PREFACE

Manipur, a north-eastern state of India covering 22,356 Square Kilometres, comprising valley and hills, suffers from the problem of dropout at the Primary stage of education. High rate of dropout and Grade repeaters not only concerns the domain of education but it creates social, economic, educational and miscellaneous problems at State and national level. It hinders the growth and development of the nation.

The present study analyses the problem of dropout in Primary course for a period from 1963 to 1970. The area of study is mainly concentrated at Imphal town. The approach to the problem is historical, experimental and analytical. Photographs and figures are included for illustration only. The study is the first of its kind based on original sources.

The study is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter gives a genesis of formal education in the State that was started from 1885. Orthodoxy of the society, lack of consciousness, inefficient school administration, wrong policy of the Government in introducing the medium of instruction, late implementation of the First Five Year Plan and social, economic and other reasons made the progress of education slow.

The Second chapter deals with statistical data of the
problem on which the hypotheses are to be tested. A cohort of 5,497 fresh entrants in Class A in 1961 has also been followed up to Class VIII in 1970. The number of dropouts of the cohort along with the expended and wasted amount has also been found out. Related studies on the problem in different States of India are reviewed in the third chapter.

The fourth chapter deals with the design and method adopted in the study. The Field Survey tools used are School Information Blank, Information Sheet for Dropouts, Information sheet for stayins, Interview schedule for stayins, Interview schedule for Dropouts' parents and Guardians, Interview schedule for stayins' parents and Guardians, Interview schedule for Teachers and a Five-point Scale Opinionnaire consisting of seventy-five questions. Two stayins and two dropouts from each of the 133 sample schools of Imphal town are interviewed. The parents of those selected stayins and dropouts are also interviewed.

Incidence and rate of dropout and stagnation for Imphal town as well as for Manipur are studied in the fifth chapter. Its rate and incidence for boys and girls are given separately. Causes of dropout are hypothetically tested under school, pupil and family variables in the sixth chapter. Percentage of the causes of dropout is graded as responded by dropouts, parents of dropouts and teachers.

The seventh chapter deals with the relative importance
of the causes of dropout as given by three sets of judges — head teachers, inspecting officers and teacher-educators. Concordance or agreement among the three sets of judges are examined with the help of 'Concordance Test' and its significance is tested by the 'Coefficient of Concordance'. The common rank order can be accepted only when the 'Concordance - Coefficient' comes out significant. This test, therefore, makes it possible to establish an agreed order based on the community agreement among the various sets of judges.

The eight chapter concludes the study and suggests remedial measures for solving the problem of dropout. The remedial measures suggested here on the basis of the findings will help the future researchers taking up evaluation studies of their effectiveness by following suitable designs of experiment.