3.	Old Thingvom	0	32	21	District Council
4.	New Thingvom	0	7	4	District Council
5.	Simtuiluong	0	36	33	District Council

Contd. Table - VII.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Muolsang	42	11	4	District Council
7.	Phaiphak	0	25	11	District Council
8.	Muolkon	0	15	14	District Council
9.	Solpidong	0	6	6	District Council
10.	Aivaphai	0	15	6	District Council
			188	137	

The above table shows that there are altogether 325 students (male students 188 and Female students 137), studying in these schools during the session 1990-91. The percentage of male students and female students are 57.8 and 42.1 respectively. It indicates that a sizeable section of boys and girls of the selected ten villages are enrolled in the lower Primary levels. It also indicates that female education is encouraged within the Project Area. Further more, the table reveals that almost all the villages are having Lower Primary School except Muolsang. As Muolsang and Aivaphai are closely situated, the people of Muolsang does not feel the necessity of L.P. School of their own. Even in New Thingvom, which comprises only 6 households has L.P. School of their own.

There are two separate Middle English Schools in the Project Area, of which one is at Simtuiluong and the other is at Old Thingvom. The former is established in 1982 where as the latter is established in 1962. Both the Schools are run by the District Council Authority. Besides these two schools, there is another M.E. School located at Khepre. A few students from Thongi Kro and Mougjang Village are studying in that school also. There are altogether 127 students of which 61 (48.03%) are male students and 66(51.9%) are female students.

There are two High Schools within the selected Villages. One at Simtuiluong and other is at Old Thingvom. The school of Simtuiluong is established in 1987, whereas the other school in Old Thingvom is established in the year 1990. Both these schools are running on the basis of Govt Aid. Besides these two schools, there is another High school situated at Mablaidisa which is located at a distance of 8 to 23 Kms. from the Selected villages. There are altogether 69 students, studying in these schools of which 42 (60.8%) are male Students and 27 (39.1%) are female students.

There is no scope for college education in and around the Project Area. For College education Students have to move to Maibang or Haflong which are far away from the selected villages. There are 12 students. Studying in Higher Secondary level of which 8(66.7%) are male students and 4(33.3%) are female students. Table-IX, which contains general education report also reveals that only 21 students (Male 18, Female -3) have passed H.S.D.C. Examination. From the table, it becomes clear that quite a good number of students discontinue studies just after

crossing the L.P. Level. It has perhaps happened due to absence of educational institutions in the village itself. Moreover, College education is not possible for the students, living in such a remote area.

The above figures indicate a rising trend of educational status among the people of the Project Area.

In the School level including High School, the female percentage is also encouraging. In the Primary level the percentage of female students is 42.1 where as it increases to 51.9 in M.E. level. The percentage of female students again deteriorates to 38.2 in High School level. The percentage of female students further deteriorates to 33.3 in college level. The age of marriage for girls is normally in the range of 18-22 yrs. and this is also the College going stage. As a result, the enrolment of female students in College level comes down. But the main factors responsible for this is lack of communication facilities and absence of College level institutions in and around the Project Area. If we count all the hindrances that stands in the way of proper education, we must say that the situation is very encouraging.

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 1,773, out of which the No. of literates is estimated at 845. As a result the percentage of literacy has been worked out to be 47.6%. Out of the total 845 literates, 519 (61.4%) are males and 326 (38.5%) are females.

Table - VIII
No. of literates with educational level, population below 6 years of age and illiterates in the selected villages of the Project Area.

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	L. P		M.E.		High School		H.S.L.C Passed		HSSLC		College degree		Below 6 years		Illiterates	
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	Thongkro	33	28	17	11	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	14	108	115
2.	Mougjang	22	15	16	10	8	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	30	35
3.	Old Thingvom	44	28	25	22	20	9	2	-	2	-	-	-	16	21	30	49
4.	New Thingvom	7	4	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	4	7
5.	Simtuiluong	39	35	30	32	37	17	10	3	5	4	-	-	34	19	48	66
6.	Moulsang	12	5	4	1	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	10	12
7.	Phaipak	27	15	11	6	33	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	22	10	53	49
8.	Moulkon	15	17	7	5	4	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	9	6	20	30
9.	Solpidong	8	7	2	-	8	4	3	-	1	-	1	-	9	10	13	17
10.	Aiyaphai	19	10	13	6	7	3	3	-	1	-	-	-	7	6	7	13
		226	164	131	96	131	59	18	3	12	4	1	-	117	95	323	393

DISTRIBUTION OF CURRENT STUDENTS

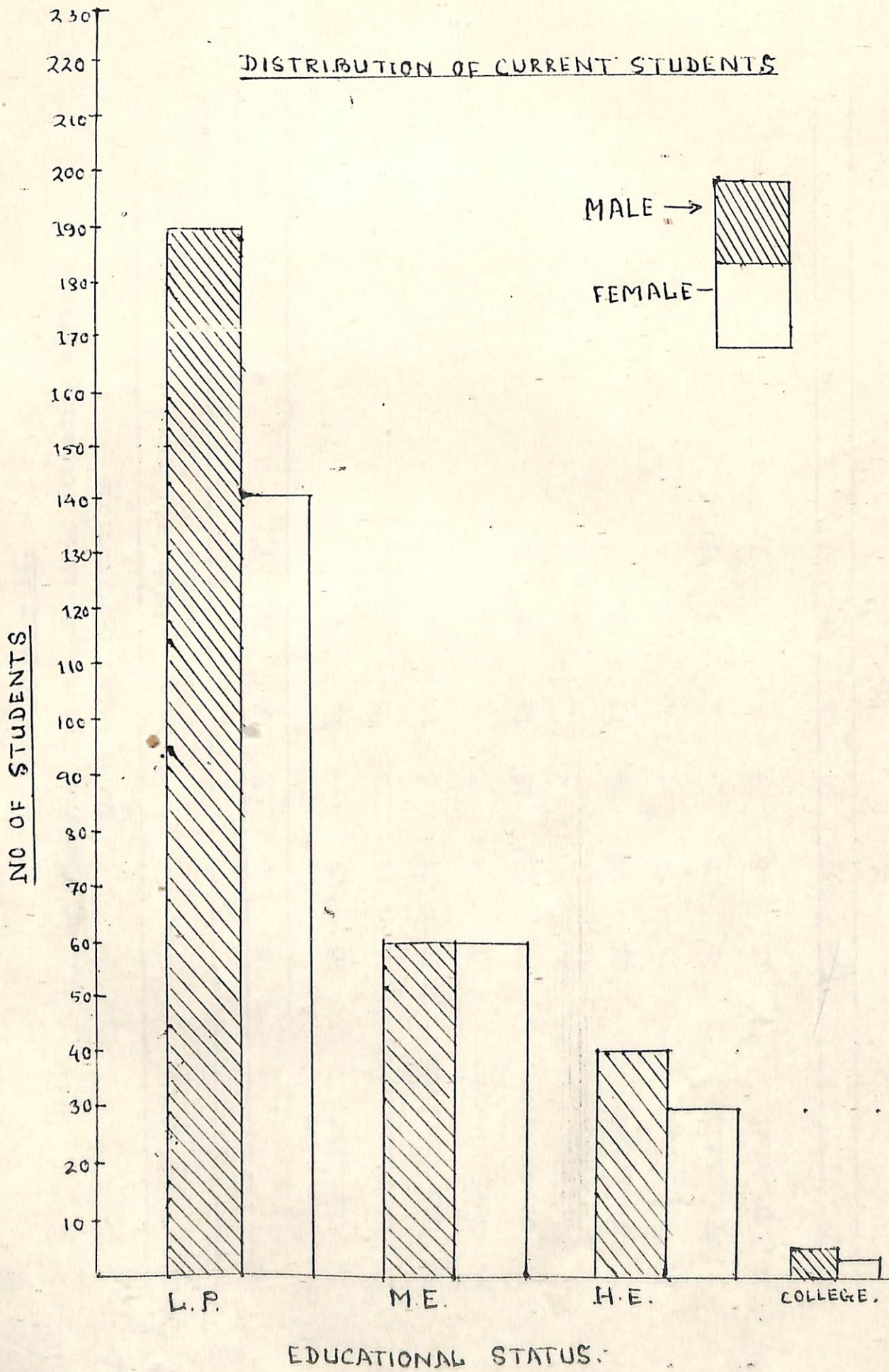


Table - IX.
No. of Students from the Villages attending various Educational Institutions

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	L. P.		M. E.		High School		H.S.S.L.C.		College Degree	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	Thongkro	25	24	9	10	2					
2.	Moungjang	16	14	6	6						
3.	Old Thingvom	32	21	5	10	8	7	1			
4.	New Thingvom	7	4	2	1						
5.	Simtuiluong	36	33	18	12	13	8	4	3		
6.	Moulsang	11	4	1	-	2	1	1	1		
7.	Phaipak	25	11	14	15	9	1				
8.	Moulkon	15	14	3	7	2	4	1			
9.	Solpidong	6	6	-	1	3	3				
10.	Aivaphai	15	6	3	4	3	3	1			
		188	137	61	66	42	27	8	4		

Contd.....25

Drop Out in Education :

Our field study reveals that most of the students of the Project Area leave school even before completion of the L.P. Standard. Altogether 21 students have dropped out from L.P. standard during 1987-88 to 1989-90. The no. of drop out from M.E. Standard is estimated at 16 Nos. during the same period of time, whereas it is 13 Nos. in case of high school standard. Quite a good number of students discontinue their studies after passing the H.S.L.C. Examination also.

The cause of drop out from L.P. Standard cannot be ascertained as every village of the Project Area having their own L.P. School. It may happen because of lack of interest of the parents towards modern education. But the cause of drop out from M.E. or, H.E. standard is suppose to be communication hindrances, as the movement from one village to another is very difficult due to the high altitude of the hills.

Drinking Water Supply :

Drinking water supply is a major problem of the selected villages. Out of selected ten villages, P.H.E. has covered only one village regarding supply of drinking water. Two villages solely depend upon katcha wells. The other villages having no such facility meet their requirement from nearby sources like nalla or river. As these villages are situated on high altitude digging of wells is not possible for them. It is observed that health hazard is less in one single village, where drinking water is used from Tap supplied by P.H.E. Department. Water borne diseases are common in the villages where water is used from Katcha wells, nallas, rivers or rivulets etc.

Marketing Facilities :

The Marketing Facilities are also not satisfactory within the Project Area. People have to walk a long distance to sell their produce and get something for their own consumption. Hazadisa and Khepre are the main markets for the people of the Project Area and thus they have to move 6 to 29 Km. for procuring the goods of daily need. There is only one grocery shop within the Project Area which is located at Simtuiluong. Besides this, there are 4/5 Nos. of Pan shops within the Project Area. But these shops which store only a few items of commodities cannot meet the day-to-day necessities of the villages. So, they have to depend upon these two weekly markets. Thus the people of the Project Area are in a disadvantageous position due to the location of the Daily/Weekly markets at a distance not easily accessible to them. Although a branch of L.A.M.P. is located at Hazadisa service offered by the unit is not so satisfactory.

The people usually purchases commodities like, salt, Kerosene, M.Oil, Clothes, etc. They use to sell commodities viz. Chilli, Ginger, Cotton, Paddy, Pork, Poultry and all other production of Jhum cultivation.

Co-Operative Societies :

The following objectives are laid down in the bye laws of Co-operative societies. It is collected from the Zonal Registrar Office, Diphu.

- I. To arrange for the sale of agricultural produce of the members to the best advantage.
- II. To advance loans to members on the security to their produce-raw or processed.

- III. To rent or own godown and processing yards to facilitate storage or sales of goods.
- IV. To process raw material belong to the members or purchased by the society.
- V. To open branches depot, saleshop and show room according to necessity in furtherance to the object under bye law.
- VI. For this purpose any existing co-operative made the branches or depots of the facility.
- VII. To undertake much other activities as may be conducive to the promotion of economic interest of members overall development of the area and objectives specified above.

From the objective mentioned above, it becomes clear that the main objective of the Co-operative societies is to give all possible helps in terms of essential commodities for the upliftment of economic condition. According to the latest report received from Zonal Registrar office of co-operative societies, Diphu, the total no. of LAMPS functioning in Karbi-Anglong and N.C. Hills are 34 and 14 respectively.

Some facts of the Hazadisa LAMPS are as follows:

Registration No.: 1 of 1981-82 dtd. 21/12/81

Share Capital : Individual : Rs. 8985

Govt. : Rs. 3,00,000

Members -

Individual : 661

Govt. 1

Managing Committee of Hazadisa LAMPS comprises 8 members, 2(two) of them as chairman and Vice-Chairman. Other 6(six) are general members, which are elected among the tribal people.

Cottage Industry :

The important cottage industries prevalent in the Project Area are mainly Weaving and Bamboo and Cane works. Almost all the families have their own traditional looms, where the womenfolk of the area weave various types of clothes with artistic designs. The raw-materials for weaving are generally collected from market. A few households use to Spin Yarns from cotton, produced in the Jhum land.

The raw-materials of bamboo and cane works are generally collected from the nearby forests. It is observed that the people of the area are not interested in taking cottage industry on commercial basis. It is perhaps because of the inconvenience of the communication to the market centres. Moreover, non-availability of ready market is one of the main cause of their unwillingness of taking weaving on commercial basis.

Of course, a few number of households has been benefited by selling bamboo and cane works. It is observed that the two tribes, the Hmar and the kuki are not habituated with rearing endi worms. But almost all the families of Thongi Kro, which is a Dimasa Kachari Village are in the habit of rearing endi worms. It is observed that a few number of families uses modern handloom instead of traditional hand-loom.

Contd.....29

CHAPTER - IV

ECONOMIC CRITERIA

Family Structure:

It is observed that out of 300 Nos. of households, 228(76%) Nos. prefer nuclear type of family. The remaining 72(24%) Nos. are joint families. Thus, the old corporate life is fast disappearing and the trend towards nuclear type is noticed.

Occupational Structure :

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of the Project Area. Out of 300 households, 247(82.3%) nos are taking agriculture as their main occupation, followed by 48(16%) Nos. households engaged in Service. Number of households taking business as primary occupation are 4(1.3%). Only one household is fully dependent upon daily wage, which is included under the 'others' category. It is significant characteristic of the Project Area. But it is a Common phenomenon in other tribal societies. It is worth mentioning that begging, keeping children as 'servants' plying thelas etc. are not found in the Project Area.

The position is shown below in the tabular form.

Main Occupational Structure

SlNo.	Main Occupation	No. of Households	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1.	Agriculture	247	82.3.
2.	Service	48	16.
3.	Business	4	1.3.
4.	Others	1	0.3.
		300	100.

From the above occupational Structure we may assume that the economic condition of the household of project area is good, although there is scope for further improvement. The reason of such assumption is that as many as 247 (82.3%) nos. of households live on certain sources of income. It should be mentioned here that households, which are dependent upon service are side by side engaged in agriculture also.

Secondary Occupation :

As regards the secondary occupation, business gets more importance as 123 (41%) Nos. of households are engaged in business as secondary source of living, followed by 'others' category, 58 Nos. (19.3%). cultivation is taken as secondary source of income by 41 Nos. (13.6%) of households. There are only 4(1.3%) nos. of households who are accepting service as secondary occupation.

The occupational structure given below indicates that quite a good number of households has 'others' as the secondary occupation, which includes mainly the Daily wage and income from piggery and poultry. It is 58 households in number, which accounts for 19.3%. It is already mentioned in this Chapter that begging, keeping children as servants, plying thelas etc. are not found in the selected ten villages of the Project Area. It is also observed that some of the households of the Project Area has no other alternative source of income, but to depend upon the main occupation. The position is shown below in the tabular form.

Secondary Occupational Structure

Sl.No.	Secondary Occupation	No. of Households	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1.	Business	123	41
2.	Others	58	19.3
3.	Cultivation	41	13.6
4.	Service	4	1.3
		226	75.2

From the above secondary occupational structure we may roughly say that 24.8% of total households has no any other alternative source of income, but to depend upon the main occupation. The secondary occupational structure also reveals that though majority of the households are taking cultivation as their main occupation, they are not in a position to maintain their families without resorting to some of the secondary occupations.

Land Holding Pattern :

The land holding pattern of the two Hill Districts is very difficult to analyse, particularly because of the nature of cultivation. Majority of households are engaged in shifting cultivation, area of which may vary from year to year. Moreover cadastral survey is not regular within these two districts. Even all the plain areas of the two districts are not covered by cadastral survey. So, it is not possible to have correct data of land holding pattern of the two hill districts of Assam.

Here we shall try to analyse the land holding pattern of the selected ten villages with the help of data we received from the socio-economic survey.

Table - X
Land holding pattern of households

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50 Bt- & ab- ghas	Total H-hold land
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Thongkro	3	18	22	18	2	5			2			70
2.	Mougjang	1	8	5	6		1						21
3.	Oldthingvon	3	12	18	7	2		1			1		44
4.	Newthingvon			3	2		1						6
5.	Simtuiluong	10	22	19	8	2	1						62
6.	Muolsang		1	2	2	1	1		1			1	9
7.	Phaipak	6	10	14	2			1		1			34
8.	Moulkon		2	2	5	4	1						24
9.	Solpidong	6	14	5	1	1							17
10.	Aivaphai	1	5	3	2	2							13
		30	82	103	53	14	10	2	1	3	1	1	300
	Percentage	10	27.3	34.3	17.6	4.6	3.3	0.6	0.3	1	0.3	0.3	

From the Table-X it is evident that 30 Nos. of households fall within the category 0-5 bighas, which accounts for 10% of the total households. 82(27.3%) Nos. and 103 (34.3%) nos. of households fall within the category of 5-10 bighas and '10-15' bighas respectively. Again in the category '15-20' bighas and 20-25 bighas there are only 53 (17.6%) and 14(4.6%) households only 10(3.3%) households fall within the category of 25-30 bighas. 2 Nos. and 3 nos. of households are categorised within 30-35 bighas and 40-45 bighas which accounts for 0.6% and 1% only. Other 3 households separately from each other fall within the category '35-40' and 50 or above bighas respectively, percentage being 0.3.

Contd.....34

LAND DISTRIBUTION (IN BIGHAS)

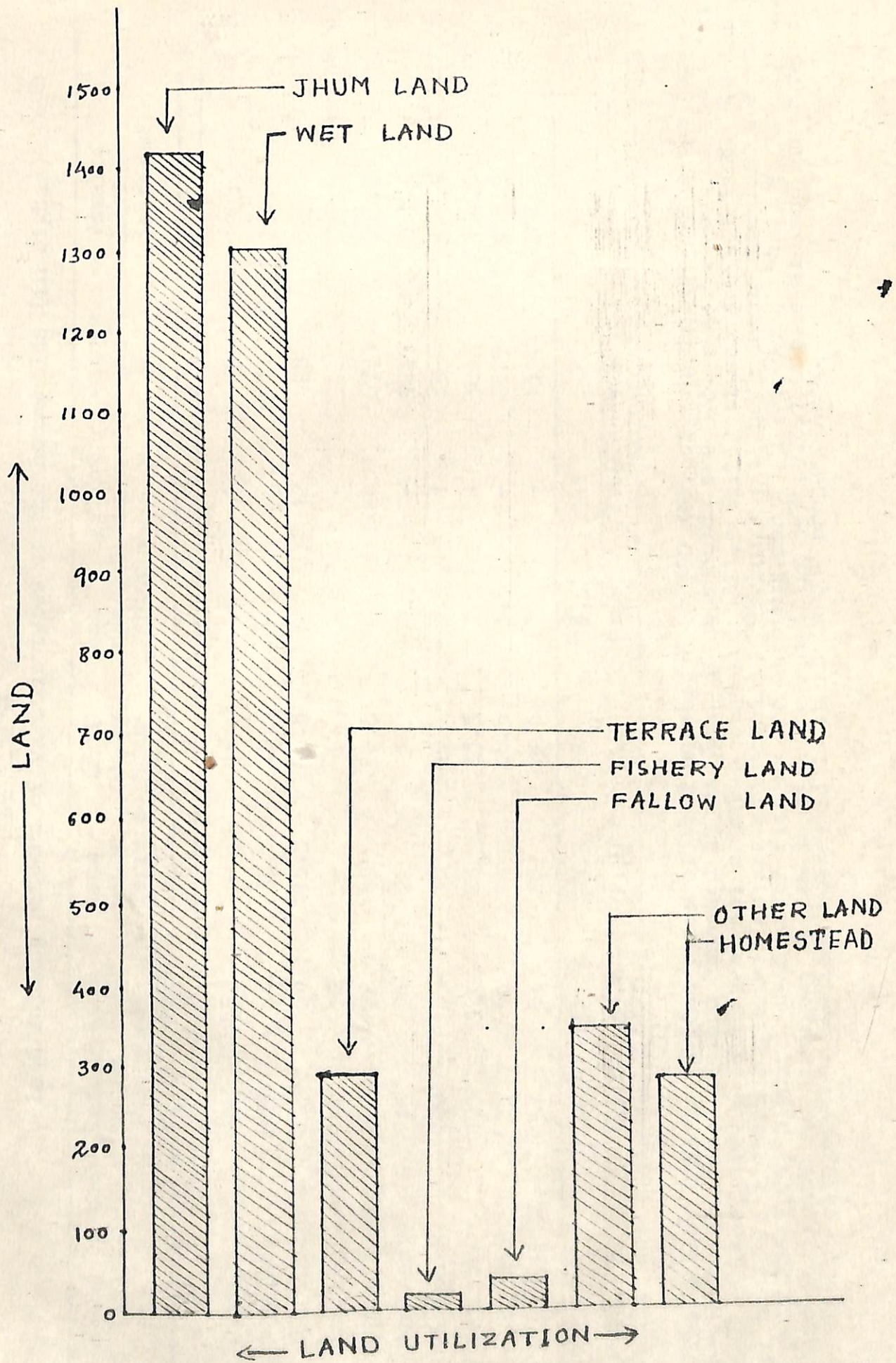


Table - XI

Land holding pattern of various types of the households (in bighas)

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Land under jhum cult.	Land under wet cult.	Land under Terrace Cult.	Land under home-stead	Land under fishing	Fallow land	Others	Total of land passed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Thongi Kro	365	542	-	46	-	4	46	1003
2.	Mougjang	106	78	32	26.5	-	-	12	254.5
3.	Old Thingvom	213	130	115.5	46.5	-	12	28	545
4.	New Thingvom	35	50	-	9	-	-	2	96
5.	Simtuiluong	249	158.5	49	58.5	-	24	67.5	606.5
6.	Muolsang	15	24	27	7	3.5	-	12.7	203.5
7.	Phaiphak	200	99	15	40	2.5	1	13	370.5
8.	Moukton	151	126	23	23.5	1	-	30	354.5
9.	Solpidong	33	61	14	16.5	3.5	-	8.5	136.5
10.	Aivaphai	57.5	53	20	14.5	3	-	13	161
		1424.5	1321.5	295.5	288	13.5	41	347	3731
	P.C.	38.18	35.4	7.9	7.7	0.36	1.09	9.3	

The table XI shows various types of land possessed by 300 Nos. of households. From the table it become clear that total area of land possessed by 300 Nos. of households are 3731 bighas. Out of the total 3731 bighas of land, 1424.5 (38.18%) bighas are jhum land and 1321.5 (35.4%) bighas are wet land. On the other hand under terrace cultivation are estimated at 295.5 (7.9%) bighas. Again the land for home-stead are only 288 (7.7%) bighas. Land under fishery are accounts for 13.5 (0.36%) bighas. 41 (1.09%) bighas of land fall under the category fallow land'. The remaining 347 (9.3%) bighas of land are covered by the 'others' category. No. landless household is found in the project Area.

If we divide the total area of land in possession i.e. 3731 bighas by 300 Nos. of households we found the area of land per household is 12.4 bighas. But if we calculate the total area of land in percapita it becomes only 2.1 bighas. Again, if we divide the total area of land under cultivation i.e. 3041.5 by the total Nos. of households, we found 10.1 bighas which is not a bad condition. Above table further reveals that the area of wet land is not so small compared to the area of jhum land whereas the area of jhum land is estimated as 1424.5(38.18%) bighas, the area of wet land is 1321.5(35.4%) bighas. If we add 295.5 bighas of land falling under terrace cultivation with that of the area of wet land, it becomes 1617 bighas which accounts for 43.3% of the total area of land. It is also observed that out of 3041.5 bighas cultivable land, only 10 bighas are given to Adhi. But it is a common phenomenon in some other parts of the District.

It is not possible to have a clear picture of the total area of land according to revenue payment. People of hilly areas do not pay revenue for jhum land again they are not habituated either in paying revenue regularly or keeping any past record, as regards the payment of revenue. Moreover cadastral survey is not carried out regularly in the hilly areas of the two districts. Because of these difficulties it is not possible to have a clear picture of the total areas of land according to revenue payment. Ofcourse all of them pays Rs. 5.00 (five) as house tax for their homestead. Out of the total 3731 bighas of land only 7 bighas are having periodic patta. Again 1343.5 bighas possesses Annual Patta. The rest of the total land does not have any type of patta. Thus 2,380.5 bighas are without revenue paid land.

Area Under Crop :

There are altogether 3041.5 bighas^{or} agricultural land in the selected ten villages, of which 1424.5 bighas are jhum, 1321.5 bighas are wet, and 295.5 bighas are terrace land. In case of wet and terrace cultivation, demarcation of the plot of land is possible. But jhum land cannot be demarcated cropwise as seeds of various crops are broadcast simultaneously on the same plot of land. It is an important feature of jhum cultivation. In Table XII an attempt is made to present the area of land under various crops in jhum cultivation.

Table - XII

Area of Jhum Land Under Major Crops.

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Area under (in Bigha)					Vegetable	Total cropped area (bigha)
		Paddy	Maize	Sesame	Ginger			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Thangi Kro	175	35	25	50	80	365	
2.	Moujjang	65	10	10	15	10	110	
3.	Old Thingvom	113	20	20	25	25	203	
4.	New Thingvom	20	5	5.5	5	5	40.5	
5.	Simtuilung	109	35	25	35	35	239	
6.	Moulsang	7	3	10	3	5	28	
7.	Phaiphak	110	20	25	35	10	200	
8.	Moulkon	85	15	13	20	16	149	
9.	Solpidong	15	5	3	5	5	33	
10.	Aivaphai	32	7	8	5	5	57	
		731	155	144.5	198	196	1424.5	
P.C.		50.6	10.7	10.1	13.7	13.5		

Above table reveals that, out of 1424 bighas of total jhum land, paddy is practised in 731(50.6) bighas. Thus the

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table shows that paddy is practised almost in half of the total jhum land. Ofcourse cultivation of Maize, sesame, Ginger or vegetable may be practised along with paddy also. The area of land covered by Maize, sesame, Ginger and vegetable separately are 155 (10.7%), 144 (10.1%), 198(13.7%) and 196(13.5%) bighas respectively.

Table - XIII

Area of Land under major crops in Settled cultivation

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Area of Land (in Bigha)				Total Cropped Land (Bigha)
		Paddy	Mustard	Sesame	other	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Thongi Kro	297	100	100	45	542
2.	Mouljang	40	15	13	10	78
3.	Old Thingvom	65	25	20	20	130
4.	New Thingvom	25	15	15	5	60
5.	Simtuilung	63	40	40	15	158
6.	Moulsang	14	5	5	5	29
7.	Phaiphak	59	10	10	20	99
8.	Moulkon	96	10	10	10	126
9.	Solpidong	31	10	10	10	61
10.	Aivaphai	33	5	5	10	53
		723	235	228	150	1336
P.C.		54.1%	17.5%	17.06%	11.2%	

Table XIII shows the area of settled cultivation under major crops. It reveals that out of 1336 bighas of total settled cultivation, paddy is practised in 723(54.1%) bighas. Cultivation of mustard and sesame is practised in 235(17.5%) and 228 (17.06%) bighas respectively. Others' category covers 150(11.2%) bighas of land, which includes generally cultivation of Cotton, Vegetables etc. Maize is not practised in settled cultivation as it generally practised in jhum land along with paddy.

Table - XIV

Production & Value of Major Crops In quantity in bigha (land)

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	J H U M C U L T I V A T I O N														
		PADRY			MAIZE			SESAME			GINZER			VEGETABLE		
		Land	Qty.	vlaue	Land	Qty.	value	land	qnt.	value	land	Qty.	value	land	qnty.	value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Thongikro	175	360	1,80,000	35	100	20,000	25	40	24000	50	100	10000	80	200	10000
2.	Mouljang	65	100	40,000	10	30	6,000	10	20	18000	15	50	10000	10	50	10000
3.	Old Thingvom	113	450	90,000	20	60	12000	30	50	30000	25	65	6500	25	80	32000
4.	New Thingvom	20	75	15000	5	25	5000	5	15	9000	5	25	2000	5	20	5000
5.	Simtuilung	109	500	100000	35	120	24000	35	75	45000	35	150	22000	35	100	30000
6.	Mouljang	7	40	8000	3	20	4000	4	10	6000	3	30	6000	5	20	9000
7.	Phaiphak	110	400	80000	20	30	4000	25	30	18000	35	70	14000	10	20	4000
8.	Moulkon	85	310	62000	15	50	12000	15	30	18000	20	60	12000	16	20	5000
9.	Solpidong	15	70	14000	5	20	4000	5	10	6000	5	25	5000	5	20	4000
10.	Aivaphai	32	125	25000	7	30	6000	8	15	9000	5	25	4000	5	15	3000
		731	2430	614000	155	485	97000	162	295	183000	198	600	91500	196	525	112000

Table - XV

Production And Value of Major Crops.

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Total land	SETTLED CULTIVATION											
			Paddy			Mustard			Sesame			Other		
			Land	Qnty	Value	Land	Qnty	Value	Land	Qnty	Value	Land	Qnty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Thongikro	542	297	600	3,60,000	100	40	24,000	100	45	27,000	45	85	32,020
2.	Mouljang	78	40	100	40,000	15	25	15,000	13	30	18,000	10	30	13,040
3.	Old Thingvon	130	65	390	78,000	25	40	24,000	20	40	24,000	20	75	21,845
4.	New Thingvom	60	25	120	24,000	15	10	6,000	15	10	6,000	5	10	1,300
5.	Simtuiluong	158	63	475	95,000	40	35	21,000	40	35	21,000	15	35	7,925
6.	Mofljang	29	14	72	14,400	5	15	9,000	5	15	9,000	5	30	6,150
7.	Phaiphak	99	59	200	40,000	10	20	12,000	10	20	12,000	20	80	16,620
8.	Moulkon	126	96	300	60,000	10	20	12,000	10	20	12,000	10	25	3,660
9.	Solpidong	61	31	175	35,000	10	15	9,000	10	15	9,000	10	20	3,850
10.	Aivaphai	53	33	125	25,000	5	10	6,000	5	10	6,000	10	15	2,090
		1336	723	2557	7,71,400	235	230	138,000	228	240	144,000	150	405	1,08,500

Table XIV and XV shows the production and value of major crops grown in jhum land and wet land respectively. Area of settled cultivation includes the area of wet cultivation along with the area of terrace cultivation. From these two tables we can easily find out the total production and approximate value of each crop. The total production of paddy in both the cultivation is 498700 (243000 in jhum cultivation and 255700 in settled cultivation), value of which is estimated at Rs. 13,85,400. It is found that the rate of production of paddy from jhum land is 3.300 per bigha whereas it is 3.500 in case of settled cultivation. It is very significant as we assume that the production from jhum cultivation is generally low, compared to wet cultivation. Ofcourse the yeild from wet paddy cultivation is also low. It may happen because of the lack of irrigation facilities within the Project Area. The total production of Maize from jhum cultivation is 48500 value of which is estimated at 97,000. Maize is not practised separately. So, we donot show it under settled cultivation sesame is practised in 390 bighas for both cultivation, quantity and value of which is estimated together together at 53500 and Rs. 3,27,000. 24000 of sesame are produced from jhumland, whereas 29500 are produced from settled cultivation. Mustard is generally practised under settled cultivation. The total production of Mustard is 23000 value of which is Rs. 1,38,000. Total quantity of ginger produced in jhum land is 6000 value of which is Rs. 91,500. Total production of vegetables produced in jhum land is 52500 value of which is estimated at Rs. 1,12,000. The production of other catagory which comprises cotton, vegetables etc. are estimated at 40500, value of which is Rs. 1,08,500.

Fishery :

The role of fishery is very negligible within the project Area. Only 12 Nos. of households are engaged in rearing fishes. Type of Fishery is like tank, which covers 13.5 bighas of land. It is 0.36% of the total land of the Project Area. No, other type of fisheries are found. The small rivulets, which enriches the Project Area cannot be considered as natural fisheries.

Live Stock :

The people of the Project Area are in the habit of possessing domestic animals like Pig, Bullock, Cow, Buffalo, Goat and Birds like Fowl, Duck etc. Bullock and Buffalo are kept mainly for cultivation. Like other tribal people they are also not in the habit of rearing cows only for getting milk. Ofcourse there are some exception. Piggery and poultry are reared mainly for domestic purpose. A small portion of it are sold in the market. Generally Piggery is sold in the form of pork. Again poultry and piggery are reared for worshipping also. Table-XVI shows a clear picture of the live stock reared by the people of the Project Area.

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Table - XVI
Distribution of Livestock Population.

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	NAME OF THE LIVESTOCK										Loan & Asstt.			
		Bull	Cow	He Buff	She Buff	He Goat	She Goat	Sheep	Fowl	Pig-eon	Duck	Pig	Total	Assistance	Production
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Thongikro	94	17	33	83	96	96		1066	-	-	242	1727	-	-
2.	Mongjang	36	22	19	6	1	2		225			64	375		
3.	Old Thingvom	15	31	27	43	11	11		765			153	1056		
4.	New Thingvom	4	4	2	3				65			25	103		
5.	Simtuilung	31	51	21	26	7	10		861		2	69	1078	600	
6.	Moulsang	3	1	8	8	2			125			20	167		
7.	Paiphak	13	26	8	10	7	7		613		1	86	771		
8.	Moulkon	6	16	14	9	5	8		310		6	76	450		
9.	Solpidong	9	19	3	4	2	2		229			51	319		
10.	Aivaphai	1	6	8	14				294			58	381		
		221	193	143	206	131	136		4553		9	844	6427	600	
Percentage															

Table XVI reveals that out of the total 6427 nos. of live-stock, 4553 are poultry, percentage being 70.8, followed by piggery 844(13.1). Again quite a good portion of the total livestock constitutes Buffalo i.e. 349(5.4%). On the other hand, the nos. of cattle are found to be 672(10.4%). Percentage of Bull & Cow together (6.3) and Goat 267(4.1) respectively.

Table -XVII
Distribution of Households according to Possession
of Live stock.

Sl. No.	Name of Village	No. of Households							
		Total No. of House-Holds	Bull	Cow	Buff-alo	Goat	Duck	Pig	Fowl
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Thangikro	70	41	12	44	47	-	62	68
2.	Mougjong	21	12	6	11	1	-	21	21
3.	Old Thingvom	44	9	12	28	7	-	42	44
4.	New Thingvom	6	1	2	3	-	-	6	6
5.	Simtuilung	62	12	25	25	9	2	33	62
6.	Moulsang	9	2	1	8	1	-	8	8
7.	Phaiphak	34	10	18	10	3	1	31	34
8.	Moulkon	24	3	9	9	2	1	23	24
9.	Solpidong	17	5	7	3	3	-	16	17
10.	Aivaphai	13	1	4	10	-	-	13	13
		300	96	93	151	73	4	255	297
Percentage			32	31	50.3	24.3	1.3	85	99

Above Table reveals that almost all the households of the Project Area are in the habit of rearing poultry. It is 297 households, which accounts for 99% of the total households. Rearing of Duckery is being practised by only 4(1.3%) Nos. of households. Again, rearing of piggery is being practised by majority of the households, which are estimated at 255 (85%), whereas the No. of households, rearing of Goaterly are 73(24.3%). Rearing of Bull & cow are being practised by 96 and 93 households, percentage being 32 and 31 respectively on the otherhand Buffalo is being practised by 151 households, which accounts for 50.3%.

Household properties :

Life style of the people of the Project Area is very simple. Majority of the households does not possess any kind of modern wealth. One single village viz. Simtuiluong is in a better position from all sides compared to other villages. Ofcourse, it is correct that all the people of the Project Area are very conscious about the day-to-day happenings of the modern world.

The list of the main properties possessed by the households of the Project Area are furnished below :-

Bicycle - 34 ; Radio - 104; Watch - 84 ; Tap - 7;
Gun - 133, Plough - 209.

The other properties which are possessed by a few number of households are -

Musical instruments - 5; Fishing implements - 13

It is observed that People are hesitant to disclose their property possession, specially in case of possession of Jewellery.

Living Houses:

Out of the total nos. of 452 houses, 239 are pile-dwelling, which are built on wooden planks. It is accounted for 52.8% of the total houses. Again thatched and Katcha A.T. are found to be 107 and 102, percentage being 23.6 and 22.5 respectively. Only 4 Nos. of houses are found to be Pucca A.T. No. R.C.C. Type house is noticed.

Annual Income:

In the beginning it is worth mentioning that Annual Income of the households are calculated on the basis of verbal statements of the respondents as they are not habituated in keeping their Annual Income and expenditure accounts. So, it may not give a accurate picture of the economic condition of the people concerned.

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

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Land	Cattle	Poultry	Fishery	Cottage Industry	Trade Commerce	Paid Employment	Piggery	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Thongkro	6,87,020	64,250	41,400	600	1,16,000	42,800	53,300	58,050	10,63,420	
2	Moungjang	1,70,040	16,000	8,205	..	31,000	38,500	39,300	20,100	3,23,140	
3	Oldthingvom	3,18,345	42,500	27,400	400	65,200	1,47,660	58,200	61,750	7,21,455	
4	Newthingvom	73,300	3,000	2,300	200	12,800	-	7,500	19,500	1,18,600	
5	Simtuilung	3,65,925	44,650	28,650	1,000	1,09,800	2,01,000	38,100	192,700	9,81,775	
6	Moulsang	71,550	6,000	3,600	500	18,000	-	5,000	3,400	1,08,050	
7	Phiphak	2,00,620	23,000	14,950	5,000	52,000	18,500	38,000	154,420	5,06,490	
8	Muolkon	1,96,660	7,500	10,200	-	30,500	4,500	34,000	61,500	3,44,960	
9	Solpidong	89,850	11,500	6,400	400	28,500	41,500	28,000	31,500	2,37,650	
10	Aivaphai	86,090	9,000	6,600	2,700	16,700	16,500	15,200	73,510	2,26,300	
Percentage		48.7	4.9	3.2	0.2	10.3	11.03	6.8	14.6		
		22,59,400	2,27,350	1,49,700	10,800	4,80,500	5,10,960	316,600	76,430	46,31,740	

It is evident from the table XVIII that a major portion of the total income comes from land i.e. cultivation. It is estimated at 22,59,400, which accounts for 48.7% of the total income. Other three major heads of Annual Income are paid employment including daily wage, Trade and Commerce & Piggery, which are estimated at 5,10,960 (11.03%), 4,80,500 (10.3%) and 3,16,600 (6.8%) respectively. On the other hand quite a good portion of the Annual Income comes from Cattle, (2,27,350) and Poultry (1,49,700), percentage being 4.9 and 3.2 respectively. A small amount is received from Cottage industry, which is estimated at 10,800 (0.2%). Another major head i.e. others' comprises 6,76,430 (14.6%) of the Gross Annual Income. Analysis of the table clearly indicates that agriculture is the backbone of the Project Area. For family maintenance and other purposes they mainly depend upon agriculture. Ofcourse other sources of income are also not negligible. These sources of income helps them in proper maintenance of the family.

Annual Expenditure :

Like Annual income, Annual Expenditure of the households are also collected on the basis of verbal statements of the respondents.

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Table - XIX

Average annual expenditure of the households (in Rs.)

Sl. NO.	Name of the Village	No. of house hold	Food	Dress & Ornament	Educa-tion	Medical	Beverage	Tabacoo	Betel nut	Travell- ing inclu- ding trans- port cost	Land Revenu
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Thongikro	70	569000	47810	11300	12675	12902	13180	13650	21960	890
2.	Mougjang	21	206000	41000	12300	4800		3450	3100	5800	157
3.	Old Thingvom	44	397800	59650	17500	9750	1000	9750	5500	11500	320
4.	New Thingvom	6	53,500	6200	2700	1500	700	1250	1000	1600	41
5.	Sintuiluong	62	563500	96700	47400	13450	13500	9850	9750	19450	392
6.	Moulsang	9	61700	7550	2350	300	350	1600	1350	2250	115.50
7.	Phaiphak	34	29800	3200	13400	5650	400	5450	5650	8900	214
8.	Moulkon	24	191300	30850	81100	5180	1150	4100	4150	4700	106
9.	Solpidong	17	148300	20800	4750	3300	600	2600	2850	4000	92
10.	Aivaphai	13	120000	17650	8700	3150	600	2200	2300	3350	104
		300	2310900	331410	201500	59755	31202	53430	49300	83510	2431.5
	P.C.		58.2	8.3	5.09	1.50	0.78	1.34	1.27	2.10	0.06

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Contd. Table XIX.

	Festivals & ceremonies	Other so- cial obli- gation	Uttensil	Radio	Watch	Bi-Cycle	Television	Amusement
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1. Thongikro	36,020		8,820	6,450	400	1,600	Nil	11,780
2. Mougjang	4,100	3,600	4,400					3,300
3. Old Thingvom	13,100	4,250	5,400	1,500	2,900			7,400
4. New Thingvom	2,100	200	300		400		Nil	1,050
5. Sintuiliuong	19,750	7,150	7,600	3,700	4,000			12,200
6. Moulsang	3,050	1,050	1,900		300			1,000
7. Phaiphak	10,850	1,200	6,650	600	1,600			5,000
8. Moulkon	7,250	4,350	4,450		400		Nil	2,650
9. Solpidong	4,400	1,450	2,850	500	1,700			2,700
10. Aivaphai	4,350	1,400	3,750	900	700			2,100
	1,14,970	24,650	46,120	13,650	12,400	1,600		49,180
P.C.	2.64	0.62	1.16	0.344	0.312	0.04		1.24

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Contd. Table -XIX

	Residential Buildings	Furniture	Litti- gation	Kerosine	Toilet	Pur- chase of land	Any other	Total Expen- diture	Per capita household expenditure
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1. Thongikro	78,980	12,900	100	25,490	10,320		14,790	9,10,017	13,014.5
2. Mougjang	12,200	900		6,050	3,200		11,450	3,25,807	15,514.6
3. Old Thingvom	40,950	4,100		14,000	6,050		19,600	6,32,020	14,364.09
4. New Thingvom	2,250	500		1,850	850		3,250	81,241	13,540.1
5. Simtuiluong	55,450	12,350		18,750	8,600		40,950	9,64,492	15,556.3
6. Moulsang	8,250	1,250		2,850	1,400		4,450	1,03,065.5	11,451.7
7. Phaipak	28,050	6,550		11,600	4,950		7,650	1,57,364	4,628.3
8. Moulkon	16,850	2,300		7,350	3,200		19,250	3,90,686	16,278.5
9. Solpidong	13,500	1,650		5,050	2,200		7,900	2,01,192	11,834.8
10. Aivaphai	11,050	1,950		4,100	1,800		7,200	1,97,354	15,181.07
	2,67,530	44,450	100	97,090	42,570		1,36,490	39,64,238.5	
P.C.	6.74	1.12	0.003	2.44	1.07		3.44		

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From the Table XIX we found that total amount of expenditure of the selected ten villages ^{is} are Rs. 39,64,238.5 out of the total expenditure 23,10,900 are spend on food items, which accounts for 85.2% of the total expenditure other major heads of expenditure are Dress and ornaments, Education, Residential Building, Travelling and Kerosine etc. The amounts along with its percentages are shown below:

Dress and ornaments - 3,31,410 (8.3), Education-2,01,500 (5.08), Residentail building - 2,67,530 (6.7) Travelling- 83,510 (2.1) and Kerosene - 97,090 (2.4). The people of the Project Area spends Rs. 59,755 which accounts for 1.5% of the total expenditure for treatment of disease. Again the amount of expenditure in relation to Beverage is estimated at 31,202 (0.7%). On the otherhand the amount of expenditure on betelnut and Tobacco are estimated together at 1,02,730 which accounts for 2.5%, Land revenue covers a small amount of total expenditure i.e. 2431.5 (0.6%). Expenditure on amusement, furniture, litigation and toilet also does not constitute a big amount, It is estimated together at 1,36,300, percentage being 3.4. Rs. 1,36,496 are spent under 'anyother' catagory, which is worked out to be 3.4% of the total expenditure. On the whole, the average annual expenditure of a household is found to be 13,214.1. We have already estimated the average Annual Income of a household at 15,439.1. Thus every household possesses a surplus budget of Rs. 2,225.

TABLE - XX

Extent of Indebtedness in the Project Area.

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Total House-holds	No. of House-holds having Debts	No. of House-holds without Debts	Rural Bank	Amount of Loan alongwith source (Amount)Rs.				Amount of Loan
						Village people/Cash	Mohajan Kind	Shopkeeper Cash	Shopkeeper kind	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Thongikro	70	12	68	-	-	-	14,104.00	-	14,104.00
2.	Mougjang	21	5	16	-	4,600.00	-	-	-	4,600.00
3.	Old Thingvom	44	3	41	-	1,700.00	-	3,000.00	-	4,700.00
4.	New Thinjvom	6	1	5	-	1,400.00	-	-	-	1,400.00
5.	Simtuiluong	62	12	50	-	13,715.00	-	-	-	13,715.00
6.	Muolsang	9	2	7	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000.00
7.	Phaiphak	34	5	29	-	-	-	6,200.00	-	6,200.00
8.	Muolkon	24	4	20	3,000	-	-	5,000.00	-	8,000.00
9.	Solpidong	17	3	14	3,000	-	2,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
10.	Aivaphai	13	4	9	12,000	-	-	-	-	12,000.00
		300	51	249	29,000	21,415.00	2,000.00	28,304.00	-	80,719.00

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Table -XX reveals that the people of the selected ten villages are compelled to take debt from different sources. Out of 300 nos of households 51 nos are taking loans from different sources which accounts for 80,719. The table also shows that they take loan mainly for the purpose of family maintenance and agricultural activities. The table further indicates that the people of the concerned area generally approaches the nearby rural Bank for loan, which constitutes 29,000 (35.9%) of the total debt. Other two main sources of debt are Mahajan and Shop-keeper, which constitutes 21,415 (26.5%) and 28,304 (35.06%) respectively. The rate of interest is 9% per annum in case of Bank loan. The rate of interest is much higher in case of other sources of loan. Generally people has to pay 8% to 15% per annum in case of loan taken from Shop-keeper. Thus it varies from Source to Source. The Mahajans generally takes a very high rate of interest which varies from 20% to 50% per annum. In some cases, the traditional rule is such that the debtor has to pay a fixed amount of jhum product to the creditor Mahajan after the harvesting period. Before the contract is made, the principal amount and interest there of is calculated in terms of jhum product, which may be in the form of Mustard, Paddy, Singer etc. The average debt per household are estimated at 269.06. On the other hand the average debt per indebted household are worked out to be 1,582.7.

Over all Budget :

As already estimated the Annual Income and expenditure of 300 Nos. ^{of} households are 46,31,740 and 39,64,238.5 respectively, all the households together possess ~~as~~ a surplus budget of Rs. 6,67,502.5. Moreover, the average Annual Income and expenditure of a household are found to be 15,439.1 and 13,214.1 respectively. Thus every household possesses a Surplus budget of Rs. 2,225.

It was also seen from the tabulation report of all the households that only 10 households are living below the poverty line (Rs. 6,600 per annum). Ofcourse quite a good number of households are living just above the poverty level.

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CHAPTER - V
CHANGING TRENDS

The Socio-economic changes which have taken place all over the world, touched the daily life of the Digerkuki Area also. Changing trends are noticed in every aspect of their livelihood. The old joint family structure is fast disappearing causing an increase in nuclear type of families. It is observed that, in the Project Area out of 300 Nos. of households, 228 (76%) prefer nuclear type of family, while only 72(24%) Nos. like joint families. Another change is noticed in respect of Dresses and ornaments. Style of wearing, designing etc. are fast changing in this tribal society. The young boys are not interested in their traditional dresses. They use to wear long pants and shirts of latest design, alongwith all other colourful clothes. The young girls has been attracted by modern design of ornaments instead of their traditional designs. Thus it can be said that the traditional dresses are confined to the women only. Changes also taken place in respect of using utensils. Even changes has taken place in case of cooking different items of foodstuff. In respect of health they are more interested with modern ~~met~~ method of treatment than their traditional method.. In fact it can be said that they are fully dependent upon modern method of treatment. Another significant change occurred in respect of drinking habit. They have given up drinking habits. A few of them are in the habit of using drinks, though it is not socially accepted. But it is a common

characteristic of other tribal societies. It is clearly seen even in Thongikro village, which is a part of our study. It is the most significant change that has taken place in this area.

It is interesting to note that where almost every aspect of their livelihood is fast changing no change is noticed in respect of making residential houses. The traditional Pile-dwelling houses are still a part and parcel of their life-style.

In conclusion, it can be said that their whole attitude towards life has undergone a change. Moral ethics like hospitality courtesy etc. which are fast disappearing in most of the educated society, are found among these tribes.

Impact of Christianity .

The role played by Missioneries during the past years for creating a healthy atmosphere for all round development of the Digerkuki area cannot be minimised. Impact of Christianity is found in all aspects of their life. Before analysing the impact of Christianity upon the tribal people of the Project area, we should not forget that they came here as Evangelists. But people who came as Evangelists from a distance of thousand miles did not restrict themselves to Christianity only. We have observed from our field study that though majority of the people of the selected villages are not formally educated through educational institutions, almost every people can read and write English.

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In fact the people have acquired preliminary knowledge of English language. It is because of the initiative taken by the missioneries through the church they established in every village in the Project Area. Preliminary knowledge of English language is taught in each church at the time of prayer almost every evening. We are practically experienced that the people of the area has acquired hospitability courtesy etc. in the real form, which are fast disappearing in majority of the educated societies. It is not doubt, possible because of the Christianity.

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CHAPTER - VI.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In this project report we have tried to present a clear picture of the Digerkuki Mini compact Area of Maibong sub-division regarding all relevant aspects viz. demographic status, age and sexwise distribution of population, infrastructural facilities, life style of the population, land holding pattern annual income and expenditure etc.

Before giving a final shape to the project report we have analysed the data in various chapters in tabular form.

In the first introductory Chapter we have tried to present a picture of the chequered history of N.C. Hills District along with ethnographic note of the tribes and methodology.

In the second chapter i.e. in Demographic profile we have shown the distribution of villages by size of population (Table-II) and the distribution of population according to age group (Table-III).

In the third Chapter, an attempt is made to focus light upon the infrastructural facilities available within the Project Area. Educational facilities, starting from L.P. level to college level, transport facilities including railway facilities, post & Telegraph facilities, medical facilities etc. all are discussed in detail, with necessary data collected during investigation in the month of January, 1991.

In the fourth Chapter an attempt is made to focus light upon the economic condition of the people concerned.

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Firstly, we have shown the family structure of the Project Area. Then we have discussed about the occupational structure, followed by possession of livestock of the Project Area. Lastly, we have tried to give a birds eye-view of annual income and expenditure of the households of Project Area. We have devoted a page upon the extent of indebtedness also.

In the fifth Chapter an attempt is made to bring into focus certain changes that have taken place among the people of the Project Area. Considering the impact of Christianity upon the socio-economic conditions of the people of Digerkuki area we have written a page on this aspect also.

Suggestions :

The aim of the Digerkuki Mini compact Area project is to uplift the economic condition of the people living within the Project area by establishing them through permanent cultivation in place of jhum cultivation. But to start any such developmental phase, infrastructural facilities are to be available within the area.

1. First of all communication facilities are to be improved. People of the project area have to face much difficulties in getting civic and educational facilities due to communication bottlenecks. The process of a country's economy depends on the extent of the availability of a good system of transport. So, to create a congenial atmosphere, communication facilities must be improved first. People of the project area will be benefited much if the buses ply on the existing motorable road up to simtuiluong in a regular manner, after proper construction of the road. There is no bridge over the Langting river, for which vehicular movement is not possible during

rainy season. So, a bridge over Langting is to be constructed first, which will benefit 8 nos. of villages.

Again if the construction work of the knepre-Old Thingvom gravelled road (Length 12 Km), is done within a fixed period of time, which is not yet completed, two villages of the Project Area will be benefited much. It was seen that 4/5 nos. of culverts have already been damaged, which require reconstruction immediately.

2. Educational facilities are also not satisfactory within the Project Area. Almost all the villages are having their primary schools. But for high school study students have to move to Simtuiluong or Nablaidisa, which is far away from the other villages. So, it is to be considered, whether educational facilities upto H.S.L.C. level may be provided within the village itself. College education is almost difficult for students living in such a remote area. Education is the back bone of modern civilization. Hence all steps should be taken to establish educational institutions in and around the Project Area so that the students can derive proper benefits out of educational institutions.

3. We have already found that majority of the households (82.3%) are taking cultivation as their Primary occupation. Again out of the total 3041.5 bighas of cultivable land, 1424.5 bighas are jhum, 1321.5 bighas are wet and 295.5 bighas are terrace land. It becomes clear from these figures that people of the Project Area are not fully dependent upon jhum cultivation. To some extent they are dependent upon wet and terrace cultivation also. Moreover there is no scope of

extending the area of wet cultivation within the Project Area. Ofcourse there is scope of irrigating the wet land. To help the people of the project area in agricultural sector, irrigation deparment may take such minor irrigation schemes.

Except in one village, there is a every scope of initiating minor irrigation schemes in other nine villages. "Some small rivulets are seen flowing beside the villages. These water Sources could be utilised for irrigating the land to be developed for wet paddy cultivation.

4. On the Otherhand, if we pee into the possession of livestock chapter, we find that people of the project area are in the habit of developing cattle, poultry, and piggery etc. But it is also found during the survey that they are not interested in rearing these animals on commercial basis. If we go deep into the matter, we find that it is because of the lack of proper marketing and veterinary facilities . Veterinary unit is located at a distance of 9 to 29 km. from the villages. Moreover necessary medicines are not readily available in the unit. Consequently, a large number of domestic animals are reported to die every year, So, if poultry piggery or cattle farming is undertaken without managing these facilities or fulfilling these preconditions the scheme will not succeed. So, these two facilities, i.e. marketing and veterinary are to be improved first. Another aspect relating to this is the problem of supply of food for the livestock. If a food production unit is not established satisfactory result will not come out of this scheme.

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5. Majority of the people of the Project Area are good horticulturists. It is a significant characteristic of the Project Area, which is seldom found in other tribal societies. Banana, orange, sugarcane etc. are produced in large quantities within the Project Area. Again there is every scope of extending these gardens to more and more areas. Climate is also very suitable for these cultivation. So, garden of various fruits and vegetables may be ~~conducted~~^{considered} as best alternative of jhum cultivation. Before initiating such scheme, marketing facilities ~~is~~^{are} to be improved. The two markets, Khepre and Hazadisa are located at a distance of 13 to 27 km. from the villages. Thus, the people face much difficulties in selling their products as well as in purchasing their household requirements. Moreover, ready market of these products is not available in these two markets. So, we think that initiation of horticulture scheme in an extended manner will be the best alternative for jhum cultivation, provided marketing facilities are improved. It will stop the bad effect of shifting cultivation and also benefit the people economically.

6. The survey reveals that now-a-days the women of the Project Area are more interested in taking modern handlooms in place of time consuming traditional handlooms. The SIDC or any such organisation may help the women by giving modern weaving implements. It will create a healthy atmosphere for taking these cottage industries on commercial basis.

7. Water-Supply facilities are to be extended to other nine villages of the Project Area.