

# CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENTIST

*(A National Refereed Journal - UGC Approved)*

Vol : IX-2

Spring 2017

ISSN No: 2230 - 956X



**Prof. Zokaitluangi**

*Editor in Chief*

Dean, School of Social Sciences, Mizoram University

&

Professor, Department of Psychology, Mizoram University

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MIZORAM UNIVERSITY  
(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)  
TANHRIL, AIZAWL – 796004  
MIZORAM, INDIA  
e-mail : [cssmzu@gmail.com](mailto:cssmzu@gmail.com)**



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## School of Social Sciences- Convergence

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Email: [menonk@hotmail.com](mailto:menonk@hotmail.com)  
Mob: 9810526046

## FROM EDITOR'S DESK



The technological stride man has made has allowed us to feel the truth in the old adage 'It's a small world after all'. The world has become smaller, especially in terms of communication and transportation, but we hardly realize the fact that the world has also become faster. Our everyday living has gained such a pace that it has become an enormous task to objectify and study our daily existence. The media and internet have bombarded us with a flux of events, and a wave of information that the spontaneous feature of human existence seems to be subordinated to the uniform social living. The task of a social scientist has thus gained a more rigorous direction of explaining such a quasi-mechanical living in its variety.

In this edition of the Contemporary Social Scientist, we shall try and understand if the institution of the library still has value in a world of technology and also look into the steps that can sustain their importance and relevance in such a world. We shall also ask ourselves if we are to be controlled at will by the social systems that we live in with a study into the executive powers certain governors have to stratify us into autonomous districts; or are we to defy the very social order we live in to assert ourselves like the Naxalites.

This issue also looks into the question of the value of an individual self in an otherwise impartial social structure with the case study of insurance companies and their customer responsibility. Finally, we shall try to understand certain features of racism that exist in our country with a case study of Mizo people living in Chennai.

It is such a variety of issues and concerns that I present to you yet another issue of the Contemporary Social Scientist.

Dated Aizawl  
The 13th December 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zokaitluangi'.

**Professor Zokaitluangi**

*Editor-in-Chief*

*Dean, School of Social Sciences, Mizoram University.*

*Professor, Department of Psychology, Mizoram University*

*Phn; 09436151606*

*Email: Prof. Zokaitluangi@gmail.com*

## UP-AND-COMING

Professor K.R.S Sambasiva Rao  
Vice Chancellor  
Mizoram University



It is my pleasure to introduce our new Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Mizoram University, Professor K.R.S Sambasiva Rao to this August body. What was once dreamt has been fulfilled now. Professor K.R.S Sambasiva Rao has been serving as the Rector of Acharya Nagarjuna University (AP). He has a vast experience in the academic sphere at different levels with 35 years of research experiences with specialization in areas of Biochemistry, Physiology, Animal biotechnology, Cellular Molecular Biology, Fermentation Technology, Environmental Toxicology, Aquaculture Biotechnology, etc. He has received different distinguished degrees: D. Sc. in Biotechnology, PhD in Pharmaceutical and also in Zoology, M Sc in Information Technology, MBA in Clinical pharmacy, MA in Sociology, PG Cert. in Statistics, and PG Dip in Comp. Applications.

He has also published 224 research papers, filed 7 patents, has 7 gene bank submissions, 23 general science articles, has presented 67 paper in symposia, has written 15 books, with 10 books written as editor, had research gate scores-3476, membership in the editorial board of journals-7, and had received 10 national/international awards. He has visited many countries such as USA, Australia, Nepal, Germany, Republic of Panama, Tanzania and China with regards to academic works and administration.

We heartily welcome, our Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Professor K.R.S Sambasiva Rao of Mizoram University in his new role as Vice Chancellor, and also as Patron of this Journal. We have strong hope and expectations from his range of skills, talents and experiences to provide the best of administrative support and academic guidance to the students and faculties of the School of Social Sciences, MZU as he begins his new role. With hope and aspirations, we firmly believe he will bring his long and varied experiences to the Vice Chancellor's office for the bright and long future of MZU.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Zokaitluangi'.

Prof. Zokaitluangi  
Editor-in-Chief

&

Dean, School of Social Sciences

## LEST WE FORGET HIM

Prof. R. Lalthantluanga  
Former Vice Chancellor  
Mizoram University



I, on behalf of the faculty of the School of Social Sciences, take this opportunity to thank Professor R Lalthantluanga, the outgoing Vice Chancellor of Mizoram University for his dedicated services to the University. He handled the complexities of the Office of the Vice Chancellor outstandingly and has proved precious for shepherding us to where we are today.

Over the years, he deeply engaged with faculty, staff, student, alumni and community members to build upon this institution's momentum. He commanded a massive campus transformation, extended the University's capacity for teaching, research, service and care.

We have had extremely eventful and successful past years at the Mizoram University and blooming with A<sup>+</sup> National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) ranking which displays that you have done a tremendous work for MZU— thank you, Sir! Your deeds are not only in the records of the University but also in our hearts where we are ever thankful.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Zokaitluangi'.

Prof. Zokaitluangi  
Editor-in-Chief  
&  
Dean, School of Social Sciences

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**Policyholders' Satisfaction over Services of LIC in Erode District, Tamilnadu**<sup>1</sup>Balakrishnan, R. G & <sup>2</sup>Mohanambal, M. R**Abstract**

The objective of the study is to find the socio-economic characteristics of sample policyholders in the study area and to analysis policyholder's level of satisfaction about the service quality of LIC in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. The primary data was collected from 100 sample respondents by using interview schedule method from Erode District of Tamil Nadu. Samples were chosen by adopting simple random sampling method. The collected data were analyzed with the help of Simple Percentage analysis and Factor Analysis. The conclusion of the study showed that every insurance company should be customer centred, should be well versed in the handling of problem and grievances of the policyholders. Each and every product and services launched by the insurance company should be in favour of increasing need of policyholders. IRDA should be more and more responsive to the insurance sector by determining some standard. It should be mandatory to every insurer to make more and more responsible and responsive to the policyholders.

**Keywords-** Insurance, Quality, Life Insuaran Policy, policy holders, Satisfaction, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Balakrishnan, R. G, Asst Ptof. PG & Research Dept of Com, Sri Vasavi College, Erode -638 316.

<sup>2</sup> Mohanambal, M. R, Ph.D. Scholar, PG and Research Dept of Com, Sri Vasavi College, Erode -638 316

**Introduction:** Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is one of the biggest Organisation which was introduced in 1818. The history of the insurance is broadly bifurcated into two eras as pre Nationalization and Post Nationalization and it was nationalized in 1956. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was opened to private and foreign players whose share in the insurance has been increased in the market in 1999. The IRDA entrusted with protecting the interest of the policyholders (Prabhakaran and Gowathami, 2014). Life Insurance is a contract for payment of a sum of money to person assured on the happening of the event insured against. Life insurance provides both safety and protection of individuals and encourages savings. The insurance sector is one of the important sectors of the liberalized Indian economy. In India, only less than 20 percent of the total insurance population is covered under various schemes of life insurance. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) was soon contested. Due to Growing pressures, the task of providing and maintaining customer satisfaction has become one of the most important challenges currently for companies and policymakers. Policyholder's satisfaction is equivalent to making sure that product and service performance to meet customer expectation. Today's companies are facing tough competition due to a liberalized economy. Therefore, the companies can go about winning customers and outperforming satisfying customer's needs. This paper makes an attempt to "analyze the satisfaction level of policyholders in LICs service with reference to the Erode District".

**Statement of the problem :** The insurance interest in one's life is unlimited, because the loss of the insured or his dependents cannot be measured in monetary terms, and therefore there cannot be a limit to the amount of insurance that can be taken over. Thus, theoretically, a person can take policies for an unlimited amount of his life. The success of a life insurance business depends on the insurers' knowledge of the products and the degree of satisfaction of policyholders with the services provided by LIC India. As a result, the Life Insurance Corporation was subjected to increasing pressure from the insured, who offered today what they expect tomorrow. The study will also give an idea of the

requirements of the holder of the insurance policy. Timely information is no less important than providing the right information. The main task for insurance companies is the constant introduction of new products, identification of changes in the behaviour of the insured, government intervention, competition, technology, distribution network, automation, technological advancement, quality of customer relations, changing lifestyles. Social perception and brand loyalty are radical changes that occur in the client's profile. Policy holder's satisfaction measures the important instrument to fulfill the safety and security needed to the people. Policy holder's satisfaction measures, across all over the world playing a major role.

**Objectives of the study:** The aim of the study is to find the socio-economic characteristics of sample policyholders in the study area and to analysis policyholder's level of satisfaction about the service quality of LIC in Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

**Methodology:** The primary data was collected from a sample of 100 respondents by using interview schedule method from Erode District of Tamil Nadu. Samples were chosen by adopting simple random sampling method. The collected data were analyzed with the help of Simple Percentage analysis and Factor Analysis.

**Results and Interpretation:** The analyses of the study are presented in two parts viz., (i) socio-economic characteristics of the sample policyholders, and (ii) policyholder's level of satisfaction about the service quality of LIC in Erode district.

***Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Sample policyholders:***

This part is mainly devoted for the study of the socioeconomic characteristics of the selected sample policyholders of Erode District with their satisfaction level.

**Gender:** From the table-1, it is observed that the percentage of high level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (22.5 percent) among the female LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (16.7 percent) among the male LIC policyholders. The percentage of medium level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (27.5 percent) among the female LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (8.3 percent) among the male LIC policyholders. On the other hand, the percentage of low level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (75.0 percent) among the male LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (50.0 percent) among the female LIC policyholders.

**Age :** The percentage of high level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (26.2 percent) among the middle age LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (19.5 percent) among the young age LIC policyholders. The percentage of medium level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (35.3 percent) among the old age LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (9.8 percent) among the young age LIC policyholders. On the other hand, the percentage of low level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (70.7 percent) among the young age LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (59.5 percent) among the middle age LIC policyholders.

**Education:** The percentage of high level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (33.3 percent) among the higher secondary level of education policyholders and the same is the lowest (12.5 percent) among the policyholders who have had postgraduate level education. The percentage of medium level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (33.3 percent)

among the higher secondary level policyholders and the same is the lowest (10.6 percent) among the diploma level policyholders. On the other hand, the percentage of low level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (68.1 percent) among the diploma level policyholders and the same is the lowest (33.3 percent) among the policyholders who have had a higher secondary level education.

**Table-1:** Socio-economic characteristics with their level of satisfaction towards the service quality of LIC

Variables		Level of satisfaction			Total
Group	Sub-groups	Low	Medium	High	
Gender	Male	45 (75.0)	5 (8.3)	10 (16.7)	60 (100.0)
	Female	20 (50.0)	11 (27.5)	9 (22.5)	40 (100.0)
Age	Young	29 (70.7)	4 (9.8)	8 (19.5)	41 (100.0)
	Middle	25 (59.5)	6 (14.3)	11 (26.2)	42 (100.0)
	Old	11 (64.7)	6 (35.3)	0 (0.0)	17 (100.0)
Education	Higher Sec	1 (33.3)	1 (33.3)	1 (33.3)	3 (100.0)
	Diploma	32 (68.1)	5 (10.6)	10 (21.3)	47 (100.0)
	UG	27 (64.3)	8 (19.0)	7 (16.7)	42 (100.0)
	PG	5 (62.5)	2 (25.0)	1 (12.5)	8 (100.0)
Occupation	Govt.	21 (80.8)	3 (11.5)	2 (7.7)	26 (100.0)
	Semi-Govt.	21 (75.0)	4 (14.3)	3 (10.7)	28 (100.0)
	Private	18 (62.1)	4 (13.8)	7 (24.1)	29 (100.0)
	Others	5 (29.4)	5 (29.4)	7 (41.2)	17 (100.0)
Income	Low	31 (64.6)	8 (16.7)	9 (18.8)	48 (100.0)
	Middle	25 (75.8)	6 (18.2)	2 (6.1)	33 (100.0)
	High	9 (47.4)	2 (10.5)	8 (42.1)	19 (100.0)
<b>Total</b>		<b>65 (65.0)</b>	<b>16 (16.0)</b>	<b>19 (19.0)</b>	<b>100 (100)</b>
<b>Source:</b> Primary data (Figures in parentheses indicate percentages)					

**Occupation:** The percentage of high level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (41.2 percent) among the other job policyholders and the same is the lowest (7.7 percent) among the govt. job policyholders. The percentage of medium level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (29.4 percent) among the other job policyholders and the same is the lowest (11.5 percent) among the govt. job policyholders. On the other hand, the percentage of low level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (80.8 percent) among the govt. job policyholders and the same is the lowest (29.4 percent) among the other job policyholders.

**Income:** The percentage of high level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (42.1 percent) among the high-income group LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (6.1 percent) among the middle-income group LIC policyholders. The percentage of medium level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (18.2 percent) among the middle-income group LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (10.5 percent) among the high-income group LIC policyholders. On the other hand, the percentage of low level of satisfaction in the service quality of LIC is the highest (75.8 percent) among the middle-income group LIC policyholders and the same is the lowest (47.4 percent) among the high-income group LIC policyholders.

#### ***Level of policyholder's satisfaction about the service quality of LIC:***

This part has been made to examine the sample policyholder's satisfaction about the service quality of LIC in Erode district by using Factor Analysis. A list of 14 statements has been prepared and the data has been collected from the selected 100 LIC policyholders. Likert's Five Point Scale Method



of summated ratings has been applied to find out the aggregate satisfaction level of the policyholders. Accordingly, if the policyholder is highly satisfied with the statement, a scale value of 5 is assigned; scale value of 4 is assigned if response is satisfied, scale value of 3 if it is Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, scale value of 2 if the policyholder is dissatisfied and scale value of 1 if the policyholder is highly dissatisfied. The total score for each policyholder from all the 14 statements is calculated by using the above scoring procedure. The scores of the policyholders range from 14 to 120. It is used to resolve a large set of measured variables statements in terms of relatively new categories known as factors. The KMO measure of sampling adequacy is an index used to examine the appropriateness of factor analysis. High values (between 0.5 and 1.0) indicate factor analysis is appropriate. Details of the findings are shown in Table-2.

**Table-2: KMO and Bartlett's test**

Tests	Corresponding Values	
Kaiser- Meyer – Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy		0.521
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	166.154
	Df	91
	Result	Significant
<b>Note:</b> Significant at 1% level (P<0.01)		

Table-2 shows that the measured value of Kaiser- Meyer – Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy is 0.521. As it is greater than 0.50, it is decided to apply the Factor Analysis to study the policyholder's satisfaction with the service quality of LIC.

**Rotation Method:** Used fourteen variables pertaining to sample policyholder's satisfaction with the service quality of LIC is further subjected to Principal Component Analysis as extracted method followed by a varimax rotation.

**Table-3: Principal Component Analysis with Varimax Rotation**

Factors	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	Communalities
Lapse warning	<b>.695</b>	.357	.194	-.037	-.143	-.223	.619
Claim settlement	<b>.652</b>	-.022	.354	-.085	-.353	-.142	.703
Variety of policy	<b>.574</b>	-.110	-.411	-.054	.099	-.625	.615
Timely issue of renewal policy	<b>.546</b>	.010	-.120	-.193	.134	.249	.530
Loan facility	<b>.520</b>	.096	-.197	.079	.488	.115	.576
Attractive returns	-.143	<b>.669</b>	.151	-.287	.310	-.053	.672
Grievance redressed	-.242	<b>.590</b>	.217	-.019	.277	.140	.550
Risk coverage	-.306	<b>.587</b>	-.494	.287	.028	-.215	.617
Documentation procedure	-.514	-.355	<b>.651</b>	.049	-.069	.048	.562
Company brand name	.370	-.230	<b>.580</b>	.235	.375	.110	.627
Motivation given by agent	-.280	.210	.496	<b>.595</b>	.014	-.158	.748
Convenience in paying premium	-.194	.267	.013	<b>.560</b>	-.389	.391	.625
Husband/Father advice	-.254	-.393	.081	-.412	<b>.543</b>	-.005	.690
Promptness in issuing policy	.230	.000	-.390	.471	-.011	<b>.591</b>	.676
<b>Note:</b> *Significant at 1% level							

To decide, when to stop functioning so as to get the final rotated matrix, the latent root criteria has been applied. Factor Component Score with Principal Component Analysis is shown in Table-3. Table-3 shows that factors like Lapse warning, Claim settlement, Variety of policy, Timely issue of renewal policy, Loan facility, Attractive returns, Grievance redressed, Risk coverage,

Documentation procedure, Company brand name, Motivation given by agent, Convenience in paying premium, Husband/Father advice and Promptness in issuing policy are statistically significant. Thus, its factor component score is greater than 0.5.

#### Criteria for the Significance of Factor Loadings:

Factor loadings of 0.5 and above have been considered as significant. All the 14 factors have been given appropriate names on the basis of variables represented in each case. Table-4 shows that the details of the factor number, various factors, factor loadings, Eigen-values and percentage of variance.

**Table-4:** Statement loadings of satisfaction for the Varimax Rotated- Principal Components (n = 100)

Factor	Factors	Factor loadings	Eigen value	Percentage of variance
F1	Lapse warning	0.695	2.312	16.512
	Claim settlement	0.652		
	Variety of policy	0.574		
	Timely issue of renewal policy	0.546		
	Loan facility	0.520		
F2	Attractive returns	0.669	1.543	11.023
	Grievance redressed	0.590		
	Risk coverage	0.587		
F3	Documentation procedure	0.651	1.398	9.987
	Company brand name	0.580		
F4	Motivation given by agent	0.595	1.235	8.821
	Convenience in paying premium	0.560		
F5	Husband/Father advice	0.543	1.176	8.403
F6	Promptness in issuing policy	0.591	1.145	8.182
	Cumulative percentage of variance			62.929
Note: F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 and F6 represent Factor Number				

It is clear from the Table-4 that Factor Analysis yielded six factors accounting for 62.929 percent of the total variance. Factor 1 contains five items and it explains 16.512 percent of the total variance. Among the six factors, Factor 1 explains the maximum variance and it is the most important factor. In Factor 1, Prevailing Lapse warning, Claim settlement, Variety of policy, Timely issue of renewal policy and Loan facility are the most important item. Factor 2 contains three items and it explains 11.023 percent of the total variance. Of these, Attractive returns, Grievance redressed and Risk coverage are the most important items. Factor 3 having two items and it explains 9.987 percent of the total variance. Documentation procedure and Company brand name are the most important items in Factor 3. Factor 4 contains two items and it explains 8.821 percent of the total variance. Of these, Motivation given by agent and Convenience in paying a premium is the most important items. Factor 5 contains one item like Husband/Father advice and it explains 8.403 percent of the total variance. Factor 6 contains one item like Promptness in issuing policy and it explains 8.182 percent of the total variance.

**Conclusion:** The most of the policyholders are satisfied with LICs service. This shows that policyholders have not understood clearly about the purpose of insurance, so it is suggested that the life insurance company should conduct insurance awareness campaign with the help of advertisements and social groups. The awareness on insurance has to increase in their early age. In the emerging boom the insurance company, every insurance company should be customer centred, should be well versed in the handling of problem and grievances of the policyholders. Each and every product and services launched by the insurance company should be in favour of increasing need of policyholders. IRDA should be more and more responsive to the insurance sector by determining some standard. It should be mandatory to every insurer to make more and more responsible and responsive to the policyholders.

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## Collectivistic and Individualistic Attitudes and Values of Mizo Living in Rural and Urban Mizoram

Vanlalhruaia, C

### Abstract

The present study examines ecological differences in collectivistic and individualistic attitudes and values in a sample of 160 Mizo adults from different parts of Mizoram, ranging in age from 40 to 50 years. Data was collected through the use of self-report psychological measure - Collectivistic and Individualistic Attitudes and Values Scale (CIAV; Chan, 1994). Descriptive statistics were analysed for the selected population. Spearman coefficient of correlation and Mann-Whitney U-Test (Ranks) was applied. The result revealed significant group differences and significant effects of independent variables on the dependent variables. Implications of the present findings for future research were discussed.

**Keywords:** Collectivistic, Individualistic, Attitudes, Values etc.

Vanlalhruaia, C. (Dr), Associate Professor, Govt. Aizawl College, Aizawl, Mizoram-796007



**Introduction:** Over the past few decades, there has been increasing recognition that culture plays an important role in shaping human behaviour. Culture, generally viewed as patterns of behaviours that are transmitted among members of a society, comprises the rules and norms that promote stability and harmony within that society (Rogoff, 2003). Culture has been shown to affect many domains of family life including the way in which parents socialize their children (Harrison, Wilson, Pine, Chan, & Buriel, 1990; Kagitçibasi, 1996; Ogbu, 1994). In addition to traditional family beliefs within one's culture, factors such as social class, racism, prejudice, discrimination, acculturation, and family structure also influence parenting and child socialization (García Coll et al., 1996). Hence, the advent of urbanization, industrialization and acculturation is characterized by the rapid change in all spheres of life; intergeneration difference has become a phenomenon of common occurrence at present. Beginning from simple differences of ideologies between parents and children, the ever-increasing differences pervaded the society as a whole assuming serious dimensions. These differences observable along psychological dimensions are today being manifested in various agitations, insurgencies, revolutions and even wars spreading all over the settlement of mankind.

The socialization perspective emphasizes that experiences in the family of origin may influence subsequent behavior in close relationships through relationship schemas, including generalized expectations and beliefs about close others (Conger et al.'s, 2000) while attachment theory (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2003) provides a compelling theoretical account of how internal working models about the dependability and trustworthiness of relationship partners influence behavior in close relationships across the life span (Bowlby's (1969, 1982); overlapped genetic in origin (Donnellan, Burt, Levendosky, & Klump, 2009) of individual differences. Those differences in individuals, cultures and nations may be originated from acculturation with a negative impact on psychological adjustment (Quintana, Vogel, & Ybarra, 1991), a strain of learning cultural values that differ from their own origins creates difficulties and stressors that arise during the acculturative process (Berry, 1998). Acculturation can be experienced as a stressful process when the two cultural groups' norms and values are incompatible (Roccas, Horenczyk, & Schwartz, 2000). For example, White American culture values individualism and cultural group members are expected to become independent from their families; whereas Latino cultural norms tend to be more collectivistic in nature and family interdependence is expected regardless of age (Castillo & Cano, 2009). Acculturative stress can also be experienced as a result of tensions within an ethnic group (Castillo, Conoley, Brossart & Quiros, 2007).

The original inhabitants of the present State of Mizoram are known by the generic name *Mizo* which comprise of several major and minor tribes in the area. The word 'Mizo' may literally mean people living in the high hills or Highlanders, who are living in the upper land cool regions. The Mizo society, even within a very short history of about 100 years, was entirely a rural and class-less community and very homogeneous group. The change of religion from Animism to Christianity, spread of education, political arousal and awareness, holding of property (which is the very short history was never of individuals one but of community) and its heritage, exposure to modern industrial/technological world have initiated the process of social stratification, at least in terms of urban and rural as rich and poor and as educated and uneducated and the like stratum in the whole society. These all issues, as the researchers assumes, have set in a process of change and adjustment

Vol : IX-2 Spring (December) 2017 ISSN No: 2230 956 (UGC Approved Journal)

problems of the people of various categories and have generated a paradox of conflict among the people.

The influxes of the various socializing agencies and their awareness have deteriorated the traditional systems and values seem to have generated a paradox of adjustment and coping of people between two systems: traditional and modern, and have added much towards the generation conflict among people of the various sections. While presenting all these, the scholar is not pretending that such a generation conflict did not exist in the society, but attempting to emphasize the need for a psychological study to measure the extent of the intergeneration conflict resulting out of the various types of exposures to the community. To highlight these questions, 'Ecology' (rural and urban) is incorporated to mark out the differences existing amongst the various groups. The changing patterns did not only affect the social structure and system of the society but have also added towards the socialization and recognition of women status and rights. Here it deserved to mention that the minimizing tendency of the gap between the status and roles of males and females are observed in urban areas, whereas, the same in the rural environment (where the cultural practices and systems are still observed on the traditional line), the role of females are still observed far beyond equality. A study in depth would confirm these observational differences in terms of empirical findings.

The Social Identity theory proposed additional identity - collective identity to assess collectivistic features. Collective identity is defined in terms of a subjective claims or acceptance by a person and particular social category does not become a collective identity unless it is personally acknowledged as self-defining by the person. Cheek & Busch (1982) reported social identity to be positively correlated with measures of public self-consciousness, sociability, altruistic selves and extraversion subscale of personality and personal identity to be positively correlated with private.

The central assumption common to theories pertaining to attitude is that people's evaluation of object is stable across time, context and form of assessment. However, empirical evidence are accumulating that support the notion that people can hold multiple attitudes towards a given objects across time context (McConnell, Leibold & Sherman, 1997) and form of assessment. The dual-mode processing models of persuasion are based on the notion that the determinants and processes of attitude change depend on the mentioned motivation of the individuals and ability to process issue-relevant information.

The supporter of the social identity theory suggested that group exerts influence in a unique manner, referred to as referent informational influence (Turner, 1982, 1991). Research demonstrated that people maintain favorable self-view by shifting their attitudes to align with positively valued groups and deviate from the negative ones. Thus, attitude is conceived to have cognitive, affective and behavioural components that involve feelings and emotion, beliefs and action. These components have a single referent and their confluence, attitude may be organized into consistent and coherent structures known as 'value systems'. Kluckhohn (1951, 1956) developed the analytical scheme that represents the cultural relativist view that human populations vary widely in their cultural values and moral outlook. Kluckhohn and Strotbeck (1961) study the value orientations of five different cultures based on the universal value of the systematic approach, and reported that the study confirm the within-culture regularities and between-culture differences and that it is possible to study the value

orientations of culture through the testing of individuals that is appropriate mainly for peasant population. Values were seen as the result of early socialization and element of behaviour, and not as the antecedents of behaviour.

Socialization of children imparting cultural norms is through - parents and siblings (family) teaching, age-mate, and as culture 'carrier' or 'transmitter' of value. Parents want their children to hold the same value and parents' value values correlate highly with their socialization values (Whitbeck & Gecas, 1988). This is mainly due to the fact that children must identify to the values that their parents endorse, and must accept the values as their own, and value transmission can succeed or fail at either of the step in the process (Knafo & Schwartz, 2001). Several types of research support that children adopted the prevailing values more than their parents do (Feathers, 1975) and children are likely to receive competing messages from the parents and from the environment (Szapocznik & Kurtinez, 1993). The transmission and socialization of cultural norm, value are very complicated and always faced many complications leading to children-parent conflict; when adolescent in plural situation are often in conflict with their parents over values (Szapocznik & Kurtinez, 1993), immigrant children are more similar in value patterns to their nonimmigrant peers as compared to that of their parents (Cashmore & Goodnow, 1985; Phinney, Ong & Madden, 2000), and in extreme cases children reported receiving contradictory and confusing messages from the parents. A further complication may occur due to lack of cultural competence in plural societies (Feather, 1975; La Fromboise et al., 1993; Roccas & Sangiv, 1998), when parents in plural society's advice their children to hold values different from their own (Kuczynski, Marshall & Shell, 1997) and resulting in the decrease of parents-children value similarity in plural situation (Knafo & Schwartz, 2001) in serious case leading to agitation, forming gang, insurgency or even war at wider level of conflict.

The present study will try to highlight the collectivistic and individualistic attitudes and values of the Mizo comparing the rural and urban population. Based on the reviews, it was decided to employ Collectivistic and Individualistic Attitudes and Value Scale (CIAV, Chan, 1994) to measure the attitudes and values for both collectivists and individualists. The Attitude Scale consists of 13 - items; out of which 6 (six) were designed for collectivist attitude (CA) and 7 (seven) was designed to measure individualistic value (IV) to be rated on 5 - point scale and the Value Scale consists of 13 - items; 6 (six) of which is designed for collectivistic value (CV) and 7(seven) are designed to measure individualistic value (IV).

**Objectives:** Based on the theoretical foundations, the following objectives were framed for the present study:

1. To examine group (rural and urban) differences on the behavioural measures (collectivistic attitude, individualistic attitude, collectivistic value, individualistic value) among the samples.
2. To determine the independent effects of ecology (rural and urban) on the behavioural measures.

**Hypothesis:** Given the theoretical foundations, the following hypotheses have been formulated for the present study:

1. It is expected that there will be group (rural and urban) differences on the behavioural measures among the samples.



2. It is expected that ecology (rural and urban) will have significant effects on the behavioural measures (collectivistic attitude, individualistic attitude, collectivistic value, individualistic value) among the samples.

The methods and procedure adopted for the conduct of the study are outlined hereafter under methodology.

### **Methodology:**

**Sample** -The study incorporated multistage sampling procedure. Keeping in view the objectives of the study, 160 subjects with their age ranging between 40-50 years were randomly selected for the conduct of the study. Firstly, the subjects from two different 'Ecology' (rural and urban) were listed. At least 80 (eighty) subjects were randomly picked from various parts of Mizoram to constitute the final samples of the study. Thus, half of the subjects referred to as 'rural' were randomly selected from the rural areas of Kolasib district, Lunglei district, Champhai district and Lawngtlai district. The other half of the subjects referred to as 'urban' was drawn from Aizawl city with an equal number as did for rural subjects.

**Design of the study:** The present study aims at a design to investigate into the differential influence of 'Ecology' on the changing attitudes in Mizo society. A combination of independent variables 'Ecology' (at two levels 'urban and rural') was included under the main cell of the design for the conduct of the study. 160 Mizo Adults, 80 Rural and 80 Urban Adults were randomly selected to represent the two types of ecology.

**Test Materials:** The *Collectivistic and Individualistic Attitudes and Values Scale (CIAV; Chan, 1994)* was employed, a 26 – items test scale measuring values and attitudes for collectivistic and individualistic dimensions. The Attitudes Scale consists of 13 – items; 6 (six) of which is designed for collectivistic attitude (CA) and 7 (seven) are designed to measure individualistic attitude (IA) to be rated on 5 – point scale ranging from disagree (1) to agree (5), and the Values Scale consists of 13 – items; 6 (six) of which is designed for collectivistic value (CV) and 7 (seven) are designed to measure individualistic value (IV) and both are to be rated for the extent to which they constitute highly a 'guiding principle in my life' on 5 – points scale ranging from not important (1) to supreme important (5). A higher sub-scale score indicated higher attitudes and values on either or both individualism and collectivism dimension, and the scale was employed to discriminate attitudinal and value differences among the groups under comparison.

**Statistical Analyses:** At first, the psychometric adequacy of the psychological measures of (i) Collectivistic and Individualistic Attitudes and Values Scale (CIAV: Chan, 1994) were ascertained by computing the item-total coefficient of correlation, the reliability of the test to determine further analysis. The Coefficient of Alpha and the Spearman-Brown reliability were computed to determine the applicability of the behavioural measure for the present population under study. The descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, range etc. of the obtained scores on the psychological measures were computed. Analyses with a view to ascertain the normality of variance and to certify the assumption of parametric statistical methods were incorporated into desirable transformation; the relationships (correlation statistics) between the scales/sub-scales of the behavioral measures were

computerized for the whole samples to discern the systematic relationship between two variables that are associated or co-vary and the aim was to show that levels of association between them. Based on the nature of the data, the factor analysis, multiple regression or any other appropriate statistical analyses were attempted to display the objectives of the study.

**Results:** The preliminary psychometric analyses over the level of analyses for each of the specific items and scales/subscales were determined with the objectives to ensure further statistical analyses, and the results were presented in Tables - 1 to 2.

The reliability and validity analyses were computerized for rural and urban samples separately in an effort to find internal consistency in results. The item-total coefficient of correlation and reliability coefficients at each level of analysis on each of the sub-scale of CIAV such as Collectivistic Attitude (CA), Individualistic Attitude (IA), Individualistic Value (IV), and Collectivistic Value (CV) over the levels of analysis; for rural and urban are put together. The Mean, Standard Deviation, Reliability (Cronbach alpha and split-half) values for rural and urban samples on CIAV are shown. The results revealed the ranges of the item-total coefficients of correlation for the Collectivistic Value scale for urban (.05 - .87) and Collectivistic Attitude scale for urban (.04 - .73) were a bit low and not in the line with an idea for the parametric assumption of normality (i.e. .1 and above) could not be fulfilled, and suggested the non-parametric statistical analysis for further analyses. The reliability of the scale was between .71-.95 for Cronbach Alpha reliability and .71-.93 for Spearman-Brown reliability and has shown substantial trustworthiness over the level of analysis, as all were higher than .60 of reliability.

The descriptive statistics included the computation of mean, standard deviation, minimum scores, maximum scores, skewness and the kurtosis of the scales/ sub-scales on all the measures of the dependent variables for the whole samples as shown in Table – 2. The descriptive statistic was done with the objectives to check the assumption of ANOVA (or for any parametric test) to avoid platy kurtosis, skewness, kurtosis and outliers.

**Table -1 :** Mean, SD, variance, no. of items, Cronbach alpha and Spearman Brown Coefficient (internal consistency and item validity) of the Scales/Subscales of the behavioral measures (CIAV) for Rural and Urban samples.

Ecology	Source of Variance	Cronbach Alpha (CA)	Range (RIT)	Spearman Brown Coefficient (SBC)	Scale Statistics			
					Mean	SD	Variance	No.of Items
Rural	Individualistic Attitude (IA)	.74	.15 - .64	.87	17.72	3.61	12.99	7
	Collectivistic Attitude (CA)	.86	.51 - .77	.90	18.77	5.99	35.87	6
	Individualistic Value (IV)	.70	.10 - .68	.79	17.52	3.42	11.65	7
	Collectivistic Value (CV)	.77	.25 - .70	.81	20.77	5.42	29.31	6
Urban	Individualistic Attitude (IA)	.73	.23 - .63	.84	19.98	3.88	15.03	7
	Collectivistic Attitude (CA)	.76	.04 - .73	.79	18.53	4.32	18.65	6
	Individualistic Value (IV)	.76	.17 - .62	.86	19.38	3.87	15.03	7

	Collectivistic Value (CV)	.82	.05 - .87	.85	17.71	4.66	21.62	6
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**Table – 2:** Mean, SD, Skewness, Kurtosis of the Scales/Subscales of the Behavioral measures (CIAV) for the whole samples.

	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	SE	Statistic	SE
Ecology	320	1.00	2.00	1.5000	.50078	-	-	-	-
IATT	320	9.00	27.00	18.8437	3.90490	-.115	.136	-.451	.272
CATT	320	8.00	30.00	18.6469	5.21425	.132	.136	-.630	.272
IVTT	320	9.00	27.00	18.4469	3.76300	-.115	.136	-.265	.272
CVTT	320	8.00	30.00	19.2406	5.26611	-.037	.136	-.728	.272
Valid N	320								

Results (Table - 2) showed the means, standard deviations, minimum and maximum value, Skewness and Kurtosis of the scale/subscales of the behavioural measures - Collectivistic and Individualistic Attitudes and Values Scale (CIAV: Chan, 1994). The Descriptive statistics on Table – 2 have shown that the kurtosis and skewness of the data on all of the scales, and took it as no need to perform other parametric assumptions, and suggested that the non-parametric statistics for further analysis. The Spearman's coefficient of correlation showed multiple significant correlations between the variables (Table-3).

**Table - 3:** Relationships (Spearman's coefficient of correlation) of the 'Ecology', scales and subscales of the behavioural measures for the whole samples.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Ecology	1					
2. IA	-.275**	1				
3. CA	0.013	-.221**	1			
4. IV	-.241**	.134*	-.175**	1		
5. CV	.289**	-.241**	.145**	-.135*	1	

**Table 4.1:** Effect of 'Ecology' (urban & rural) on Individual Attitude (IA), Collectivistic Attitude (CA), Individual Values (IV) and Collectivistic Values (CV) as indicated by Mann-Whitney U-Test (Ranks).



	'Ecology'	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
IATT	Rural	160	135.22	21634.50
	Urban	160	185.78	29725.50
CATT	Rural	160	161.68	25868.50
	Urban	160	159.32	25491.50
IVTT	Rural	160	138.28	22124.00
	Urban	160	182.72	29236.00
CVTT	Rural	160	187.15	29943.50
	Urban	160	133.85	21416.50

The analysis of the data showed significant effects of 'Ecology' were found on IA, IV, CA and CV of the subscale of CIAV. The results portrait that the urban samples had higher mean ranks (Mean ranks =185.78) than rural samples (Mean ranks = 135.22) on IA; on IV same trend happened that the urban samples (Mean rank =182.72) than rural samples (Mean ranks = 138.28); whereas rural samples had significantly higher mean ranks (Mean ranks = 161.68) than urban samples (Mean ranks = 159.32) on CA; and the same trend happened on CV that the rural samples had higher mean rank (Mean ranks = 187.15) than urban samples (Mean ranks = 133.85).

**Table 4.2:** Effect of 'Ecology' (urban & rural) on Individual Attitude (IA), Collectivistic Attitude (CA), Individual Values (IV) and Collectivistic Values (CV) as indicated by Mann-Whitney U-Test (Statistics)

	IATT	CATT	IVTT	CVTT
Mann-Whitney U	8754.50	12611.50	9244.00	8536.50
Z	-4.904	-.228	-4.311	-5.163
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000**	.819	.000**	.000**

**Conclusions:** The overall observation of the results have shown that the rural subject was more conservative than urban samples while urban subject was more individualistic than rural samples confirming the hypothesis set forth for the present study in the present population under study. The result also showed that there were significant effects of ecology on the collectivistic and individualistic attitudes and values of the sample indicating that differences in ecology determine the collectivistic and individualistic attitudes and values of a person.

An overview of the analysis of the result, as a whole, conforming to the expectations (hypothesis) of the studies in the area provided sufficient backgrounds (empirical basis) to conclude the existence of gap across the sample by 'Ecology' variables in the investigated cultural group of the study, that is, the Mizo society.

**Limitations and Suggestions:** Though the finding of the studies confirmed to the hypotheses set forth for the study it was not free from limitations: a) More psychological scales tapping wider behavioural gamut by employing larger sample size and incorporating more measures of behavioural problems are desirable to replicate in support of the findings. b) The subjects were randomly selected from rural and urban, but preferably more inclusion of the demographic profiles for detecting other possible confounding effects in determining such gap (Gonzales, Cauce, & Mason, 1996). c) The present research covered only some parts of Mizoram (only five districts), therefore, it is not enough to make a conclusion for making a representation of the whole area of Mizoram.

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### Localization of Television in Mizoram

Lalruatkimi, I

#### Abstract

Localization is the adaptation of a product or service to meet the needs of a particular language, culture or desired population's "look-and-feel". Localization of media cannot only be regarded as a business strategy to adjust media content to local conditions and maximize audiences and thus profits; but also as a mode of audience reception to negotiate ambivalences in media content and everyday life experiences. Television in India is a huge industry which has thousands of programmes in many languages. In Mizoram, though there is no written record to refer or to base, it is believed that television reached Mizoram in 1980. In 1982, when India hosted Asian Games, television turns to colour from black and white, and it has been observed that the number of television sets increases in the State. Knowingly or unknowingly, planned or unplanned, as the case may be, it is seen and observed that television in Mizoram is being localized in one way or the other. From the study, it can be understood that for a Mizo, using and understanding well the Mizo dialect, one does not necessarily tune into other channels, making television localized in a very special way.

**Keywords-** Television, Media, local channel, localization, adaptation etc.

Lalruatkimi, I (Dr), Asst. Prof, Dept. of Mass Communication, Mizoram University. Aizawl-796004.

**Introduction:** Locality means when it is restricted only to a particular place. To localise means to make something local in character. According to the definition of Oxford living dictionary, localization is the adaptation of a product or service to meet the needs of a particular language, culture or desired population's "look-and-feel". Ideally, a product or service is developed so that localization is relatively easy to achieve. The anticipation of localization requirements is sometimes referred to as an international effort. The process of first enabling a product to be localized and then localizing it for different national audiences is sometimes known as product globalisation. (Stehling, 2012). Localization of media cannot only be regarded as a business strategy to adjust media content to local conditions and maximize audiences and thus profits; but also as a mode of audience reception to negotiate ambivalences in media content and everyday life experiences. (Stehling, 2012)

**The significance of television in localisation:** The success of television formats is based on their transculturality – meaning the possibility for audiences from different cultural contexts to relate to

the show. The decisive moment of a successful TV format is therefore not the localization process itself, but it's potential to combine and integrate both global and local elements. This means, localization is not a question of either or, or a question of standardization versus fragmentation, rather it is a question of how audiences can integrate the media offer into their everyday life (Stehling, 2012). Television forms a major role in the human construction of reality in society. According to Barker (2000), television is available to almost everybody in modern industrialized societies, and it is a site of popular knowledge about the world, which brings us into contact with ways of life other than the one into which we are born.

**Television:** The history of television comprises the work of numerous engineers and inventors in several countries over many decades. The first practical demonstrations of television, however, were developed using electromechanical methods to scan, transmit, and reproduce an image. As electronic camera and display tubes were perfected, electromechanical television gave way to all-electronic systems in nearly all applications. However, if television is defined as the live transmission of moving images with continuous tonal variation, Baird first achieved this privately on October 2, 1925. Till today John Logie Baird is regarded as the Father of Television whereas German technician Paul Nipkow is regarded as the inventor of the TV set. The first commercially made electronic television sets with cathode ray tubes were manufactured by Telefunken in Germany in 1934, followed by other makers in France (1936), Britain (1936), and America (1938). The cheapest of the pre-World War II factory-made American sets, a 1938 image-only model with a 3-inch (8 cm) screen, cost US\$125, the equivalent of US\$2,020 in 2013. The cheapest model with a 12-inch (30 cm) screen was \$445 (\$7,200). Television in India is a huge industry which has thousands of programmes in many languages. The small screen has produced numerous celebrities, some even attaining national fame. More than half of all Indian households own a television. As of 2012, the country has a collection of free and subscription services over a variety of distribution media, like the Cherian channel, through which there are over 823 channels of which 184 are pay channels. (J.Kumar, 2004)

In Mizoram, though there is no written record to refer, it is believed that television reached Mizoram in 1980. In 1982, when India hosted the Asian Games, television turned to colour from black and white, it has been seen that the number of television sets increases in the State. By 1985, at least one television set was available in each locality in the capital city of Aizawl. After 6 years, in 1986 (i.e. on 22.8.1986) it is recorded that there were 1078 (One thousand and seventy-eight) television sets. In June 1991, it had increased to 4114 (four thousand one hundred and fourteen). The latest survey of the Mizoram census 2011 shows that the number of television set owners in Mizoram is 121,725. 55.1% of the total population owned the television set. Television is viewed by 92.8% of the population surveyed thereby making it the most popular mass medium among all other media. Access to TV channels was largely through a cable connection (69.4%) followed by the Direct to Home (DTH) service (15.3%). Till 1990, viewers in Mizoram could watch only Doordarshan programme broadcasted from New Delhi and also Bangladesh channels. In 1995, Doordarshan Kendra Aizawl was officially inaugurated. After its inauguration Doordarshan Kendra, Aizawl started to telecast programs of its own and also the local programs. Doordarshan Kendra, Aizawl has progressed well and today it telecasts locally made programs from 3 pm to 6:30 pm every day. Doordarshan Kendra, Aizawl started to telecast news from May 10, 2000. It is important to note that Direct to Home (DTH) system does not find a place in Mizoram because of cable television.



Cable television, apart from prominent satellite channels, provides its local program and attracts more viewers. In the latest State census 2011, it is seen that there were only 16.3% of DTH connections existing in Mizoram. The arrival of cable television has increased the number of television sets. It is seen that in the capital, Aizawl, television sets are available in all houses. The first-ever cable television was started on September 5, 2000, by Skylinks, a privately owned company. When the second local cable television LPS Vision started its distribution in 1994, there was a tough competition for attracting viewers for its cable. Due to lack of professional manpower and financial crisis, Skylinks stopped functioning in 2007. The second cable television network was started by a business family in Aizawl, Laldailova Pachuau and Sons, officially called LPS Vision. The third cable television called Zonet cable network was established in August 2004. Zonet became a private limited company in 2011. It is the only licensed Mizo satellite TV channel that provides viewers with a wholesome 24- hour entertainment. With the order given by the central government, local cable television was made fully digitalized in the whole State by the year 2016.

**Localizing the television:** Knowingly or unknowingly, planned or unplanned, as the case may be, it is seen and observed that television in Mizoram is being localized in one way or the other. Doordarshan Kendra Aizawl station, though it is a government-owned channel under the Prasar Bharati, Ministry of Information and broadcasting, has been localized not only for its various programs broadcasted but also its symbols and appearances.

- 1) Every evening, at 3 o'clock, when the Kendra is about to telecast its own program, it begins with the prominent display of the Doordarshan logo modified with the Mizo traditional *Seki*, which is a buffalo – bison's horn, an important animal in Mizo society, is displayed on both sides, with "*darkhuang*", an important Mizo musical instrument, in the middle. It is significantly designed as the Aizawl station logo instead of using the original national logo.
- 2) Though the original National Doordarshan News signature music and the picture are used in the Daily News Bulletin which can be said to be the most popular and so to say the most important programme, the background set is designed in a specific manner so as to portray elements of Mizo Culture. Even though it is a national owned media, there is no effort made to show ideas of Nationalism; instead, sometimes popular Mizo cultural dances, Cheraw (popularly known as Bamboo dance) or Khuallam, or a picture of Mizo Boys' Dormitory is displayed in the background.
- 3) On special Mizo festivals like Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut etc the news presenter is clad in traditional Mizo attire.
- 4) On a special occasion which is celebrated by the Mizos like Christmas, Good Friday etc, the special LIVE programme would be telecast from their studio.
- 5) LIVE discussion or LIVE phone in programmes are made in a special issue like Union budget, State budget, Elections etc where people have their freedom to discuss, ask or raise the issue at their own local level.

The two Cable Televisions, namely LPS and ZONET cable televisions, apart from accessing all the Stars channels, also have programmes based on Mizoram and Mizos in Mizo dialect. Apart from their main channel, they also have many channels under them localising the television in the process.

**LPS Cable Television runs the following channels:**

- 1) LPS 1: This is their home channel, 24-hour programme. Daily News Bulletin in the evening and also News “Chibai Mizoram” at 7 AM in the morning is one of the important programmes which attracted the audience by this particular channel.
- 2) LPS 2: This is a channel where all types of dubbed serials and movies are given. English, Hindi and most of all Korean serials and movies are dubbed in Mizo dialect.
- 3) LPS 3: This is a music channel. All types of music are given out on this channel.
- 4) LPS 4: This is a channel where all types of dubbed serials and movies are given. English, Hindi and most of all Korean serials and movies are dubbed in Mizo dialect.
- 5) LPS 5: A channel owned by the Presbyterian church of India, Mizoram named as Hruaina Eng – a Christian base channel.
- 6) LPS 6: This is a channel where all types of dubbed serials and movies are given. English, Hindi and most of all Korean serials and movies are dubbed in Mizo dialect.
- 7) LPS 7: This is a channel where all types of dubbed serials and movies are given. English, Hindi and most of all Korean serials and movies are dubbed in Mizo dialect.
- 8) LPS 8: This is a channel where all types of dubbed serials and movies are given. English, Hindi and most of all Korean serials and movies are dubbed in Mizo dialect.
- 9) LPS 9: This is a comedy channel. Comedy films, drama and serials of Mizo and also dubbed ones are given.
- 10) LPS 10: This is a sports channel. Where all local tournaments in various sports categories are covered. It also telecast international and national important sports events and games.
- 11) LPS 11: This is also a channel known for its dubbing. It also gives original pirated Hindi and English movies
- 12) LPS 12: A channel for churches. All churches denominations have a time slot and their programmes are given out including gospel songs.

**Zonet Cable Television runs the following channels:**

- 1) Zonet Zawlbuk: This is their home channel, a 24-hour programme. Daily News Bulletin at 6 pm and 7:30 pm and also News “Zing Daifim” at 7 AM in the morning is one of the important programmes which attracted the audience by this particular channel.
- 2) Zonet Rihnim: This is a sports channel where all local tournaments in various sports categories are covered. It also telecast sports events and games of international and national importance.
- 3) Zonet Beiseina: This is a music channel but only for gospel music. It gives out Mizo, English and Hindi gospel songs and music.
- 4) Zonet Daifim: This is a channel where all types of dubbed serials and movies are given. English, Hindi and most of all Korean serials and movies are dubbed in Mizo dialect.
- 5) Zonet Rimawi: This is a music channel. It gives out all types of Mizo, English, Hindi, Korean and many others songs and music.
- 6) Zonet Bawhbel: A channel where all types of the programme are given out. Most of the time, it gives out dubbed movies and serials, and also replay programme from the Home channel, Zonet Zawlbuk.
- 7) Zonet Senhri: This channel is known for its dubbed serials and movies. Popular Hindi and Korean serials are dubbed.

- 8) Zonet Dingdi: This is also a channel known for its dubbing. It also gives original pirated Hindi and English movies.
- 9) Zonet Nauban: Same as other channels, it is also a channel known for its dubbing. It also gives original pirated Hindi and English movies.
- 10) Zonet Nihawi: This channel target child. Most of it's dubbed serials and movies are children base.
- 11) IMEM: This is a Christian channel, run by a society.
- 12) Hruaina Eng: A channel owned by the Presbyterian church of India, Mizoram.
- 13) Zonet Rinna: A gospel channel, where sermons and gospel songs are telecast.

With a view to ensure a good quality reception of Doordarshan channels through the Cable networks, the Central Government has notified the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules 1999 vide Notification No. 597, dated 20<sup>th</sup> August 1999. As per these rules, it is obligatory on the part of the cable operators to:-

- a) Transmit at least two Doordarshan Channels on their cable network in the prime band of channels other than those carrying terrestrial broadcast frequencies.
- b) Take only satellite signals of Doordarshan channels for transmission of their cable network by dish antenna/TVRO and not yagi antenna.
- c) Not transmit any channel on the cable network in the same frequency band in which Doordarshan Channels DD-I and DD-II are transmitted terrestrially, so as to avoid interference. (Cablequest.org)

The two main cable networks (LPS and ZONET) and their sub operators so far have been carried out the order well. Important events like football, royal wedding, funeral, and meetings etc. which are internationally or nationally important are life telecasted in Mizo cable channels where they comments are given in Mizo. So instead of tuning to the original channel where the program is given, tuning into the local channel and listening to the Mizo commentators becomes more interesting and easier to understand for the locals. It is also important to mention that the dubbed serials and movies of the cables are marketed out to another cable network in the neighbouring states like Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and even to a foreign country like Burma and Bangladesh, where Mizo speaking and understanding population dwells.

**Conclusion:** From the above, it can be understood that for a Mizo, using and understanding well the Mizo dialect, one does not necessarily tune into other channels, making television localized in a very special way. According to Kothari (2006), "Language became a way of providing a base ground for laying down roots. This by itself is not new to any culture – languages have always been strong markers of identity. What is significant, however, is the strong conflation between what may be called 'mother tongue' and identity that became evident in the wake of Indian Independence".

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- Vol : IX-2 Spring (December) 2017 ISSN No: 2230 956 (UGC Approved Journal)*

**Right to Water and the Issue of Privatization in India with  
Special Reference to National Water Policy of 2002**

<sup>1</sup>Khanal, D. K & <sup>2</sup>Borah, C.

**Abstract**

Water is a natural resource which is very important for human existence. Access to clean water for basic needs is a human right. The world's growing freshwater crisis, as well as the growing privatization of the natural resources like water, has become an important issue in the world today. Though India is a welfare country, but the growing tendency of the government towards privatizing natural resources with the adoption of National Water Policy of 2002, which encourage private sector participation in the planning, development and management of water resource project have raised serious questions regarding the welfare activities of the government of India and the rights of the people over their common property resources. This paper will be discussing the issue of privatization of water emphasizing the National Water Policy of 2002. The study is based on descriptive method. Data for the study is collected both from the primary and secondary sources. The primary data are collected from various government sources such as reports of Ministry of Water Resources of Government of India, Planning Commission of India, and Ministry of Finance of Government of India, National Water Policy 2002. and secondary data will be collected from various books, journals, reports of international organizations, newspapers, seminar papers, research papers, working papers, unpublished thesis and dissertations.

**Keywords-** Water scarcity, Privatization, Right to Water, National Water Policy 2002.

<sup>1</sup> Khanal, D. K, Research Scholar, Department of Political Science Mizoram University.

<sup>2</sup> Borah, C. Research Scholar, Department of Political Science. NEHU

**Introduction:** Presently, 1.1 billion people lack access to improved water supply and more than 2 billion people are affected by water shortage in over 40 countries. As far as India is concerned, acute scarcity of water in different parts has become an important concern for people and almost 170 million people do not get fresh water in sufficient quantity. Water is very important for human existence and survival. Though two third of earth's surface is covered with water, only 2.5% of this is usable for human beings. With the growth of population and increase in urbanization and industrialization, water has become resources. Hence the scarcity of water led to the emergence of the concept of the right to water. The first initiative in this regard was taken in the year 1972 at Stockholm Conference in which UN declared water as scarce resources. The issue of water scarcity was highlighted along with the importance of preservation of water resources for future generation. One of the important landmarks in these series of conferences was the Mar del Plata conference (1977) which declared water as a 'Right' of every human being without any discrimination.

In 1992, the UN declared water as an economic good to highlight that water is a scarce resource; therefore wastage of water has to be stopped. With the focus on the economic value of water, the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights came up with the definition of Right to water in 2002. Right to water was defined as the right of everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses. Access to pure



drinking water was given priority in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) under Goal 7. These initiatives of the UN have created awareness in the world to deal with the situation of scarcity of water and it was realized that if the government will not pay serious attention to the issue of scarcity of water and right to water, people will face serious consequences. The UN has underlined the role and responsibilities of the Governments in this context in clear terms in the Stockholm, Mar del Plata Conference and General Assembly Resolution. In the year 2000 onwards, the focus was further shifted towards considering the Right to Water as a human right. In 2007, the UN High Commission for Human Rights has marked a new beginning by concluding that it is now time to consider access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right which is necessary to sustain life and health.

In 2010, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution that the right to safe and clean drinking water is a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. The draft resolution on the human right to water and sanitation was finally adopted with 122 countries voted in favour including India, none against with 41 countries abstained from voting. This General Assembly Resolution is important from the fact that it has established a linkage between Right to Water and Right to Life, the standard of Living, Housing, Food, and Health. It has now been recognized worldwide that the Right to Water is a Human Right which can only be realized as a life-supporting component which is indispensable for living a life with dignity. The World Water Forum in the conferences held in Hague in 2002 and in Mexico in 2006 went ahead with taking into cognizance of the implementation part. Both the conferences have highlighted the fact that government has a primary role to play to provide people improved access to safe and clean water. From the above analysis, one finds that the Right to Water is an indispensable right to sustain life and it involves responsibilities on part of the state to protect, fulfill and respect people's right to have access to safe water.

In India, the right to water has come into prominence because of two factors- a) India is a signatory to all resolution which has been passed by UN. b) The role of Judiciary. Analyses of Government of India's participation in such conferences have been discussed in detail to develop an understanding of India's approach to the Right to Water. India is a signatory to Mar del Plata conference which declared that all people, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantum and of a quality equal to their basic needs. Further, India is also committed to achieving the MDGs. In addition to these, India has been party to all the major international conferences organized by UN, which have accorded a human right status to right to water. Though Right to Water has not expressly mentioned in the constitution, it is getting recognized because of India's commitment to international conferences on the Right to water and Judicial Activism. The Judicial approach to Right to Water has been analysed within the framework of the right to life under Art 21. In this chapter, a detailed analysis of the approach of the judiciary of the right to water has also been discussed to understand how the concept is evolving in India.

As mentioned above, the Right to Water has not been recognized by the Constitution. But, Right to Life under the Article 21 provides the ground under which right to water can be secured. The Supreme Court and Several High Courts in its various judgments declared the right to water as

a human right under article 21. For example, in 1991 the ambit of Article 21 was enlarged to include the 'right to water.' In Subhash Kumar Vs State of Bihar case, the Apex Court held that "right to life is a fundamental right under Art. 21 of the constitution which includes the right of enjoyment of pollution free Water and air for full enjoyment of life. In 1996, in the Delhi Water Supply and Sewerage Disposal Undertaking vs. State of Haryana and Ors case, the Supreme Court ordered Haryana to make available sufficient water to Delhi throughout the year. The Court also made it clear that drinking water and the right to use of water for domestic purposes constitute the most useful need of human beings and these prevail over other needs.

In 1998, a writ petition was submitted to the Allahabad High Court as a large part of Allahabad was deprived of clean and sufficient water. Under the guidance of the High Court, a committee was set up to look into the matter and the committee came up with its interim reports which clearly mentioned that it is the duty of the state government to ensure enough water for the people. One may draw an attention to the Petitions that were filed in 1998 and in 1999 in public interest in Guwahati high Court to highlight the problem of scarcity of pure and potable water in Guwahati. The High Court of Guwahati directed the State government to frame and place before it concrete, workable, practical and affordable schemes for the supply of clean drinking water. In 2000, in the A.P. Pollution Control Board vs. Prof. M. V. Nayadu case, the Supreme Court has held that the right to access to drinking water is fundamental to life and that the state has a duty under Article 21 to provide clean drinking water to its citizens. In this case, the Supreme Court also quoted the 1977 resolution of the UN-Water Conference that pledges access to clean drinking water for everybody, to which India is a signatory. In the Wasim Ahmed vs. Government of AP Case in 2001, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh said that the right to safe drinking water is a fundamental right and cannot be denied even on the ground of paucity of funds. Further, the Supreme Court of India in 2005 in the Narmada Bachao Andolan Vs Union of India again held that water is the basic need and a fundamental right under Art 21 of the Constitution.

During this period the right to water has emerged as an important issue as people were suffering from scarcity of water in many parts of the country. People did not get much assistance from the State Governments. For that reason, many writ petitions were submitted in various courts. All these cases primarily filed under the Public Interest Litigation (PIL). Judiciary has played an active role in recognizing the right to water as a right. Indian Judiciary maintains that every government which has its priorities right, should give foremost importance to providing safe drinking water as a right to life depends on that component. The active role played by Judiciary made the Government realize that a new water policy is needed to address the seriousness of the issue of scarcity of water. Therefore, the National Water Policy of 1987 reviewed and updated in 2002 to include governing, planning, development and management of water resources. The National Water Policy (NWP) 2002 includes drinking water as a first priority which is followed by irrigation. The third priority is given to sectors such as in industrial use or navigation. The policy also calls for control on the exploitation of groundwater resources. Above that provision of Right to water also get reflected in the five-year economic planning in India where the Government is committed to providing drinking water to people.

It is also necessary to mention here that though NWP 2002 has given primacy to Right to

Water, people are apprehensive of certain provisions which have given space for privatization. For example provisions like, "Private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible. Private sector participation may help in introducing innovative ideas, generating financial resources and introducing corporate management and improving service efficiency and accountability to users. Depending upon the specific situations, various combinations of private sector participation, in building, owning, operating, leasing and transferring of water resources facilities, may be considered," clearly illustrate the interest of the Government India.

The tenth five-year plan is a clear reflection of the provisions of privatization when it was mentioned that water tariffs and connection charges will gradually be increased and metering of water supply will be promoted. The Government of India has also taken a loan from different international organizations for the completion of water supply projects and has introduced billing of water supply in most of the states where politics of water has become a prominent issue. Commercialization of water sector was promoted on the plea that it will improve the services and quality of water supply. Communities and individuals working on water-related issues have perceived a great threat from the new water policy 2002. The WTO through its GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) negotiations and Trade and Environment Section in the Doha Declaration have pressed for the inclusion of water in national commitments, so that India will be forced to provide national treatment and market access rules to benefit Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) without regard for social or environmental impacts. The 'National Treatment' rule of GATS prohibits governments from discriminating between foreign and local service providers, so foreign companies will have to be treated on par with local companies. This would also have the effect that government funds allocated for public services would have to be made available to MNCs as well as local organizations. However, under this provision, foreign companies cannot be compelled to hire or train citizens or to involve local people in the management.

In fact, the commodification of water in India began when the World Bank aided the construction of large dams and the intensification of tube well irrigation within the past few decades. This has been pushed forward by the Bank's Structural Adjustment Policies. Similarly, Asian Development Bank's loans for privatization of water seem to have two clear motives, first, to force the entry of private industry in the water sector and second, and to create user groups in the form of *Pani Panchayats* who would provide ready customers to the companies. The term '*Pani Panchayats*' makes them sound like local bodies of self-governance which will be empowered to manage the water resources, but the use of this term is deceptive. *Pani Panchayats* will, in fact, be comprised of users of water who will pay for the services provided by the private sector. Several groups in different parts of the country have initiated public consultations, and campaigns. Navdanya, a group based in Uttaranchal, has compiled a good database and it has analyzed the implications of this. Uttaranchal has launched a Campaign for Water Liberation (Jal Swaraj) as a part of the Living Democracy movement which is involved with various movements on associated issues such as Save the Seed Movement and Save Biodiversity Movement. Perceiving severe threats to their water conservation work, Magsaysay award winner, Rajendra Singh from Tarun Bharat Sangh, felt the need to start a nationwide campaign to raise awareness on the issue of privatization. He was actively involved in providing inputs to the new National Water Policy.

The threats to the right to water are not new. There is plenty of evidence in the form of past movements who acted against the infringement of the right to water. The National Platform on Right to Water (NPRW) is one of them which have launched awareness programmes in Delhi, Nagpur etc. to stop the corporate theft of water resources and also to protect peoples' right over water as a public good. In any case, the People are apprehensive about the fact that instead of solving the scarcity of water it will further impose an economic burden on people which will lead to more troubles for the people. This shows that the Government has, on one hand, recognized water as a basic need but on the other hand it does not find any direct mention on the constitution. On top of that, the government does not rule out privatization which has become a source of controversy as many authors (Vandana, 2006) find that it might add to the woes of people instead of assuring Right to water.

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## **Mizo National Army: The First Contingent to People's Republic of China**

Lalhruaithanga, C

### **Abstract**

This paper is an attempt to examine the first batch of the Mizo National Army (MNA) contingent who went to China as the pathfinder in the intractable route to obtain arms and ammunition. The historic march of the first batch of MNA contingent to the People's Republic of China was inexplicably left out in many of the existing literature but recently it was incorporated in a "Documentary of Mizoram War of Independence 1966 to 1986" published in 2017 by Mizo National Front General Headquarters, Aizawl Mizoram. This paper will highlight the accomplishment of this mission as the first MNA contingent to China. They were not only the pioneer for the MNF but also who made a new path for the future diplomatic relations with the Communist Country. The main focus of this paper is the negotiation of the MNF -China contingent with the government of India and the ultimate surrender of this outfit leading to a 'farewell to arms' for some of the diehard Mizo of the Mizo National Army. As a whole, it is a historiographic narrative in its form.

**Keywords-** MNF, Ambassador, Contingent, Yunan, Kutung Camp, etc.

Lalhruaithanga, C is a Research Scholar, Dept of Hist. & Ethn. Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004.

**Introduction:** The Mizo National Front (MNF) started an armed revolution against the Union of India claiming self-determination for Mizoram and to all Mizo inhabited areas on February 28, 1966, at 12:00 AM (ZERO HOUR) midnights (Lalkhawliana, 2011). On March 1, 1966, Laldenga and sixty-one other members signed the 'Declaration of Independence' which appeals to all independent countries to recognize Mizoram as an independent country (Lalchamlia, 2011). On the very next day, Government of Assam declared the district as disturbed areas both under the Assam Disturb Areas Act, 1955 and also under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958. The MNF was declared unlawful organization on March 6, 1966 (Lalthakima, 2011).

The resources of the MNA were weak and insufficient to challenge the mighty Indian army. The MNF led insurgency could not sustain for a long period without the support and assistance of other powers. External support is a broad term that 'includes any form of support provided to an insurgent force from outside the political boundaries of the insurgency'. Active support is the 'intentional provision of the sanctuary, logistics, training, political backing, and economic aid'. Contiguous borders can 'facilitate external support while geographical isolation can render external support difficult at best' (Haas, 2011)

During the same period, the Pakistan Government also promised to supply arms and extend

financial aid every year. It is also to be noted that since 1969 the MNF had their Headquarters at the Sajek range in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). It was from this base that the MNA often crossed the border to unleash armed activities. Moreover, the MNF emissaries for several times had met consulates of different countries namely the United Kingdom, the United States of America, China, France, Burma, Nepal, Japan and Indonesia who were posted in Dacca (Varghese & Thanzawna 1997). During 1968, Lalthangliana, 'Ambassador' of the MNF made arrangement for a meeting of the Chinese Consul and Laldenga, the President of the MNF. As an outcome of such meetings, in June 1968 Laldenga went to China with his secretary Zoramthanga and Lalhmingthanga, Foreign Minister respectively. The three members for several times interacted with the Chinese leaders. The Chinese leaders informed the MNF President that they were ready to offer armed support through Pakistan Government (Lalthangliana). The Chinese Embassy at Dacca always tried to give a helping hand with arms, save passage and positive advice in their future struggle against the Government of India (Varghese & Thanzawna 1997). It is believed that as China and Pakistan since 1962 and 1975 respectively were India's formidable rivals at the International level hence such arrangement was always positive.

Consequent upon the clandestine relationship between China and the MNF, the first contingent of about 1000 MNF volunteers, led by Brig. General R. Sangkawia and Col. F. Sappawia headed for China by land route in June 1968. But they could not reach China because they had failed to cross the flooded river of the Chindwin River (Myanmar) and they could not easily tackle the Burmese Security Forces. The first batch after a long journey of about three months returned with a failure to achieve its objective (Zamawia 2007; Chawngsailova, 1997).

The fall of Dacca to the Indian Army on December 16, 1971, witnessed the creation of Bangladesh. The MNF Headquarters and Army Headquarters at Rangamati (Bangladesh) were now helpless as it had aided the vanquished. Consequently, the MNA was besieged by the Indian Army but miraculously escaped from the hands of the Indian Army on December 16, 1971, and this particular escapade has been marked 'Exodus Day' (Tawnluia, 2011). The MNF capital Headquarters and Army Headquarters were shifted to Arakan in Burma (Myanmar). The MNF reached the Arakan base of Arengthawsi on 26th February 1972. In the Arakan camp, they were hosted by the Burmese Communist Party (BCP) and they were willing to give them a base in exchange for their friendship and co-operation. Apart from this, an agreement was made wherein the MNV would be used by the BCP in their operations against the Burmese army (Chawngsailova, 1997). However, there was a discontentment among the MNF armies due to Laldenga (President of the MNF) who had borrowed ten thousand Kyats from BCP without consulting his colleagues. What was more was helping the BCP in their dangerous operations in which many lost their lives and several got injured. This led to a feeling of distress among the Mizo Army which they thought that they would be fighting for independent but instead, they had to suffer several ordeals in the Burmese jungle (Lalhuliana, 2016).

During their stay in Arakan, Laldenga's message from Karachi arrived at the headquarters mentioning that there was no country big or small willing to help their movement except 'words of sympathy' (Chawngsailova, 1997). In the journey of Mizo freedom struggle, there were ups and downs in the course of time. Their prestige went up when they established headquarters at East

Pakistan and lowered during the fall of Dacca and fled to Arakan. On 6th November 1972, the 12th National Executive Committee (NEC)<sup>1</sup> meeting was held at Leiphah Village. In that meeting, Major Demkhosiek volunteered himself for the path-finding to make contact with the Chinese government through land route via Arakan to China for obtaining arms and ammunition. He mentioned that it was their only option and lifeline for continuing the freedom struggle. He also requested to the NEC that he should be entrusted the full authority in selecting the delegation members and to establish a sub-capital at Manipur. The NEC accepted his request and appointed Major Demkhosiek as President for his credential, Lt. Col. Lunghnema as Army Chief cum Secretary and Lalthawmvunga, Deputy Secretary to represent the Mizoram government in China (C. Lallana).

On 26th November 1972, the MNF army under Major Demkhosiek left the capital (Arakan) with his men and selected Sunsawng (Bangladesh) as rendezvous. On 5th January 1973, about 53 MNF including volunteers from other battalions started their Long March from Sunsawng and crossed the Burmese border through Manipur-Nagaland border. When they reach Chindwin River, unfortunately, all the boats were seized by the Burmese army. However, the MNF volunteered managed to steal two boats that were under the strict surveillance of the Burmese army (Hualhnuna, 2014).

It is to be noted that Major Demkhosiek was popularly called 'Lamkaipu' (Leader) in the Upper Chindwin region; everyone respected him and obeyed his orders (Laltlana, 2016). In their march towards China, they were given shelter, food, and protection by the Kuki villages in Burma and they were safely guided up to Kachin region (Thomsong, 2005). It may be noted that none of the MNF had crossed the Chindwin River before Major Demkhosiek and his men did. On 15th May 1973, Pamphili, a tributary of Chindwin River was crossed by the MNF. After two days, however, they were ambushed by the Burmese army and lost one live. Unfortunately, in the event of the cross-fire, their guide fled and they marched towards the eastward with the help of one Map set only. When they arrived at Patkai range, due to the hilly terrain and rough gorge, they lost their way and entered the 'No return Forest'. After four days they suddenly entered a village inhabited by about 20 households mostly the Kukis, Kachins, and Shans. The villagers guided them to the Kachin Underground Camp and they were warmly welcomed by the Kachins (Hualhnuna, 2014).

The delegation leaders went to the Chinese border and they stayed there for about six months among the Kachin underground rebels waiting for the approval the Chinese government to allow crossing the border. Information was received from Peking (Beijing) that the Chinese Red Army would receive them on Jan 1, 1974, at 1:00 pm at the border post-Nunglung (Sangchungnunga, 2017). The MNF Army hearing the good news handed over all their arms and ammunition to the Kachin Underground and entered China with empty handed. Among the MNF there were three Mizo interpreters namely C.Hualhnuna- English, Lalngura-Burmese, and Changliana-Hindi. They were welcomed by Wang Shi Khai, a Commander of Pausing (Pausing) Unit Training Centre at Kunming in Yunnan Province. During their sojourn stay at the training centre, the Chinese Red Army trained them for about two months and then they were shifted to Kunming Foreigner Hotel located at the centre of the city. Five selected to be representing the delegate namely Major. Demkhosiek, Lt. Col. Lunghnema, Lalthawmvung, H.Laltlana, and Vanchungsanga went to Peking and they were received by the Chief of General Staff named General Huang Yongsheng. They also met the Chinese Foreign

Minister named Sheng Chang Huan<sup>2</sup> and seriously discussed claiming that Mizos affinity was racially and culturally the same with the Chinese and China is the original home of the Mizos (Laltlana, 2016).

As an outcome of this meeting, a resolution was made and some of the important points were:

- (1) To make a better arrangement for the MNF to go to China for armed training.
- (2) Better military, political and arms aid for the MNF.
- (3) Immediate financial aid.
- (4) To recognize “Mizoram Government” as an independent state.
- (5) A high-level meeting between the MNF and the Chinese authorities. (Chawngsailova: 1997)

After several promises from the Chinese government with much enthusiasm, the MNF started back in April 1974 and they were once again received by the Kachin underground at the Burmese border. Major Demkhosiek and his team returned with 3 wireless set (No. 1078) and thirty boxes of medicine, serviceable clothes, and money (32000 US Dollars and 62000 Burmese Kyats), 69 gold chains, 10 inflatable boats, books written by Mao Zedong along with several arms equipment (Seikholen Thomsong, 2005).

The MNF was under the protection of Kachin underground throughout the Kachin State and they maintained a cordial relationship with them. The MNF delegates wanted to have a representative to Kachin underground which was also quite necessary for entering China through the Kachin state. Therefore, Mr Lalthawmvunga and 4 others were instructed to stay on in the Kachin Underground Camp to wait for the next batch of China delegates (Zama, 2016). The rest crossed the Chindwin River, and they had to encounter with the Burmese army for two times, and survived but lost one of their fellow comrades. When they arrived at the Indo- Burmese border, they set up a camp at Muolvailup (Hualhnuna, 2014)

After two days, Narpat Singh, DGP Delhi and Shri Krishan Negi, Platoon Commander, SSB<sup>3</sup> appeared near the MNF Camp holding up their hands in the air, seeking for negotiation with the MNF and the Government of India. They stated that they were the representatives of the Personal Secretary of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. They were sent to Imphal (Capital of Manipur State) by the Prime Minister of India for political negotiation with the China contingent. The leadership of China delegates told them that they have no authority to make any negotiation. They also informed them that they needed to consult their Army Headquarters of the Arakan camp (Myanmar) and they requested representatives of the Indian Government to make arrangement to have contact with their headquarters. During the process, a cease-fire was declared by both sides and in the meantime, the MNF assigned one of the members of the Chinese contingent named Lalpianruala to contact with the MNF headquarters. The Indian Government immediately made an arrangement for Lalpianruala to fly by a Helicopter from Imphal to Pharhva camp in the southernmost area of Mizoram (Hualhnuna, 2014).

In the meantime, the MNF contingent shifted their camp to Khaithialminbi about 60 Kilometers from Imphal. As there was no proper response from their headquarters again they sent Captain Lalchunga to their army headquarters. Even when they received no clear information to make a conclusive decision. There was a rumour spread and wrong information was transferred between link offices at Mizoram to army headquarters. As Demkhosiek was once arrested in East

Pakistan (Bangladesh) because he was accused of being one of the members of the Blue Group (another faction of the MNF) therefore, it was likely that the MNF headquarters may have some doubt in his activities. On the other hand, the letters received from their headquarters also had provoked Demkhosiek stating that they would be sending about 200 Mizo young men from the headquarters and asked to recruit another 100 Kuki volunteers for the next contingents to China. Demkhosiek thought that the headquarters discriminated MNF volunteers of Manipur (Laltlana, 2016).

The next batch to China under Colonel Biakvela arrived and stayed in the Muolvailup Camp for three weeks. As per the negotiation with the Indian government, this batch was to hold on to the MNF camp in Manipur. One of the main reasons for this negotiation was to be free from the attack of the Indian army. However one night, without giving prior information, Col. Biakvela and his men secretly left the camp and set out towards China including a few men who were stationed at other based camp. With the help of those pioneers, the second batch marched towards without losing their way and reached China without much hardship as compared to the problems faced by the first contingent (Laltlana, 2016).

As the MNF Headquarters did not welcome any kind of negotiation with the Government of India the situation was now going from bad to worse which resulted in the surrender of the MNF under Demkhosiek. Under the strain circumstances, Demkhosiek Gangte and 53 of his men surrendered to the Governor, Shri L.P.Singh, at Imphal on 30 June 1975, with a large cache of arms and ammunition including 23 sub-machine gun, 7 pistols, 2 rocket launchers, 18 rockets and a large quantity of ammunition. This was the biggest outfit which had ever surrendered in Manipur and to the Government of India. In this process, Shri Krishan Singh Negi, Platoon Commander, SSB was instrumental to initiate this successful event. He was also the first official to communicate with the MNF contingent and remained throughout the negotiation with the MNF army that was under the leadership of Demkhosiek Gangte (ssb.nic.in). Circumstances had compelled the leadership of the first Chinese contingent to surrender to the Government of India.

In view of the above, the contribution of the first delegates cannot be ruled out. Without Demkhosiek, the MNF may not be contacting the government of China and fetched arms and ammunition. They had passed through hardship, peril, hunger, deprivation, poverty, physical and mental anguish-ridden along this long march from Arakan( Myanmar) to Yunan province (China).They were the pioneer who opened a new path for the next batch of MNA contingent to China. They may not be hailed as 'heroes' of Mizo independent movement, but for Mizos their contribution cannot be eliminated from the history of the MNF revolutionary movement.

Critics of the contemporary period could not rule out the strength and capacity of the first Chinese contingent. They pointed out the well- furnished outfit of the contingent but could not estimate the incapacity of the contingent, although they had not received any instructions from their headquarters. Further, critics also made a careful observation on the leadership of the contingent for easy to be led astray by the representatives of the Indian Government. It was also remarked that such a well-equipped contingent, right from the start, could have at least resisted and confronted their foes, but not even a single shot was fired or heard. This wherein lay the communication gap between the



MNF headquarters and the leadership of their armies. It also shows the weak centralization of the MNF administration.

Finally, it is to be noted that the Government of India knew and anticipated the importance of the MNF-China delegates and it wanted to put a stop once and for all to any foreign assistance which would be futile for the nation as a whole, as it would also give false hope to the majority of the Mizos. As for the MNF, the connection with China was considered to be their only lifeline and hope to strengthen self-determination- independent movement. Conversely, it was the greatest success of the Indian government in the contemporary world wherein it had broken one of the arm-wings of the MNF as well as a pinch for their formidable enemy -China.

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### **Notes**

- <sup>1</sup> NEC – National Emergency Council was formed on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1971 to take over the control of the administration and movement in the absence of the President Laldenga.
- <sup>2</sup> During the interview, the China delegates cannot clearly state the exact official names whom they had contacted in China.
- <sup>3</sup> Special Service Bureau (now Saurashtra Seema Bal), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The jurisdiction of the SSB was extended to Manipur in 1965 and to the most sensitive border areas including Tripura, Meghalaya, Jammu, Sikkim, Nagaland, Mizoram etc.

## **Mizo Relations with the British in Pre-Independence era**

Lalrinnggheta

### **Abstract**

This article is concerned with the relations between Mizo and the British in pre-independence era of India. Various violent activities of the Mizo and retaliatory policies pursued by the British, British administrative policies towards Mizo after the permanent settlement, negative and positive trends in their relations are covered.

**Keywords-** relations, annexation, subjugation, expedition etc.

Lalrinnggheta is a research scholar of the Dept of Hist & Ethn, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004.

**Introduction:** The Mizo Relations with the British in Pre-Independence era can be explain in two trends as below:

**Negative trends:** The Lushai hills remained unexplored by outsiders even after the British had firmly established their supremacy in other areas of North East after the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826. Knowing the fact that occupation of the hill area would not be economically profitable and due to the ferocious attitude of the inhabitants, the British administrators decided to leave them alone as long as possible. But with the passage of time, the wild tribes resorted to raids repeatedly on the plains people and those working on tea estate who were British subjects. They killed so many people and imprisoned them as slaves. In addition to the adventurous mindset of the tribes, gradual expansion of tea garden in the foot hills and prohibition of hunting elephant by the British resented the tribes.

Initially, the British pursued conciliatory measures against this wild tribe. But actions of the British did not make a desired result. Looting, beheading, killing and burning houses of the British subjects were the regular events of those days. As a result, the British sent the first expeditionary forces, 'Blackwood Expedition' to punish the wrong doers under Captain Blackwood in 1844. This expedition was carried on in retaliation to Lushai chief Lalsuaka's attack on a Manipuri village of Kochabari on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1844. Again in 1849, the Lister Expedition was sent but without the intention of establishing their settlement there. Then in 1859, a fort in Chittagong Hill Tracts was attacked by the Lushai and the series of attacks followed afterwards. Tripura was invaded in 1860, fifteen villages were burnt down, 185 villagers were killed and 100 were taken as captives. In 1864, Lushai attacked Chittagong Hill Tracts. Suakpuilala, a northern Lushai chief attacked Sylhet and

again in 1869 tea gardens at Loharband and Moniarkhal in Cachar were assaulted.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1871, a large scale attack occurred on Alexandrapur tea garden in which James Winchester was killed and his daughter Marry Winchester was captivated. In the same year, Lushai raided Cachari village of Ainarkhar in which 25 people lost their lives and 37 were made prisoners. These occurrences changed the British policy from the conciliation to that of forward policy. The Lushai Expedition of 1871 was pursued by the British to punish the Lushai chiefs and to take back the captives. It was a successful expedition. But this time also the Britishers had no intention to permanently occupy the territory. The period of peace brought by this expedition did not last long as the entire Lushai chiefs were not completely subdued.

In February 1888, a survey party led by Lieutenant Stewart was ambushed by the Lushai and Stewart was shot dead and he became the first European who sacrificed his life in the Lushai country. The same year, a deceased Mizo chief Vuttaia son, Nikhama, Lungliana and Kairuma attacked the territory of Pakuma Rani, an ally of the British<sup>1</sup>. They killed the Rani and other 20 persons and captured 15 slaves. Also, Lushai of the Sailo chiefs raided Chengri valley, they burnt 24 villages and killed 101 people and made 91 prisoners. It was committed by chiefs like Zahrawka and Lianphunga, both are sons of Suakpuilala. The British now realised the futility of their earlier policy and decided to embark on the policy of complete subjugation of the Lushai chiefs and permanent settlement on the hills to safeguard their subjects and economic interests in the plains.

As a result of the Lushai ferocious raids on the British subjects, the Chin-Lushai Expedition was launched in 1889-1890, and from thereon British occupation of the territory had begun. Immediately after the expedition, the military outposts were set up at Aijal (now Aizawl) and Changsil. In the south, Fort Tregear was established at Lungleh (now Lunglei). With the conclusion of the Chin-Lushai Operations and the reduction of the Lushai chiefs into submission, the question of future administration of the newly acquired tracts began to engage the attention of Government of British India.

The British completely subjugated the Lushai chiefs and made their settlement. But they allowed the institution of chieftainship to continue with lessening of some of the chiefs' power. The first five years (1890-1895) of relations between British and Lushai was marked by revolt and it was a period of consolidation of British Supremacy. Over the questions of coolie and taxation, revolts aroused from region after region. House tax was imposed on every house, except widow and crippled, at one rupee per year. For coolie work except government servants, physically handicapped, school masters, chiefs and their officials such as elders (upa), priest (puithiam), village blacksmith (thirdeng) and village writer (khawchhiar) every household should make themselves available and coolie was paid 4 annas a day. But in 1897 the rate of house tax was increased to Rs. 2 per year and coolie rate was also up to 8 annas a day.

It was the chiefs who objected to, as they had no benefits from the coolie work. In fact it was derogatory for the chiefs when their subjects did work for the alien rulers. Moreover, for the common people it was burdensome when the call for coolie work concurred with the season when their agricultural work needed an urgent labour. After a very deliberate and cautious plan was made in which Kalkhama was the mastermind, an alliance of western chiefs attacked the Fort Aizawl and the Fort Changsil. Capt. Browne party on their way to Shillong from Aizawl was ambushed and he was shot but managed to escape. After he reached Changsil he succumbed to his injuries. But this revolt was subdued by the British under an able Robert McCabe<sup>2</sup>.

After the annexation of the Lushai Hills by the British, it was divided into the North Lushai Hills and the South Lushai Hills in 1891. In 1898 the two political setups were amalgamated to become the Lushai Hills District and put under Assam Province. It was governed by the Superintendent with its Headquarters at Aizawl. The Superintendent abrogated the traditional Chief's power of right to order capital punishment; right to seize the property of his subjects in case of the later shifted his allegiance to other chief; right over land, right to tax traders doing business within his jurisdiction and right to appoint his son as chief. The Superintendent on his part was empowered with the right to settle disputes between the chiefs, between villages, regulate the succession of chieftainship, appoint new chiefs and guardians of minor chief, partition of the existing villages, punishment and deposition of the chiefs and headmen for misconduct, right to inflict death sentence and transportation for life with the prior assent of the Chief Commissioner of Assam and it is his duty to maintain peace and tranquillity in the district and can order a person to leave if his presence was a threat to public order.

Thus, the British adopted indirect rule in the Lushai Hills District. The traditional chiefs were acting as the intermediary of administration in their respective villages. In fact, the British trained them to rule as per the rules and regulations set by them. They were given duties like- upkeep of the village paths, maintenance of public water points, proper maintenance of accounts of all fines imposed, records of births and deaths, collection of house tax and supply of labour when asked by the Superintendent, judicial power in petty case according to custom and the duty of informing about heinous crime, violence and plague in the village to the Superintendent. This system of indirect rule was very effective as well as less expensive for the British and thus continued till India Independence in 1947.

The Government of India Act 1919 declared the Lushai Hills District as 'Backward area' and again the Government of India Act 1935 put the district in the category of 'Excluded area'. During this period, formal administration as practised in other parts of the country was absent in the district mainly due to the backwardness of the district and lack of competent political institutions. The district had no representatives in the Assam Legislative Assembly. It was governed by the Governor of Assam through the District Superintendent till India Independence. This period can be called as the period of 'Politically dormant stage' in the case of Lushai Hills District. The relations between the District and the Provincial Government can be dubbed as 'one way traffic' or 'downward processes'.

**Positive trends:** Suakpuilala was the first Lushai chief who made a formal contact with the British. In December 1851, he established a relation with the authorities in Silchar. He had a negotiation with Colonel Lister and presented him an elephant's tusk and the latter also gave him some coarse of woollen clothes as a symbol of friendly relationship between them. When the relations between the eastern Lushai and the western Lushai had been deteriorated in 1876-77 Suakpuilala sought the help of British, but it was refused on the ground that he was not a subject of the British. Yet, Suakpuilala had also committed raids on the British subjects, his tact and shrewdness in diplomacy placed him as the greatest ambassador among the Lushai chiefs. This is evident from the fact that after his death there was none among his sons who possessed his quality; as a result the relations between Lushai chiefs and British degenerated.

In 1871, J.W. Edgar Deputy Commissioner of Cachar made an extensive tour on Lushai hills

and met different chiefs. He made an agreement with Suakpuilala and the later promised not to attack Cachar or Sylhet and if such attack happened the latter would inform him. Suakpuilala even assisted the British Government in the Lushai Expedition of 1871-72. After this expedition, to improve relations, the Government of Bengal agreed to the proposal of holding annual “Durbar” of the Lushai chiefs at Demagiri according to the suggestions of T.H. Lewin. Very soon the system assumed an especial significance in the Anglo-Lushai relationship<sup>3</sup>.

After the Lushai expedition of 1871-72, trade mart or bazaar had been constructed by the British at three places- Tipaimukh, Sonai and Jhanacherra. Salt, iron, brass and copper utensils, tobacco were sold by the Bengalee traders in exchange for rubber, ivory etc. In December 1874, the Lushais came down in large number to purchase cattle in exchange for which they offered cash they had obtained from the sale of rubber. In 1873, Rai Bahadur Hari Charan Sarma, as the British representative toured the Lushai country and he was cordially welcomed by the Lushai chiefs. Also in 1881 (Jan-Feb) Boyd accompanied by Dally (Police Superintendent) made an extensive tour in the nature of peace mission. These travels paved the way for building friendly relations with the Lushai and also threw useful information on the hill.

One significant event in the Lushai hill was the famine of 1880. According to one estimate about 15,000 people died of starvation in the 1880 famine<sup>4</sup>. Lushai people came down in large number to the plains of Cachar and Chittagong in search of assistance. The local authorities thereafter getting permission from higher authorities supplied them with food, but in return they insisted them to do road construction work. The assistance saved many lives and the Lushai were thankful for it.

Due to the successful friendly relationship with the Lushai, the British got the assistance of Lushai chiefs in the First and Second World Wars. During the Second World War, the Lushai chiefs made a joint statement to offer help to the Allied powers. Following the statement, many Mizo youth joined the army and formed a famed Lushai Brigade and Lushai Scouts. These brave men repulsed the forces of Japanese marching from Burma (Myanmar). The Lushai chiefs also helped the British by sending more than two thousand contingents in Europe during the First World War. In the Abhor Expedition and Haokip Rebellion assistance was given to the British. All these developments indicated growing friendly relations between the two.

#### **Notes and References:**

1. Nikhama, Lungliana and Kairuma, all were Sailo chiefs in the eastern Lushai hills. They ruled their respective villages but maintained closed relations with each other.
2. Western chiefs, who were descendants of Suakpuilala, started revolt against the British in September 1890 over the issues of coolie for road construction and house tax. Even Capt. Brown lost his life after a severe injury in an ambush carried out by Western Lushai chiefs on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1890. Lieutenant Swinton was also shot dead. In the new year of 1891 Robert Mc Cabe could successfully restore peace in the region. Southern Lushai chiefs rose in revolt in early February 1891. But it did not last long as a result of Captain Hutchinson's diplomatic skill. Eastern Lushai uprising broke out in the month of March, 1892 under chief Lalburha, but Capt. Mc Cabe defeated the rebels in the same year.
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## Some Reflections on Human Rights Experiences in Mizoram

Lalrintluanga

### Abstract

This paper attempts to reflect human rights experiences of Mizos under different situations, beginning with human rights experiences of the Mizo commoners under their hereditary Chiefs in the pre and post-colonial period. It also reflects the British denial of political rights to the Mizo Chiefs and their subjects and how the Chiefs could turn into an instrument of oppression of their people's rights. It also reflects unfavourable human rights experiences of the Mizos in the post-independent period, particularly during Mautam famine, which prompted the Mizo Chiefs and their subjects to develop a fear of violation of their second and third generation human rights by the plains people resulting in the Mizo insurgency. During this insurgency period in Mizoram, the people suffered various human rights violations. After the new millennium, human rights consciousness of the Mizo youths is oriented towards the first generation human rights which give more priority to the protection of individuals' human rights.

**Keywords-** human rights, Mizo, famine, insurgency, culture, security etc.

Lalrintluanga, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Mizoram Aizawl-796004.

**Introduction:** The term “human rights” came into prominence at the national and the international levels with the founding of the United Nations in 1945 shortly after the Second World War. Today, human right studies occupy a centre stage in the academic circles irrespective of their disciplines.

Human rights are generally defined as those rights and freedoms which belong to all human beings. In spite of the fact that human rights derive their origin from the theory of natural rights, we call them “human rights” today because rights are no longer derived from operations of natural reasons but from what is called “Human.” According to MacFarlane, human rights are those “moral rights which are owned by each man and woman solely by reason of being called human.” (Macfarlane, 1990) Human rights tend to give all people moral claims on the behaviour of individuals and collective agents and on the design of social arrangements. Human rights are universal, non-negotiable, inalienable and indivisible as they are inherent in human existence. Human rights are, thus, the rights possessed by all persons, by virtue of their common humanity, to live a life of freedom and dignity (UNDP, 2000). Hence, the rights do not depend on conferment by any authority (Verma, 1999). Human rights will be fulfilled only when all persons are secure in their enjoyment of the goods and freedoms that are necessary for dignified living. The concept of human rights encompasses not only the right of self-determination, or the right of people under colonial domination, or foreign occupation, to take any legitimate action to realise their aspirations, but also several other rights. Human rights implicitly strive to secure the freedom, well-being and dignity of all people everywhere. To secure (UNDP, 2000):

*“Freedom from discrimination - by gender, race, ethnicity, national origin or religion.*

*Freedom from want to enjoy a decent standard of living.*

*Freedom to develop and realise one's human potential.*

*Freedom from fear of threats to personal security, from torture, arbitrary arrest and violent acts.*

*Freedom from injustice and violations of the rule of law.*

*Freedom of thought and speech and to participate in decision-making and form associations.*

*Freedom for decent work - without exploitation.”*

However, there exists no universally accepted definition of human rights and the question as to what constitutes human rights remains a debatable issue even today. Over time, the concept of human rights has continuously expanded in response to the spread of the very horizon of human rights which has been brought about by the fast pace of economic transformation witnessed in last few decades in the larger part of the world. The first-generation human rights mainly refer to the civil and political rights of the individuals. But, the first generation concept of human rights has been broadened with the input of socialist states and the third world states to incorporate a wide range of economic, social and cultural rights (Thorat, 2001). Hence, the second-generation human rights are concerned with the social, economic and cultural security. Further, the third-generation human rights include the right to development (to peace, more equitable socio-economic order and a sustainable development), one's own cultural heritage, protection of the environment and natural resources and the right of indigenous people (political self-determination and control over socio-economic development). It is, therefore, possible to maintain that the last two types of human rights relate more to the group and community rights rather than individuals (Yasin & Upadhyay, 2004).

In short, human rights aim at guaranteeing the individual and collective well-being up to the extent of protecting the individuals or groups from exploitation, oppression, persecution and other forms of deprivation. Meanwhile, western democracies emphasise political and civil rights such as freedom of speech, expression and press. According to their popular view, human right norms as universally applicable and all governments should abide by those basic norms regardless of their cultural, social and political systems. On the contrary, socialist states and the third world states have given priority to economic, social and cultural guarantees -the right to food, clothing, decent housing, humane working condition and education. They, therefore, argue that human right norms are culturally specific and should not be blindly applied across cultures and social systems. Even the tribal communities in Mizoram would like to operationally define “human rights” based on the combination of the second and the third generation concepts of human rights. Most of the Mizos have found the second generation human rights as relevant for the preservation of their human rights inasmuch as it guarantees social, economic and cultural security to the groups and community. Simultaneously, they have also found the third generation human rights as applicable to the present study as long as it purports the rights of indigenous people for political self-determination and control over their socio-economic development. However, in view of the recent trend in human rights awareness among the new generation in Mizoram, it is not possible to overlook the relevance of the first generation human rights which guarantees the civil and political rights of the individuals.

**Traditional Human Rights Experiences:** Mizoram is one of the mountainous and hilly states of India, covering an area of only 21,087 sq.Kilometres (GoM, 2000). It was formerly known to the people of other parts of India as the ‘Lushai Hills District’ of the erstwhile Assam State. The indigenous people living in Mizoram are, as they call themselves, the ‘Mizos’ who are traced to be the original hill tribes of the Assam-Burman sub-group that branches from Tibeto-Burman group of the main Tibeto-Chinese race (Lalthangliana, 1975). Evidently, the Mizos have been surrounded by different nations and States inhabited by different communities. While the Mizo society was passing through its rudimentary stage of social formation, each village community in Mizoram was ruled

over by its own Lal or Chief who was entirely independent of other Chiefs. Captain T.H.Lewin who was the first British to have intimate knowledge about the Mizos described their village system as “a number of petty states, each under a Dictator or President” (Lewin, 1869). As chieftainship was considered to be the prerogative of the Sailo clan, it practically closed the door to power position for the common people. Hence, a Mizo Chief could independently enjoy a number of rights and privileges at the cost of his subjects within his particular area of chieftdom.

The Mizo traditional Chief was the repository of all powers and the fountainhead of justice in the village government “having ruled in matters relating to the general good...” (Lewin, 1912). In the discharge of his multifarious functions of village administration, the Mizo Chief was assisted by a Council of Upas or Elders chosen by the former, at his discretion, from those who were Thangchhuahpas (ones who offered expensive public feasts). There were also other important functionaries exclusively appointed by the Chief, namely the Free or Zalens, the Privileged or Ramhuals, the village Blacksmith or Thirdeng and the village Priests or Puithiam. Evidently, there was only a limited scope for a commoner to raise himself to a power position in the traditional politico-administrative system in Mizoram. Some degree of gender discrimination was also seen in the Mizo society. According to the Mizo traditional prescription and customary community discipline, women were expected not to participate in the art of traditional village administration and hence no room was reserved for them in the decision-making system of the village governance.

In the absence of any possible danger from within and outside the confines of their respective tribal chieftdoms, some of the Mizo Chiefs had started excessively demanding for more privileges from their subjects beyond the normal limits prescribed by the Mizo tradition. In spite of this excessive exaction from their Chiefs, no one was brave enough to resist such imposition from his/her village Chief and hence, the protection of his/her first generation human rights against the command of the Chief was a far cry.

**Post-colonial Human Rights Experiences:** In 1890, the twin exogenous forces, namely, the British administration and the Christian Missionaries of western origin had made an inroad into the Mizo Hills to stop the sporadic raids committed by the Mizo traditional Chiefs on the British occupied territories in the plains. Undoubtedly, the motive behind the British occupation of the Mizo Hills was simply to make the frontiers quiet by subjugating their Chiefs who conducted intermittent raids on the British territories in the Assam plains like Cachar which had been taken possession of by the British in 1830 (Reid, 1983).

By way of consolidating their powers with least expenditure in the Mizo Hills, the British authority had decided to introduce the simplest system of administration and accordingly followed the policy of the internal control of the villages by their own leaders and the principle was “to impress upon the Chiefs either responsibility for the maintenance of order in their villages” Reid, 1941). Thus, the Mizo Chiefs had become the representatives of the British government in their own land and “the main plank of the alien rule over their own people: (Reid, 1941). Thus, under the overall supremacy of the British Superintendent, the Mizo Chiefs had lost their powers and credibility before their subjects. McCall also pointed out abolition of the following several rights and prerogative of the Mizo Chiefs (McCall, 1949)

- “ (1) Right to order capital punishment.
- (2) Right to seize food stores and property of villagers who wished to transfer their allegiance.

- (3) Proprietary rights over land now arbitrarily reserved by Government in the interests of the public living in neighbouring areas in British India.
- (4) Right to tax traders doing business within the Chiefs' jurisdiction.
- (5) Right to freedom of action in relation to making their own sons chiefs under their own jurisdiction. (The practice of appointing the youngest son next heir was given up in favour of the eldest son).
- (6) Right to help those Bawis (paupers, dependents) who were, by custom, not open to redemption.
- (7) The right of freedom of action in relation to other kinds of Bawis, who used to constitute the means whereby the Chief could cultivate and acquire the ability to sustain their villages in peace and war.
- (8) Right to attach the property of their villagers when they wished or deemed fit, with or without fault on the part of the villagers."

Though the British rulers tried its best to suppress the aspirations of the Mizos for higher education, the first High School was fortunately opened at Aizawl, in 1944, during the tenure of MacDonald as the District Superintendent, "through public donations and collaborations" (Liangkhaia, 1949). This premier High School "was taken over by the Assam Government in 1950." Thereafter, the new educated class had flourished in the Mizo society whose aspiration was the democratisation of the polity and abolition of the privileges and rights of their autocratic Chiefs "who used to rule the villages with an iron hand" (Baveja, 1973). While the effect of Christianity was "a loosening of the bonds of customary behaviour; education itself was a passport to material distinction" (McCall, 1949). The emerging educated Mizos wanted freedom from their traditional Chiefs and from customary community discipline.

Liberal education introduced by the Christian Missionaries had a far-reaching effect on the Mizo society. One of such effects was the growing political consciousness among the educated Mizo commoners who had expressed their desire to form a political party so that they could also send their representatives to the Provincial Government of Assam. Unfortunately, the British Superintendent was bound to suppress to the emerging political consciousness among the Mizos because the Government of India Act 1935 made Mizoram an "Excluded Area." The educated Mizos who were denied of the right of representation to the Provincial Assembly felt that they were let down by the colonial authority while other hill tribes in the "Partially Excluded Areas" were allowed to send their common representative to the Provincial Government of Assam. In this connection, S.K. Chaube also said: "In the Mizo Hills, some 'commoners' raised a demand for representation to the Provincial Assembly of 1937. The movement was suppressed " (Chaube, 1973). In spite of the British attempt to disrupt the political consciousness of the Mizo Commoners, it spread like a wildfire in the nook and corner of the Mizo Hills.

In the meanwhile, the British realised that their rule in India was coming to an end and thus started reversing its policy to support the educated Commoners in their move against the autocratic rule of the traditional Chiefs. The educated elite could successfully mobilise the common people to launch political movements against their traditional Chiefs. Thus, under the auspices of the educated elite, the political consciousness of the common people to pursue the protection of their human rights ultimately led to the birth of the first political party called the Mizo Union (M.U) Party on 9 April 1946 (Vanlawma, 1972). The main motive behind the formation of the new political party, inter

alia, was to fight against the rights, privileges and vested interests of their traditional Chiefs. Through their active participation in the District Conference formed by the District Superintendent, the M.U leaders pursued their unfulfilled aspiration by exerting incessant pressure on the Government for the democratisation of the polity.

**Post-Independent Human Rights Experiences:** When Indian independence from the British yoke became an accomplished fact, Mizo public opinion was divided over the future status of their land. The original M.U leadership was in favour of a separate existence for their land outside India whereas the new leadership had opted for an autonomous existence of Mizoram within the Assam State of India as the best option for the protection of their human rights against their traditional Chiefs. Meanwhile, a new wave of political consciousness had developed in the Mizo society which, inter alia, advocated political movement for the protection of the right of indigenous people for political self-determination and control over their socio-economic development as per the third generation human rights. Ultimately, the third generation human right awareness of the Mizos had led to the birth of United Mizo Freedom Organisation (UMFO) on 5 July 1947 which “opted to join Burma rather than India” (Chaltuakhuma, 1981). The traditional Chiefs had joined the UMFO’s separatist movement by way of protecting their age-old rights.

After Indian Independence, the State Government had decided to reconcile their conflicting political ideas by providing an ‘Autonomous District’ under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. Thus, the Assam Government beautifully reconciled the M.U’s desire to link up their political life with Assam on the one hand and their fear of being submerged by the plains people on the other by providing the district level democratic institution called “District Council.” Accordingly, the Assam Chief Minister, Bishnuram Medhi, inaugurated the Mizo District Council at Aizawl on 25 April 1952 (Vanlawma, 1972). After democratic election to the first District Council on April 4, 1952, the M.U leaders had demanded the immediate introduction of the Village Councils in place of the present autocratic regime of the Chiefs (Thanhlira, 1951). By way of ensuring civil and political rights to the commoners, the Village Councils were introduced in different villages in accordance with the famous Act passed by the District Council known as “the Lushai Hills District (Village Council) Act, 1953.”

The installation of the District Council by the State Government could not wipe off the people’s fear of being submerged by the plains people due to the language policy for the imposition of Assamese on the hill people. This collective feeling of insecurity among the Mizos had found a fertile ground for its growth when the whole of Mizoram was mercilessly swept by a dreadful Famine called “Mautam Famine” in 1959. However, the alleged lukewarm attitude of the State Government towards the District authority had incited some disgruntled politicians to form a Famine Front called “Mizo National Famine Front” (MNFF) to work for the people-in-need against anticipated “Mautam Famine.” The Famine Front earned a good name for the devoted works of its young volunteers during Mautam famine and, in short, the agony of the Mizos during the Mautam Famine had finally led to the birth of the Mizo National Front (MNF) 1966 whose declared objective was the attainment of an independent status for Mizoram to enable the Mizos to have political self-determination and to control their socio-economic development. Accordingly, on March 1, 1966, the MNF declared Mizoram Independence from the Indian Union and instantly launched insurgent activities in an attempt to achieve their avowed objective of Mizoram independence.



**Post-Insurgent Human Rights Experiences:** The Mizo National Front (MNF)'s declaration of Mizoram Independence on 1st March 1966 was immediately followed by the deployment of security forces by the Central Government on the advice of the State Government of Assam to counteract the MNF's insurgent activities in Mizoram. These counter-insurgency measures taken by the Indian Army affected all aspects of Mizo life and, more importantly, their human rights. One clear instance to this point was the grouping of villages by the Indian Army without taking prior consent of the affected people. This grouping of village had caused untold sufferings and miseries to the general public resulting in the total ruination of their village economy and, more important than anything else, in the alienation of the minds of the villagers. It was a general feeling among the Mizos of those days that "they were treated as aliens and worse than enemies" (Sailo, 1983). Ultimately, some people, in defiance of any possible threats to their human rights from the Indian Army, had referred the matter to the Gauhati High Court challenging it on the ground that it was ultra vires of the Fundamental Rights (Sailo, 1983).

By this time, the people had found the Defence of India Rules (DIRs) 1968 as full of legal loopholes without having any firm legal base. Consequently, in early 1968, the Governor of Assam had promulgated an Ordinance popularly known as the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (AMPO) 1953, which was to be used as the legal base for the continued grouping of villages by force. Accordingly, in 1969, the Deputy Commissioner passed an Order for grouping of 182 villages into 40 Group Centres (DC, 1969). Grouping of villages under the scheme of New Group Centre (NGC) affected the lives of about 50,000 people and was completed by October 15, 1969. These Grouping Centres were handed over to the civil administration by the army in December 1969.

Besides, the Deputy Commissioner had issued another order for grouping of 110 villages into 26 centres under the supervision of the security forces, which were called "Voluntary Group Centres" (VGCs). The process of grouping under this scheme started in 1968 and completed it by the end of 1969 before the promulgation of the Ordinance to that effect by the Governor of Assam. The army authorities handed over the administration of these Centres to the civil administration in the middle of 1970. Though the grouping of villages under this scheme was said to be a grouping on a voluntary basis, shifting of the villages was not voluntary but was rather forcibly done (Prasad, 1994).

Under another type of grouping of villages known in the official parlance as "Extended Loop Area (ELA)," 63 villages with a population of 40,000 in the area bordering Manipur in the north and Burma (Myanmar) in the east were grouped in 17 Centres by the 59 Mountain Brigade operating from Manipur. After completing the process of grouping by the end of 1969, the army authorities handed over the Group Centres to the Deputy Commissioner in the middle of 1970 (Ray, 1982). Grouping of villages under different schemes affected about 80 percent of the rural population and about 65 percent of the total population of the then Mizo District of Assam. The total expenditure of the Government for grouping came to about two crores of rupees while the Government's expenditure for the supply of free ration to the P.P.Vs only, for one year alone, amounted to Rs. 71 lakhs (Ray, 1982). In order to prevent the insurgents from entering into the villages for food, all the Grouping Centres were securely fenced with either bamboo or wooden spikes under the strict supervision of the security forces by the villagers without receiving even a single paisa as remuneration. Besides, those who had shifted from their ancestral homes to the new centres had to build their temporary and permanent dwellings without any grant from the government. Moreover, those who had shifted from their ancestral homes to the new centres had to build their temporary and

permanent dwellings without any grant from the Government

It was against this background that the Government of Assam had sent an official delegation to the Mizo Hills to make an on-the-spot assessment of the people's sufferings due mainly to military excesses. The members of the Delegation who had visited Mizoram were: Gaurishankar, an opposition leader of the Assam Assembly, Phanti Bora, Nakul Das and A.Thanglura. It is surprising to note that the Assam Government has not yet made the content of their Report known to the Mizo public till today. On the other hand, various allegations of human right violations at the hands of the Indian Army had prompted Brig. T.Sailo (Rtd) to form Human Rights Committee, the first of its kind, on July 1, 1974, in Mizoram. Human Rights Committee had collected about 36 (thirty-six) concrete cases showing details of atrocities/ misbehaviours committed by the security forces.

**Human Rights Experiences in the new Millennium:** Human rights consciousness of the Mizos in the new millennium is oriented towards the first generation human rights which lays emphasis on the protection and promotion of individuals' human rights. Although most of these individual law-breakers as heroines or drugs' peddlers or as sellers of other substances, while arrested, have admitted that their activities are illegal, anti-government and anti-social, they are more critical about the violation of their individuals' human rights than ever before (Lallianchunga, 2005).

The Mizo society has become heterogeneous and disjointed and no more homogeneous as it was before. In fact, the Mizos have become less concerned with the protection of their collective or group human rights. Generally, most of the law-breakers try to make full use of the first generation human rights as the most effective instrument for protecting their individuals' human rights. Today, people tend to give priority to the protection of individuals' human rights despite the relevance of the second and the third generation has not yet died a natural death in the hearts of many in the Mizo society. This controversial change of perception of human rights among the people leads to an unending debate over the question of protection of individuals' human rights at the cost of various societal interests in the Mizo society.

**Conclusion:** The people in Mizoram have undergone different human rights experiences under different situations. The first instance of the human experience of the Mizos in their ancestral Mizoram was in relation to the misuse of powers by their own Chiefs who were alleged as oppressing their individual rights of the first generation human rights by imposing excessive tax burden upon them. However, the British consolidation of political powers in the present Mizoram had adversely affected the individual rights of both the independent Mizo Chiefs and their subjects. They had collectively developed the second and third generation human rights awareness for preserving their rights as the indigenous people against the British supremacy. Eventually, the Mizo Chiefs had started losing their credibility before their subjects.

But, the British denial of political rights to the common people against their unprecedented political consciousness was seriously viewed by the Commoners as a gross violation of their human rights. The politically conscious Commoners had daringly charged their own Chiefs as responsible for blocking their way to the democratisation of the polity. In short, it was this political consciousness of the Mizo Commoners which had finally led to their formation of the first political party by the educated elite, called the Mizo Union (MU). Under the auspices of this new political party, the common people had spearheaded a strong political movement for the perpetual extinction of chieftainship so that they could freely participate in the Provincial Legislature of Assam.

Meanwhile, the third-generation human right awareness grew in the minds of some sections of the Mizo society who, in tune with the sentiments of the original leadership of the MU, wanted the protection of their rights as indigenous people for political self-determination and the control over their socio-economic development. This separatist tendency of the common people found a fertile ground for its growth and another party, called the United Mizo Freedom Organisation (UMFO) came into existence with the avowed objective of achieving complete separation of Mizoram from India. But, the UMFO had soon lost its organisational existence which necessitated the continuation of its political objective under another political party, called the Mizo National Front (MNF), which came into existence to fight for Mizoram's independence in 1966. Since the beginning of MNF's movement for independence, people's perception of human rights was related to the groups and community. In fact, it was against this background that the Human Rights Committee, set up by Brig.T.Sailo, had requested the Prime Minister of India to protect human rights of the innocent people against atrocities and torture inflicted on them by the security forces.

In the new millennium, individual human rights are steadily getting hold of the hearts of the new generation of the Mizo society. So, the current human rights awareness of the people explicitly lays great stress on the protection and promotion of individuals' human rights, based on the first-generation human right, even up to the extent of sidelining various societal interests.

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## Female Labour Force Participation in India: The NSS 61st Round

Lalthanpari

### Abstract

The aim of the study is (i) to examine the various determinants of female labour participation in India, and (ii) to examine the type of employment these women are engaged in the industry. Data had been collected from secondary sources such as National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) and Census of India 2011. Area of study is in rural and urban areas of India for the year 2004-2005. Using multiple regression analysis at 5% level of significance results are thus derived using stats software. Results showed that women from the rural regions were mostly engaged in the agricultural sector but at a declining rate whereas in the case of urban females employment was highest in other services. Thus, one can say that female labour participation and the type of their employment they were engaged in from the study had been affected by both structural and non-structural issues and the intensity could have varied across households or regions.

**Keywords-** *labour, force participation, agriculture, education, rural, urban etc..*

Lalthanpari is a Research Scholar, Dept. of Economic. Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004.

**Introduction:** Women labour constitutes an important segment of the labour force. The participation of women in the labour market varies widely across countries which reflect the differences in economic development, fertility rates, access to childcare and/or other supportive services, educational levels and social norms. Reasons such as these have made participation rates vary considerably across the world where some of the lowest rates had been witnessed in South Asia. (Chaudhary and Verick, 2014). As per the ILO 2014, women's participation in the labour force has remained relatively constant from 1990-2010 at approximately 52%. Participation of women varies

considerably at a disaggregated level across developing countries and emerging economies, far more than in the case of men.

The nexus between women's engagement in the labour market and broader development outcomes is rather complex. In such context, women's employment may be driven by necessity on the one hand which is often observed during times of economic crisis, mainly in response to a declining household income on account of unemployment in the household (added- worker effect) (Abraham, 2009) or it may be the result of increasing educational attainment, changing societal norms and available employment opportunities on the other. Generally, when women do work, they tend to be engaged in low-paid and low productivity jobs (ILO, 2011). The large entry of women into the labour market may not always be a desired situation, as it can be distress-driven (Abraham, 2009) and does not reflect an increased access to decent jobs. It has been widely recognized that women's work in the developing world is overlooked, undervalued and underreported because women are often home-based and contributing to non-market activities, such as caregiving, which has economic benefits for households.

Reducing the gap of gender discrimination in the labour market does promote women's participation in large numbers and this is likely to have a positive effect on the economic growth of a nation (Tansel, 2001). The other effect is also that when gender inequality is reduced, it empowers women and helps in contributing to their capacity to exert choice and decision-making power and agency in key domains of their lives (Kabeer, 2012). Ultimately, understanding the complex nature of female labour force participation required taking into account a range of socio-economic factors at the macro, local and household levels. This included macroeconomic conditions along with local job opportunities and cost of job search. Within the household, critical factors include educational attainment, social status, income levels, presence of children, and spousal labour market status.

**Literature review:** The literature on female labour participation/supply can be reviewed in terms of both theoretical predictions and empirical findings. This section reviews the different studies on female labour participation across countries. Belloc (1950) paper had examined on the female labour force participation and opportunities for white women in the U.S in the year 1940. Thus the industrial structure of the community affected the propensity of women to engage in the labour force along with social tradition which was accompanied by a large black population.

Dowdall (1974) study had examined the importance of attitudinal factors which have often been considered unimportant by other researchers and along with structural factors on female labour force participation during 1968-1969 in Rhode Island. Results confirmed that among the married, it was the affluent that could join the workforce when they wish to and family responsibilities did not hold them back. On the other hand, the lower income group women did not have the freedom like the latter where childcare responsibilities outweighed more than the benefits of joining the workforce which perhaps might be imposed by husbands or family members.

Devaney (1983) paper examined on the relative importance of variations in income and female wage rates so as to explain the fluctuation in both fertility and female labour supply in the U.S. Results of this analysis suggested that fertility and female labour supply were highly correlated such that factors that depress fertility increased the labour force participation of women and vice versa.



Azmat et al (2006) study were to understand the cross-country variation in the gender gaps in unemployment rates during 1960 and 2000 in some Mediterranean countries. Gender gaps in unemployment rates tend to be smaller in countries that had higher levels of female labour market attachment. Married women and women with children had higher rates of leaving employment for unemployment and sometimes towards inactivity than unemployment. Bloom et al (2009) study had examined the effect of fertility on female labour force participation over the period of 1960-2000 across 97 countries. Results showed that abortion laws were predictive of fertility and higher fertility reduces female labour force participation of women during their fertile years and that female education was associated with higher level of labour force participation.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the study are:

- i) To examine the various determinants of female labour participation in India.
- ii) To examine the type of employment these women are engaged in the industry.

**Methodology:** The study used purposive and stratified random sampling techniques. It has taken all the 28 states of India except the union territories for the period 2004-2005 and between rural and urban areas. Workers (women) were classified as casual, self-employed and salaried employees and aged between 15-59 years old. Data has been collected only from secondary sources such as National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and Census of India 2011, to be tabulated and analysed using percentages, software package such as Microsoft Excel which is then exported to Stata (Statistical software) to run a multiple regression at 5% level of significance as to get the results.

**Findings from regression analysis:** We have 14 variables of which 2 are independent variables (female labour participation and unemployment rate) and remaining 12 are dependent variables (viz., not literate, literate and up to primary, middle, secondary, higher secondary, graduate and above, female and male salaried employee and casual labourer average wage, poverty rate and men unemployment rate) and we have 28 observations i.e., all the 28 states except union territories and covers both urban and rural areas. Multiple regression analysis at 95% level of significance has been used.

**Table 1:** Urban female labour participation (15 - 59 years) regression results

Labour Participation	Coefficient	SE	t-test	P> (t)	95%	CI
UNL	.30	.03	7.70	0.00	.22	.38
UUP	.30	.06	4.75	0.00	.17	.43
UG	.14	.03	4.36	0.00	.07	.20
UWMSE	-.25	.09	-2.76	0.01	-.44	-.06
UWMCL	.71	.20	3.41	0.00	.27	1.14
UUEM	.79	.12	6.19	0.00	.52	1.05
<b>Constant</b>	-51.93	26.0	-1.99	0.06	-106.16	2.29
Number of observations = 28; R-squared = 0.93 ; Adj. R-squared = 0.91						

As per table 1, in the urban female labour participation, six out of 12 variables came out to be significant. Among the significant variables, men unemployment had maximum impact on female participation by 79% i.e., for every increase in men unemployment and this reason could be perhaps supported by the additional worker hypothesis (local unemployment has a positive effect on female labour force participation) whereas females graduate had the least impact on their participation by just 14% comparatively which could imply that perhaps women are preferred to use their educational

knowledge at home taking care of families which could be also the decision of family members or from work pay gender discrimination or unfavourable work environment have reduced the participation. The r-squared showed that these significant variables accurately explain the independent variables by 94%. They fit in the model quite well despite the small presence of an error. All the variables have a positive impact except when the wage of salaried employment falls the participation by female increases by 25%.

In the case of rural labour force participation from table 2, four dependent variables came out significant out of the 12 variables and these variables fit in the model at 96% which is good. Negative impact for every fall in wage of female casual labourer the female labour participation increases by 1.05, this would imply that wage fall does not mean you leave the market, since rural market are very much unorganised and income is low, these females do not have much choice and no protection of their rights whatsoever that in order to keep up with their living standards whether an individual or family, a reduction in wage rates further induced them to participate more. Whereas those that were illiterates had the least impact on participation, this could imply that their work got more appreciated at home due to choice or other constraints.

**Table- 2:** Rural female labour force participation (15 - 59 years) regression results

Labour Participation	Coefficient	SE	t-test	P> (t)	95%	CI
RNL	.31	.04	7.22	0.00	.22	.39
RM	.38	.053	7.28	0.00	.27	.49
RWFCL	-1.05	.37	-2.80	0.01	-1.83	-.27
RWMCL	.82	.32	2.57	0.01	.16	1.49
CONSTANT	26.52	21.01	1.26	0.21	-16.94	69.98
Number of observations = 28; R-squared = 0.95 ; Adj. R-squared = 0.94						

**Table 3:** Per 1000 distribution of usually employed females by broad industry division.

NSS Rounds	Agriculture Rural-Urban		Manufacturing Rural-Urban		Construction Rural-Urban		Other services Rural-Urban	
50th	862	247	70	241	9	41	34	350
55th	854	177	76	240	11	48	37	342
61st	833	181	84	282	15	38	39	359
<i>Source: NSSO: 2004-2005, Employment and Unemployment Situation in India.</i>								

From table 3 above, one could see that most of the females that belonged to rural areas were engaged in agriculture and allied activities which is very much unorganised and is usually associated with low wage payment but employment in agriculture had been declining over the years. But in the urban case, the employment of females in agriculture fell but increased slightly again by 2% in the 61<sup>st</sup> Round. Agriculture had been dominated by the rural females whereas the other services were dominated by the urban females. Construction had the least participation perhaps because of the nature of work which could have been unfavourable for women.

**Conclusion:** Women employment in the industry had varied between rural and urban areas. Females that participated in the labour market from rural regions were mostly engaged in the agricultural sector but at a declining rate and much lesser employment could also be seen in the case of urban

females. There was an increase in the proportion of women employed in the manufacturing sector for both urban and rural regions. Also, an increase in female employment in the construction sector of the rural areas even though in lesser proportion perhaps due to migration but a fall in employment for the case of urban females. The urban sector had a relatively larger proportion of women engaged in other services when compared to the rural sector which also showed an increase. Thus, one can say that female labour participation and the type of their employment they were engaged in from the study had been affected by both structural and non-structural issues and the intensity could have varied across households or regions.

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## The Predictability of Depression from Personality and Gender Role Conflict

<sup>1</sup>Lucy, L & <sup>2</sup>Varte, C. L

### Abstract

The study examined the predictability of depression from personality and gender role conflict among Mizo Adolescents (Male=267, Female=315) between 15 to 18 years of age. The NEO-Five Factor Inventory, Gender Role Conflict Scale and Depression Anxiety Stress Scale-42 along with the demographic information employed. Multiple regression analysis was employed where the demographic variables failed to predict depression in the first model, except for 'age'. In the second model, increase in age and neuroticism scores predicted increase in depression scores, whereas, decreased scores in socio-economic status, extraversion, openness to experience,

Vol : IX-2 Spring (December) 2017 ISSN No: 2230 956 (UGC Approved Journal)

agreeableness and conscientiousness predicted an increase in depression scores. In the final model, increased scores in neuroticism and conflict between work and family relations significantly predicted an increase in depression scores, whereas, decreased scores in socio-economic status, extraversion, and openness to experience, agreeableness, conscientiousness and restrictive affectionate behaviour between men/women predicted an increase in depression scores. The results are discussed in the light of the findings pertaining to the psychological antecedents of depression.

**Keywords-** Neuroticism, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, etc..

<sup>1</sup> Lucy, L is Guest Faculty, Dept. of Psychology, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004.

<sup>2</sup> Varte, C. L is Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004.

**Introduction:** Depression involves feelings of extraordinary sadness and dejection (Carson, et al., 2003). It is generally a mood state characterized by a sense of inadequacy, a feeling of despondency, a decreased in activity or reactivity, pessimism, sadness and related symptoms (Reber, 1985). Depression is the most common psychological problems, and it has been estimated that almost half of all human beings experience such problems at some time during their lives (Blazer, et al., 1994). Interpersonal life events are particularly strongly related to adolescent depression (Monroe, et al., & Lewinsohn, 1999). Adolescence is an important developmental period in which to examine stress generation because most first onsets of depression occur in adolescence (Kessler, et al., 1993). Maltreated adolescents lack the coping resources and parental support necessary to defuse the sorts of interpersonal conflicts that tend to emerge during the depression (Muris, et al., 2001). Adolescent depression is associated with significant interpersonal stress (Birmaher, et al., 2004), and suggest that this stress may occur abruptly as early as the very first episode.

Personality includes the characteristic and unique ways in which an individual responds to the environment. According to Allport (1937), “personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his unique adjustments to his environment”. One of the most important developments in personality in recent years is the emergence of the Big Five as a general model for describing personality structure. The model, which stems from the work of Cattell (1943), serves as a conceptual foundation for much of the contemporary work in personality measurement.

Gender role conflict experienced at the unconscious level emanates from deep emotional turmoil about masculine and feminine gender roles. Gender role conflict experienced at the behavioural level is actual conflict experienced with masculinity-femininity as we act, react, and interact with ourselves and others. Once someone has accepted certain gender roles and gender differences as expected socialized behavioural norm, his or her behaviour traits become part of his or her perceived responsibilities resulting in influential roles in gender relationships on a personal and social level to the individual's own socializing role or self-concept. Sanctions on unwanted behaviour and role conflict can be stressful (O'Neil, et al., 1981a).

Research has found that more gender role conflict is related to more depression, anxiety, emotional distress, loneliness, anger, conduct problems, substance abuse, and family and interpersonal problems in presumably heterosexual boys and men (Blazina, et al., 2005; Blazina &

Watkins, 2000). Individuals who experience greater gender role conflict are likely to restrict themselves in terms of developing intrinsically oriented religious behaviours, values, and attitudes for fear of being or appearing feminine or masculine.

### Methods and Procedures:

**Sample:** 267 male and 315 female Mizo adolescents between 15 to 18 years of age were randomly selected from Higher Secondary Schools in the rural and urban areas of Mizoram.

**Psychological Measures:** The test materials consisted of three self-rating questionnaires and background demographic sheet that incorporates locality, sex, age and socio-economic status.

**NEO Five-Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI;** Costa & McCrae, 1992): It is a personality inventory consisting of 60 items of the Big Five Model: Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, and Openness to Experience. The test is for use with adult (17+) men and women without overt psychopathology and adolescents. Each item is to be answered on a five-point scale ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree” and gives the participants’ domain levels.

**The Gender Role Conflict Scale (GRCS;** O’Neil, Good, & Holmes, 1995): It consists of 37 items to measure “men’s conflicts with their gender roles”. The four factors are Success Power and Competition (SPC; 13 items), Restrictive Emotionality (RE; 10 items), Restrictive Affectionate Behavior between Men (RABM; 8 items), and Conflict between Work and Family Relations (CBW6 items). Responses are on a 6-point Likert scale ranging from 1 – ‘strongly disagree’ to 6 – “strongly agree”. Higher scores indicate gender role conflict and thus stronger endorsement of traditional role norms.

**Depression Anxiety Stress Scale-42 (DASS-42;** Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995): The Scale is a 42-item self-report instrument; rated on a 5-point scale from “strongly disagree” to “strongly disagree” designed to measure the three related negative emotional states of depression, anxiety, and tension/stress. Each of the three DASS scale contains 14 items, divided into subscales of 2-5 items with similar content. Scores for depression, anxiety, and stress are calculated by summing the scores for the relevant items characteristics of high scores on each DASS scale.

**Procedure:** Participants completed the booklet of questionnaires in classroom settings. Administration time was approximately one hour. After the participants completed the measures, they received debriefing information. All the responses were coded, screened and tabulated for statistical analyses.

**Results:** The mean, standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis and Cronbach’s alphas of the demographic variables and the measured variables of the neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness sub-scales of NEO-FFI; success, power and competition, restrictive emotionality, restrictive emotional behavior between men, and conflict between work and family sub-scales of GRCS; and depression, anxiety and stress of DASS-42 are presented in Table-1.

For Model- 1, the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) revealed  $F= 2.24$ ;  $df= 3/578$  and  $p= .08$ ; for Model- 2,  $F= 22.24$ ;  $df= 8/573$ ; and  $p= .00$ ; for Model- 3,  $F= 16.96$ ;  $df= 12/569$ ; and  $p= .00$ .

**Table- 1:** Means, standard deviations, skewness, kurtosis, and Cronbach’s Alphas of the scales/sub-scales of the behavioural measures for the overall sample (N=582).

Variables	Mean	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis	
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				Statistic	Error	Statistic	Error	
NEO-FFI	NEU	38.49	6.94	-.01	.101	-.06	.202	<b>.69</b>
	EXT	38.50	4.96	-.14	.101	.69	.202	<b>.59</b>
	OPN	38.50	3.50	.16	.101	.01	.202	<b>.61</b>
	AGR	38.77	4.28	-.04	.101	.28	.202	<b>.62</b>
	CON	38.96	5.97	-.04	.101	-.14	.202	<b>.70</b>
DASS-42GRCS	SPC	51.84	9.53	-.07	.101	.14	.202	<b>.71</b>
	REM	39.47	7.93	.12	.101	-.06	.202	<b>.74</b>
	RABM	30.47	6.71	.04	.101	-.39	.202	<b>.70</b>
	CBW	19.09	5.38	.12	.101	.26	.202	<b>.62</b>
DASS-42GRCS	DEP	10.99	7.22	.65	.101	-.22	.202	<b>.86</b>
	ANX	12.45	6.92	.57	.101	-.23	.202	<b>.80</b>
	STR	17.14	6.96	.19	.101	.03	.202	<b>.78</b>

**Table- 2:** Model summary highlighting the Adjusted R Square, R Square Change and F Change of the three Models.

Model	Adjusted R Square	R square Change	F Change
1	.006	.011	2.24
2	.226	.225	33.86**
3	.248	.026	5.11**

\*\*= significant at .01 levels

A model summary highlighting the Adjusted R Square, R Square Change and F Change of the three Models is depicted in Table- 2.

Hierarchical multiple regression was planned for the predictability of depression separately from the demographic variables (sex, age, and socio-economic status), the domains of personality (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, conscientiousness, and agreeableness), and the sub-scales of gender role conflict scale (success, power, and competition, restrictive emotionality, restrictive emotional behavior between men/women, and conflict between work and family relations). The analyses firstly incorporated the demographic variables as the predictors with depression as the criterion (Model-1), followed by additional inclusion of the domains of personality as predictors (Model-2), and the final inclusion of the sub-scales of gender role conflict scale as predictors (Model-3).

The results (Table-2) show the standardized *Beta*-coefficients as well as overall tolerances and VIFs (Variance Inflation Factor). 'Age' emerged as the lone significant predictor of depression, in the first model (Model-1), that was reduced to non-significance with the inclusion of personality domains and sub-scales of gender role conflict scale in the subsequent models (Models-2&3).

In Model-2, age, socio-economic status, neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness were the variables emerging to significantly predict depression. Thus, increase in age and neuroticism predicted increase in depression, whereas, the decrease in socio-economic status, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness predicted an increase in depression that remains to persist with the later inclusion of the sub-scales of gender role conflict scale in Model-3. The final model (Model-3) revealed the success, power and competition sub-scale of gender role conflict scale to emerge as a significant predictor of depression. The increase in conflict between work and family relations significantly predicted an increase in depression, whereas, decreased conflict with restrictive affectionate behaviour between men/women predicted an increase in depression.

**Table- 3:** The standardized *Beta*-coefficients, overall tolerances and VIFs (Variance Inflation Factor) in the prediction of Depression from demographic variables, the domains of Personality and the sub-scales of Gender Role Conflict Scale.

Predictor	Model- 1	Model- 2	Model- 3	Tolerance	VIF
Sex	.01	-.04	-.03	.99	1.00
Age	.10*	.08*	.06	.99	1.00
SES	-.45	-.10**	-.08*	.99	1.00
NEU		.20**	.17**	.77	1.30
EXT		-.12**	-.13**	.98	1.12
OPN		-.14**	-.14**	.88	1.14
AGR		-.22**	-.20**	.88	1.14
CON		-.16**	-.18**	.77	1.30
SPC			.07	.90	1.11
REM			.01	.77	1.30
RABM			-.08*	.85	1.18
CBW			.15**	.86	1.16

\*\* Significant at .01 level; \* Significant at .05 level  
SES=socio-economic status; NEU= neuroticism; EXT= extraversion; OPN= openness to experience; AGR= agreeableness; CON= conscientiousness; SPC= success, power and competition; REM= restrictive emotionality; RABM= restrictive affectionate behavior between men/women; CBW= conflict between work and family relations

The overall tolerances emerged to be highly satisfactory. The maximum tolerance emerged with neuroticism, conscientiousness and restrictive emotionality revealing that the other predictors at the maximum could only influence 23% of variances. Supportively, the overall VIFs emerged to be highly healthy warranting very low multicollinearity suggesting for trustworthy interpretation of the results.

**Discussion and Conclusion:** Corroborative to the findings reported in literature, the present study highlighted that increase in age significantly predicts an increase in depression. Consistent with the findings of the present study, previous researchers also highlighted that depression is likely to increase as people ages, and that the strongest risk factors for depression in adolescents are a family history of depression and exposure to psychosocial stress (Leaf, P. J., et al., 1996; Birmaher, B., et al., 2004). Nevertheless, depression in adolescents is more often missed than it is in adults, possibly because of the prominence of irritability, mood reactivity, and fluctuating symptoms in adolescents (Leaf, P. J., et al., 1996). In some respects, depression in adolescents can be viewed as an early-onset sub-form of the equivalent adult disorder because of its strong links with recurrence later in life (Birmaher, B., et al., 2004). Depression in pre-pubertal children is less common than depression in adolescents or adults, and hence, depression is likely to increase as age increases (Kessler, R. C., et al., 2001; Green, H., et al., 2004).

Consistent with the findings, historical accounts and the present study revealed that low socio-economic status (SES) has been found to be associated with a higher prevalence of depression. Beset by growing national and international inequalities in income, education and wealth, socioeconomic status (SES) has come into focus as a crucial determinant of depression (Krieger, N, et al., 1997). The role of SES in depression is an important theme, and there is a large body of literature which illustrates the negative association between SES and depression (Andrade, L., et al., 2000; Muntaner, C, et al., 2004; Jo, S.J., et al; 2011). However, despite this, there is a dearth of research that uses standardized measures or definitions for SES, or that compare this association between countries of different socio-economic and cultural contexts using such measures.

Submitting to the findings of previous studies (Hirschfeld, et al., 1989; Kendler, et al., 1993;  
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Wetzel, et al., 1980), the present study also revealed that high neuroticism scores are robustly associated with an increased risk for depression, whereas, lower levels of extraversion, conscientiousness and agreeableness have been associated increased risk for depression, whereas no significant association was found with openness to experience (Malouff, et al., 2005).

Studies indicated that gender role conflict is related to both general psychological distress (Hayes & Mahalik, 2000) as well as specific psychological problems, including greater rates of depression and anxiety (Cournoyer & Mahalik, 1995; Good & Mintz, 1990; Sharpe & Heppner, 1991). The findings of the present study are largely consistent with other GRC research on generic male samples, where conflicts surrounding CBW have been associated with psychological maladjustment and depression (Cournoyer & Mahalik, 1995). Similar results can also be found in previous studies in which work and family conflict were found to be positively related to depressive symptoms (Obidoa, C., et al., 2011; Netemeyer, R.G., et al., 1996; Yavas, U., et al., 2008). One of the explanations is that work-related factors, poor relationships in the work environment, and work insecurity had a significant relationship with symptoms of depression, whereas restrictive affectionate behaviour was not found to be positively correlated with depression (Masako, S., et al., 2004). Cultural influences and tradition may have an impact, in which the present study is on Mizo society; a society and culture in which no such restrictions on the same gender is seen especially amongst adolescents and their peer relationships. As such, the same gender mingles and conforms intimately in certain social gatherings and within the society in general, which may foster for further researches.

Though the present findings are quite promising, the study may not be free from certain limitations. The results, due to this nature of the population, are not easy to be generalized to the overall population of adolescents. The same differing demographic characteristics which add to the value of this study may diminish the ability to generalize results to other populations. All measures relating to the variables were of a self-report nature, and the present study was non-experimental in design. Because only experiments can offer evidence of causality, all that can be concluded from the present study is that the gender role conflict scale and its subscales were related to on- and- off the psychosocial functions at one point in time. Despite these limitations, findings of this study may have important implications for adolescent interventions. It is hoped that this study may help to clarify the existing body of literature in the important area of depression, and open doors for future research on depression and its interactions with psycho-social functions and other paradigms.

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### **Reading Skills and Reading Error of Elementary Level Sighted and Sightless Children: A Comparative Study**

Mohapatra, M. R

#### **Abstract**

This study was experimental. 96 students were selected through purposive sampling technique out of which 32 students were taken from each category of non-disabled sighted, low vision, and totally vision impairment students. 48 were boys and 48 were girls. On the basis of readability of textbook, for every grade one reading text was made. Participants read the text and recorded their reading. It was a comparative study on Reading Skills performed by non-disabled sighted and sightless students. Gender and grade wise analysis were conducted. Data analysis displayed that, in each of the cases, the intervention strategy helped the total students for improving their reading skills by increasing reading accuracy and decreasing reading errors. Students with higher grades had better function in reading.

**Keywords-** Sightless, Non-disabled Sighted, Reading Skills, Reading Errors, Inclusive.

Mohapatra, M. R is Asst Prof.in Special Education (Visual Impairment), Department of Disability Studies, Rabindra Bharati University, 56A, B.T. Road, Kolkata–700 050 (W.B), INDIA

**Introduction:** The term ‘Reading’ is a wide variety of tasks, activities, skills and mental process.



Reading is a process of looking at a written or printed symbol and translating it into appropriate sound. This spoken symbol is further associated with an object for which it stands (Sharma, P., 2014). 'Reading' is a multifaceted construct. Therefore, measurement of a reading using multiple indicators is a crucial element of any assessment system and a crucial step towards improving reading development, which is a dynamic and longitudinal process. Reading is the basic foundation on which academics skills of an individual are built. Reading simply means attainment of language, sharing of information, communicating and comprehending it in the right way. Blind children may have deficits in concept development because of their inability to observe the same things naturally that their sighted peers observe.

Every special learner needs help in establishing himself before he/she seeks admission in inclusive setup and to be able to compete with non-disabled sighted students in Reading, Writing, and other learning activities. So the investigator realized the need and importance of this study. The problem Statement can be worded as "A Comparative Study on Reading Skills and Reading Error of Elementary Level Sighted & Sightless Children and Impact of Intervention Programme"

**Objectives of the study:** The objectives of the study are to:

1. Compare the Mean Reading Skills and Reading Error of Non-disabled Sighted and Sightless Students with respect to Gender, before and after the Intervention training.
2. Compare the Mean Reading Skills and Reading Error of all students with respect to Grade, before and after Intervention.

**Hypothesis of the study:**

- 1) There is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error among total students with respect to Gender, before and after the intervention training.
- 2) There is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to Lower Grade and Higher Grade, before and after intervention training.

**Delimitations of the study**

The delimitations of the study are:

- 1) The samples were drawn only from Special school and Inclusive schools of Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar and Mayurabhanja districts of Odisha.
- 2) The study was confined to students from class VI to IX.

**The methodology of the study:** The investigator planned to conduct the study in inclusive as well as special setup. 96 students were selected through purposive sampling technique out of which 32 students were taken from each i.e. blind, low vision and sighted category. 48 boys and 48 girls belong to class VI-IX. The treatment was assigned to all the three groups. Being an experimental study, it was designed on the lines of pretest and posttest single group design:

$$R = O_1 \quad X \quad O_2$$

Here  $O_1$  indicates pre-experiment observation,  $O_2$  indicates post-experiment observation and  $X$  represents the treatment (intervention) where 'R' represents the randomization

**Formula Used to Measure Reading Skills**

$$\text{Word per minute} = [(\text{Total words read} - \text{Error}) / 300] * 60$$

**Statistical Technique Used**

Arithmetic Mean, Standard Deviation (S.D) and 't'- distribution test

**Results and discussion of the study:**

*1. Analysis of Reading Skill and Reading Error with respect to Gender :* The data in respect of analysis of pre-test scores of girls and boys students were obtained separately before treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table - 1.1

**Table - 1.1:** Gender wise Analysis of Pre-test Reading Scores of Total Sample.

Gender	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Girls	Pretest	48	94	81.27	17.92	2.44*
Boys	Pretest	48		61.33	26.13	
* Significant at 0.05 level						

From the table -1.1, it is evident that the t-value is 2.44 for the analysis of Pre-test reading scores of girls and boys, which is significant at level 0.05. It indicates that pre-test scores of boys and girls differ significantly. It means that girls performed better than boys during pre-test assessment. In the light of this, the null hypothesis that *there is no significant difference in mean Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to gender before intervention is rejected*. Therefore it may be concluded that the girls performed well and better than boys during the pre-test.

The data in respect of analysis of post-test scores of girls and boys students were obtained separately after treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -1.2

**Table - 1.2:** Gender wise Analysis of Post-test Reading Scores of Total Sample.

Gender	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Girls	Post-test	48	94	83.31	17.53	<b>1.59NS</b>
Boys	Post-test	48		69.83	27.69	

From the table -1.2, it is evident that the t-value is **1.59** for the gender wise analysis of post-test reading scores of girls and boys, which is not significant. It indicates that post-test scores of boys and girls did not differ significantly. It means that both girls and boys performed well up to the same extent during the post-test assessment. In the light of this, the null hypothesis that *there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to gender after the intervention is accepted*. Therefore it may be concluded that the intervention helped both boys and girls in improving their reading skills by increasing reading accuracy and decreasing reading errors.

The data in respect of analysis of pre-test scores of non-disabled sighted girls and non-disabled sighted boys students were obtained separately before treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -1.3

**Table - 1.3:** Gender wise Analysis of Pre-test Reading Scores of Non-disabled Sighted.

Gender	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Girls	Pretest	16	30	4.81	3.67	<b>1.07NS</b>
Boys	Pretest	16		3.50	3.27	

From the table - 1.3, it is evident that the t-value is **1.07** for the gender wise analysis

of pre-test reading scores of non-disabled sighted girls and non-disabled sighted boys, which is not significant. It indicates that pre-test scores of non-disabled sighted boys and girls did not differ significantly. It means that both non-disabled sighted girls boys performed up to the same extent during pre-test assessment. In the light of this the null hypothesis that, *there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to gender before intervention is accepted*. Therefore it may be concluded that, the existing performance of both non-disabled sighted boys and non-disabled sighted girls, up to some extent during the pre-assessment test.

The data in respect of analysis of post-test scores of non-disabled sighted girls and non-disabled sighted boys students were obtained separately after treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -1.4

**Table - 1.4:** Gender wise Analysis of Post-test Reading Scores of Sighted.

Gender	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Girls	Post-test	16	30	15.94	2.69	<b>0.58NS</b>
Boys	Post-test	16		15.31	3.40	

From the table -1.4, it is evident that the t-value is 0.58 for the gender wise analysis of post-test reading scores of non-disabled sighted girls and boys, which is not significant. It indicates that post-test scores of non-disabled sighted boys and girls did not differ significantly. It means that both non-disabled sighted girls and boys performed up to the same extent during the post-test assessment. In the light of this, the null hypothesis that *there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to gender after the intervention is accepted*. Therefore it may be concluded that the intervention helped in improving Reading Skills by reducing various reading errors.

The data in respect of analysis of pre-test scores of low vision girls and low vision boys students were obtained separately before treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -1.5

**Table -1.5:** Analysis of Pre-test Reading Scores of Low Vision boys & Girls.

Gender	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Girls	Pretest	16	30	10.83	2.17	0.77NS
Boys	Pretest	16		10.47	2.41	

From the table -1.5, it is evident that the t-value is 0.77 for the analysis of pre-test reading scores of low vision girls and boys, which is not significant. It indicates that pre-test scores of low vision boys and girls did not differ significantly. In the light of this the null hypothesis that, *there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to gender before intervention is accepted*. Therefore it may be concluded that both low vision boys and low vision girls performed up to the same extent during the pre-assessment test.

The data in respect of analysis of post-test scores of low vision girls and low vision boys students were obtained separately after treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -1.6

**Table - 1.6:** Analysis of Post-test Reading Scores of Low Vision boys & Girls.

Gender	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Girls	Post-test	16	30	17.58	1.28	2.16*
Boys	Post-test	16		17.06	1.37	

\* Significant at 0.05 level

From the table -1.6, it is evident that the t-value is 2.16 for the analysis of Post-test reading scores of low vision girls and low vision boys, which is significant at level 0.05. It indicates that post-test reading scores of low vision boys and girls differ significantly. In the light of this, the null hypothesis that *there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to gender after the intervention is rejected*. Therefore it may be concluded that low vision girls performed better in reading skills by increasing reading accuracy and decreasing reading errors than low vision boys in post-test assessment.

The data in respect of analysis of pre-test scores of total vision impaired girls and total vision impaired boys students were obtained separately before treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -1.7

**Table - 1.7:** Analysis of Pre-test Reading Scores of Total Vision Imp. Boys & Girls.

Gender	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Girls	Pretest	16	30	8.38	2.13	<b>1.79 NS</b>
Boys	Pretest	16		7.00	2.22	

From the table -1.7, it is evident that the t-value is 1.79 for the analysis of pre-test reading scores of total vision impaired girls and boys, which is not significant. It indicates that pre-test scores of total vision impaired boys and girls did not differ significantly. It means that both total vision impaired girls and boys performed better and up to same extent during pre-test assessment. In the light of this the null hypothesis that, *there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to gender before intervention is accepted*. Therefore it may be concluded that the existing level of knowledge of both total vision impaired girls and boys before training is same.

The data in respect of analysis of post-test scores of total vision impaired girls and total vision impaired boys students were obtained separately after treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -1.8

**Table -1.8:** Gender wise Analysis of Post-test Reading Scores of Total Vision Imp.

Gender	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Girls	Post-test	16	30	16.29	1.42	<b>1.31NS</b>
Boys	Post-test	16		16.68	1.54	

From the table -1.8, it is evident that the t-value is 1.31 for the analysis of post-test reading scores of total vision impaired girls and total vision impaired boys, which is not significant. It indicates that post-test scores of total vision impaired boys and girls did not differ significantly. It means that total vision impaired girls and boys perform up to the same extent during the post-test assessment. In the light of this, the null hypothesis that *there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to gender after the intervention is accepted*. Therefore, it may be concluded that both total vision impaired girls and total vision impaired boys performed up to the same extent during the post-test assessment.

## 2. Analysis of Reading Skill and Reading Error with respect to Grade.

The data in respect of analysis of pre-test scores of 'Grade - I' and 'Grade - II' students were

obtained separately before treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -2.1

**Table -2.1** Grade wise Analysis of Pre-test Reading Scores.

Grade	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Grade - I	Pretest	48	94	1.58	1.14	21.79**
Grade - II	Pretest	48		4.63	.60	
** Significant at 0.01 Level						

From the table - 2.1, it is evident that the t-value is 21.79 for the analysis of Pre-test reading scores of total students, which is significant at level 0.01. It indicates that pre-test scores of 'grade – I' and 'grade - II' differ significantly. It means that grade - II performed better than grade – I during pre-test assessment. In the light of this, the null hypothesis that *there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to Lower Grade and Higher Grade before intervention training is rejected*. Therefore it may be concluded that higher grade students performed better than lower grade students during the pre-assessment test.

The data in respect of analysis of post-test scores of 'Grade - I' and 'Grade - II' students were obtained separately after treatment. The data analyzed with the help of t-test and results are given in the table -2.2

**Table - 2.2:** Grade wise Analysis of Post-test Reading Scores.

Grade	Testing	No	d.f	Mean	SD	t- value
Grade - I	Posttest	48	94	16.71	3.31	<b>0.32<sup>NS</sup></b>
Grade - II	Posttest	48		17.06	2.84	

From the table -2.2, it is evident that the t-value is **0.32** for the analysis of post-test reading scores of total students, which is not significant. It indicates that post-test scores of 'grade – I' and 'grade - II' did not differ significantly. It means that both grades – I and grade - II students performed well and up to some extent. In the light of this, *the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in Reading skills and Reading Error with respect to Lower Grade and Higher Grade after intervention training is accepted*. Therefore it may be concluded that the intervention helped in improving Braille Reading skills by increasing accuracy and reducing errors for both grades of the students during the post-test assessment.

**Conclusion:** The findings as per the objectives of the studies are discussed below:

1. *To compare the Mean Reading Skills and Reading Error of Non-disabled Sighted and Sightless Students with respect to Gender, before and after the Intervention training.*

In the light of results found, it is concluded that the intervention programme helped in improving the reading skills by increasing reading accuracy and decreasing reading errors. Girls are more aggressive than boys to acquire the painting.

To Compare the Mean Reading Skills and Reading Error of all students with respect to Grade, before and after Intervention.

2. *In the light of results found, it is concluded that the intervention training programme helped in improving reading skills by increasing the accuracy and by decreasing error.*

Though the higher grade students were performed well in the initial stage, students of both grades receive equal benefits from intervention training.

An interventionist may have to teach children with disabilities as well as non-disabled sighted



children to improve their performance. From all the above findings, it was concluded that the intervention training programme helped both non-disabled sighted students as well as sightless students in improving their reading skills by increasing reading accuracy and decreasing reading errors.

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## Naxalite Movement in Orissa: A Sociological Analysis

Nanda, R. M

### Abstract

Naxalite movement is the biggest ever violent social movement which was born out of socio-economic factors

combined with the political goal to capture state power through armed agrarian uprising to bring about revolutionary socialist transformation. This paper has following three broad objectives: To analyses the motive of the people to join the movement; To understand whether Naxal movement is anti-peoples movement, anti-systemic movement and class-based of the movement and; to study the concept like development and Naxal threat, repressive measures of police and Naxal over marginalised, effort of the state to delink tribal from Naxal outfit etc. This study has been conducted within the environment of undivided Koraput district i.e. Koraput, Rayagada, Malkanagiri and Nabarangpur districts where the intensity Naxal violence is very much high in undivided Koraput in comparison to other districts. Malkanagiri is the epicentre of Naxal violence in the state of Orissa. Sources of data were both secondary and primary in nature. The secondary data was drawn from secondary sources i.e. Census Data, Director General of Police, Department of Home Affairs, Government of Orissa, Director of Prisons, District Police Office, Director of Intelligence and block profile data of the study areas. The primary data was collected from the people of Naxal affected areas through interview schedules. Qualitative data has been used for the present study. In the present study, the researcher has used the qualitative method of data collection like historical analysis (oral history), narrative method, case study and in-depth interview method to collect primary data.

**Keywords-** Naxalism, Social Movement, Violence, Civil Society, Media.

Dr Nanda, R. M, Dept. of Sociology, Ekamra Degree College, Bhubanswar, Odisha.

Email: drmanas.nanda68@gmail.com

**Introduction:** Naxalites are a group of persons, belonged different caste, class and ethnic background waging a class struggle against the Indian democracy, propertied class on behalf of landless people, poor and marginalised mass. They have been historically subjugated and exploited by the ruthless attitude of the upper-class people in the country. They adopt both violent and non-violent means to reach their set goal. They make believe that they are systematically fighting against inhuman oppression of the bourgeoisie class over the deprived class to establish justice and equality by creating a classless society. They indoctrinate people by infusing their radical ideology.

Naxalite movement is the biggest ever violent social movement which was born out of socio-economic factors combined with the political goal to capture state power through armed agrarian uprising to bring about revolutionary socialist transformation. The movement was primarily launched by the landless tribals and peasants against the capitalist, landed people, wine traders, money lenders, forest and revenue officials who have been historically exploiting the poor and marginalized people in the state for centuries.

The phenomenon Naxalism became a very popular concept in 1967. During this period, a group of communist revolutionaries were born out of the Sino-Soviet split in the Indian communist movement. Naxalism was developed with the ideological tenets of Marx-Lenin-Mao under the leadership of Charu Mazumdar. Naxalism was initially practised at Naxalbari village in West Bengal to develop a revolutionary opposition in order to establish a revolutionary rule in the country.

The Naxal movement in Orissa began with the gallant leadership of Nagbhusan Pattnaik, eminent communist revolutionaries in Orissa. He was popularly considered as the chief architect of Naxalite movement in Orissa. Chakrabarty and Kujur (2010) write Naxalite movement got recognition in Orissa it was due to the revolutionary leadership and charismatic personality of Nagbhusan Pattnaik.

The Naxal ideologues strictly adopted the principles of Mao's ideology which believed in the principle of the annihilation of class enemies. The leaders of the Naxal campaigned for land to tiller movement by organizing the peasants, labourers and other deprived section of the society to build a political mass base in the countryside to finally encircle and capture the cities. They propagandized the weak governance of the state and poor implementation of the welfare programmes in the backward districts of the state. They advocated for different social and economic policies in order to be nearer to the poor and disadvantaged mass.

The key objective of Naxalites is to capture the state power by the power that grows out of the barrel of the gun. Their strategy is to capture territories as much as possible and to establish their rule over the areas captured by them with the support of their armed guerilla. The Naxalites concentrate their presence where the state governance is weak and the state administration is poor and the areas neglected by the state. Their main target is to capture the poor backward regions especially tribal regions in the state and convert those areas into Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and develop their guerilla squads into the regular army to defend their rule in the zones liberated by them.

Naxalites have been at war against the state. Their prime target is to destroy the state power in all its forms and create a new people's government. They target the state representatives like political leaders, police, rich landlords and multi-national companies. Sometimes they target the civilians to create a fear psychosis among them. The Naxalites operate mostly in the rural and Adivasi areas, often out of the continuous jungles in these regions. Their operations are most prominent in (from North to South) Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra, the Telangana (North-Western) region of Andhra Pradesh, and Western Orissa. It will be seen that these areas are all inland, from the coastline.

**Objectives:** This study has following three broad objectives.

- 1) To analyse the motive of the people to join the movement.
- 2) To understand whether the Naxal movement is anti-peoples movement, anti-systemic movement and class-based on the movement.
- 3) To study the concept of development and Naxal threat, repressive measures of police and Naxal over marginalised, the effort of the state to delink tribal from Naxal outfit etc.

The present study represents a *diagnostic research design* that is to inquire into the social phenomenon with care i.e. to scrutinize study materials related to the phenomenon under investigation. The diagnostic research design endeavours to find out the relationship between relevant causes and also suggests ways and means for the solution. Thus, the diagnostic studies are concerned with discovering and testing whether certain variables are associated.

This study has been conducted within the environment of undivided Koraput district i.e. Koraput, Rayagada, Malkanagiri and Nabarangpur districts. The above districts are selected because the intensity Naxal violence is very much high in undivided Koraput in comparison to other districts. Malkanagiri is the epicentre of Naxal violence in the state of Orissa. Sources of data were both secondary and primary in nature. The database of the study was drawn from secondary sources i.e. Census Data, Director General of Police, Department of Home Affairs, Government of Orissa, Director of Prisons, District Police Office, Director of Intelligence and block profile data of the

study areas. The primary data was collected from the people of Naxal affected areas through interview schedules. Qualitative data has been used for the present study. In the present study, the researcher has used the qualitative method of data collection like historical analysis (oral history), narrative method, case study and in-depth interview method to collect primary data.

**Findings:** The findings of the sociological study on Naxal Movement in Orissa are respectively stated below.

**1. Why People Join Naxal Movement:** When a group of people realize that their survival is threatened and needs are unfulfilled, they support a system which fights for their interest. People join the Naxalite movement because they realize that Naxalism gives a sense power to people and it becomes the alternative source of government. They become the part and parcel of the Naxal organisation. People support the movement due to ideological motivation, survival issue or other reason.

(a) **Ideological Drive:** The Naxalites use their ideological principle to recruit cadres for their people's army. Ideological motivation plays a very important role for the cadres who have sound knowledge about the background of the movement and they are fully prepared to dedicate their lives to the cause of the movement. Bhatia (2005) has written that these are the individuals who have an intellectual urge to fight against injustice and who get attracted to the revolutionary message of the movement. These revolutionaries may have witnessed the oppression perpetrated on or by their own families or castes and instinctively rebel against this injustice. They're coming across Marxist-Leninist ideology and joining the movement is like more finding partners with the same concern.

(b) **Survival Issue:** The researcher observed that the spread of Naxalism is an indication of the sense of deprivation and alienation among the people of interior areas of Koraput. The marginalized people have been suppressed and oppressed in the hands of Diku (outsiders). They have been leading a vulnerable life. Due to the widespread of capitalism and class domination and the existence of backwardness in most part of the Naxal affected area has caused discontent and frustration among the poor and deprived sections. These people have developed a strong sense of being systematically marginalized. Owing to this, they joined the Naxalite movement and adopted the path of an armed rebellion to capture state power and bring about a utopian type of new order of economic equity and social justice. The grinding poverty, the rising inequalities and the failure of the successive governments to improve their living conditions have led to their disenchantment with the democratic process. The anti-state/government sentiments of the marginalized people have been exploited by the radicals and have succeeded in mobilizing some of these rural and tribal people after inducting them to their cadres.

(c) **Strong Mobilization by Naxal Leaders**

Naxalites have been exploiting the sentiments of tribals, Dalits and disadvantaged groups due to their poor educational background, historic exploitation and oppression, endemic inequality and appalling poverty of the people in Koraput region. The Naxalites propagandize that the present democracy is run by their class enemies who are inhumanly subjugating the destitute mass to meet

their vested interest. The development actors like political parties, civil society organizations and media do not properly concentrate on the backward regions of the state where the remote area's population are subject to ruthless exploitation in this region (Koraput). The Naxalites leaders have taken the advantage of such situation. They are getting sufficient space to establish their red corridors.

Naxalites create consciousness among the marginalized section by propagandizing that the state is suppressing the interest of the poor and needy people. The state is inviting the multinational corporation to plunder the natural resources and to displace the people from their own land. The state is using police and military personnel to suppress the democratic right of the poor and kill the societal values of tribals and other forest dwellers. They also propagandize that the state has developed motherly step attitude to fulfil the economic and political rights of the people in this region. The state has snatched away their cultural and other traditional rights of the people. They propagate that the tribal communities living in the forest have no rights or control over the forest, tribal women have a high risk of sexual exploitation at the hand of wine traders and money lenders and forest contractors. The government is constantly neglecting the poor in the backward region of the state. They profess that due to Naxal effort, the socio-economic condition of the people has improved. The Naxalites claim that they have been constantly fighting for the tribal rights to land, forest, water, better wages, health care and education. This way they mobilize the poor and prepare them as a readymade army against the state.

**2. Class Basis of the Movement:** Chakrabarty and Kujur (2010) write that Maoist movement in India is rooted in uprooting the class character of Indian society and replacing it with a classless and stateless social order through proletarian revolution. Therefore, before embarking upon evolving suitable strategy and tactics for revolution, they seek to discern the class character of contemporary Indian society. In their characteristics articulation, they categorize Indian society as semi-colonial and semi-feudal governed by a neo-colonial form of indirect rule, exploitation and control.

The Naxalite movement has a class basis. And the very radical ideology of this movement also proposes for class-based mobilization through the development of class consciousness. It also believes in the class struggle (Maoist). Hence mobilization has taken place on a class basis. In this movement, tribal people are the principal source of man and muscle power. Most of the landless people, who are oppressed over the period, who have been fighting for their right, they participate in the movement. Most of the landless people who have been oppressed over the periods they have been supporting the Naxal outfit. Dom provides a lot of support to the tribal people. They are known as Dakua who call the people for attending the meeting. Doms are recruited by the tribals. Dom plays the major socio-economic and cultural role in the tribal community. They act as the two sides of the same coin. He said the tribal cannot survive without the Dom. Sometimes, the Doms are playing the notorious role and sometimes play a friendly role with the tribals. Naxals believe in the class character of Indian state power. It is a class war.

All categories of people are found in the Naxal movement. The top leaders of each Naxal faction are mostly high caste, even Brahmins. The rank and file members are often the tribal boys and girls. The middle-level leadership is composed of members drawn from various non-tribal castes including Dalits. Religion-wise there are Hindus, Christians, and tribal animist among the



Naxals, and only an invincible few belong to Islam. The cadres are marginalized but the leaders belong to upper caste like Nagabhushan Patnaik, Sabyasachi Panda, Dandapani Mohanty, Gannatha Patra, The upper caste have not projected a tribal as a Naxal leader. The leaders who are subservient to their lords are upper caste. The polarization along the class line deepened, when the lower class were mobilized by the Naxal leaders and increasingly stereotyped as Naxalites by the upper class who banded together. It is wrong to say that Naxalite movement in Orissa is not a caste-based movement. It is a class-based movement.

**3. Anti-Systemic Movement:** The growth of capitalism and liberalism has affected the socio-economic structure of the poor and socially excluded people in the state and it has increased oppression over tribals and marginalized. The growth of capitalism is strongly opposed by the left radicals and provides greater opportunity for transnational resistance. When capitalist repression and oppression become acute, anti-systemic activity responds. Capitalism has generated resistance right from the beginning as it displaced populations, despoiled resources and established global exploitation. The Naxalite movements strongly protest against the capitalist movement. Capitalism brings constant change in the structure of the society and when it brings development and progress for one person, it generates unemployment for other persons. This gradually develops the uprising of poor and middle-class people. Capitalism created a dangerous working condition and posed a serious threat to the life and livelihood of the peasants and labourer in backward regions of the state. They opposed the spread of capitalism by two means i.e. over ground resistance and underground resistance. In over ground, they went for strikes, marches, sabotage, Dharana, gherao of government offices. They also protested the advent of capitalism through violent means. They terrorize the state officials by kidnapping or killing. The Naxalites adopt the guerrilla warfare to directly attack the state apparatus. The Naxalites do not support the democratic norms of present government. They want to change present form of democracy which is ruled by the upper-class people. They have launched an anti-systemic movement to replace the present political structure in order to build their own form of democracy i.e. people's democracy where poor and marginalized will enjoy their rights and privileges. They oppose the present political consensus and socio-economic order.

**4. Anti-People's Movement:** The present Naxalite movement cannot be called a people's movement. This is an anti-systemic movement with a political goal to capture political power and alter the existing social structure and power relations in the society by adopting violent means. This movement has failed to involve people on a mass scale cutting across political ideals, classes, religious origins etc like the nationalist movement in India (a truly peoples centric movement) which was inclusive of INC (Indian National Congress), the communists, the socialists, the rights (like Hindu Mahasabha and Muslim league etc), the Dalits under the leadership of Dr B.R Ambedkar. Naxalite movement is against the system of governance and the power relations that support it. And it aims at subverting the existing power relations (hence it implicitly believes and works for the annihilation of the class enemy). It foments class hatred and does mobilization on the line of class antagonism to sustain a class struggle. Thus instead of integrating the larger sections of the society, it alienates its cadres from the larger society and operates from the fringe with a small section of the interface civil society members only.

Naxalites do not hesitate to kill politicians, police officials, forest contractors and police

informers. Naxalites aim at liberating the country by creating an atmosphere of fear. Lately, they are targeting and destroying the police information network, communication network, railways and other economic infrastructure etc of this region to destabilize the administration. Naxal movement posing a grave threat to the state political establishment and civil society as it is challenging the very legitimacy of Indian political system. And the Naxalites are running a parallel government in their area of operation. The state calls this movement anti-democratic, anti-state and anti- people's movement as they do not take part in this democratic process of electoral politics. The threatened the government officials, contractors by blowing police stations, panchayat offices, other government establishments, use landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to disrupt infrastructure development projects. Rebuilding the damaged roads, bridge, railway property, telecom towers, Tehsil and Block office and school building would require many months and more resources would need to be provided. This hits the normal lives of the local people and arrests the development works.

Naxalism is a threat to the Indian States including its three organs - the executive, legislature and judiciary and also the present form of parliamentary democracy. Obviously, they are not against the Indian society as a whole but a small and dominant section within it i.e. the ruling classes, who they believe are comprador bourgeoisie or feudal lords (or both) in character and their agents.

Large number intellectuals opined that there will be no end to the psychological war between red rebels (Naxals) and white rebels (police) till a strong political will develops. Naxalites are claiming that they are systematically fighting for the rights of the poor in the state. They are working as the pressure group to the government. The state is implementing a different kind of welfare programmes due to their radical movement. Till date, people are psychologically depressed due to the destruction of the public infrastructure like bombarding school, block and panchayat office, land mining ambulance and civil transport has posed a serious threat to the life and security of civilians in the state.

### ***5. Repressive Measure of Police and Naxals over Civilians***

The path adopted by the Government as well as the Naxalite has been destroying the peace, integrity, self-reliance, self-respect and dignity of individuals and communities. People have been sandwiched between the mindless violence committed by both the Naxalite and government's official. Many tribal people claim that the police bring them to the police station and harass them during the time of interrogation and unnecessarily drag them into Naxal cases and putting them into jail and in the other vain Naxals are killing the villager as police informers without scientific intelligence system. They are brutally torturing the people who do not support their ideology and strategy and tactics. It is also seen that some of the civil society members blaming police that police are encountering innocent civilians as Naxalites. The Naxalites are suppressing the democratic means of people by compelling them to boycott election which is a danger sign for a democratic system.

Any action is more than desired is repressive. Both the actions of Naxals and police are repressive for tribal. In this case, many innocent indigenous people are sandwiched between police and Naxal atrocity. Ignorant tribals are languishing in jail in the name of Naxal supporter. If any civil society is trying to provide legal aid for their release, it is being threatened by the police. When

people in tribal areas are raising their voice just to save their own rights and privileges, the government is using the entire police to repress their movement. Sometimes, the Naxals are taking more repressive action on tribal people which are very unbearable. Gananath Patra, a veteran Naxal leader opined that some of the civil society members compare the action of police against the tribals is similar to Fascist repression. It is a heinous crime against humanity.

One of the civil society members remarked that as a matter fact, a large number of arrests and killings by the police in the name of countering Naxal violence have not eliminated the Naxals violence but it has hunted some of the innocent villagers. The so-called anti -Naxal offensive of the state has thus proved to be counterproductive. Thousands of innocent villagers are now languishing in various jails of the state. As a result, the tribal in Naxal affected areas have shown their resentment and discontentment against the deployment of CRPF Jawans in and around their villages. The proposed use of helicopters in anti- Naxal operations shall prove further repressive and counterproductive too rendering the situation more complicated and disturbing.

Sometimes, the Naxals kill innocent people in the name of the Naxal informer. Any kind of killing of the innocent is against the state and people. In this case, the police are directed to take action on those people who break the law and order. Sometimes the police have to take repressive action against the people to create a fear psychosis owing to the reason that if anybody supports Naxal menace, he will be severely punished. If the police do not take action, then tribal/local people will wholeheartedly support the Naxal group and the Naxal violence will spread like wildfire in the state. A senior retired police official replied that it is not right to say that police action is repressive all the time. Police is an agency to maintain law and order. If anybody violates the law, it is the police who will arrest him and punish him by producing him in the court. The action taken by the police against tribals is certainly not repressive and inhuman. But the action taken against the Naxal is a desirable step.

The police action is not the only solution to this problem. The armed forces/police personals thinking that they are in war front and fighting with the enemies. They create a war like situation while combating. The local people, main tribals do not like the attitude of the police. The protest procession of 10,000 tribals in Malkangiri, against the Green Hunt operation, is a bright example. Similarly, to some extent state is provoking Naxal violence. The skewed development, gross neglect and marginalisation of large parts and large sections of people in the state have created a fertile ground for resentment and even rebellion to grow. In tribal areas, especially the mineral belts, the situation is the most favourable. The forest laws that tend to treat the indigenous population as adversaries have created bad blood and anger. What has aggravated matters is the government's accent on mineral based industries and the opening up of large tracts of tribal and forest land for mindless exploitation of mines. This has rubbed the local people the wrong way and literally pushed them to the lap of LWE. Due to frequent raid over the villages by the police, constant interrogation and undue arrest has mentally suppressed the tribals and other poor people who resort to Naxal violence.

Police or state should take appropriate action to protect its citizen. But over action sometimes curtail the democratic right and freedom of common mass. Majority of civil society members replied that police is the agency which protects the life of liberty of the people. It should take necessary steps to punish the criminals but not the innocent. Sometimes police personnel are over pressurized by the administrative authority or the political executives to take immediate action

against the people who are involved in Naxal violence. The local police or security personnel from the outside state fail to distinguish between Naxal and innocent tribals. When they raid over the village to nab the Naxal cadres, many innocent people are subject to police harassment. Even some of them are inhumanly beaten by the police force to confess their association with the Naxal groups. This irritates the tribal and they lose confidence in the police force. Sometimes they seek the help of the Naxals to hide them from the police atrocity. In the other vain some of the Naxals enter into the village in the mid of night and they viciously torture the tribals who do not support Naxal activities. Even the Naxals do not hesitate to kill those persons.

The repressive measures unleashed by the police and administrative pundits have been more diverted against the common people wrongly in the concerned villages. This needs to be stopped. Any repressive measure only to kill and arrest Naxal is praiseworthy step by the police. But it should not be targeted against the illiterate and ignorant people who are not the real culprit. In other vain, the state is to maintain law and order. In the name of people's welfare, Naxals cannot move with a gun around, possess the firepower without a license, kidnapping duty bound officers, killing people in the name of police informer is anti-people, anti-law and anti-democratic.

**6. The effort of the State to Delink the Tribal Nexus with Naxal:** Now there is a disconnection between tribal leaders and Naxal leaders in many Naxal prone areas. The tribal leaders have been observing since long past that they have been misused and misinterpreted by the red rebels and compel the innocent tribal to raise weapons against their own people and state. The Naxalites keep the gun over the shoulder of the tribals and they fire at the government machinery by making the tribal responsible for this incidence. The leaders have realized that due to this Naxalite movement, many innocent tribals have been killed either by police or by the Naxals. The tribals have achieved nothing except pain and frustration. Even political leaders of the tribal community do not like the Naxal propaganda in tribal districts of the state. One of the senior leaders of the tribal community remarked 'Tribals are now well educated and very much conscious of their rights and privileges. They will fight for their rights and privileges. They know how to fight for their right. They will not like the entry of Dikus(outsiders) to their community and mobilise their people to join their group for waging war against the state in order to establish their own state to protect their right is proved as an illusion. Another tribal police officer described that tribal people have now realized that what they thought that Naxalite movement would bring a radical change in the condition of tribal people was a delusion. They have achieved very few but lost much more for this movement. The tribals and other marginalized community members feel that Naxals are using the tribals as human shield for their vested interest. If the Naxalites form their own government, this would be worse than the present form of political system. So the adivasis will fight for their own interest and save their own livelihood. Now the state government is very much serious about the problem faced by the people in Naxalites areas. Several welfare programs have been launched by the state and central government for the all-round development of the tribal and other forest dwellers. Now the Naxals will face problem to propagandize the negligence of the government to the tribals.

Naxal is provoking the tribal people against the government. They use the innocent tribal as a human shield. They have failed to organize village meeting and propagandize their philosophy due to a frequent anti-Naxal operation carried out by District Voluntary Forces(DVF), Special Operation Group(SOG), BSF and CRPF with the help of local SPO (Special Police Officer). The

Naxalites have established their stronghold in some of the cut off areas of Malkanagiri. The security forces have been successful to sweep away some of the important camps of the Naxalite. They are losing their stronghold from different tribal pockets. The police force is trying to be closer to the tribal mass in order to strengthen the intelligence and motivate them to non- co-operate the Naxalite cadres. He said that in order to be closer to the community, the district police are organizing sports, cultural programme, adivasi festival and health camp.

**7. Development and Naxal Threat:** Naxalites are not exactly opposing the development which brings them a percentage. They think that they will lose their control over the people in the tribal area. The development is carrying out by the central government and state government agencies are complementary to the government and against Naxal red corridor. Local economy and global economy will be friendly to the local population for which Naxal will lose their control over the tribal mass in undivided Koraput. Not all development but selective development will ameliorate the pain of the destitute mass.

Basically, Naxals oppose some kind of development like construction of bridges, mobile tower, police station and CRPF camp. One of the public policy consultants revealed that it is wrong to say in a generalized way that the Naxals are against development. In some places, they demand irrigation, drinking water, hospital and communication facilities. In fact, they pursue an ambiguous, double-faced approach to development. It needs to be ascertained through a case to the case study as to which development project they oppose and which one they support, nay demand. Of course, by their strong opposition to certain developmental works like a mobile tower, Road, Forest beds etc they have pushed toward one very basic question to the forefront i.e, whose development, what kind of development at what cost. The Naxals propagate that they are in favour of people's friendly development. They give slogans to expedite development works in the tribal area, but in practice; they oppose because if the remote inaccessible areas will be developed then they may not find any suitable place for hideouts.

**8. Role of Civil Society Organization to Eliminate Violence:** The civil society organisations are trying to sensitize the tribals to understand their rights and duties and engage them in different self-employed work like bamboo work, handicraft work to make them economically sound. One of the civil society members articulated that according to Maheswata Devi, violence is justified when tribals are oppressed. When the system fails, violence is justified. The individual cannot go on suffering in silence. Civil society is organizing different awareness programs to educate the tribals and marginalized mass. They became conscious about the democratic rights and opposed to any sort of exploitation and oppression.

Majority of civil society members responded that curbing Naxal violence can be an agenda of the state or central government, not that of any civil society groups. The concern of the civil society groups is how to sensitize the state actors on the need for addressing to some age-old, basic problems of the tribals and other communities that serve as the fertile ground for the rise of extremist forces. If the civil society group can effectively pressurize the government to implement Forest Right Act (FRA), Panchayat Extension..... Act (PESA) and other such legislation then the extremist forces shall dwindle in their influence.

Civil society is trying in a different way to condemn violence against both government and



Naxals. The Gandhians vehemently oppose the war between the police and Naxals which create an atmosphere of terror in the local area. Civil Society is having a great role to play in solving these problems. There are many sincere Social Workers, Bhoodan Karmis, human right workers, journalists, retired Govt. officials, NGOs', political persons etc. those who can create an atmosphere of dialogue between Naxals and Govt. And now what is the reason for the rapid increase in Naxalite activities. This is mainly due to lack of political will.

NGOs' can act as a bridge between Govt. and Naxals. But there is no proper co-ordination between administration and police. Police think that they are not bound to obey the instruction of Administration and administrators think that they are superior to police. The Narayanpatna firing is a bright example. The tussle between Collector and Superintendent of Police aggravated the situation. Of course, soon after Narayanpatna firing both Collector and SP were transferred from Koraput district. But that is not the solution. Naxals activities are mostly confined to remote; inaccessible tribal areas. The exploited tribals do not believe anybody because they have been exploited by everybody. They cannot believe NGOs' so easily. An NGO with missionary zeal can work in Naxalite area to mobilize Naxals but they need full co-operation of Govt. Late Jaya Prakash Narayan with full of his willpower changed the attitude-behaviour of Chambal Valley daku. Another Mahatma Gandhi, Binoba Bhabhe or Jaya Prakash Narayan may change the situation.

**9 Media's Perception of Naxal Violence:** Media people believe that Maoism developed due to the backwardness of the people, excessive marginalization and poor governance. They tell that Naxalism is the Manifestation of collective action by the most deprived and backward section of Indian Society. The deprived and backward sections of the society have always been oppressed and exploited in the hand of a particular section of upper class since past time. Their rights and liberties have been seized and forced to live in a vicious circle of poverty. Sheer negligence and cruel exploitation have pushed them to live in a very miserable condition. The unspeakable oppression of the zamindars, money lenders and wine traders have further degraded the life of the tribals and marginalized in undivided Koraput region. The history reads the rebellious character of the tribals in Koraput area. Constant displacement and poor rehabilitation of the displaced tribal by the state government created discontent. In this connection, one of the BBC correspondents revealed the fact 'In one side when the Bengali refugees are properly rehabilitated and resettled in Malkangiri, the other tribals who have been displaced from their ancestral land for decades have not been properly rehabilitated and resettled by the state till date. Really, this is a sad state of affairs'. It proves that tribal people are still neglected by the state machinery.

After continuous negligence by the state, the tribals expressed their discontent through demonstrations, gheraos, picketing, and other methods. They collectively raise their voice against the exploitative machinery of the state government as well as private mafias. Their collective action got manifested when they directly fought against the landlords, wine traders and money lenders and other government officials (forest, revenue and excise). They were persuaded to support the Naxal strategy and tactics to bow down the enemy class. They assimilated them as the part of Naxal organizations and disparaged the government lopsided policy.

Media is a part of the corporate house is not given free hand to ride anything against the exploitation of corporate house. They are not given free hands to own reporter. They are totally controlled by the vested interest multinationals. The multinationals do not provide an opportunity

to media, play a free and fair role. The media should be used to blame violence. It should not glorify violence but they should find out how the violence can be avoided. One reporter replied that when we are sending the real report from the field, the report takes different colour when it passes from the desk of sub-editor to the editor. The ultimate truth has not published the news for the sake of cheap publicity. The duty of the media is not only to report but their duty is to publish the truth.

**10 Approach Adopted by the State to Eliminate Naxal Violence:** The Naxal hit states are adopting multi-pronged strategy comprising of security measures, developmental action, political initiatives and perception management to tackle the menace. Just military action and killing of rebels alone cannot lead to a permanent solution to the vexed Naxalite problem in the country. The anti-Naxal operation has certainly reduced the intensity of Naxal violence in a different part of the state. The security personnel have failed to identify the Naxal cadres. Sometimes innocent tribal and poor are encountered by police as Naxalites. The anti-Naxal operation cannot be the permanent panacea to eliminate the Naxal violence in the state. If the state wipes out all Naxalites in a military action, they will rise in one form or the other as long as exploitation and disparities in the development of backward areas persist. The state is using excessive military action to eliminate Naxalism from the state. When it is dying in one place, it is again taking birth in another form in another place. So the military action is not the solution to this longest drawn violent movement in India. The state should not treat Naxal movement only a law and order problem. The state should understand the Socio-economic issue behind the genesis of the movement.

The first and foremost duty of the state is to tackle the Naxal problems on the socio-economic front of the backward areas, understanding the development needs of the tribals and the local population. In 2006 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the Naxalite movement in India as the “single biggest internal security challenge ever faced” by the country. He also stated that Naxalism is not merely a law and order problem, noting that it is directly linked to problems of underdevelopment, exploitation, lack of access to resources, underdeveloped agriculture, lack of employment opportunities, and other factors.

The state should not impose any particular development model which will generate another form of discontent and frustration among local people and compel them to support Maoist outfit. The state has to understand the genuine demand of the people and state police should develop a friendly approach towards tribal and other local population in order to discourage them to support the Maoist outfit. Huge Recruitment and deployment of the special anti-Naxal force - Combat Battalion for Resolute Action (Cobra), SOG (Special Operation Group and DVF(District Voluntary Force) to take strong counter-offensive measures against Naxals and at the same time tackle economic and unemployment problems which often encouraged the youth to take up arms. The state has adopted various steps for the Naxal affected districts of the State. These are (1) Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, (2) Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS), (3) Central Scheme for assistance to civilian victims/family of victims of Terrorist, Communal and Naxal violence,(4) Integrated Action Plan (5) Road Requirement Plan for LWE areas Scheme of Fortified Police Stations and (6) Civic Action Programme.

**An Overview:** The modern Naxalite movement bears certain key featureless such as (1)Complain of sexual exploitation,(2) Regional conflict among the Naxal groups,(3) Highly organized and

modernized in weaponry, (4) Advanced strategy and tactics, (5) Ideological disarray, (6) Lack of participation of intellectuals, (7) High intensity of violence, (8) High number of surrender of cadres, (9) Recruitment is involuntary, (10) More Individualistic gain than community gain, (11) High extortion from the public, (12) Change in the concept of class enemy, (13) Guerrilla warfare to mobile warfare.

No doubt the present Naxalite movement has brought little change in the Socio-economic and political structure of the poor and marginalized people in the undivided Koraput. The state administration has become more responsive to the tribal issues due to Naxal movement. The struggles for tribal rights to land, water, forest produce, better wages, healthcare, and education by the Naxalites have kept their movement alive. Their chilling violence has created a negative impression towards their age-old movement in India.

The present Naxals are losing their own identity and they are not getting proper cooperation from the people in the local area due to wrong strategy and tactics. It has invited unwanted domestic war with the state. But the present movement is more organized and less ideologically motivated and it is not purely diverted towards people development. The present cadres are diverted from their own ideology. The present movement is a directionless, opportunist movement, greater delusion in their policies and ideologies. The Naxal is no longer remained close, compact consolidated groups. The present Naxal movement is a crusade against the democratic movement.

Thus the present form of Naxal movement is diverted from its own original ideology. In the class-divided society, the landlords, capitalists, administrators and exploiters are well organized. The depressed tribals, landless poor farmers and other backwards downtrodden people cannot get justice by this pseudo-drama of Naxalites by kidnapping the political leaders, administrators and international tourists. The split and conflict among the Naxalite groups will definitely boost the capitalists, zamindars, money lender and Daru mafias to spread their influence again over the tribal-dominated area which will further worsen the condition of the marginalized and backward class people. This is the high time for the police, public to condemn the mindless and chillingly brutal violence of Naxalites against the innocent civilians and dutiful policemen who belong to lower strata of the society. The government machinery should work round the clock to deliver good governance to those people who have been historically neglected and oppressed in the hands of Dikus (outsiders). Justice delayed is justice denied. Their socio-economic justice is to be disbursed within the stipulated time so that they will not revolt against their own people and state.

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### Use of Library Resources by Scholars and Educators in Mizoram University: A Case Study of School of Economics Management and Information Science

<sup>1</sup>Ngurtinkhuma, R. K & <sup>2</sup>Vanlalneia

#### Abstract

Use of libraries especially in an academic institution is pragmatic in view of ascertaining the mobility of the users and to know their interest in information sources. Further, it is coupled with to know the length of use of information available in the library. The present study is primarily intended to know the interest of the scholars and the educators' i.e, the faculties with regard to the use of various sources in the library to pursue their academic works and research. The study focus on five various academic departments under one school in Mizoram University and the authors through an in-depth study projected the practical scenario prevailing in the library especially on the use of library resources.

**Keywords-** Library, Resources, Schools, Information, Behaviour etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Ngurtinkhuma, R. K is a Professor, Dept. of Lib and Infmn Science, Mizoram University. Email: rkngur15@gmail.com.

<sup>2</sup> Vanlalneia is a Research Scholar, Dept. of Lib and Infmn Science, Mizoram University.

Email: netea05@gmail.com

**Introduction:** Proliferation: Mizoram University, a central university and a hub centre for higher education constitute are having 33 departments under 8 schools and provide education in the field of social science, humanities, science and technology including architecture for a sustainable development of the society. To proliferate the education in various streams and make the education

and research sustainable, the central library of the university provides adequate resources both print and electronic to its users through multiple channels. It not only facilitates using of resources through the physical presence of the users in the library but also disseminates through Intranet. With a considerable size of its collection development, the library is also equipped with electronic resources constituting e-journals, electronic theses and dissertations, e-books etc. The university as discussed is having eight schools as placed below in Table-1 which also depicts the Department attached to each school.

**Review of Literature:** Review of literature visualizes the study earlier performed by the scholars in various forms of documents. To quote some of them, Ossai (2011) in her study on the utilization of information by the University of Benin law students found that most of the law students indicated that they heavily used library resources in the course of their academic programs. The study also revealed that most of the law students had difficulty in locating and identifying suitable library information sources for case law, legislation and legal journal articles. Anderson (2011) defined information seeking in the context of law students. He emphasized on providing the user demand services especially in the electronic environment and suggested in his study that, library online tools and websites should be available to the students. Nicol and O'English (2012) in their study found that the students and faculties express their satisfaction with library services when the library provides online tools and resources support for academic development. Natarajan (2012) while describing electronic resources (e-resources) and their types mentioned that, it has a great impetus for the students, researchers and faculty in the e-environment. Ramesh and Sahoo (2012) attempted to assess and evaluate the information needs and seeking behaviour of information resources of the library by the faculty members of the ICFAI Business School, Hyderabad.

**Table-1: Various Schools and Departments under Mizoram University**

Sl.No	Name of the School	Name of the Department
1	<b>School of Earth Sciences and Natural Resources Management</b>	Forestry , Geology, Extension Education & Rural Development Horticulture, Aromatic & Medicinal Plants, Environmental Science, Geography and Resource Management
2	School of Economics, Management & Information Science	Economics, Commerce, Library & Information Science Management, Mass Communication
3	School of Education and Humanities	Education, English, Mizo, Hindi
4	School of Engineering and Technology	Information Technology (IT), Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE), Electrical Engineering (EE), Computer Engineering (CE) Civil Engineering
5	School of Life Sciences	Zoology, Botany, Biotechnology
6	School of Physical Sciences	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & Computer Science
7	School of Social Sciences	Psychology, Public Administration, Political Science, Social Work History & Ethnography
8	School of Fine Arts, Architecture and Fashion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning &amp; Architecture</li> </ul>
Source: Annual Report, Mizoram University, 2015-16		

The SEMIS which is the focus of the study comprises five different academic departments with 146 research scholars and faculties' i.e, the educators and the same has been shown in Table-2 for clear understanding.

**Table-2: Departments under the School of Economics, Management and Information Science**



Sl. No	Name of the School	Name of the Department	Research Scholars	Faculties
1	School of Economics Management and Information Science (SEMIS)	Economics	24	07
		Commerce	46	07
		Library and Inf. Science	13	08
		Mass Comm. & Journalism	04	05
		Management	26	06
		Total	113	33

Findings indicated that the library professionals are required to help them for maximum utilization of library resources and create awareness amongst the faculty members to access the library resources. Umesha and Chandrashekara (2013) projected the information seeking and searching behaviour of dental science professional in Karnataka and they found that barriers need to be removed for the users while accessing information in the library. Kumar (2013) in his study on information seeking behaviour of faculty members of the Bhagat Phool Singh Women University inferred that the faculties use Google for searching information which is due to unavailability of adequate current resources in the library. Rupp-Serrano and Robbins (2013) explored study on the information-seeking behaviour of academic education faculty from twenty large public research universities and their investigations found that faculties seek up-to-date information in their given field of research and they focus primarily on electronic sources. Clark (2014) in his article stated that libraries and their partners have to develop tools that make it possible to curate content at a much broader level. Kumar and Chandrashekara (2015) in their paper examined the information seeking behaviour by the first- grade college library users and the information sources preferred by them. They found that major chunk of respondents visits the library to update their subject knowledge coupled with the visit to the library at least once a week. They further observed that more than 75% of the respondents access information in the college library and prefer print format. From the above study, it could be inferred that no scholar as of now has taken a study on the changing behaviour especially for the research scholar and faculties as well in the school under the study of Mizoram University.

**Significance and Scope of the Study:** The present research and seeking of information primarily by the scholars and the faculties are unique though it varies while seeking of information, the former searches for research and learning, the later needs for teaching, learning and research. In both the cases, library happens to be feeding unit of information resources. They deviate from using the library when they are not supported with adequate resources by the library. They find another place to seek the information. In other words, their mobility varies taking the circumstances into account. The present study is limited to the research scholars of both M.Phil and PhD and faculty under SEMIS of the University which constitute 146 in total.

#### **Objectives of the Study:**

- i. To find out the mobility of research scholars and the faculties of the school under study through analysing the frequency and purpose of the library visited.
- ii. To examine the use of information sources by the respondents of the school;
- iii. To ascertain the preference of information resources required by them.

**Methodology:** As the paper is an empirical study, a structured questionnaire was circulated among the all 146 respondents constituting 113 research scholars and 33 faculties of all five academic

departments under SEMIS as already discussed. Interview method was also adopted while carrying out the present study.

**Analysis by Respondents:** Data relating to the number of respondents for the present study is placed below in Table- 3 for analysis. Analysis of the above Table-3 shows that out of a total number of 108 respondents, 87 (81%) Research Scholars and 21 (19%) faculties spread over five departments responded the questionnaire. Thus, the total respondents come to 74% i.e, 108 out of 146 which is encouraging and it visualizes the interest of both the Research Scholars and the Faculties to opine their views on the need of resources. The non-respondent rate comes to 38 which constitute 26%.

**Table-3:** Number of Respondents

Sl.No	Types	Com.		Eco.		Lib. & Info. Sc		Mangmt		Mass. Com		Total Quest. Dist.	Total Respondents
		Total	Respondent	Total	Respondent	Total	Respondent	Total	Respondent	Total	Respondent		
1.	RS	46	40	24	20	13	10	26	15	4	2	113	87 (81%)
2.	F	7	5	7	3	8	6	6	4	5	3	33	21(19%)
<b>Total</b>		53	45	31	23	21	16	32	19	9	5	146	108(74%)

**Source:** Field Survey. (Key: RS= Research Scholars. F= Faculty )

**The frequency of Library Visited:** Library accumulates varied information to suit the need of users and provides access. It is the onus of the users to visit the library to get their desired resources. The following Table-4 shows the frequency of library visits by the Research scholars and faculties of different departments under SEMIS.

**Table-4:** Frequency of Library Visited

Sl.No	Freq of Library Visit	Comm.		Eco.		LIS		Manag.		Mass. Com		Total		GT
		RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	
1.	Weekly	4	1	5	-	2	2	3	1	-	1	14	5	19 18%)
2.	Twice in a month	8	1	7	1	4	2	6	1	2	1	27	6	33 (31%)
3.	Monthly	20	3	5	2	3	1	6	2	-	-	34	8	42 (39%)
4.	Once in a year	8	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	12	2	14 (13%)
5.	Never	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		40	5	20	3	10	6	15	4	2	3			108

**Source:** Field Survey, n=108 (Key: RS= Research Scholars. F= Faculty )

On analysis of the above Table-4 it was found that, both the Research scholars and Faculties of various Departments of the School under study prefer to visit the library Monthly which constitutes 42 (39%) out of total respondents 108 followed by 33 (31%) who prefer to visit Twice in a month and 19 (18%) who visit Weekly. This is due to the fact that, the respondents due to various academic assignments, research work hardly find time to visit the library regularly. This further, shows that

they are still interested to visit the library to find their resources which are an encouraging step among the respondents. The author could ascertain the purpose of library visit by the respondents from the questionnaire and data relating to the component is placed below in Table- 5 with five different variables. Due to submissions of multiple options by the respondents, the total number of respondents could not be restricted to 108 and the value comes to 172.

It was found from the above Table- 5 that, the research scholars compared to the faculties stands at the apex in using the libraries. It could further be pointed out that, out of 131 Research scholars, 48 (37%) constitute the highest who use the library for borrowing books followed by 31 (24%) who use the library to access other resources of the library and 30 (30%) who use for reading periodicals and newspaper. Likewise from among the faculties, 14(34%) out of 41 in total use the library for borrowing books followed by 11 (27%) who use to access other library resources and 7 (17%) who use the library to read newspaper/ periodical articles. It is, however, a healthy sign that the library is being used by the research scholars and the faculties primarily use the library for borrowing books including others.

**Table-5: Purpose of Library Visit**

Sl.No	Purpose	Com.		Eco.		Lib. & Info. Sc		Mangmt.		Mass. Com		Total	
		RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F
1.	To Read books	6	1	4	1	6	-	5	-	1	1	22 (17%)	3 (7%)
2.	To Read periodical /Newspapers	16	5	3	1	7	-	3	-	1	1	30 (23%)	7(17%)
3.	To Borrow books	30	3	5	3	5	3	6	3	2	2	48 (37%)	14(34%)
4.	To Access other library resources	10	5	5	3	8	3	7	-	1	-	31 (24%)	11(27%)
5.	To Fritter away time	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6(15%)
	Total	62	14	17	8	26	8	21	3	5	4	131	41

**Source:** Field Survey. (Key: RS=Research Scholars. F= Faculty) N= 108, n= 172

**Use of Information:** The Central library, Mizoram University under the study is the hub centre of various information resources to impart services to the clientele at large of the institution including the users of various departments of the school under study. Data relating to the use of information resources by the research scholars and the faculties of the department under study in the library is placed below in Table- 6 for analysis.

Sl. No	Information Sources	Research Scholars					Faculty					Total	
		NU	Oc	Ne	Fre	HU	NU	Oc	Ne	Fre	HU	RS	F
1.	Text Book	-	5	2	10	9	1	1	-	2	8	26 (12%)	12 (11%)
2.	Electronics documents (Internet, TV, Radio)	2	2	3	8	11	1	3	-	1	7	26(12%)	12 (11%)
3.	Periodicals, Magazines, Newspapers	3	7	5	9	1	1	3	1	6	4	25(11%)	15 (13%)

4.	Conference/ Seminars Proceedings	4	7	4	9	1		3	2	7	4	25 (11%)	16 (14%)
5.	Thesis/ Dissertations	4	10	7	3	1	2	5	1	4	-	25 (11%)	12 (11%)
6.	Abstracts/ Indexes	2	14	5	3	-	3	4		3	-	24 (11%)	10 (9%)
7.	Government documents	10	5	3	4	3	5	2	2	3	-	25 (11%)	12 (11%)
8.	Statistical publications	10	6	5	2	2	3	5	1	2	1	25 (11%)	12 (11%)
9.	Reference Books (Encyclopedias , Yearbooks, Reports, etc.)	3	8	3	8	3	2	2	3	4	1	25 (11%)	12 (11%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Source:</b> Field Survey. ( Key: RS=Research Scholars, F=Faculty, NU = never used, Oc. =occasionally used, Ne= neutral, Fre=frequently used, HU=heavily used. N= 108, n=85													

Altogether, nine different variables were identified where, the users comprising both research scholars and the faculties of SEMIS of the university exercised their options more than one variable and hence, the N value could be restricted to 108. The value could be determined on the options opted by the users for this component and it came to 339.

**Table 6:** Use of Information Sources by Commerce Department While analyzing the Table-6 surprisingly it could be noted that, 26 scholars constituting 12% each preferring to use the textbook, and electronic documents followed by 25 (11%) each who prefer to use periodicals, magazines, newspaper, conference and seminar proceedings, thesis and dissertations including government publications, statistical publications and reference books. Likewise, 16 faculties of various department of the school covered under study which constitute 14% prefer to use conference and seminar proceedings followed by 15 (13%) faculties who have shown their interest to choose periodicals, magazines, newspapers and 12 (11%) each who prefer to use textbook, electronic documents, thesis and dissertations, government documents, statistical publication and reference books.

It is surprising to know that both research scholars and faculties that form 25 (11%) and 16 (14%) respectively choose conference and seminar proceedings as their preference to use information followed by 25 (11%) and 15 (13%) of the research scholars and faculties respectively have shown their interest to use the periodicals, magazines etc.

**Preference of using Type of Information Sources:** The author ascertained the views of both the category of users regarding preference of using the information sources. Data relating to the component spread over three variables is shown in Table-7. Here also, the respondents have opted multiple options and hence, the value comes to 83 instead of 108.

**Table-7:** Preference on Types of Information Sources

Sl. No	Information Sources	Com.		Eco.		Lib. & Info. Sc		Managmt		Mass. Com		Total	
		RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F	RS	F

1.	Printed	10	3	6	3	6	3	5	2	2	-	29 (49%)	11 (46%)
2.	Online	7	1	4	2	5	3	5	2	1	2	22 (37%)	10 (42%)
3.	Web	3	-	-	-	1	3	3	-	1	-	8 (14%)	3 (13%)
4.	CD-ROM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Audio-Video Tapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	20	4	10	5	12	9	13	4	4	2	59	24

Source: Field Survey. (Key: RS=Research Scholars. F=Faculty) N= 108, n= 83, SD= 9.70

Analysis of the Table-7 reveals that 29 (49%) research scholars and 11 (46%) faculties of the departments under the school covered in the study out of 59 and 24 respectively prefer mostly print documents followed by 22 (37%) research scholars and 10 (42%) faculties prefer online information sources. Very few i.e, 8 (14%) research scholars and 3 (13%) faculties prefer web as their preference of information sources. Hence, it could be inferred that print version still has a dominance over online and web. While calculating the standard deviation between Research scholars and Faculties, it comes to 9.703951

**Findings:** From the above study, the following findings could be drawn-

- 1) Out of 146, 108 (74%) responded the questionnaire leaving behind 38 (26%) the non-respondent rate.
- 2) With regard to frequency of library visit major chunk of the visitor constituting research scholars and faculties, i.e 42 (39%) visit the library monthly followed by 33 (31%) twice in a month.
- 3) While the purpose of library visit shows that 48 (37%) and 14 (34%) of the research scholars and faculties respectively visit the library to borrow books followed by accessing the library for other types of resources.
- 4) The analysis with regard to the use of information shows that 226 research scholars and 113 faculties use different types of library resources where the electronic documents have a predominance over other types of information resources.
- 5) Analysis with regard to the preference of using types of information sources reveals that the scholars, as well as the faculties, preferred the printed documents.

### Suggestions

- a. E-resources being the demand of the day must be available more so as to optimize the benefit of the resources.
- b. It requires increasing the number of textbooks in the library.
- c. The facilities and infrastructure of the library should be elegant to attract the users and carrels should be more comfortable for the users.
- d. The library staffs must be sufficient to help those disclaim knowledge users in accessing their information needs.

**Conclusion:** The library being the hub centre of knowledge provides the wide range of services not only to extend the benefit to the users but makes effort also to optimize the utilization of resources which otherwise signify to the contribution to enhancing the productive output in the university. Despite all the impact of the new technologies, the traditional resources still stand at the apex among



all types of resources. However, using of e-resources by the users cannot be ruled out as this is the call of the hour. Further, while the information technology provides information and knowledge at the doorstep, still from the above study, it could be inferred that the users still show their preference to use the library.

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### Role of Banks on Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups

Nithya, M

**Abstract**

Self Help Groups (SHGs) which recently came into existence as informal organizations are linked to banks mainly women as its members. The present study is an attempt to analyze the empowerment of women through the SHGs scheme of banks. A Self Help Group is defined as “a small economically homogenous and affinity groups of rural/ urban poor/ voluntarily formed to save and contribute to a common fund to be lent to its members as per group decisions.” “Self Help Group is a media for the development of savings habit among the women”. Self Help Groups are potential sources to empower and institutions arise participatory leadership among the marginalized and to identify, plan and initiate development activities. Self Help Groups are usually informal group whose members have a common perception of need and importance towards collective action. The social status of women is a reliable indicator of the social development of the society. This SHG-NGO-Bank integration is very much essential to credit delivery, self-employment and other business activities which could be an effective vaccine against poverty. The ultimate goal of this linkage programme is not just promotion of SHGs but the focus is poverty eradication. It is an established fact that micro-credit is an important means of poverty alleviation.

**Keywords-** self help group, Bank linkage, empowerment, NABARD, NGOs.

Nithya, M is Asst Prof. Dept of Com, MSU, Tirunelveli 12 (TN) Email: nithyamsu@gmail.com. Mobile No: 9865797069

**Introduction:** It is a voluntarily formed group the member size is 10-20. The group is basically homogeneous in nature. They came together to address their common problem. They are encouraged to save on a regular basis. They rotate this common pooled resource within the members with a very small rate of interest. Each group has a leader who is called as the President and Secretary. They usually maintain records of the transaction on a daily basis in written format and that has been kept with the president or secretary. Not only from the internal resources has the member also got a loan in bulk amount from mainstream banks, different governmental and non- governmental organizations.

**Role of banks:** Organizations like MYRADA and NABARD made microfinance and SHG an undividable part of the total process of Indian rural development. The first effort was taken by NABARD in 1986-87 when it funded an action research project on “Saving and credit management of Self Help Groups” of Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency [MYRADA]. In 1986 also another major funding agency started its participation in SHG formation and credit system that is Asia Pacific Regional Agriculture Credit Association (APRACA). During 1991-92 also NABARD launched projects to provide microcredit to SHGs by bank linkage. NGOs like People’s Rural Education Movement (PREM), Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), Association of Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA) has also done excellent work in the field of microfinance. In 1999 the involvement of RBI has made this microcredit movement a rather imperative one.

The most successful one in this process of microfinance is NGO called BASIX. There are many foreign funding agencies which are taking part eagerly in microfinance and the CASHE (Credit and Savings for Household Enterprises) project of CARE is one of the most vital one. There are also many other small institutions that are working extensively in the field of microfinance. Not only the NGOs, the corporate participation in microfinance made it automatically clear that it has now become a golden stick for the poor as well as the financing institutions in India. The involvement of corporate

icon like HLL in microfinance is now gone to give a radical direction to this revolution of microfinance and SHG.

**Statement of the problem:** Though the literacy rate of women is improved in this current scenario, women are facing a lot of harassment in the family and in the society. Women are facing many problems like poverty, inequalities in income distribution, unemployment, harassment of women, growing problem of alcoholism among men, street fights and violation of human rights in every form. Men have control over their income and do not provide for their families but most of them were spent their income on alcohol, so, the income of men is not only enough to run the family. As a result, women are left alone to look after their families with no money in hand. Under this situation, they slowly turn to money lenders who charge an exorbitant rate of interest. They have to sell or pledge their productive assets to meet their needs in the absence of any outside help. Women are considered subordinates and since they are economically weak, they find no place in decision making in the family. Their poor economic status leads to no social empowerment at all. It is in this background that banks are a source of help to these affected downtrodden women through Self Help Groups. This study tries to analyse how these women who are facing all these problems are empowered by the financial assistance provided by the banks through Self Help Groups and the extent to which they are benefited out of it.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- 1) To assess the contribution of banks to the SHGs.
- 2) To analyse the mode of operation of SHG
- 3) To know the growth of members after participation in the SHGs.
- 4) To study the levels and aspects of women in decision making in their household.
- 5) To find out the problems faced by SHGs while getting assistance from banks.
- 6) To find out the impact of SHG in empowering women.
- 7) To study the income, expenditure and savings of the members after joining SHGs.

### **Hypothesis:**

- 1) There is no relationship between the educational qualification and member's participation in the separate income generating activity.
- 2) There is no relationship between the total income of the member's family and their improvement in living condition.
- 3) There is no relationship between marital status and family member's attitude of the respondents towards becoming a member of SHG.

**The methodology of the study:** The data required for the study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were collected from the members of women Self Help Groups of Tirunelveli city by using Interview Schedules. The secondary data were collected from published journals, books and magazines.

**Sample design:** The total number of 120 sample respondents was selected for this study. The samples were selected by administering convenience sampling technique. The study was conducted among

the members of women self-help group of Tirunelveli city.

#### **Limitations of the study:**

- 1) The study was conducted only in Tirunelveli city, therefore, the findings of the study may not be similar to other areas.
- 2) Time and cost are the other factors limiting the study to a sample of 120 respondents.
- 3) The respondents are hesitated to give information for the study.

**Social Relevance of the study:** The study will be very useful to the women who want to know the benefits of SHG. This study will be helpful to the banks and also to the existing members of SHGs to create awareness among the women who do not join in the SHGs. This study will induce the interest among the women to enter into financial activities which leads to more opportunities and empowerment of women and again to economic development. The overall society will be improved with the empowerment of the women and in turn, there will be the development of the economy as a whole.

Women generally face several traumas in life by virtue of their secondary status in society. The culture of silence that is prevalent among this suffering manifold. There are social taboos against women expressing their sorrow or narrating their household problems to the outsider. Self Help Groups have emerged as Support Groups to bring about women's solidarity in facing all kinds of problems in their domestic environment. This has led to the increasing empowerment of women, releasing them from their anguish and helping them to resist injustice. Women just like men have been involved in economic activities since early years. Their involvement has been in addition to their participation in the domestic sector. However, their economic activities have focused primarily on meeting basic needs, yet lack of resources and control of resources has been common. Their contribution to the economy has been equally unpaid, unrecognized and undervalued. By scaling up, women's role in the economy will be enhanced. As a result of empowering women, there will be a development in the human capital whereby a continuity of the enterprise can be ensured since the young generation will be empowered.

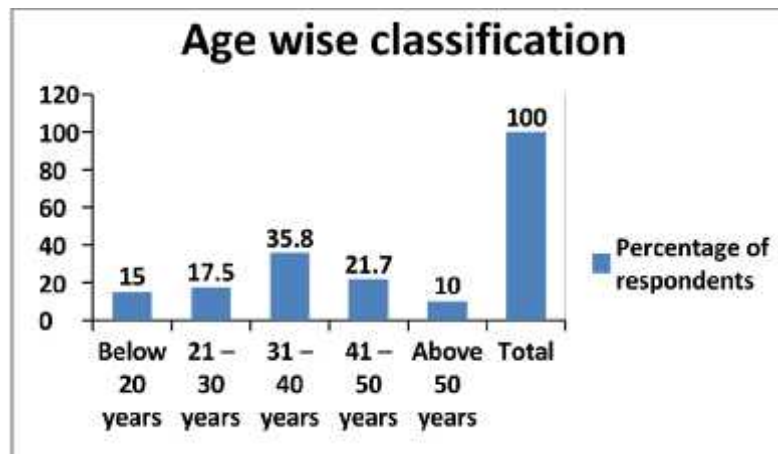
The data required for the study were collected from both the primary sources and secondary sources. Primary data were collected directly with the help of interview schedule from the Women Self Help Group members of Tirunelveli city. The secondary data were collected from books, journals and related articles. The samples were selected by administering convenience sampling technique. The total numbers of the sample were 120 and were selected among the women SHGs members in Tirunelveli city. The various statistical tools applied to analyses the primary data were percentage analysis, mean score, chi-square analysis to interpret the data to arrive at required finding from the study. For effective analysis and easy understanding, the data were tabulated.

#### **Analysis & Interpretation:**

The chart 4.1 shows that under the age group-wise classification of the respondents. Out of the 120 sample respondents, 15% of the respondents are under the age group of below 20 years, 17.5% of the respondents are under the age group of 21-30 years, 35.8% of the

respondents are under the age group of 31-50 years, 21.7% of the respondents are under the age group of 41-50 years, 10% of the respondents are under the age group of above 50 years. This will reveal that majority (35.8%) of the women those who were under the age group of 31-40 years.

**Chart 4.1:** Age-wise classification



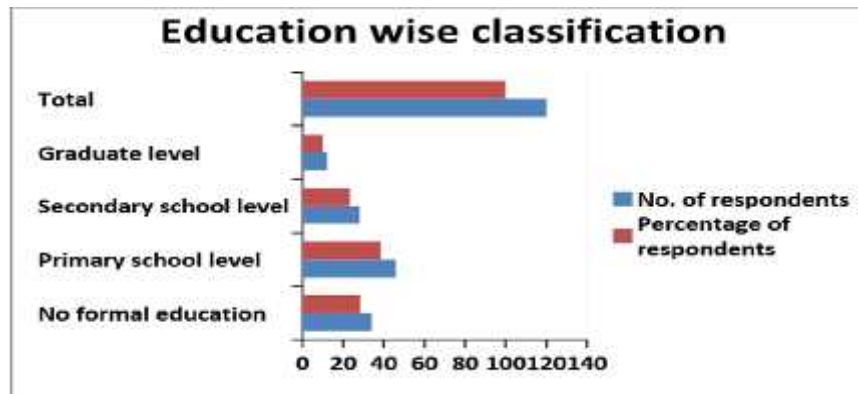
Source: Primary data

**Education wise classification:** The chart 4.2 shows Education wise classification of the sample respondents, Out of the 120 sample respondents, 28.3% of the respondents are not having any formal education, 38.3% of the respondents are told that they are educated at the primary school level, 23.4% of the respondents are educated at the secondary school level, 10% of the respondents are graduates. This will reveal that majority (38.3%) of the respondents educated only at the primary school level.

The chart 4.3 shows the total income of the respondent's family. Out of the 120 sample respondents, 20% of the respondent's family earning below Rs. 3000 per month, 14.16% of the respondent's family earning Rs.3000 – Rs.6000, 26.67% of the respondent's family earning Rs.6001 – Rs. 9000 per month, 22.5% of the respondent's family earning Rs.9001 – Rs.12000 per month, 16.67% of the respondent's family earning Above Rs.12000 per month. This will reveal that majority 26.67% of the respondent's family earning Rs.6001 – Rs. 9000 per month

**Chart 4.2:** Education wise classifications

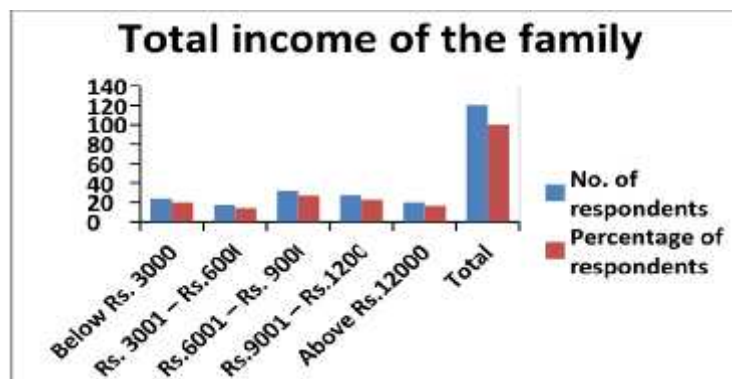




Source: Primary data

### Total income of the family

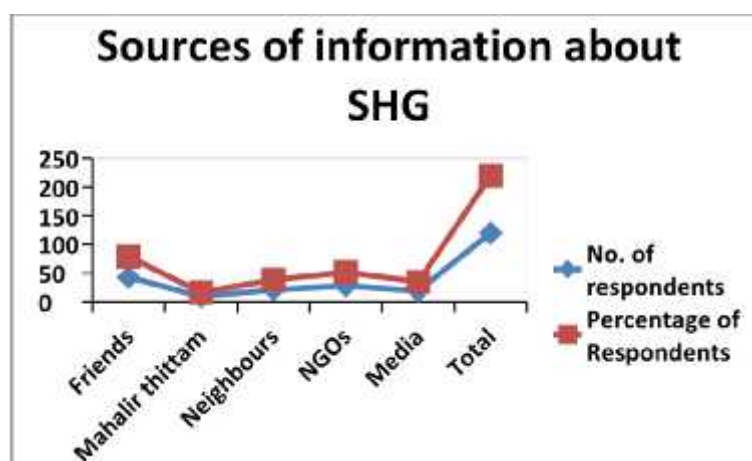
Chart 4.3: Total income of the family



Source: Primary data

**Sources of information about SHG:** Chart 4.4 shows the sources of information gained about the SHGs. Out of the 120 respondents, 35.8% of the respondents came to know about the SHGs through their friends, 7.5% of the respondents were known through Mahalir thittam, 17.5% of the respondents known through Neighbours, 23.4% of the respondents were known from NGOs, 15.8% of the respondents were known through media. This will reveal that majority (35.8%) of the respondents were came to know about the SHG through their friends

Chart 4.4: Sources of information about SHG



Source: Primary data

### Type of activity performed by the members on their own

Table shows the type of business done by the respondents, Out of the 80 sample respondents, 3.75% of the respondents are engaged cloth business, 16.25% of the respondents are doing tailoring, 2.5% of the respondents are selling snacks, 7.5% of the respondents are selling vegetables, 10% of the respondents are doing flour grinding, 8.75 % of the respondents are selling tiffin, 11.25% of the respondents are having petty shop, 6.25% of the respondents are doing sheep rearing, 10% of the respondents are making wire bags, 6.25% of the respondents are fish vendors, 6.25% of the respondents are engaged dairy farming, 2.5% of the respondents are engaged in poultry farming, 7.5% of the respondents are making fancy items, 1.25% of the respondents are engaged in some other business. This will reveal that majority (16.25%) of the respondents are doing tailoring business

### Type of activity performed by the members on their own

Type of business	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Clothing business	3	3.75
Tailoring	13	16.25
Selling of snacks	2	2.5
Vegetable vending	6	7.5
Flour grinding	8	10
Tiffin centre	7	8.75
Petty shop	9	11.25
Sheep rearing	5	6.25
Wire bag making	8	10
Fish vending	5	6.25
Dairy farming	5	6.25
Poultry farming	2	2.5
Making of fancy items	6	7.5
Others	1	1.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

### Total income of the family and improvement in Standard of living

Ho: There is no relationship between total income of the family and improvement in the standard of living. From the table 4.39, the calculated value is (2.63) less than the table value (3.84). So Null Hypothesis is accepted. Thus there is no relationship between total income of the family and improvement in the standard of living.

**Table 4.39:** Total income of the family and improvement in Standard of living

Standard of living	Income		Total
	Below 9000	Above 9000	
Yes	22	21	43
No	51	26	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Source:</b> Primary data. Chi – Square Analysis: Calculated Value=2.63' Table value =3.84; Degrees of freedom=1; Level of significance=5%			

### Importance of banks for SHG

#### Importance of banks for SHG

Sl No	Indicator of empowerment	A	NO	DA	Mean score
1	Bank's financial assistance is important because SHGs own fund is not enough	96	3	21	2.62
2	Lower interest rate to SHG loans	66	5	49	2.13
3	No security is needed for getting loan	107	5	8	2.81
4	Government subsidies can be availed through banks	59	13	48	2.08
5	Banks are most reliable source to deposit savings of SHG	99	16	5	2.78
<b>Source:</b> Primary data					

Table 4.37 shows the various facets which were agreed and disagreed by the sample respondents. The respondents agreed that banks financial assistance is important because SHGs own fund is not enough (2.62), no security is needed for getting loan amount through SHG (2.81), banks are most reliable source to deposit savings of SHG (2.78), they felt moderate on banks loans with lower interest rate to SHG (2.13), government subsidies can be availed through banks. They did not disagree on many facets.

### Findings:

- The majority (35.8%) of the women those who were under the age group of 31 – 40 years.
- The majority (38.3%) of the respondents educated only at the primary school level.
- The majority (60%) of the respondents are living in urban area.
- Married women were more eager to become the member of SHG than unmarried women.
- The majority (35.83%) of the respondents are having 3 – 5 members in their family.
- The majority (56.67%) of the respondents are not having their own house.
- The majority (45%) of the respondents are living in Thatched house.
- The majority (26.67%) of the respondent's family earnings Rs.6001 – Rs. 9000 per month.
- The majority (35.8%) of the respondents were come to know about the SHG through their friends.
- The majority (70%) of the respondent's family didn't support them to get membership in SHG.
- The majority (40.83%) of the respondents are in the SHG for 1 – 3 years.
- The majority (66.67%) of the respondents are in the SHG which has 16 – 20 members.

- The majority (64.17%) of the respondents were joined SHGs for getting a loan.
- The majority 60% of the respondent's groups were not having income generating activity in their group.
- The majority 37.5% of the respondent's group is having textile business for gaining income.
- The majority (31.25%) of the respondents are involved in activities which need less amount of capital.
- The majority (36.11%) of the respondents are not having income generating activity because huge capital may need to start the income generating activity
- The majority (90%) of the respondents were taken a loan from the bank.
- The majority (44.44%) of the respondents have received Rs. 10001 – Rs. 15000 as a loan from the bank.
- The majority (43.52%) of the respondents are paying Rs. 501 – Rs.1000 per month.
- The majority (72.5%) of the respondents are satisfied with the loan amount.
- The majority (56.67%) of the respondents felt that SHGs help to access larger quantum.
- The majority (66.7%) of the respondents are having income generating activity on their own.
- The majority (16.25%) of the respondents are doing tailoring business
- The majority (53.33%) of the respondents are having a separate bank account.
- The majority (80.33%) of the respondents were not taken a separate loan from the bank.
- The majority (34.79%) of the respondents have received a home loan from banks.
- The majority (91.31%) of the respondents have faced problem while getting a personal loan.
- The majority (33.33%) of the respondents told that banks are asking collateral security to provide a loan.
- The majority (55.83%) of the respondents are saving every month in the SHG.
- The majority (54.17%) of the respondents are saving Rs.101 – Rs.200 per month.

**Suggestions:** The following are the major suggestions from the study. The suggestions were given to the SHGs and its members.

- Special care should be given to the women to improve their educational qualification.
- Awareness should be created also among the unmarried women to become members of SHGs
- SHGs can initiate many awareness programmes to motivate women members to enter into entrepreneurship.
- SHGs can give suggestions to the members to choose various income generating activities by identifying their potential.
- SHGs can invite successful women specialist in various fields to create enthusiasm among the members to do the business.
- SHGs should provide training to the members to use the internet to avail various modern facilities.
- Banks can conduct programmes to the SHG members to know the various government provisions, financial assistance, subsidies to the SHG members.
- SHGs can arrange financial assistance to purchase income generating properties for the SHG members.
- SHGs can use their members as a media to create awareness among the non-members about SHGs.
- SHGs can assist the members to get a personal loan from the banks.

- Many of the members have joined with SHGs only to get loans, SHGs should make clear about the various benefits of SHGs.
- SHGs also take steps to create awareness among the family members to support the women.
- Banks can conduct training programmes to make aware of the procedures of banking to the SHG members.
- To reduce workload bank can offer particular day for the SHGs operation in every week.
- Bank can open SHGs cell which is particularly meant for the SHGs operation and to help the SHG members.

**Conclusion:** The importance of the process of Group formation and the development of Groups ethos in building sustainable Self-Help Groups clearly seem to emerge as a necessary factor for the success of Self-Help Groups. However, it is not only the provision of credit which leads to the empowerment of the members of the groups but the sustained inputs in the concentration of the women and raising their level of awareness by means of sustained capacity building. The solidarity and strength obtained from being together with other women placed in similar circumstances is a powerful factor in empowering the women and building their sense of self-worth and self-confidence. The SHGs act as a support group developing courage and offering mutual solace and comfort to the members. It is when training in accounts and managerial inputs are given, that the availability of Credit leads to the setting up of successful ventures. This success, in turn, leads to a growth of their confidence and improves their status at home and in the community and without the presence of banks in a self-help group, it may not be able to empower them economically. So that banks are more important part of SHGs.

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## Autonomous District Councils in Northeastern India

Pathi, S

### Abstract

The Governors of four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are empowered to declare some tribal dominated districts or areas of these states as autonomous districts and autonomous regions by executive order as per the provisions of the Sixth Schedule. No separate legislation is needed for this. The Governor of the state concerned also has the powers to include any other area; exclude any area, increase, decrease, diminish, unite districts or regions, as the case may be, and alter the names and boundaries of these autonomous districts or regions. The Autonomous District Councils are the results of the recommendations of the Bordoloi Sub-Committee in the Constituent Assembly of India were incorporated into the Sixth Schedule and Article 244 (2) & Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution.



**Keywords:** Autonomy, Autonomous District Council, North Eastern State, Sixth Schedule

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Pathi, S is a Professor & Head, Dept of Pub. Admn, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004.

**Introduction:** The Constituent Assembly of India<sup>i</sup> which framed the Constitution of India had long deliberations and finally decided to make special provisions for the administration of the tribal-dominated areas in four states of the North Eastern region such as Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram through Autonomous District Councils. As per the provisions of Article 244 and the Sixth Schedule, these areas are called *tribal areas*. Assam has also established thirty-one councils for different groups which are not covered under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule. Manipur, another state in the northeastern region has six district councils in the tribal-dominated areas; but these have not been included under the Sixth Schedule.

Besides, the tribal pockets called *scheduled areas* located in other states are covered under the Fifth Schedule. Subject to legislation by the Parliament of India, the power to declare any area as a scheduled area is given to the President (Fifth Schedule), and the President has made the scheduled areas Order, 1950, as per the provisions. As on February 2016, ten states such as Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana have established Tribal Advisory Councils in their scheduled areas. Further, two other States, such as Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have also set up tribal advisory councils in Non-scheduled areas.

**Gopinath Bordoloi Sub-Committee of the Constituent Assembly:** The Constituent Assembly appointed a North-East Frontier (Assam), Tribal and Excluded Area Sub-Committee as part of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights. The Sub-Committee was known as Bordoloi Sub-Committee named after its Chairman Gopinath Bordoloi, a member of the Constituent Assembly, and the then Premier of Assam.

The main recommendations of Bordoloi Sub-committee included the establishment of Autonomous District Councils and Regional Councils for the tribal areas within the state of Assam. With the adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, Autonomous District Councils came into existence in the hill districts of Assam except for the Naga Hills and the far-flung Frontier Tracts. After the reorganisation of North-East India, there was a restructuring of the Autonomous District Councils. In 1984, the Sixth Schedule was extended to Tripura.

**The Sixth Schedule:** The recommendations of the Bordoloi Sub-Committee were incorporated into the Sixth Schedule<sup>ii</sup> and Article 244 (2) & Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution. As per the Sixth Schedule, the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have the tribal areas which are theoretically different from the scheduled areas. Though these areas come under the executive authority of the state concerned, provisions have been made for the establishment of the District Councils or Regional Councils for the exercise of the legislative and judicial powers by the people residing in those areas. Such autonomous district councils operate as per the provisions of the Sixth Schedule and the Governor of the state has the power to modify or alter the territorial limit or boundary of the any such Council by executive orders without going through the requirement of any

new law passed by the state assembly.

The most significant background information in this context is that the Sixth Schedule was predominantly adopted to deal with the demands and the political aspirations of the Nagas. But the Naga groups had far greater aspirations. So they did not agree with the idea of creating an Autonomous District Council for the Naga-inhabited areas. The Nagas got a separate state of Nagaland in 1963. The sixth schedule provides the framework of autonomous and decentralized governance with legislative and executive powers over subjects like water, soil, land, minor forest resources, local customs and culture. The laws passed by the autonomous district councils come into effect only after the assent of the Governor of the state concerned. Except for Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council in Tripura and Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam, all other autonomous district councils have been given judicial powers to deal with certain types of civil and criminal cases mostly according to their respective customary laws.

The autonomous district councils under the Sixth Schedule have been given special powers which may be compared and contrasted with that given to the local-self government institutions in rural and urban areas under the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Acts respectively. Experts, as well as the champions of democratic decentralization, are of opinion that autonomy granted to the tribal communities led to a sense of responsibility and political settlement within the tribal societies. The local people are able to maintain their custom, tradition and age-old practices particularly relating to the conflict resolution under customary laws. Again, they are free from the influence of the so-called modernity which is so alien to their culture and existence.

In states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura, the autonomous district councils have the power to decide if a law passed by the state assembly on any particular subject matters which comes under the purview of the autonomous district council should apply to that area or not. So far as the similar laws passed by the Parliament of India are concerned, as a rule, both the Central Government and the State Government do not press for the implementation of such laws unless the autonomous district councils themselves agree to do so. It is for this reason that the Autonomous District Councils functioning under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India are termed as *States in Miniature*. The critics point out that there exist a number of problems and challenges as a result of which the Sixth Schedule has unintentionally contributed to generating compound power structures that have often resulted in conflicts, confrontations and confusions.

**Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions:** The Governors<sup>iii</sup> of four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are empowered to declare some tribal dominated districts or areas of these states as autonomous districts and autonomous regions by executive order as per the provisions of the Sixth Schedule. No separate legislation is needed for this. The Governor of the state concerned also has the powers to include any other area; exclude any area, increase, decrease, diminish, unite districts or regions, as the case may be, and alter the names and boundaries of these autonomous districts or regions.

Articles 244 and 275 provide for the establishment of the District Councils or Regional Councils as the case may be. Each District or Regional Council is an administrative unit which is authorised to administer the area under its jurisdiction. These units are named as District Council according to the name of the area or district and Regional as per the name of the region. These two bodies continue to function unless otherwise repealed by the Governor of the state. They enjoy legal

status along with Constitutional patronage.

At present, the District Councils functioning in different states have different strength depending on the areas covered; population size and group dynamics; out of whom a majority of members are elected by the voters in those areas directly through adult franchise and some of the members nominated by the Governor. The members (both elected and nominated) form the General Council. Then there is the Executive Council which consists of the Chief Executive Member (CEM) and the Executive Members. And at the grassroots level, there is Village Councils whose members are elected by the voters.

In the state of Assam, the Bodoland Territorial Council has the provision to have forty-six members out of which, forty members are elected by the voters and the Governor can nominate up to six members. The forty seats which go to voting include the following categories reserved for specific groups like Scheduled Tribes (thirty seats); non-tribal communities (five seats); and unreserved or general (five seats). The rest six members are nominated by the Governor from other communities of the Bodoland Territorial Areas District who have no representation in the Council. The Governor also looks into the fact that at least two women members are nominated to the council out of these six members.

The members of the District Council normally hold office for a term of five years from the date of assuming office or the date of the first meeting of the Council after the elections to the Council. At present, the following Autonomous District Councils operate under provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India (as on July 2017) in the North Eastern Region in four states which are as follows:

**Assam:** In Assam, there are Autonomous District Councils under the Sixth-Schedule of the Constitution of India which is discussed here. At the same time, there are thirty-one Development Councils formed by the Government of Assam for the development and uplift of some other ethnic communities of the state. These Development Councils are meant for the communities such as Adibashi, Amri Karbi, Barak Valley Hills Community, Barman Kachari, Bishnupriya Manipuri, Chutia, Ex-Tea Garden Community, Garia, General Castes, Gorkha, Hajong, Hindibhasi, Kachari, Karbi, Koch, Kumar, Madahi, Manipuri, Maria, Matak, Mech Kachari, Minimal, Moran, Nath Jogi, Rajbongsi, Saodang, Sarania, Scheduled Castes, Singphu, Sut and Tai-Ahom Development Council.

**Bodoland Autonomous Territorial Council:** The Bodoland<sup>iv</sup> Autonomous Territorial Council has the provision to have forty-six members out of which, forty members are elected by the voters and the Governor can nominate up to six members. The forty seats which go to voting include the following categories reserved for specific groups like Scheduled Tribes (thirty seats); non-tribal communities (five seats); and unreserved or general (five seats). The rest six members are nominated by the Governor from other communities of the Bodoland Territorial Areas District who have no representation in the Council. The Governor also looks into the fact that at least two women members are nominated to the council out of these six members. It has legislative, administrative, executive and financial powers over forty policy areas in the Bodoland Territorial Areas Districts comprising four Administrative Districts as- Udalguri, Baksa, Chirang, Kokrajhar and forty Elected Representatives to the BATC Legislative Body and provisions for six Nominated Members to be nominated by the Governor of Assam from the unrepresented communities through direct election

in the districts concerned of Assam. It was established in 2003 following a peace agreement between the Government of India and Bodo rebels and is functioning since 2003 under the provision of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India. The first Chief Executive Member of the BTC was Hagrama Mohilary. Its predecessor body Bodoland Autonomous Council was functional with lesser power. Its headquarters is Kokrajhar in Kokrajhar district.

**Deori Autonomous District Council:** The Deori Autonomous District Council area is scattered in medium and small villages, parts of villages, and settlements in seven upper Assam Districts namely Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia where the Deori community is situated. Its headquarters is North Lakhimpur in Lakhimpur district. There are thirty members of the Council out of which four are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and nine Executive Members.

**Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council:** The Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (DHADC) is an autonomous council constituted under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India to administer the district and to develop the Dimasas<sup>v</sup> people. Its headquarters is Haflong in Dima Hasao district. There are twenty-seven members of the Council out of which four are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and nine Executive Members.

**Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council:** The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (KAADC) is an autonomous council in the district constituted under the provision of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India for the development of Karbi people. Its headquarters is Diphu in East Karbi Anglong district. There are fifty members of the Council out of which six are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and nine Executive Members.

**Missing Autonomous Council:** The Missing Autonomous Council (MAC) was constituted by the Government of Assam in 2005. It was constituted for all-round development in the area of economic, educational, socio-cultural and ethnic identity of Missing<sup>vi</sup> people residing in the council area. Its headquarters is Gogamukh in Dhemaji district. There are thirty members of the Council out of which four are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and nine Executive Members.

**Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council:** The Autonomous Council which has been constituted Rabha people have been given the name of Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) The jurisdiction of this council extends up to Rani area of Kamrup district and except some parts of Matia, Balijana and Lakhimpur revenue Circles, it embraces almost the entire district of Goalpara. The autonomous council has been created to fulfil the longstanding demands of the Rabha people of the area. However, as the council is constituted only for the Rabhas, other Tribals like the Bodos, Garros, Kochs, Rajbongsis and others who constitute more than half of the population of Hasong area have been left out from the benefit of the council. As a result of this, there is a growing demand for Autonomous district council comprising all Tribal groups of these areas. Its headquarters is Dudhnai

in Goalpara district. There are thirty members of the Council out of which four are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and nine Executive Members.

***Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council:*** The Sonowal Kachari Accord was signed on 4 March 2005 between the Government and four signatory organizations of the community – All Assam Sonowal Kachari Students' Union, All Sonowal Kachari Jatiya Parishad, Sonowal Kachari Yuva Parishad and Sonowal Kachari Autonomy Demand Committee. Subsequently, the Gazette Notification was made, under Assam Act XX of 2005, on 11 May 2005, as 'Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council Act, 2005' providing for the establishment of an administrative authority in the name and style of "Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council". Oath taking by its thirty Members was concluded on 25 September 2005. Its headquarters is Dibrugarh. There are thirty members of the Council out of which four are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and nine Executive Members.

***Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council:*** The Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council was established on 10 August 2005 under Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council Act, 2005 of the government of Assam for the overall development of the Thengal Kachari community. Its headquarters is Titabar in Jorhat district. There are thirty members of the Council out of which four are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and nine Executive Members.

***Tiwa Autonomous Council:*** The Tiwa Autonomous Council (TAC), was constituted by the Government of Assam on 14 April 1995, The Apex council will consist of 144 villages of Nagaon, Morigaon and Kamrup with 28 blocks. The Tiwa Autonomous Council (TAC) consists of 30 elected members out of which 4 will be nominated by the Government to give representation to the people of other community. Out of these thirty seats, fifty are reserved for the Tiwa Community and three seats are reserved for women. Its headquarters is Tiwashong in Morigaon district.

## **Meghalaya**

***Garro Hills Autonomous District Council:*** The Garro Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) is constituted for the development of Garo people and covers East Garo Hills district, West Garo Hills district, South Garo Hills, North Garo Hills district and South West Garo Hills district. It was headquartered in Tura. There are thirty members of the Council out of which four are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and five Executive Members.

***Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council:*** The Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC) is constituted for the development of Jaintia people. It was headquartered in Jowai and covers the Jaintia Hills district. There are nineteen members in the Council out of which three are nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and five Executive Members.



**Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council:** The Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) is constituted for the development of Khasi people covers West Khasi Hills district, East Khasi Hills district and Ri Bhoi district, It has headquartered in Shillong. There are thirty members of the Council out of which one is nominated by the Governor. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and five Executive Members.

#### **Mizoram:**

**Chakma Autonomous District Council:** The Chakma Autonomous District Council is one of the three autonomous district councils of Mizoram. Prior to 1972, it was a part of the Pwi-Lakher Regional Council. It was created on 29th April 1972 under the Sixth Schedule to the constitution of India by trifurcating the PWI-Lakher Regional Council into Mara Autonomous District Council (MADC), Lai Autonomous District Council (LADC) and Chakma Autonomous District Council. While MADC remained under a single district of Saiha, CADC and LADC were accommodated under Lawngtlai district with the district headquarters at Lawngtlai.

The then Chakma leaders of the Mizo District Council and Pwi-Lakher Regional Council engaged themselves with the Government of Assam and the Government at the Centre for the creation of an autonomous council for the Chakmas of Mizoram with the inclusion of all Chakma inhabited areas which presently remains outside CADC. Unfortunately, only the portion of PWI-Lakher Regional council got considered. Out of that also many Chakma inhabited villages along the eastern bank of river Toijong (Tuichawng) were not considered under CADC. Thus two-thirds of the Chakmas of Mizoram had to remain outside the Council.

The CADC area is situated between 21°58' (N) and 22°45' (N) and between 92°30' (E) and 92°45' (E). The tropic of cancer passes over it and its climate is hot and humid. The gentle foothills of the mighty Himalayas adorn its landscape. The two main rivers – Toijong and Thega – weave along the eastern and the western sides respectively forming its natural boundaries. In the north it is bounded by Lunglei District, Myanmar in the South, LADC in the east and Bangladesh in the west. CADC so far witnessed eight General Elections. The first was held on 26th December 1972. Initially, there were only eight constituencies. Today as many as 17 constituencies are contested. The council started functioning with only some departments, namely General Administration, Education, Forest, Land Revenue & Settlement, Legislative, Judiciary and etc. With the enhancement of power in 1994, the council was entrusted with nineteen subjects/departments. DRDA and ICDS were also included but with a rider, subject to approval from the Central Government, they were centrally sponsored programmes. Again, in the year 2011, a gazette notification of the Government of Mizoram reviewed the powers of the three Autonomous District Councils by entrusting all the functions so entrusted with proportionate plan-allocation, which were so far executed by the offices of the State Government in the Council areas.

**Lai Autonomous District Council:** The Lai Autonomous District Council was constituted on 29 April 1972 under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The council is a replication of the State Legislative Assembly. It exercises power over specifically allocated subjects. At present, it looks after 18 subjects departments. The Lai Autonomous District Council has also the power to determine language and in the manner in which education should be imparted in the Primary Schools within its jurisdiction. The council has a separate set of laws governing the area, it has the power to

make laws as provided under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The people of Lai Autonomous District Council area enjoyed special safeguard granted by Article 371-9 of the Constitution of India. The headquarters of the council is situated at Lawngtlai which is also the headquarters of Lawngtlai Administrative District. It is well connected by the NH-54 and is 296 km away from the state capital Aizawl.

The Lai Assembly of the Lai Autonomous District Council has a total strength of 27 Members, out of which 23 are directly elected by the people and 4 members are nominated by the Governor on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Member of the Lai Autonomous District Council. The power and functions of the Council are mainly three viz., Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary. It has a chairman to conduct the business of the Council in session and presided over its meeting. The executive functions of the Council are vested in the Executive Committee headed by the Chief Executive Member. The Executive Committee can dispose of all matters falling within its purview. Each Member of the executive is allocated specifies a subject for which a member of the committee is collectively responsible for all executive orders issued in the name of Council.

The main occupation of the people of Lai Autonomous District Council is Agriculture (the backbone of its economy) having Rice as its staple food, other crops like ginger, sesame, banana, chilli, tilt, pineapple, orange, mango, etc are also cultivated. The Council also possesses rich natural resources of the self-generating bamboo forest as well as thick tropical forest. The highest mountain in the state of Mizoram known as 'The Blue Mountain' or 'Phawngpui' with its Phawngpui National Park and Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary is located within the Lai Autonomous District Council area. The peculiarity feature of these two places came to be known as 'Vavu' the state 'Bird' of Mizoram found only within the Phawngpui National Park with varieties of flora and fauna. Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary, the only Sanctuary in the State possessing elephant is also located within the Lai Autonomous District Council jurisdiction.

***Mara Autonomous District Council:*** The Mara Autonomous District Council (MADC) is one of the three Autonomous District Councils within Mizoram state of Union India. Primarily, an autonomous administrative government meant for the Mara people living in the state. It is situated in the southern tip of Mizoram state bordering Myanmar. Its autonomy was established under Articles 244(2) and 275(1) of Sixth Scheduled to the Constitution of India and carved out from the erstwhile Pawi-Lakher Regional Council on 29 May 1971 and separated the next year as Lakher Autonomous District Council, and renamed it to the current name in 1988. It covers 1445 square kilometres.

The Council has jurisdiction over the land administration, administration of justice, and limited legislative powers, and a few other local powers. The latest election of MADC had been held in 2012, with an Indian National Congress gained a majority by securing 15 seats out of total 22. A new government by Congress was formed thereafter. The current Chief Executive Member (CEM) is Shri RT Zachono, a veteran politician from Amotlah (Rawmibawk) Constituency. The Chairman is Shri LC. Chakhai from Siahatlah Constituency

### **Tripura:**

***Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council:*** The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) is an independent council administering the tribal areas of the state of Tripura. Its council and assembly are situated in Khumulwng, a town 20 km outside Agartala, the

state capital. There are thirty members of the Council out of which two are nominated by the Governor. Again, twenty-six seats are reserved for the STs. In the Executive Council, there is the Chief Executive Member and nine Executive Members. There are five hundred twenty-seven elected village committees under the TTAADC.

### **Powers and functions of the ADCs:**

**Legislative Powers of the Autonomous District Councils:** The autonomous district councils and regional councils have powers to make laws on certain matters of local importance but all such laws require the assent of the Governor of the state concerned. The major subjects on which these councils can make laws include, among others:

- 1) Roads, bridges, ferries and other modes of transport
- 2) Animal resources, veterinary training & practices
- 3) Primary and Secondary Education
- 4) Agriculture including farm research and extension education
- 5) Fisheries
- 6) Social security and social insurance
- 7) Employment and eradication of unemployment
- 8) Flood control
- 9) Entertainment including Cinemas and Theatres
- 10) Public health, sanitation, hospitals and dispensaries
- 11) Minor irrigation
- 12) Trade and commerce in certain products such as food, cattle fodder, raw cotton, raw jute etc.
- 13) Libraries, museums, monuments etc.

Further, Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam has been given more powers and it has the capability of making laws on almost all subjects of local interest. However, all these laws need assent of the Governor of Assam. As a matter of his prerogative and discretionary power, the Governor may keep some of the laws for consideration of the President of India.

### **Judicial Powers of the Autonomous District Councils**

The laws made by the state legislature on any subject that comes within the jurisdiction of the Autonomous District Councils, would not extend within the jurisdiction of the Councils unless the respective Councils so proclaim by public notification. The President in regard to a Central Act and the Governor in regard to a State Act may direct that the Central Act or the State Act shall apply to an autonomous district councillor shall not with such modifications as may be specified. The Councils have also been empowered with various judicial powers relating to civil and criminal matters such as the establishment of village courts etc. which mostly operate as per the customary laws prevalent in these areas. The High Court of the state concerned has the powers to look into the issues of jurisdiction and decisions of such courts.

**ADCs: Issues and Challenges:** There exist a number of issues and challenges in relation to the working of the autonomous district councils operating in the northeastern region of India according to the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

**Conflict of Interest:** It is very often observed that there are frequent conflicts of interest between the Autonomous District Councils and the State governments in general and the state legislatures in particular. For instance, in the state of Meghalaya, in spite of the formation of the state (carved out of Assam), the whole of the state continues to be under the three Autonomous District Councils functioning under the Sixth Schedule which causes conflicts with the State Government. In case of Mizoram, even though there are three ADCs for the Chakma, the Lai and the Mara, there is confusion regarding the best parts of the state. New groups and areas demand the establishment of ADCs. In Manipur, there are six district councils that have been established by the state government which are not covered under the Sixth Schedule. Para 12 (A) of the Sixth Schedule states that, whenever there is a conflict of interest between the Autonomous District Council and the State Legislature, the latter shall prevail. So, the state law has the superiority over the laws made by the ADCs.

**Financial Matters:** The local self – government institutions established under the provisions of the Seventy-third Amendment of the Constitution of India or the Panchayati Raj Institutions operating in the rural areas of our country are normally funded through the respective State Finance Commissions. But the issue of funding to the Autonomous District Councils is still not settled. These Councils receive grants from the state governments, central government and sometimes from donor agencies. However, as a matter of rule, all types of funding are routed through the state administration. Most of these Councils often claim that the state government is partial and politically motivated. So, they demand that grants and other resources may be given to them directly by the central government; an idea resisted by the state governments who are in favour of check and balance.

#### **Autonomous District Councils and the Governors of the States:**

The Governors of the states concerned in which the Autonomous District Councils operate have special powers to look into the affairs of the Councils. The laws passed by the Autonomous District Councils can become effective only after these are assented to by the Governors of the respective states. Again, the Governor of the state has the powers to supervise the overall functioning of the Autonomous District Councils as per the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India. As the Governor is guided by the aid and advice of the State Council of Ministers, sometimes the intention of the state government indirectly influences the decisions of the Governor in relation to the working and supervision of the Autonomous District Councils.

**Conclusion:** To conclude, it may be pointed out that late release of funds by the state governments at times creates many problems and financial difficulties for the ADCs. In Tripura, the TTAADC has not set up any village courts which creates problems for the tribal people to get justice in cases involving customary laws. Even though these village courts elsewhere have limited powers, for minor cases, these are very helpful. In many places, a large number of tribal groups still demand representation in the existing ADCs. In the event of not getting their demands fulfilled, some of these groups also put forth their demand for creation of separate ADCs for themselves. Due to lack of coordination among the ADC, the state administration and the central agencies, many of the development projects are delayed in the ADC areas. Allegations of corruption, misuse of funds and financial irregularities have surfaced on many occasions during the meetings of the ADCs. There is the need for transparency and effective monitoring mechanism in the working of the ADCs including

their project implementation. Experts are of the view that decentralisation does not necessarily result in a democratic process which is the outcome of a number of factors including committed leaders, alert people, civil society, and mass media.

### **Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> The Constituent Assembly (1946-49) prepared the Constitution of India and had extensive discussions and deliberations about the nature and administration of the tribal areas in India.
- <sup>2</sup> Shri Gopinath Bordoloi was one of the most prominent leaders from Assam and the North Eastern Region in general who the Premier of Assam (Chief Minister) was also
- <sup>3</sup> It was one of the most significant Schedules of the Constitution concerning the tribal areas and the people living therein.
- <sup>4</sup> The Governors of these states have special powers by which they can supervise the activities of the ADCs.
- <sup>5</sup> There is a long standing demand and series of agitations in Assam for a separate Bodoland state which gave rise to the establishment of BATC.
- <sup>6</sup> The Dimasa people have fought with many other ethnic groups in the area for the protection of their identity and cultural autonomy
- <sup>7</sup> The Mising community has a very distinct identity with the acumen for handloom products, handicrafts, etc
- <sup>8</sup> Meghalaya, the tiny state carved out of Assam, comprises of three major groups such as Garo, Khasi and Jaintia who eventually have got three separate ADCs

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## **Use of National Institute Technology Libraries in North Eastern Region: A Study**

<sup>1</sup>Pachau, R & <sup>2</sup> Mishra, R. N

### **Abstract**

Advancement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has changed in all corners of the services and its adoption in library and Information Centres has made a phenomenal and visible improvement in their services and management of resources. The NIT libraries also equally focus on improving services with the inclusion of technology. Use of the library by the users determines the status of the library. The paper explores the study on use of all eight NIT libraries in NER along with other issues of the users relating to their academic pursuit and research. The study has been carried out with a sample size of 237 through structured questionnaire to elicit skills and competencies of the library users and the, library professionals as well.



**Keywords-** Information, Communication, Technology, Technical, Education, North East India, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Pachua, R is Ph.D Scholar of the Dept. of Lib. and Inf. Science Mizoram University, Aizawl,

Email: [rohlupui22@gmail.com](mailto:rohlupui22@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Mishra, R. N is Professor, Dept. of Lib. and Inf. Science, Mizoram University. Email: [mishramzu@gmail.com](mailto:mishramzu@gmail.com).

**Introduction:** Library, being the repository of resources, is an integral part in any educational system and it plays a central role in disseminating information in the midst of technology especially in the technical institutes. To provide excellence in education primarily in Engineering, Science and Technology, National Institutes of Technology (NIT) were set up throughout the country including North East Region (NER) where, a total number of 8 NITs as reflected in Table-1 below were established each having one in each state during 1967 to 2010. Recognising the importance of technological innovations in the libraries attached to these technical institutes of national importance not only corroborates the users immensely in the field of education but also contributes for sustainable research and development leading thereby to an incredible success in the field of technical industry.

**Review of Literature:** While reviewing the related literature on the topic under discussion, it was found that the authors emphasized on the development of the libraries and their services. While highlighting some of them, Kumar (2013), through his investigations of NIT Kurukshetra, explored various issues that comprise, the purpose of internet use, library resources and services, training, place of use, satisfaction level of internet use including problems encountered while using the internet. He not only talked about the use pattern of internet by students of NIT Kurukshetra but also viewed that internet is a major platform for collecting various data and information among the students. Singh (2013), while conducting a study, highlighted on the use of library collections and services at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar NIT Central Library and the information seeking behaviour of the users. The paper demonstrated and elaborated various aspects of the library use, purpose of visiting the library by the users, adequacy of the library hours, infrastructure facilities available and use of internet. Satpathy (2012) discussed about the best practices followed by the libraries and information centres in the technical institute. He emphasised on the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the library with creative/innovative ideas that lead to evolve best practices in library and information environment. Panigrahi (2010) pointed out through his discussions the status of the Library and Information Science education in east and north east India including the need of library and information centres due to information explosion and its role in the information society. Rao and Choudhury (2010) in their paper mentioned about the availability of computer infrastructure in NIT across the country. They, apart from the submitting an account of computer infrastructures available in various NITs also expressed its importance in library services including technical education which act as the primary function in providing resources. Further, they viewed that NITs are the apex and benchmarking institutions for technical education in India in the field of engineering, science and technology and submitted their views that, computer infrastructures and related electronic equipments are indispensable in providing technology oriented library services across the country. Jange and Sami (2006) in their study emphasized that, internet has been described as the gateways to a world of seemingly inexhaustible information resources and a valuable information tool to the

library and information centres that supplements existing library resources. Their paper attempted to understand and evaluate the use of the internet as an information source by the NIT libraries in India and aimed to determine the utilization of Internet activities and services, search methods employed, problems encountered and other associated factors. It could be found from the studied literature that, there is the absence of role model for effective library services in the technology environment and hence, the authors, through the study bridge the research gap.

**Statement of the problem:** Knowledge sharing is widely acknowledged in technical education in various fields of Engineering, Science and Technology and has become imperative in the society for its economic and sustainable growth of a nation. The NIT libraries across the country ornamented with computer infrastructure meet the challenges not only through scientific management of resources but also provides the need based, useful and authentic information to the users and they are facilitated with multiple housekeeping operations including internet browsing, on-line searching of catalogues, databases access, electronic resources etc. However, the NITs in the North East Region (NER) compared to other parts of the country are still very young and hardly at par with the other NITs in India and thus, require developing strategies in user centric collection development, content managements etc. to facilitate the users with outstanding services. Keeping in mind the national scenario of library services in various NITs in India, the authors felt it necessary to study the NIT libraries in NER both from users and library professional perspectives.

**Scope and Limitation of the Study:** The scope of the present study is confined to the users' acceptance to the various library services provided by the 8 NIT libraries of NER as reflected in Table-1.

**Objective of the Study:** The objectives for the present study are to:

- 1) Ascertain the purpose of users' visit to the Library;
- 2) Find out searching of preferred documents and information sources as well;
- 3) Determine the purpose of Internet Access in the library;
- 4) Find out the skills and competency of the library professionals under study; and
- 5) Measure the satisfaction level of the users on library services.

**Research Methodology:** To elicit information in the given field of study, a structured questionnaire was administered to a total population of 240 users constituting Research Scholars, Students and Faculties in all 8 NIT libraries under study out of which, 237 filled in questionnaire were received that constitute 98% and data obtained through the questionnaires were analyzed to draw inferences including statistical measures. Steps were also taken to confirm the data through observation of the respective NIT libraries of NER under study.

**Data Analysis and Findings:** The data relating to various components of the study with regard to the use of libraries under study have been placed below in various tables for analysis and findings.

**Analysis by Respondents:** Respondents play a key role in providing the valid information of a library. The authors distributed a total number of 240 structured questionnaire out of which 237 filled in questionnaires have been received. Table-2 supplemented below reflects the institution wise

respondents of the questionnaires including the percentage of sample representation of the respective institution of all 8 NITs covered under study.

**Table-2:** Institution-wise Respondents

SL No.	Institute	QD*	QR*	% of Respondents	% of sample representation
1.	NIT S*	30	30	100	13
2.	NIT Sk*	30	30	100	13
3.	NIT M*	30	30	100	13
4.	NIT Mi*	30	30	100	13
5.	NIT N*	30	30	100	13
6.	NIT A *	30	27	90	11
7.	NIT Ag*	30	30	100	13
8.	NIT Me*	30	30	100	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>240</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>98.75</b>	<b>102</b>

Abb. NIT S\*=Silchar, NIT Sk\*= Sikkim, NIT M\*= Manipur, NIT Mi\*= Mizoram, NIT N\*=Nagaland, NIT A\*= Arunachal Pradesh, NIT Ag\*= Agartala, NIT Me\*= Meghalaya. QD\*- Questionnaire Distributed, QR\*- Questionnaire Received. Source: Questionnaire

Analysis of the above Table-2 revealed that, the respondents rate in all 8 NITs covered under study is high i.e., 100% excluding NIT A i.e., Arunachal Pradesh where the response rate is 90%. Further while, drawing the sample representation of the respondents of the NIT's in North East, the respondents of 8 NITs such as Silchar, Mizoram, Sikkim, Agartala, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya are 13% while Arunachal Pradesh is 11%. However, it is a good response and this shows the keenness of the respondents to put forth their feeling about the respective library services.

**Table-3:** Category-wise Respondents

SLNo.	Institute	Student	%	RS*	%	Faculty	%	Total
1.	NIT S	20	67	5	17	5	17	30
2.	NIT Sk	15	50	7	23	8	27	30
3.	NIT M	20	67	4	13	6	20	30
4.	NIT Mi	19	63	3	10	8	27	30
5.	NIT N	20	67	5	17	5	17	30
6.	NITAr	16	59	3	11	8	30	27
7.	NIT Ag	18	60	5	17	7	23	30
8.	NITMe	18	60	4	13	8	27	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>146</b>		<b>36</b>		<b>55</b>		<b>237</b>
		<b>62%</b>		<b>16%</b>		<b>24%</b>		<b>100%</b>

Abb. \*RS- Research Scholar,  
Note: .5> has been rounded to the next digit, while <.5 is rounded to the previous digit, Standard Deviation- 6.306053. Source: Questionnaire

**Analysis by Category of Respondents:** Category of respondents equally constitute one of primary components of the study. The category wise respondents i.e., Students, Research Scholars and Faculties of the NIT Libraries covered under study are placed below in Table-3 for analysis.

While analysing Table-3 it could be visualized that, out of 237 respondents, students community constitute the highest i.e., 146 (62%), followed by Faculty member 55 (24%) and Research Scholars 36 that form 16%. While calculating the percentage of the respondents out of the total respondents of the respective institution, it could be found from 8 NIT Libraries covered under the study that, the highest rate of respondents are the students each with 20 (67%) from NIT

Sikkim, NIT Manipur and NIT Nagaland and the highest rate among the faculties are 8 from NIT Sikkim, NIT Mizoram, NIT Meghalaya each with 8 (27%) and NIT Arunachal Pradesh 30% as the respondents constitute 27 in total. Further, while calculating Standard Deviation, it comes to 6.306053.

**Analysis by purpose of visit to the Library:** To ascertain the purpose of visit to the library is also equally important for the present study. Therefore, to be more specific about the purpose of visit of the users to the libraries under coverage, data were obtained and placed below in Table-4 for analysis. The respondents consisting of Students, Research Scholars and Faculties exercised multiple options and hence, for this component of the study n=360 instead of 237.

Analysis of the Table- 7 revealed that, major chunk of the respondents constituting 171 (48%) in total out of 360 preferred to update knowledge followed by 59 (16%) who visit the library for preparing lecture notes and 38 (10%) for writing paper. Moreover, the purpose of visiting the library, NIT Manipur 61 (17%) stands at the apex followed by NIT Silchar with 55(15%) and NIT Mizoram 51 (14%) respectively and thus, stand 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the ranking order.

**Table- 4:** Purpose of visit to the Library

SL No.	Purpose	NIT S	NIT Sk	NIT M	NIT Mi	NIT Na	NIT A	NIT Ag	NIT Me	Total	%
1.	WP*	5	2	6	5	2	5	3	10	38	10
2.	WB*	2	1	6	0	4	1	1	0	15	4
3.	PLN*	8	10	7	12	7	4	7	4	59	16
4.	UK*	23	20	21	21	22	15	22	27	171	48
5.	SP*	12	3	8	7	0	1	4	2	37	10
6.	BI*	5	2	9	2	5	1	2	3	29	8
7.	Others	0	2	4	4	0	0	1	0	11	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>360</b>	99 or 100
	<b>%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>		

Abb.: WA- Writing a paper, WB- Writing Book, PLN-Preparing Lecture Note, UK-Update Knowledge, SP- Starting a Project, BI- Browse Internet.  
N= 237, n= 360, Mean/Average value WP=4.75, WB=1.875, PLN=7.375, UK=21.375, SP=4.625, BI=3.625, others =1.375.

**Analysis by Searching of preferred documents:** Searching of information depends upon the contents in the documents. The authors made an attempt to ascertain the searching of preferred documents in the library by the users under study.

**Table-5:** Searching of preferred documents.

Sl No.	Purpose	NIT S	NIT Sk	NIT M	NIT Mi	NIT N	NIT A	NIT Ag	NIT Me	Total	%
1.	Txtbk	25	26	22	25	27	21	25	23	194	38
2.	Prc	10	4	6	10	2	2	8	4	46	9
3.	Ref	12	7	12	9	9	4	9	6	68	13
4.	Conf	10	1	6	6	2	1	2	2	30	6
5.	Pat	4	2	4	1	0	0	1	1	13	3
6.	Std	3	2	6	4	0	0	3	3	21	4
7.	Rev	8	2	5	5	3	0	4	0	27	5
8.	Nwl	4	1	7	10	5	2	0	5	34	7
9.	Ind	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	9	2
10.	Abst	6	1	4	4	0	0	2	1	18	3
11.	Bibl	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	9	2

12.	Micro	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	6	1
13.	Theses	10	1	7	5	0	2	1	2	28	5
14.	R.Rep	1	0	0	3	2	2	0	1	9	2
	Total	100	50	85	84	51	35	58	49	512	100
	%	20	10	17	16	10	7	11	10	101 or 100	

Abb: Txtbk- Textbook, Prc- Periodicals, Ref- Reference, Conf- Conference and Seminars, Pat- Patents, Std- Standard, Rev- Reviews, Nwl- Newsletters, Ind- Index, Abst- Abstract, Bibl- Bibliographies, Micro- Micrographics, Thess- Theses and Dissertations, R.Rep- Res. Report. N-237, and n-512. Source: Questionnaire

The respondents were given the multiple options out of 14 variables while searching the preferred documents. Data relating to the component is placed below in Table-5 for clear understanding. Here, as the respondents' picked out multiple choices, the 'n' value came to 512 instead of 237.

The Table-5 on analysis revealed that major chunk of the respondents i.e, 194 (38%) preferred searching textbooks followed by 68(13%) respondents who explored reference books and 34(7%) respondents newsletters respectively. Very few of the users preferred searching other form of documents. This may be due to the fact that, the libraries under study do not possess sufficient literature which, however, could be ascertained from the respondents while interviewing that, they find their choice of literature through Internet. But, it cannot be ruled out that, the respondents do not prefer searching other form of literature. It could be evident that, the respondents exercise their choice option of searching literature through Internet either through desktop or mobile.

**Analysis by Searching Types of Literature:** Use of information within the library depends on the types of literature available in the library coupled with the services provided by the library. Based on various academic needs, the users under the study through questionnaire submitted their preference of literature searching and the data relating to the component are placed in Table-6 for analysis. Searching of literature for the present study constitutes five variables and as the users submitted multiple options, the 'n' value came to 341 instead of 237.

Table-6 on analysis revealed that, 155 (45%) preferred using printed sources followed by 96(28%) online sources and 49 (14%) web as sources of information. This shows that, library attached to various NITs covered under study provide adequate traditional resources including on-line resources and consortia based e-resources. As, the respondents prefer mostly the print sources, the reason behind this is due to developing user centric collections which is a healthy sign. The libraries are also giving equal attention in developing e-resources in various ways.

**Table-6:** Searching Types of Literature

Sl No	Types	NIT S	NIT Sk	NIT M	NIT Mi	NIT N	NIT A	NIT Ag	NIT Me	Total	%
1.	Printed	20	21	19	21	17	16	23	18	155	45
2.	Online	16	15	14	9	12	13	10	7	96	28
3.	Web	7	6	9	4	3	9	6	5	49	14
4.	CD-ROM	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	7	2
5.	AV tapes	3	5	9	4	3	3	4	3	34	10
	Total	47	48	53	39	35	41	44	34	341	99 or 100
	%	14	14	15	11	10	12	13	10	99 or 100	

Here, N=237, and n=341. Source: Questionnaire

**Analysis by Choice of e-resources:** Data relating to the choice of e-resources by the respondents for the given study has been reflected in Table-7. This component comprises seven variables where, the respondents expressed their multiple choices leading there by; the number of respondents comes

Vol : IX-2 Spring (December) 2017 ISSN No: 2230 956 (UGC Approved Journal)



to 397 instead of 237.

Analysis of the Table-7 revealed that, 180 (45%) users out of 397 favoured e-books followed by e-journals by 113(28%) users and database by 40 (10%) users respectively. It otherwise means that, e-books are gaining momentum among the users of the NIT libraries under study. Uses of e-journals are also in a pivotal position among the users as the libraries under study provide various e-journal services.

**Table-7:** Choice of e-resources

Sl No.	Types	NIT S	NIT Sk	NIT M	NIT Mi	NIT N	NIT A	NIT Ag	NIT Me	Total	%
1.	e-books	26	26	24	22	26	10	24	22	<b>180</b>	<b>45</b>
2.	e-journals	23	13	15	13	7	21	7	14	<b>113</b>	<b>28</b>
3.	e-patents	5	1	5	3	0	1	1	0	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>
4.	e-reports	7	1	4	2	0	0	0	2	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>
5.	e-proceedings	3	0	6	2	0	3	4	6	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>
6.	Databases	7	5	7	5	4	6	3	3	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>
7.	Others	1	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>99 or 100</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>99 or 100</b>	

N=237, n=397, Source: Questionnaire

**Analysis by preference to access e-resources:** Use of e-resources among the users is gaining momentum in all academic institutions due to its update and instant access. Libraries under study provides consortia based e-resources to the users and also from the authentic and reliable websites. The users of the institutes under coverage access multiple form of e-resources to pursue their academic works and also research. Data relating to the preference of e-resources by the users under study is placed in Table-8.

Analysis of the Table-8 revealed that the users of all 8 institutes under study preferred multiple choice and thus, the total number of respondents became 450 instead of original value i.e, 237. While analysing the table it could be ascertained that, e-books among the respondents happen to be most preferred e-resources as it constitutes the highest with 186 (41%) respondents followed by e-journals 165 (37%) respondents . This shows that the NITs in North East Region take positive initiatives in acquiring e-books and e-journals. It could be noticed from the table that, a total number of 36 (8%) ETDs are available in all NIT libraries under study.

**Table – 8:** Analysis by preference to access e-resources

Sl No.	Types	NIT S	NIT Sk	NIT M	NIT Mi	NIT N	NIT A	NIT Ag	NIT Me	Total	%
1.	e-journals	27	18	26	17	20	21	18	18	<b>165</b>	37
2.	e-books	24	25	25	23	21	22	23	23	<b>186</b>	41
3.	e-contents	5	4	7	3	5	1	1	0	<b>26</b>	6
4.	e-reports	4	4	8	3	2	3	3	5	<b>32</b>	7
5.	ETD	15	2	10	1	1	2	4	1	<b>36</b>	8
6.	Others	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	<b>5</b>	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>450</b>	
	<b>%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>		

Calculation of correlation among various e-resources reflected that, e-books and e-contents

are positively correlated which values 10.5039675 followed by e-journals and ETD that constitute 9.430226226, e-journals and e- books 3.108456208, e-report and ETD 3.785938897, e-contents and e-reports 2.125245084 respectively. It is surprising to note that, there is a negative relation between e-books and e-journals -0.43263 and e-patents and e-reports -0.845154 respectively.

**Analysis of e-resource access by place:** Providing multiple platforms to access e-resources to the users by the libraries under study equally visualises the initiatives of the library. Such initiatives of the library not only enhance the usage statistics but also research. Five different places were identified to find out the access of e-resources by the users. The data relating to the same is placed in Table-8 for analysis and it is supported with Graph-8 for clear vision. As the respondents exercised multiple options to access the e-resources, the total respondents were 285 instead of 237.

**Table – 9:** Analysis of e-resource access by place

Sl No.	Place	NIT S	NIT Sk	NIT M	NIT Mi	NIT N	NIT A	NIT Ag	NIT Me	Total	%
1.	Library	10(18%)	12(21%)	15(27%)	5(9%)	7(12%)	4(7%)	2(3%)	1(2%)	56	20
2.	C. C*	6(13%)	12(25%)	4(8%)	11(23%)	3(6%)	2(4%)	4(8%)	5(11%)	47	16
3.	Dept. Lib	5(20%)	1(4%)	2(8%)	10(40%)	0	3(12%)	2(8%)	2(8%)	25	9
4.	On Cam*	18(12%)	11(8%)	18(12%)	11(8%)	24(17%)	18(12%)	21(15%)	22(15%)	143	50
5.	Off Cam*	4(28%)	5(36%)	4(28%)	0	0	0	1(7%)	0	14	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	

Abb: C.C\*-Computer Centre, On Cam\*- On Campus, Off Cam\*- Off Campus. N=237, n= 285

While analysing the above table it could be found that, out of 285 respondents, 143 (50%) access e-resources within the campus which otherwise means that, the campuses are connected with wi-fi which is a healthy sign. 56 (20%) respondents preferred library as the second highest place followed by computer centre as the third place where, 47 (16%) preferred to access e-resources. Further analysis on institutionwise revealed that, out of 285 respondents, 143 have chosen On Campus out of which, NIT Nagaland stands at the apex i.e, 24 (17%) followed by NIT Meghalaya 22(15.3%) and NIT Agartala 21(14.6%) respectively. Moreover, 56 (20%) out of 285 users preferred library as the place of access where, 15 (27%) are from NIT Manipur followed by 12(21%) from NIT Sikkim and 10(18%) from NIT Silchar respectively. However, 47 (16%) preferred computer centre as their choice of place to access e-resources. Overall from the analysis it could be visualised that, the respondents get a wider platform to access e-resources which adds value not only in education and research but also the optimum utilisation of e-resources.

#### **Analysis by Inconveniences in using library software:**

Library software certainly increases the efficiency of the various library activities including managing the resources and library services. From users' perspectives, an attempt was initiated primarily to ascertain the user friendliness of the library software used by the libraries under study. Data relating to all 237 respondents who put forth their observation through the questionnaire is placed herewith in Table- 10.

Analysis of the data placed in the above Table-8 depicts that out of 237, major chunk of respondents i.e, 185 (78%) do not encounter problems while using the library software followed by 52 (22%) who find difficulties. It is surprising to note that from among the list, NIT Mizoram tops

the list where out of 30, 15 (50%) respondents expressed negative while, other 15(50%) conveyed positive. This otherwise means that, 15 respondents out of 30 in NIT, Mizoram find favourable with the library software while, other 15 respondents find constraints while using the software which might be due to the fact that, they lack training in using the software.

This, however, reduces the usage statistics of the library and hence, needs library orientation. Likewise, NIT Agartala 8 (27%) and NIT Silchar and NIT Meghalaya both tie 7(23%) respectively also feel difficulties in using the library software. However, study reveals positive views for NIT Sikkim 29 (97%) which is the highest followed by NIT Nagaland 27(90%) and NIT Manipur 25(83%) respectively. From the analysis it could be ascertained that, more initiatives by the library are required to make the users comfortable in using the library software which could be attended through continuous library orientation programs.

**Table -10:** Analysis by Inconveniences in using library software

Sl No.	Institute	Yes	%	No	%	Total
1.	NIT Silchar	7	23	23	77	30
2.	NIT Sikkim	1	3	29	97	30
3.	NIT Manipur	5	17	25	83	30
4.	NIT Mizoram	15	50	15	50	30
5.	NIT Nagaland	3	10	27	90	30
6.	NIT Arunachal	6	22	21	78	27
7.	NIT Agartala	8	27	22	73	30
8.	NIT Meghalaya	7	23	23	77	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>237</b>

**Analysis by Satisfaction of Library services:** The collection development forms the basis of library resources and its use also determines one of the segments of satisfaction among the clientele. The other services provided by the library also influence the satisfaction rate among the users. Data relating to the component grouped into three various parameters of the libraries under study is placed below in Table- 11.

**Table – 11:** Analysis by Satisfaction of Library services

Sl No.	Info Sources	NIT S	NIT Sk	NIT M	NIT Mi	NIT N	NIT A	NIT Ag	NIT Me	Total	%
1.	Excellent	2	2	3	3	0	0	1	0	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>
2.	Good	22	7	17	11	11	6	13	9	<b>96</b>	<b>40</b>
3.	Moderate	6	16	9	15	17	20	16	21	<b>120</b>	<b>51</b>
4.	No Comment	0	5	1	1	2	1	0	0	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	

Analysis of the Table-9 revealed that, majority of the respondents i.e, 120 (51%) out of 237 from all the NITs in North East Region covered under the study have opined the library services as 'Moderate' followed by 96 (40%) and 11 (5%) who revealed 'Good' and 'Excellent' respectively. Table, further shows that, a few i.e, 10 (4%) respondents were neutral. Based on the statistical calculation of the data reflected that, average respondents i.e, 1.375 opined their library services as Excellent, 12 Good and 15 Moderate respectively while, 1.25 respondents were silent. The Standard

Deviation comes to 7.269175.

**Findings:** The following findings were deduced from various analyses of the study.

- i. It could be ascertained that, the overall responses to the questionnaire are good and the sample representation of the libraries of all NITs is 13% except Arunachal Pradesh which is 11%. Thus, the sample representation is also overall good.
- ii. The student communities constitute the highest in category of respondents which constitute students 146(62%), followed by Faculty member 55(24%) and Research Scholars 36(16%). While deducing the Standard Deviation, it comes to 6.306053.
- iii. The purpose of visit to the library on analysis revealed that, a good chunk of respondents constituting 171(48%) in total of 360 preferred to update knowledge followed by 59(16%) for preparing notes and 38(10%) for writing paper. Moreover, the purpose of visiting the library by the respondents in NIT Manipur 61(17%) stands at the apex followed by NIT Silchar with 55(15%) and NIT Mizoram 51(14%) respectively.
- iv. Searching of preferred documents by the respondents in the libraries covered under study revealed that while, 194 (38%) of the respondents prefer to use textbooks, 68(13%) prefer for reference books and 43(7%) for newsletters. Very few of the respondents favour using other form of documents.
- v. With regard to information sources, 155(45%) preferred to use printed sources of information followed by 96(28%) online sources and 49 (14%) web as sources of information. This shows that, NIT libraries covered under study provide adequate traditional resources and the respondents depend upon the print sources.
- vi. Choice of e-resources varies from person to person. The present study revealed that, 180 (45%) respondents out of 397 favoured e-books followed by e-journals by 113(28%) and database by 40(10%) respondents. It otherwise means that, e-books are gaining momentum among the users of the NIT libraries under study.
- vii. Preference of e-resource access by the respondents visualised that, e-books are the most preferred electronic form of information with 186(41%) followed by e-journals 165(37%). This otherwise means that, the libraries are having skilled manpower who are competent enough to deal with e-resources and so also the respondents who are equally skilled enough to use the e-resources.
- viii Major chunk of respondents i.e, 143 (50%) out of 285 preferred to access e-resources within the campus followed by 56 (20%) respondents who preferred library as the second highest favoured place and computer centre as the third place where, 47 (16%) access e-resources. Thus, the respondents get a wider platform to access e-resources which adds value not only in education and research but also the optimum utilisation of e-resources.
- ix. Major respondents i.e, 185 (78%) out 237 revealed that, they find conducive while using the library software followed by 52 (22%) who find difficulties. It is surprising to note that from

among the list, NIT Mizoram tops the list where out of 30, 15 (50%) respondents expressed negative while, other 15(50%) conveyed positive.

- x. Major respondents i.e, 120 (51%) out of 237 from all the NITs in North East Region covered under the study have opined the library services as Moderate followed by 96 (40%) and 11 (5%) who revealed Good and Excellent respectively. This shows that, the libraries require developmental strategies in all quarters to provide better services.

**Conclusion:** The present study shows that there is a positive impact of technology which not only influenced the libraries but also the user's community in various ways. In the present academic system especially in technological institutes, electronic resources add value in academic and research. As the libraries under study are young, it requires developing in many frontiers including technology application for effective services. Competency and skill are the positive factors among the professionals for managing e-resources and motivating the technocrats to use more e-resources in teaching, learning and research which will add value in developing knowledge based society.

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## **Race, Space and the City: Racism against Mizo Migrants in Metropolitan Chennai City**

<sup>1</sup> Ratnamala, V ., <sup>2</sup> Lalremdiki, A., <sup>3</sup> Kumar, M. S ., & <sup>4</sup> Maart, R.

### **Abstract**

This research article seeks to address questions of race, space and the construct of the modern city within postcolonial India. The North Eastern people of India could also be considered as cultural and regional minorities in India. The migration from north-east India to other metropolitan cities has increased rapidly during the last decade. Due to inadequate educational infrastructure, lack of employment opportunities, economic backwardness and social-political unrest, thousands of people from Northeast India are migrating to other metropolitan cities in India. The available literature reveals that the migrants' experience in these cities, unfortunately, includes racism, violence and discrimination. This study is intended to explore the everyday racist experiences of Mizo migrants in the metropolitan city of Chennai. This study will explore how these Mizo migrants blend in the city, how they survive the stark contrast of everyday life and how they are defining their identity. The survey method is used for data collection. Most of the respondents migrate to Chennai for their higher education. In the questionnaire distributed, language barrier, financial problems and cultural shock are listed as being more problematic upon initial migration than racism. This shows that racism is not blatantly experienced in the initial stages but is rather experienced over a period of time.

**Keywords-** Race, space, city, Mizo, migrants, metropolitan, etc

<sup>1</sup> Ratnamala, V is Assy Prof, Dept of Mass Communication, Mizoram University,

<sup>2</sup> Lalremdiki, A is Research Asst, Dept of Mass Com., Mizoram University.

<sup>3</sup> Kumar, M. S is a Research Asst, Deptt of Mass Com , Mizoram University

<sup>4</sup> Maart, R. (Prof.) is Director, Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, Durban, South Africa.

(Note: This is the outcome of the project titled, "Race, Space and the City" funded by ICSSR-NIHSS (Joint Research Programme) in the Social Sciences)

**Introduction:** This research article seeks to address questions of race, space and the construct of the

modern city within postcolonial India. The North Eastern people of India could also be considered as cultural and regional minorities in India. Large segments of the population of north-east Indians are, 'scheduled tribes' in the Indian public policy discourse.

Inadequate livelihood prospects, changing social aspirations and armed conflicts (in certain areas) compel people to move out of the region to other metropolitan cities in India. The transformation of Indian cities through neo-liberal reforms have led to fast-expanding employment opportunities in the retail and services sector, labour recruitment, and growing networks based on clan, kin and ethnic ties attract migrants to particular jobs, neighbourhoods and educational institutions. The migrants' experience in these cities, unfortunately, includes racism, violence and discrimination (Duncan, 2011). This study is aimed to explore the everyday racist experiences of Mizo migrants in the metropolitan city of Chennai.

**Review of literature:** The published literature has found that extensive works were done on Delhi. McDuié-Ra's study (2013) presents an ethnographic detail of migrants from India's north-east border region living and working in Delhi, the nation's capital. Northeast migrants covet the employment opportunities created by India's embrace of globalization; shopping malls, restaurants, and call centres. Yet, Northeast migrants also experience high levels of racism, harassment, and violence. Far from simply victims of the city, Northeast migrants have created their own 'map' of Delhi, enabling a sense of belonging, albeit an uneasy one. This book was well researched and very extensive with in-depth data. (McDuié-Ra, Duncan 2013, *Northeast Migrants in Delhi: Race, Refuge and Retail*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, U.S.A.)

In a similar study by the same author titled "Debating Race in Contemporary India", McDuié-Ra (2015) explored the dynamics of race debates in contemporary India by focusing on the experiences of communities from India's Northeast borderland. Race debates have become more frequent at the national level, and the response to racism in the media and by politicians has shifted from denial to acknowledgement to action. In this book, a chapter has been devoted to 'Bangalore: An Inconvenient Truth': Hate Crime and the Exodus'.

Neha Jaiswal (2017) also talks about how the North-easterners are labelled as 'outsiders' even though they are from the same country. There is little knowledge about the Northeast region, often ignored by mainstream media and thus, their culture and traditions remain a mystery to the mainlanders. The feeling of being placeless and isolated still exists even though they adopt the local culture and dressing style. There is a huge cultural gap in between the mainland and the Northeast region. They suffer racism at every level of the city ranging from renting a house to getting a job or even getting a promotion. The imaginative journey from borderland to heartland is cited by the experiences of the Northeast migrants to the national capital ranges from racism, violence and discrimination in the Indian Cities highlighting the encounters between frontiers and heartlands.

Once you step out of the northeast, you have to renegotiate the question of being an Indian and your citizenship comes at stake, as physically the northeast is a part of India but culturally it isn't. And although there are many communities in India that are labeled as 'Other', it is only north-easterners who have their origin questioned at every turn due to the physical appearance that is then linked to or associated with other negative traits such as 'living in isolation and refusing to mix with other communities in Chennai' or being 'loose and immoral'. Northeastern migrants are seen as racially different from the Indian mainstream'. The city has its own diversity of culture with people

from the mainland and the frontiers, navigating the spaces struggling with their identity. (Noha Nasser, 2003).

There are a lot of initiatives and researches done by various governmental and non-governmental agencies regarding the discrimination and racial attacks against Northeast people in many metropolitan cities in India. A committee headed by retired IAS officer M P Bezbaruah was formed to inquire about the shocking attack and murder of 19-year-old Nido Tania at a South Delhi market in January 2014. The five key recommendations of the committee include the need for a new law against discrimination, to create fast-track courts and special police squads, the inclusion of Northeast matters in the school curriculum and to conduct legal awareness campaigns and to do outreach through social media platforms (Polanki, P. 2014, August 23). The project report on 'North East Migration and Challenges in National Capital: City's silent Racial attack on its own countrymen' released by the North East Support Centre and Helpline (NESCH) outlined the ugly picture of problems faced by the natives of the North- East in Delhi. The report urged the ministry of development of north- eastern region (DoNER) to issue a directive to implement existing laws, policies and plan of actions to end racial discrimination faced by the northeastern communities in Delhi (Irfan, 2011, April 18).

UNESCO's report on "Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India" published in 2013 have proposed 10 key principles for better inclusion of internal migrants. The principles are to promote positive political discourse and avoid a prejudiced, negative portrayal of internal migrants and to build awareness for a better understanding of internal migrants' positive contribution to society. It also advocates adopting a human rights-based approach for internal migrant inclusion in society and developing gender-sensitive and age-sensitive policies and practices for internal migrants. It calls for creating portability of social protection entitlements for internal migrants and to upscale successful innovative practices for a better inclusion of internal migrants. It also summons to revise and strengthen data collection techniques for the Census to fill knowledge gaps, especially those related to circular and seasonal migration and women's migration. The rest of the principles are to mainstream internal migration into national development policy, and regional and urban planning, to undertake policy coherence on internal migration and its cross-cutting impacts and to guarantee the democratic participation of internal migrants in society (Tankha, 2013).

Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu is very relevant for this study to explore spatialisation of race in Chennai with special reference to North East migrants. The review of the literature reveals that Tamil Nadu is now home to one million migrant workers. According to the migrant worker survey, 20.9% of migrant workers in Tamil Nadu live in Kancheepuram district. Most of them work in manufacturing units like Ford, Hyundai, BMW and Nissan. The top three districts -- Kancheepuram, Chennai and Tiruvallur -- house 51.3% of the migrant worker population. Real estate projects and the metro rail work have attracted migrant labour. The migrants from northeastern states are sought after for security and hospitality services in Chennai. (Philip, C. M. 2016, February 5).

A Sociological Study on Youth Migrant from North East India in Tamil Nadu by M.Jeyaseelan and A. Stephen revealed that the respondents face a racial discrimination in different ways by commenting verbally or by direct action or indirectly and it has also found out that all the respondents do not feel at home in Chennai as they find themselves insecure in their mind (Jeyaseelan & Stephen, 2015). An article by *The Hindu* titled "How north-eastern people feel at home in Chennai", Different churches in Veperiy, Avadi and the Hindustan Bible Institute provide a social net for these

communities depending on the State they come from, especially in celebrations of festivals like 'Kut (harvest festival),' and encouraging church service. As long as you are in the college, the community does not make you feel left out. But the future is a concern. Explaining the rationale behind the growing preference for Chennai among students, Rothangliana, who is currently doing an M. Phil in Loyola College, said "Many parents no longer prefer to send their children to Kolkata or Delhi as there are a lot of north-eastern students in these cities already. They think that we will get too involved with friends and social life, which will end up affecting our studies". (Vasudha Venugopal, A. S. 2011, August 09).

So far, extensive research is not much done on the migration of the Northeasterners in Chennai leaving, it was recognized that a lot of scopes to do research. So the present study focuses on contextualizing the specialization of race in Chennai with exclusive reference to Mizoram the North East.

**Aims and Objectives:** The paper aims to study the migrants from Mizoram in Chennai and their experiences of racism. It explores how these migrants blend in the city, how they survive the stark contrast of everyday life and how they are defining their identity besides experiencing cultural gap. It addresses the question of race and space in the city in relation to Mizo migrants.

**Research Method:** The survey method is used for data collection. The population of the survey is the Mizo migrants residing in Chennai city. According to the register of the Chennai Mizo Welfare Association, 657 Mizos are registered with them in 2016. The total population was found concentrated in four locations (clusters) with varying degrees of concentration. Depending on the size and nature of concentration random cluster sampling technique was used with probability proportional to size (PPS). Accordingly, 56 respondents from 1<sup>st</sup> Cluster, 70 from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14 from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10 respondents from 4<sup>th</sup> cluster were taken comprising total sample size of 150 respondents. A random sample is a subset of a statistical population in which each member of the subset has an equal probability of being chosen. The structured questionnaire was used to collect the quantitative data. The questionnaire was with 12 questions including demographic data, everyday racism and discrimination and assertion of identity.

**Data Analysis:** Among the 150 respondents, 61% are females and only 39% are males. Among the respondents, 43% belong to the age group of 26-35. 29% belong to the age group of 15-25 and 24% belong to the age group of 36-45. Among the migrants, 49% of Mizos migrated to Chennai for education and 37% migrated looking for jobs and only 14% migrated because of the job transfers of their parents to Chennai. 27% of the Mizo migrants introduce themselves as northeasterners, 36% introduce themselves as tribal and 49% introduce themselves as Mizos. In the initial phases of migration, 29% faced cultural shock, 25% faced financial problems, 15% faced racism and 31% faced language problems. These are the biggest struggle faced by the migrants in the initial phases of migration to Chennai.

96% of the respondents experienced discrimination and only 4% haven't experienced discrimination in Chennai. The Mizo migrants in Chennai experience many forms of harassment. 46% of respondents face mocking at their personal appearance. 22% face sexual harassment and 20% face mocking of cultural background. 50% of respondents who experience harassment immediately

respond by a talkback. 19% of respondents may end up with the beating. 31% of respondents just ignore it. 55% of respondents face harassment at their workplace or education institution. 33% of respondents face harassment at public spaces and 12% of respondents face harassment at their living spaces i.e neighbourhood.

The Mizo migrants of Chennai city mostly hang out with the fellow Mizos and other northeasterners. 51% of respondents hang out with Mizos, 29% with the other north-easterners and only 20% with the local Tamils. Only 16% of Mizo migrants regret coming to Chennai and 84% of Mizo migrants have no regrets coming to Chennai.

**Data interpretation:** Most of the respondents were women. Most of the respondents are the youth of age from 15-35. Only 24% of the respondents are above 35. Most of the respondents migrate to Chennai for their higher education. In the questionnaire distributed, language barrier, financial problems and cultural shock are listed as being more problematic upon initial migration than racism. This shows that racism is not blatantly experienced in the initial stages but is rather experienced over a period of time. But upon further questioning, 96% of the respondents revealed that they have faced discrimination of a different kind in Chennai. Racism is listed as the most common form of harassment faced, more often than sexual harassment, mocking of personal appearance, mocking of cultural background and bullying. This shows that racism is indeed present in everyday life and exists in the public space. It is frequently shown towards the North-easterners (Mizo's) which makes them feel excluded from the mainland. It promotes differentiation and alienation.

50% of the respondents say they talk back in response to these racist remarks. This highlights the assertive nature of Mizo migrants as half of them retaliate as opposed to keeping quiet. Most of this harassment takes place at educational institutions and the workplace. This might be due to the fact that this is where the respondents spend most of their time. 41% of the harassment is faced by strangers and less from people who are familiar with the respondents. This might lead us to conclude that familiarity and a relationship between the migrants and the natives eliminate the occurrence of harassment. The existence of a relationship establishes the migrant as a person with character rather than a 'migrant' to a stranger. So Chennai city is also similar to Delhi when it comes to the treatment of Northeast migrants.

Most migrants are young and are migrating for their studies and looking for jobs. It is ironic that they face harassments from their workplace or educational institution, Public spaces and also at their residence. So they are facing racial discrimination everywhere and they are living with the everyday racist experiences. They are comfortable with the fellow Mizos or other northeasterners. Very few only hang out with the local Tamil friends.

Language possibly is the biggest issue for the migrants especially the people who are working as they need to speak the native language for better communication at the workplace. Students can manage their English speaking skills as they have a better chance of interacting with people who can speak the same. Language limits the migrants from interacting with other ethnicities and makes them feel a sense of being an outsider. Although the migrants face racial discrimination every day, they are coping up well. 84% migrants said that they have no regrets in migrating to Chennai. As the city is with more educational opportunities and job possibilities, they are living with the everyday racism. The migrants are trying hard to coexist within the racist spaces. They are facing more racism from the strangers. The findings show a gap between the people of Chennai and the Mizo migrants. The



Media can play a proactive role in filling these gaps. The Media should cover Northeastern issues very often and should show them on a positive note. India's northeastern States remain invisible to the mainstream media. There are only a few studies regarding the media coverage of Northeast and media (Hassan, 2004), (Sonwalkar, 2004), (Ninan, 2009), (Sharma, 2006). The studies reveal the misrepresentation and the stereotyping of Northeast in the national media. The media persons should be sensitized on Northeast India and its socio-cultural-political issues.

**Conclusion:** India is a country with multilingual, multi-ethnic and multi-culture, as such, the researchers felt that the people should know and appreciate the diverse nature of the country. The findings validated the need for the implementation of first two key principles for better inclusion of internal migrants by UNESCO. The first two principles are to promote positive political discourse and avoid a prejudiced, negative portrayal of internal migrants and to build awareness for a better understanding of internal migrants' positive contribution to society. The media should take this as a cue and should play a positive role in bridging the migrants with the society and also strive for positive representation of Northeast in the media discourses. The media should refrain from the negative stereotyped portrayal of Northeast and should promote mutual cultural understandings of the people.

Sensitizing programs and workshops could be organized for the media persons to create awareness on the internal migration, the socio-political-cultural prisms of northeastern states and to give more space for news and columns on Northeast India. If the media person's attention is given to the Northeast coverage and positive representation in the regional media, the people will also get sensitized about Northeast India. So the understanding and mutual respect for each other's culture can lead to peaceful co-existence of everyone in the city. The media should ensure everyone the right to the city.

In fact, India can also pursue and implement a Media diversity policy of South Africa. The post-apartheid democratic South Africa believes in freedom of Press and expects a diverse media content and ownership. To bring about this change, an agency named Media development and Diversity Agency was formed. The vision of Media Development and Diversity Agency is access to diversified media for all and its mission is ensuring the sustainable development of vibrant, innovative and people-centred media. The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) mandate is to create an enabling environment for media development and diversity which reflects the needs and aspirations of all South Africans and redress exclusion and marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and persons from access to the media and the media industry. So if India advocates and promotes media diversity policy framework, this can be a solution to reduce any kind of discrimination in the society. The diverse media content will lead to a more inclusive equitable society. As internal migration of northeasterners is increasing day by day, the diverse media content is the need of the hour. Instead of just conversing about discrimination, an action plan of diverse media content should be put forward for a more inclusive society.

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### Self Esteem and Depression among Orphanage Children in Manipur

<sup>1</sup> Chanu, N. D & <sup>2</sup> Zokaitluangi

#### Abstract

The study aims to explore the level and relations between depression and self-esteem among the orphan children in Manipur. 100 orphan and 100 control group (children living with a parent), age range between 12-17 years were selected randomly from a different part of Manipur. The Rosenberg's Self-esteem Questionnaire (SES) and the Child Depression Inventory (CDI) were employed after checking the psychometric adequacy of the two scales. The results highlighted that the orphan had lower self-esteem and high depression than a control group who were living with biological parents, and the self-esteem and depression were a negative significant relationship. The results highlighted the need for psychological care to the orphan for their betterment in their lifetime.

**Keywords-** Self Esteem, orphanage, children, behaviour, etc..

<sup>1</sup> Chanu, N. D, is Ph D Student, Dept. of Psychology, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004

<sup>2</sup> Zokaitluangi is a Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004

**Instruction:** An Orphanage is often examined as having problematic psycho-social functioning especially in childhood. There is general agreement among researchers that children placed in orphanage settings at a young age and for long periods of time are at greatly increased risks for development of serious psychopathology later in life. Orphans exist in every age and in all civilizations. According to the joint report of UNICEF on HIV/AIDS and Development (2005), about 1.7 billion children are orphans worldwide. Out of this number, Asia contributes 6.5% orphans and Africa leads with 11.9% orphans. A child who is below 18 years of age and who have lost one or both parents may be defined as an orphan (George, 2011). Maternal orphan is referred to a child who has lost their mother and the paternal orphan is referred to a child who has lost their father. Social orphans are children who are living without parents because of abandonment or because their parents gave them up as a result of poverty, alcoholism or imprisonment etc (Dillon, 2008).

The number of orphans in India stands at approximately 55 million children of age 0 to 12 years, which is about 47% of the overall population of 150 million orphans in the world (GCM India; UNICEF, 2005). India is the world's largest democracy with a population of over a billion people, of which 400 million are children. Approximately 18 million of this number of children live or work on the streets of India, and the majority of them are involved in crime, prostitution, gang-related violence and drug trafficking; however, a large number of these children are orphans (Shrivastava, 2007). According to National Institute for Health Care Management (WHO, 2005), globally one in every five children and adolescent suffer from a mental disorder and two out of five who require mental health services do not receive them. It is expected that by 2020, childhood neuropsychiatric disorder will rise to over 50% and will become one of five most common reasons for morbidity, mortality and disability among children. Children living in orphanages are one of the most vulnerable groups of children in a society; many of them have to live with repeated neglect, abuse or fear. For many of them, a new safe home they can trust alone is not enough to repair the damage imposed by abnormal early stress on the developing nervous system (Hughes, 1999).

Self-esteem is a widely used concept both in popular language and in psychology. It refers to an individual's sense of his or her value or worth, or the extent to which a person values, approves of, appreciates, prizes, or likes him or herself (Blascovich & Tomaka, 1991). Self-esteem is the basic belief in self. Thus, it may be argued that, if one has a positive belief system about one's self, one will have a positive self-esteem. On the other hand, if one views oneself as worthless, one will have a negative self-esteem (Mazhar, 2004). Simon and Schuster (1997) define self-esteem as the disposition to experience oneself as being competent to cope with the basic challenges of life and of being worthy of happiness. It may be argued that self-esteem is in fact confidence in the efficacy of our mind and in our ability to think. Simon and Schuster (1997) further suggested that by extension, it is confidence in our ability to learn, make appropriate choices and decisions, and respond effectively to change. It is also the experience that success, achievement, fulfilment, and happiness are right and natural for us.

According to Rogers (1959), high self-esteem refers to a positive view of ourselves which tends to lead to confidence in our own abilities; self-acceptance; optimism and not worrying about what others think. On the other hand, lower self-esteem refers to a negative view of ourselves which tends to lead to lack of confidence; the desire to be or look like someone else; always worrying what others might think about ourselves. Damon (1989) observes that self-esteem is an effective

evaluation of one's self in terms of positive or negative traits. As such, self-esteem is widely recognized as a control aspect of psychological functioning and well-being. It has been shown to be related to many psychological as well as behavioural variables. Friedman (1995) says, self-esteem is a psychological construct which refers to how the self (body and mind) is viewed and valued, that is basically how one feels about himself, how he judges himself in terms of skills, talents, abilities and attributes and how much he values and respects himself. In addition, Krider (2002) contends that self-esteem steps beyond the initial descriptive phase of self-concept and becomes a feeling of internal worth that is after evaluating themselves based on the personal values and ideals they have developed.

Depression is more than just sadness. People with depression may experience a lack of interest and pleasure in daily activities, significant weight loss or gain, insomnia or excessive sleeping, lack of energy, inability to concentrate, feelings of worthlessness or excessive guilt and recurrent thoughts of death or suicide (www.apa.org). Depression affects an estimated one in 15 adults (6.7%) in any given year. And one in six people (16.6%) will experience depression at some time in their life. Depression can strike at any time, but on average, first appears during the late teens to mid-20s. Women are more likely than men to experience depression. Some studies show that one-third of women will experience a major depressive episode in their lifetime. Adversity in childhood, such as bereavement, neglect, mental abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and unequal parental treatment of siblings can contribute to depression in adulthood (Christine et al., 2008; Pillemer et al., 2010). Today, childhood depression is widely recognized and health professionals see depression as a serious condition affecting both adolescents and young children (Whitley et al., 1993). Dramatic behaviours such as aggression and an obsession or fascination with death often accompany their depression (Lamarine, 1995). Adolescent problems that correlate with low self-esteem include depression, unsafe sex. Criminal activity and drug abuse (New model 1995). Educators and schools can be ideal scouts for depression in adolescents. Since depression often results in lower academic performance, behaviour problems, and poor socialization, schools are often the best place to observe all these symptoms (Lamarine, 1995).

Farooqi Y.N & Intezar.M.(2009) investigated differences in the self-esteem of orphan children and children living with both parents in their homes. The sample was composed of 150 children (75 children from orphanages of Lahore city of Pakistan and 75 living with both parents in their homes which was drawn from different private schools). The children in orphanages reported the lower degree of self-esteem than children living with their parents and no significant gender difference in the self-esteem of the orphan children and the children living with both parents.

**Statement of the problem:** The negative effects of institutional rearing are well documented. Poor caregiving, lack of stimulation and the absence of a consistent caregiver have been implicated in the negative outcomes among institutionalized children (Rutter, Kreppner and O'Connor, 2001). And from the brief review on Orphanage children, it is clear that these children go through much psychological turmoil as a result of staying in an orphan home and without a consistent caregiver which are normally the parents. According to data provided by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Manipur (<http://manipur.gov.in>, 2011), there are eight registered Orphanages in Manipur. Although the number is high, researchers and studies were done in this population in minimal, furthermore, the available data are scanty. Identifying the levels of self-esteem and the

prevalence of depression among the groups is an important first step in understanding how best to support children living in the orphanage and these result findings can be useful in planning out interventions for the benefit of children living in an orphanage and their overall personality development.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the current study are:

- (1) To explore the prevalence of self-esteem and Behavioral problems among the orphanage children and children living with parents.
- (2) To explore any significant difference in the Self Esteem and behavioural problems in relation to the orphanage children and children living with parents.

**Hypothesis:**

To meet the objectives of the study the following hypotheses are set forth for the study:

- 1) It was expected that significant means difference would be observed in the Self Esteem and Behavioral problems among the orphanage children and children living with parents.
- 2) There will be a significant difference in the Self Esteem and behavioural problems in relation to the orphanage children and children living with parents.

**Methodology:**

**Sample** –200 Children will be selected through purposive sampling method, 100 children living in an Orphanage and 100 of living with biological parents in Manipur. The orphanage has been included only those who have completed at least a period of one year of stay whereas the control group, who were living with biological parents and found well matched with selected orphan were selected; age range was between 6 years to 10 years. Necessary permission and consent were taken from parents, guardians of the children. Demographic profile was used to get information about the samples to cross-check the true representation of the group, and standardized psychological test to evaluate psychological adjustment of the sample, and to be in accordance with the objectives of the study.

**Design of the study:** The design of the present study is correlational design.

**Psychological tool used: Demographic Profile:** A semi-structured proforma was employed to cross-check the Demographic Profiles of the sample which include their gender, age, number of years of stay at the orphanage, educational qualification, previous history of any psychological and psychiatric problem, which might have an effect on the psychological measures.

**Rosenberg's Self-esteem Questionnaire (SES; 1965):** Used to assess self-worth and self-acceptance of children and adolescents. It contains 10 items which each investigate a feeling. Statement for items 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7. The scale ranges from 0-30. Scores between 15 and 25 are within normal range; scores below 15 suggest low self-esteem.

**Child Depression Inventory (CDI):** The CDI is a standardized self-report questionnaire of depressive symptomatology (Kovacs, 1985). This has been developed for children and young people aged 6–17 years. The CDI includes 27 items, each scored on a 0–2 scale (from 'not a problem' to 'severe'), for the previous two weeks. The total score ranges between 0 and 54, and a score of 19 has been found to indicate the likelihood of a depressive disorder.

**Results and Discussion:** The results was analyzed to check the psychometric properties, Mean difference of the two groups on dependent variables, and any significant relationship between the two variables. Results showed in Table revealed the psychometric properties of the scales for the



target population. The Reliability test of Alpha shows the trustworthiness of the scales in the selected population, the Cronbach Alpha reliability results showed the Self-esteem (.89), Social self-esteem (.74) and Depression (.85). The results of Homogeneity of Variance test using Brown Forsythe for all the scales have shown the appropriateness of parametric methods for further statistical analysis. It also confirmed that there is equality of variances and therefore we could proceed with the analysis of variance. Skewness and Kurtosis results showed the acceptable range of the normal distribution table. The two psychological scales were found applicability for the target population and were decided to use for the present study.

The results showed that orphans showed lower *self-esteem* ( $M=15.49$ ) than Normal group ( $M=21.61$ ), reverse scored was found in depression that normal group scored lower ( $M=27.22$ ) than orphan group ( $M=65.42$ ) proving the second hypothesis of the study; this has confirmatory finding among the Pakistani children (Farooqi & Intezar, 2009). The results of the Pearson correlation coefficient showed that the self-esteem and depression have a significant negative correlation which can explain it as the high self-esteem may predict lower depression wellbeing ( $r = -.37$ ;  $p < .01$ ).

**Table :** Showing the Mean, SD, SEM, Kurtosis, Skewness, Reliability, Homogeneity and Pearson's correlation for the groups and whole samples.

Variable	Group	Mean	SD	SEM	Kurtosis	Skewness	Reliability (Alpha)	Homogeneity (Brown Forsyth)
Self esteem	Orphan	15.49	4.44	27	-.70	-.11	.74	.00
	Normal	21.61	6.77	.39	-.78	Normal		
Depression	Orphan	65.42	8.80	1.24	3.05	1.53	.85	.00
	Normal	27.22	5.79	.81	-.28	-.41		
Pearson's Correlations								
Variables		Self-esteem		Depression		**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).		
Self-esteem		1		-.37**				
Depression				1				

**Conclusion:** The study was aimed to find the level of self-esteem and depression among the orphan of Manipur state. The present study was not free from limitation as a limited psychological variable has been taken care while so many another variable was thought to be included in this study with little samples. Despite this mention limitation, the present study well-highlighted that orphan was lower self-esteem and high depressed than normal children (children living with biological parents) status of orphan children. This may be concluded that the need for psychological care to the orphan children for their better future.

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## Prediction of Alcoholic's Dependence Parent on the Personality of their children

<sup>1</sup>Devi, N. A & <sup>2</sup>Zokaitluangi

### Abstract

The present was to examine the level of Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C) of the children of alcoholic parents and non-alcoholic parents. 200 samples comprise of 100 children of Alcoholic and 100 children of non- alcoholic were selected by employing DSM IV and ICD 10 from a different part of Manipur state, alcoholic were mostly drawn from registered de-addiction Centre to the Manipur State Government, and demographic variables were well-match between the two groups. The NEO PI-R) developed by Costa and McCrac (1992) was administrated to evaluate the personality of the

samples. The results highlighted that the children of alcoholic parents were significantly high on neuroticism but lower on conscientiousness; and highlighted the need of attention for psychological intervention to the children of alcoholic parents.

**Keywords-** alcohol, alcoholic, parent, family, personality, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Devi, N. A is a Ph. D Research scholar, Department of Psychology, Aizawl-796004.

<sup>2</sup> Zokaitluangi, Professor, Department of Psychology, Aizawl-796004.

**Introduction:** Alcohol is a psychoactive substance with dependence-producing properties that has been widely used in many cultures for centuries (WHO, 2018). The harmful use of alcohol causes a large disease, the social and economic burden in societies. Alcohol impacts people and societies in many ways and it is determined by the volume of alcohol consumed, the pattern of drinking, and, on rare occasions, the quality of alcohol consumed. In 2012, about 3.3 million deaths, or 5.9 % of all global deaths, were attributable to alcohol consumption.

Alcoholism, also known as alcohol use disorder (AUD), is a broad term for any drinking of alcohol that results in mental or physical health problems (Littrell, 2014). The disorder was previously divided into two types: alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence (APA, 2013; Hasin, 2003). In a medical context, alcoholism is said to exist when two or more of the following conditions are present: a person drinks large amounts over a long time period, has difficulty cutting down, acquiring and drinking alcohol takes up a great deal of time, alcohol is strongly desired, usage results in not fulfilling responsibilities, usage results in social problems, usage results in health problems, usage results in risky situations, withdrawal occurs when stopping, and alcohol tolerance has occurred with use (APA, 2013). Alcoholism is considered for both a physical and mental illness (Mersy, 2003).

Environmental factors and genetics are two components that are associated with alcoholism, with about half the risk attributed to each (APA, 2013). A person with a parent or sibling with alcoholism is three to four times more likely to become an alcoholic themselves (APA, 2013). The World Health Organization estimates that as of 2010 there were 208 million people with alcoholism worldwide (4.1% of the population over 15 years of age) (WHO, 2014). Moffitt and colleagues have hypothesized that children high in neurobehavioral risk (e.g., high behavioral disinhibition or high anxiety or depression) and who are raised in poorly managed, dysfunctional families are much more likely to follow a course of early onset, life-course persistent problems (Moffitt, 1993; Raine et al., 2005).

Alcohol is a major contributing factor in nearly 40 percent of all traffic fatalities in the United States (McGwin et al., 2005). Among the one million people killed on roads during 2000, nearly 75% occurred in developing countries of the world with nearly half of them occurring in Asia (Gururaj, 2004), seriousness attracted many researchers to find the causal factors of alcoholism.

The environmental factor is one of the most accounted for alcoholism as the environment of children of alcoholics has been characterized by lack of parenting, poor home management, and lack of family communication skills, thereby effectively robbing children of alcoholic parents of modeling or training on parenting skills or family effectiveness (Nancy and Sam. 2014). Growing up in a household with alcoholic or mentally ill parents is more likely to produce lower self-esteem, greater dysphoria, and more anxiety in adulthood. Studies have shown that adult children of alcoholics show greater rates of anxiety, poor self-esteem, and depression (Glenn & Parsons, 1989).

Several influential theorists have speculated that much of the heritability for alcoholism is mediated by personality traits (Cloninger, 1987); antisocial, aggressive, and impulsive traits characterize the offspring of alcoholics (Sher, 1991); personality characteristics represent the intergenerational transmission of alcoholism (Sher & Trull, 1994); children of addicted parents demonstrate behavioural characteristics and a temperament style that predispose them to future maladjustment (Tarter et al., (1993); children of alcoholics have demonstrated lack of empathy for other persons, decreased social adequacy and interpersonal adaptability, low self-esteem and lack of control over the environment (Jones' (1968).

Additionally, Oliver and Patrick (1992) found that children of alcoholic or mentally ill parents are more likely to produce lower self-esteem, greater dysphoria, and more anxiety in adulthood. Anda and colleague (2002) support with their findings that children with alcoholic parents with having adverse childhood experiences are at the risk of alcoholism and depression in adulthood that their parental alcohol abuse and depression was accounted for their higher risk. Misuse of alcoholic problems is associated with excessively authoritarian or permissive parenting styles, unrealistic expectations of children's abilities (Mayes & Truman, 2002). Poor parental modelling and supervision may in turn impact on their children to engage in significantly more deviant behaviour and belong to more deviant peer groups (Carle & Chassin, (2004).

In view of the theoretical foundations and empirical findings pertaining to alcoholic dependence effect on the family environment and associated psychosocial problems, the study aims to assess the children of young adult alcohol dependent and non-dependent Alcoholic Parents. The finding of the study is expected to provide a baseline that can help individuals facing such problems among the children and their parents for suggesting the importance of psychological intervention for healthy environment of the children.

**Objectives:** Based on the theoretical and methodological foundation the following objectives have been set forth in the present study:

- 1) To check the psychometric properties of the selected behavioural measure in the target population.
- 2) To compare the children of young adult alcohol dependent and non-dependent on Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C).
- 3) To explore any significant relations between Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C).

**Hypothesis:** To meet the objectives, the following hypotheses have been set forth in the present study.

- 1) It was expected that the selected behavioural measures would find applicability in the projected population.
- 2) There will be a significant difference between the score of children of young adult alcohol dependent and non-dependent on Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C).
- 3) There will be a significant relationship between the dependent variables- Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C).

**Methodology:**

**Sample:** Two hundred children (100 boys and 100 girls); 100 children of young adult alcohol dependent parent selected from different hospitals and rehabilitation centres located in Manipur; and 100 children of young adult Non-alcohol dependent parent matching to the other counterpart group served as samples. The extraneous variables such as date of birth, sex record at birth, occupation, educational qualification, family structure (joint/nuclear), single/dual parenting, biological/step parenting were accounted for selection of the samples to be in accordance with objectives of the study. The age range of children will be between 6 to 11 age (children) and their parent will be 20-30 year of age (early adulthood) in view of the theoretical considerations pertaining to personality development (Santrock, 2006); and sample selection was done through random sampling procedure.

**Procedure:** After selection of the sample, necessary permission was taken from the parent of the participants, schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres and personal consent from the concerned individuals. Then, demographic and psychological tools constructed for selected behavioural measures were administered to the subjects by following the prescription of the manuals which were conducted in an individual condition. The data thus obtained was analyzed using appropriate statistical tools.

**Design of the Study:** The present study was a correlational design that alcohol dependence and non-alcoholic dependence children were selected randomly for comparison on Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C).

**Psychological Tools:**

**Demographic Profile:** A semi-structured Proforma was employed to provide information about the samples to served as cross checking of the true representation of the samples. The Demographic Profiles of the sample include gender, age, educational qualification, number of participant's sibling, family income, history of father's/ mother's alcohol dependence and treatment if any, previous history of any psychological and psychiatric problem which might have an effect on the psychological measures.

*The revised NEO personality inventory* (NEO PI-R) developed by Costa and McCrae (1992). It is a concise measure of the five major dimensions or domains of personality and some of the more important traits or facets that define each domain. Together, the five domain scales and 30 facet scales of the NEO PI-R allow a comprehensive assessment of adult personality. Domains and facets measured by NEO PI-R are Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C). For the present study, NEO PI-R Form S will be used and it consists of 240 items answered on a 5-point scale. It is self-administered and is appropriate for individuals who are 17 years of age or older. Internal consistencies for the individual facets scales ranged from .56 to .81.

**Results and discussion:** The raw data of the present study was checked for selection of the appropriate statistics, and psychometric properties of the test scale were also checked for the target population for methodological unassailability.

All analyses were performed using SPSS For each Alcoholic and Non-alcoholic parents, with Alcoholic status as the independent variable, and personality factors such as Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C) as dependent



variables. Post-hoc comparisons among alcoholic and nonalcoholic parents were based on LSD estimates. The assumption of homogeneity of variance was tested using the Levene statistic, and no large violations were found. Effect sizes were estimated using partial  $\eta^2$ . According to Cohen (1988),  $\eta^2$  values of 0.0099, 0.0588 and 0.1379 correspond to small, medium and large effect sizes, respectively.

Multivariate analyses of covariance controlling for demographic variables indicated significant personality differences among alcoholic and non-alcoholic parents groups. Compared to children of alcoholic parents and non-alcoholic parents, children of alcoholic parents scored significantly higher on Neuroticism but lower on Conscientiousness. Children of alcoholic parents scored lower on Extraversion (E), Openness (O) and higher on Agreeableness but this difference was not significant. The finding confirmed that a person with a parent or sibling with alcoholism is three to four times more likely to become an alcoholic themselves (APA, 2013).

Cross-sectional association analyses provide limited input on the cause and effect relation between personality traits of the children of alcoholic parents. Although individual differences in personality traits are particularly stable in adulthood (Terracciano et al., 2006), some evidence suggests that alcoholic/ substance use influences personality-related variables (Stein et al., 1987). Cigarette smoking contributes to stress, negative affect states, and the onset of clinical correlates of Neuroticism, such as anxiety and depressive disorders (Breslau et al., 2004). Piedmont (Piedmont 2001) reported substantial declines in Neuroticism and increases in Agreeableness and Conscientiousness in a group of polysubstance abusers following a rehabilitation program (Treméau et al., 2003).

**Table:** Showing the mean difference, reliability, homogeneity, F-ratio and partial eta square on dependent variables.

NEO-PI-R scales	Alcoholic	Non-Alcoholic	Reliability	Homogeneity Brown Forsythe	F	Partial $\eta^2$
Neuroticism	51.6 (.55) <sup>b</sup>	48.9 (.51) <sup>a</sup>	.79	.00	6.9**	.013
Extraversion	48.4 (.48)	49.3 (.40)	.74	.00	1.0 NS	.002
Openness	45.6 (.44)	46.4 (.39)	.81	.00	1.2 NS	.002
Agreeableness	50.9 (.49)	49.9 (.52)	.76	.00	1.3 NS	.002
Conscientiousness	47.0 (.55) <sup>b</sup>	49.4 (.52) <sup>a</sup>	.82	.00	5.5**	.010
Means with different superscripts differ significantly at $p < .05$ ; * $p < .05$ ; ** $p < .01$						

There are several limitations to consider when interpreting the results. This sample is not representative of the entire Manipur State population, but it was drawn from a probability sample that included Children of alcoholic and Non-alcoholic parents only. There may be many other factors which contribute to personality and many other adverse effects of Parents alcoholic on their children behaviour. However, the main findings are mostly consistent with the available literature.

As most studies on alcoholic used by a parent are conducted in adolescents and young adults, who are at life stages associated with the greater use of alcohol or other drugs.

Finally, some of the findings may be culture-bound (Pilia et al., 2006) Despite the limitations, the present study provided the adverse effect of Parental alcoholic on their children, that may invite the need for psychological intervention to the children at the same time to their parents for prevention

of alcoholic abused, especially in the targeted population and for wider of the nation.

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## **Mental Health, Coping And Social Support of Persons Living With Cancer In Mizoram, India : A Qualitative Study**

<sup>1</sup>Renthlei, R & <sup>2</sup>Sarathy, K

### **Abstract**

Qualitative research in reference to human behavior helps us in exploring how people feel and why they feel as they do. Mizoram is a small state of ten lakh population but it ranks the highest in number of cancer patients in the whole of India. Every year on an average there are about 1300 new cases diagnosed and about 600- 650 mortalities occur in a year in Mizoram alone. Although physical treatment is available in Mizoram there is no psycho-social treatment available for persons living with cancer here. Therefore several patients are compelled to travel outside the state for treatment. This paper examines the psychosocial challenges of Cancer in Mizoram with the objectives of understanding the mental health, coping and social support of Mizos living with cancer. The study is cross- sectional in nature and employs a descriptive design. Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions were conducted. The study observes that both men and women experience anxiety and depression. It was also observed that praying was a major coping strategy employed, and that in reference to social support, they received good social support however the presence of negative support was also reported.

**Keywords-** Insurance, Quality, Life Insuaran Policy, policy holders, Satisfaction, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Renthlei, R is Ph. Scholar of the Deptof Social Work, Mizoram University, Aizawl-796004.email:

mrenthlei7@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> Sarathy, K is Professor, Dept of Social Work, TISS. Gauhati.

**Introduction:** Qualitative research is used to help us accepting how people feel and why they feel as they do. It is alarmed with collecting in-depth information on the nature of the problems faced. Samples have a propensity to be smaller compared with quantitative projects that include much larger samples. Depth interviews or group discussions are two common methods used for collecting qualitative information. Qualitative research is concerned with mounting explanation of social phenomena. That is to say, it aims to help us to understand the world in which we live and why things are the way they are. It is concerned with social aspects of our world and seeks to answer question about : Why people conduct themselves the way they do; How opinions and attitudes are shaped; How people are pretentious by the events that go on around them; How and why cultures have developed; and the differences between social groups.

Qualitative research involves the studied use and collection of a variety of practical materials case study, personal experience, introspective, life story interview, observational, historical, interactional and visuals texts-that describe routine and problematic moments and meaning in individuals lives (Joubish et al., 2011). Qualitative research focuses on the social and cultural construction of meaning. Qualitative research taps into people's interpretations of their experiences. The purpose of qualitative research is more *descriptive* than *predictive* . The goal is to understand, in depth, the viewpoint of a research participant. Realizing that all understanding is constructed, different research participants are going to have different interpretations of their own experience and the social systems within which they interact (Vanderstoep & Johnston, 2009).

Cancer is a category of diseases characterized by uncontrolled and abnormal cell growth that often invades nearby tissue. Cancer cells can spread through the lymphatic system and the bloodstream. There are four main types of cancer: *Carcinoma* begins in the skin or tissues that line the cover of the internal organs; *Sarcoma* begins in the bone, cartilage, fat, muscle, blood vessels, or other connective tissue; *Leukemia* starts in blood-forming tissue such as bone marrow and then flows into the blood; and *Lymphoma* begins in the cells of the immune system (NCI Web page, b). Cancer is not a single disease but more than a hundred diseases that can occur in almost all of the organs and anatomic sites of the human body. (Maramaldi et al., 2008).

**Overview of Literature:** From the study of Slevin his colleagues (1996), Muckaden his colleagues (2003), Kiss and Meryn, S. (2001), Schroevers his colleagues (2003) have been found out that diagnosis of cancer evokes a wide range of emotions, such as fear, anxiety, anger, depression, despair and helplessness. When stress levels are high, resources are needed from people within the social environment to facilitate coping. A study on the influence of religion on physical health suggests that religion usually, but not always, plays a positive role. Illness can be either a *faith damaging or faith strengthening* event. *Various strategies used by the patients to cope with the disease were denying the presence of the illness*,  
Vol : IX-2 Spring (December) 2017 ISSN No: 2230 956 (UGC Approved Journal)

*inculcating a positive attitude, prayer and meditation, taking appropriate medicines and treatment for illness, exercise/other activities to divert attention, and keeping faith in doctor and his treatment* This has been found in studies like Seybold and Hill (2001), Vidhubala and colleagues (2006), Taylor (2001), and Zabalegui (1999)

In various studies like those by Helgeson (2003), Uchino and his friends (1999), Edelman, (2005), Kroenke and his friends (2006), have been found out that social support has been suggested to be more important for women than for men. *Larger social support network was associated with less severe depression for female patients and for younger patients but not for male patients or older patients. Overprotection and protective buffering, classified as negative support, were reported to negatively affect patient psychological distress and spousal satisfaction.*

**Cancer in Mizoram:** Tobacco smoking rate in Mizoram is very high among adults. A peculiar habit of using *Tuibur* (tobacco smoke-infused water) has also been observed in Mizoram. The habit of chewing betel quid, containing fresh betel nut, slaked lime wrapped in betel leaf is also widespread in Mizoram. Dried tobacco mixed with lime processed using the tips of the thumb on the palm of the other hand into a powder that is placed near the gum known locally as *Khaini* is also chewed in Mizoram.

The common types of cancer suffered by the men in Mizoram are cancers of the stomach, lungs, esophagus, hypo- pharynx, liver and naso-pharynx whereas women more commonly suffered cancer of the cervix, lungs, stomach, breast, ovary, rectum and esophagus (Population based Cancer Registry of Mizoram , 2011). In 2003-2004 there were 1209 new cases of men and 949 of women. There were 2273 new cases in 2005- 2006. In 2007-2008 there were 2334 incidence rate. There were 1393 new cases of men and 1137 new cases of women in 2009-2010. In 2010 there were 606 new cases of men and 451 new cases of women diagnosed with cancer. 2011 report suggests that the incidence of cancer is 891 and is believed to have increased.

**Statement of the problem:** Mizoram is a small state of over ten lakh population but it ranks the highest in number of cancer patients in the whole of India. Every year on an average there are at least five hundred new cases diagnosed and every day there are three deaths that occur due to cancer, according to specialists in the field. Mizoram is one of the states with highest incidence of cancer in the country. There are only few treatment and care facilities in Mizoram where holistic treatment is available and that too is poorly equipped. Although physical treatment is available there is no psychological treatment offered in Mizoram .Therefore several patients go out of Mizoram for holistic and better treatment. While treatment itself is very limited, research in the area particularly with reference to coping and social support is almost entirely absent. *This study will be the first to document mental health of Mizo cancer patients and understand their psychological burdens. Specifically the study will seek to identify problems related to anxiety and depression among Mizo cancer patients.*

*Positive mental health and adaptive coping mechanisms are likely to enhance physical health and response to treatment. Further, a strong social support has demonstrated benefits*



*in improving health status of cancer patients. Mental health burdens, coping and social support are likely to vary across gender and this study seeks to explore this in the context of persons living with Cancer in Mizoram.*

**Objectives:** To find out the mental health, coping and the source of social support received by persons living with cancer.

**Methodology:**

The study restricted itself to respondents registered in the Mizoram State Cancer Institute because a majority of the patients visit this centre for treatment.

This study is a cross-sectional in nature. It employed a descriptive design. Interview Schedule was constructed and before conducting the interview informed consent was taken from each and every one of the patients to be interviewed. A total number of fifty men and fifty women cancer patients who were diagnosed in cancer for a one year period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011-31<sup>st</sup> July 2012. The patients were above the age of eighteen years, literate and reside within Aizawl district.

Primary data was collected from the patients themselves through semi-structured interview schedule which included information on socio-demographic information, family profile, details about cancer, the availability and satisfaction of social support and patterns of support received.

Focus group discussion was also conducted with the patients themselves and the nurses to collect information on social support. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted with three Cancer specialists' to augment data on social support. Secondary data on incidence and prevalence of cancer as well as the psychosocial aspects was accessed through journals, books, and government documents.

Multistage sampling was used; in the first stage Aizawl district was selected purposively due to the fact that highest incidence of cancer is reported here. In the second stage using purposive sampling the Mizoram Cancer State Institute which registers most of the cases for care and treatment was selected. In the third stage a list of all patients registered in the Mizoram Cancer State Institute during a one year period with at least six months after care and treatment have begun, was obtained. In the fourth stage, proportionate sampling was used to draw men and women patients with the following inclusion criteria. a) Diagnosis of any type of cancer b) All stages of Cancer c) Men and women patients who were diagnosed with cancer in a one year period (1<sup>st</sup> July 2011-31<sup>st</sup> July 2012) and were willing to give informed consent d) Literate patients above eighteen years and e) Residence in Aizawl city.

The data collected through field survey was processed through Microsoft excel and with the help of computer software SPSS package.

**Results and findings:**

**Focus Group Discussion with men and women Cancer Patients.** Two Focus Group Discussions (one each for men and women living with cancer) were held at two different locations on different days to discuss the mental health, coping and social support of cancer patients. There were seven participants in the men's group with an age range between 36 – 71 years. There were eight participants in the women's group with an age range from 35 to 66 years. The objective was to understand the mental health of cancer patients.

In regard to the men, it was revealed that patients at a younger age had more problems and persons in older age were able to cope better and felt lighter as compared to young people. Most men were married and they were the breadwinners of the family and the additional problems of livelihood gave them a double burden. They reported that a direct question on whether cancer troubled them or not would often elicit an answer in the negative but that, however, in reality they are very much troubled by the disease and that they did not want to share their feelings with others. They further stated that they don't want people to see them predominantly as cancer patients. Even though they have a deep distress they don't want to show it and pretend that they are alright and this makes them suffer alone. They don't want to burden their family/ spouse and pretend as if they are not afraid of cancer which they confess that they deeply / secretly are indeed afraid of.

Older persons in the group accepted their disease and did not experience as much distress because they feel they have enjoyed much of their lives, they don't have a future to enjoy like the young people. They expressed that it was time for them to take rest and await death. This is why older persons reported better mental health as compared to young people in this group.

The kind of coping pattern used by persons living with cancer was also discussed. All the participants said they trust in God and praying is one of the most frequently used coping patterns used. *One of the patients said that "Christian kan ni a, Pathian hian engkim a tih theih kan ring a, cancer natna hi tihdam theih kan ring lo a, mahse Pathian chauhin kan natna hi a tihdam theih kan ring a ni". "As Christians we believe God can do everything and believe cancer is incurable and that the only way to defeat cancer is through the help of God".* Mostly men don't seek social support for the management of their mental health needs and said they instead exercise control their feelings.

For social support, their family and spouse were the main source. They don't seek emotional support because they don't want to burden their family. The main support received was instrumental support which they gain from so many friends and general community. In reference to informational support from general people they are cautious as a lot of misinformation can also be spread. They prefer to receive it instead from professionals, doctors and nurses.

Participants of the women's group had a lively discussion. They said that it's unbelievable when some cancer patients said the disease doesn't gave them any anxiety or distress. When we know we are not going to live long it will definitely affect our mental health. They believe majority of the women cancer patients will have anxiety and depression.

The main coping strategy used was praying a similar findings to the men's group. But unlike their male counterparts they seek social support actively. They talk about their disease with their women friend and among cancer patients which makes them feel relieved. However more women have reported experiencing both anxiety and depression. Emotional support, instrumental support and informational support are all received from friends and family but they felt that the way they receive is sometimes negative and not always supportive. *One patient said that, "Mi pangngai anga min en ka duh, ka dam em? Ka tha em? min zawt reng lo se k duh", "I don't want people to keep on asking how we felt; I want to be treated like normal persons".* They try to forget the fact that they have cancer but people keep asking how they

feel as a way of expressing that they care .But this has negative impact on the patients because they are in the process of trying to forget the disease and these questions and information provided by lay persons add to the stress perceived .*The suggestion that clearly emerges from this group discussion is that there is a strong need to educate people in the community on how to deal with cancer survivors and how to express care and affection. Information giving for cancer patterns is extremely crucial and it is evident that information received from general sources as compared to professional sources can have detrimental effects.*

**Key Informants Interview:** Three KIIs were also conducted and the main results are presented below.

**Interview 1:** Date and time of Interview: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, 9:30am, Duration: 30min Venue: Mizoram State Cancer Institute. The first interview was with a leading oncologist in the state of Mizoram he was asked for his observation on the mental health, coping and social support of cancer patients. The results indicate that cancer patients require counseling as they experienced high levels of anxiety and depression. More women patients appeared depressed than men in his opinion. The coping skills mainly used was denial, positive reappraisal of which praying is the most frequently used.

The local cultural context is important to understand. Mizos are predominantly Christian and tribal which meant that there is easy sharing of information among themselves. Local ties are strong and support for each other is generally good. Often this lead to situations which are not very conducive for recovery. For example, a person may stop taking a prescribed medicine, simply because a friend or neighbor also diagnosed with cancer, may have suggested so by saying, “I don’t feel good with that medicine, don’t take it”, and then the patient will just stop taking it despite the fact that professional opinion might have suggested otherwise.

**Interview 2:** Date and time of Interview: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, 1:00pm, Duration: 30min Venue: Mizoram State Cancer Institute . A second interview was conducted with another leading Oncologist. She was also asked about the mental health, coping and social support of cancer patients. She has observed that a lot of cancer patients report depression as well. “They also have insomnia, loss of appetite and they are selfish at times”. They want everything which will heal their disease even if others going to suffer, they only think about themselves and their disease. She said that while women are more depressed than men, the depressed men were more difficult to manage as they did not want to take any advice and were not as responsive in treatment. In her practice, women appeared willing to follow doctors advice. Further she added that patients who have a history of cancer in the family have more anxiety than patients without family history. Preoccupation with the disease was so high that most cancer patients would attribute every small ailment to their disease.

She reaffirmed the need for counseling and the importance of prayer in the average Mizo.

Social support while very good in Mizoram was likely to have varying effects. Excessive emotional support offered and received were in fact likely to drain the patient of energy. Instrumental support was seen as being greatly beneficial to patients living with cancer. The high cost of treatment often placed the person living with cancer in a vulnerable situation. Informational support by professionals was seen as most crucial because mizo people often shared information loosely

which interfered in management and treatment. These were the points where people need awareness.

**Interview 3:** Date and time of Interview: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, 2:30 pm, Duration: 30min Venue: Mizoram State Cancer Institute. The third interview was with the radiation oncologist and a most senior medical practitioner in the field of cancer. He reaffirmed the fact that a majority of cancer patients do face depression and that more women than men were depressed. However he also felt that women coped better than men because they disclosed their feelings to other which helped them a lot. Religion was stated as one of the most important coping strategies. Acceptance of the illness is one of the important coping strategies in his opinion. Denial would lead to problems in accepting treatment, management of illness and poor physical health

Social support was rated as being poor because 'Mizo people doesn't know what to say and what not to say, what to do and what not to do'. Therefore he opined that we need to increased general awareness in reference to cancer.

### Conclusion

Mizoram has the highest incidence of cancer in the world. This study explored the mental health, coping and social support of person living with cancer in Mizoram using qualitative means. Two Focus Group Discussion were held (one with men and one with women). Both groups reported that cancer patients have high levels of anxiety and depression however, women were perceived as being more likely to have depression than men. The perception that men do not want to share their feelings as easily as women could was reported by both groups. Men reported exercising control over their feelings in an attempt to protect family members from anxiety.

Prayer was seen as a major coping strategy by both groups. The three Key Informants Interviews also revealed that women were seen as more able to cope with illness and were more likely as well to face anxiety and depression. Being Christians even the informants expressed that religion and prayer were crucial for coping. Acceptance of the illness was seen as instrumental in coping.

On social support the data say that they received a good emotional, instrumental and informational support. As compare to men, women received more support but they were less satisfied. They seek for social support, they were relieved when they share their experience with their fellow cancer patients but this relieve does not take long. They quickly return to the state of anxiety and depression. *From the Focus Group Discussion it may be concluded that there is one mizo practice which cancer patients want the community to stop doing.* This refers to the practice that when a person is diagnosed with cancer, almost every person gathered around the house as if that cancer patient is going to die soon and they are afraid they will not have a chance of seeing him/her before s/he dies. *Emotional, instrumental and informational support were all sufficiently received by cancer patients but the way people offered it was not always perceived as supportive.* Sometimes the support received has a negative impact on their mental health. The source of their support was mainly family, neighbor and close friends. But when they received it from a completely different person they don't always find it supportive, they sometimes feel it is negative. *Information received is sometimes misinformation or disinformation which can negatively impact treatment seeking.*

This was evidenced from the Key Informant interviews as well. Key Informant Interviews held with professionals at Mizoram State Cancer Institute found out that social support is very good but the kind of support received has differing impact.

**Clinical Implication:** The study has a huge implication on clinical work. It has been found out that mental health is related with the immune system. When depression and anxiety level are high it can decrease the strength of the immune system. When patient have depression and anxiety it is difficult for the doctor to give treatment. In the case of the study area the patients sometimes did not want to take chemotherapy due to the information given by the general people and that is why information is sometimes negative information. When a patient is receiving a good social support it can decrease the level of anxiety and depression which is very important for the clinical aspect. One of the specialist in the field opined, “My patient said he had a back ache, I try to intervene by means of medicine, but from a long conversation I found out that he had lots of stress due to financial problem. It will be very useful if we have medical social worker who would reveal this kind of problem so that we can work effectively”. Likewise the study can have implication clinically and believed it will be of great help.

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**CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENTIST**  
(A National Refereed Journal: UGC Approved)  
ISSN No. 2230-956X



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