Mizoram has undergone changes socially and politically. The history of Mizoram is known very little due to the absence of authentic records and books, however; there are few books on Mizo history, Christianity in Mizoram and political development in Mizoram for consultation. It is felt that a study of social welfare administration in Mizoram is an important subject specially after it has attained autonomous district council, union territory and then finally a statehood in 1987.

Mizo society is based on social life. Social life was directed and controlled through the functioning of Zawlbuk institution. Youngmen who spent most of their time outside home were guided by Zawlbuk institution till 1930's. There is no such institution at present for guiding and disciplining the youth of present society. Y.M.A. and K.T.P. (C.Y.O) are in no way a substitute to Zawlbuk in so far as general discipline is concerned. In the place of a Village Chief there is a Village Council which is also believed to
be not very effective as a Village Chief. It did not earn that much of respect and regard from the villagers which a Village Chief earned.

Mizo adopted Christianity as their new religion. Formal education began under the Christian Missionaries which attracted them all and Zawlbuk institution became redundant in the new society. Subsequently, a political party system came into being in 1946 and brought home a new system of Village administration by electing Village Council members and abolished the old traditional Village Chief system.

In the close-knit Mizo society, voluntary organisations have been found to be very effective means of rendering a number of social services to the society. Prior to formation of voluntary organisations like Y.M.A., M.H.I.P. and K.T.P.(C.Y.O) in Mizoram there was voluntary labour called 'Hnatlang'. When 'Hnatlang' is called for a particular work either for a village or for an individual, one member from each family
of a village must participate in Hnatlang. The Government agencies also have made good use of these voluntary organisations for the promotion of social welfare in Mizoram.

The Thesis is divided into various Chapters. The first chapter deals with the profile of Mizoram. The land and the origin of Mizo with its traditional system of village administration has been discussed. With the slow and gradual growth of the life in Mizoram basic needs are increased. The Public Health Engineer Department has made effort for supply of water to urban and rural areas in Mizoram. The Health Services and Family Welfare Department comes up after the attainment of Union Territory and the Statehood with the aim to improve the general health and quality of life in Mizoram. The health of mother and child still constitute one of the most serious problems affecting the society. A number of Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and subsidiary Health Centres have been established in the whole of Mizoram in recent past. Universal Programme of Immunisation and
Maternal and Child Care Programme have been intensified through the medical staff in the whole of Mizoram.

The second chapter deals with the role of voluntary organisations in Mizoram. There are several voluntary organisations in Mizoram. These organisations play a very important role in the society. Some of the organisations are running Homes and Rescue Centres for the needy persons. The Government makes good use of these organisations for guiding the society.

In the third chapter, the evolution of the Department of Social Welfare has been discussed. This Department came into being only in 1972 in Mizoram. It has its Directorate under which ICDS, Nutrition Wing and Welfare Department are functioning within the state. Most of the Training Centres for handicapped and Homes run by the Department are established in the state capital.

Mizoram State Social Welfare Advisory Board under the Central Social Welfare Board
had been established on the order of the first Lieutenant Governor of Mizoram and the first Board Meeting was held on 4 Oct' 1973. In the fourth chapter the CSWB had also been dealt with in detail. The fifth chapter covers the study of Children Homes and Rescue Centres run on the voluntary basis by some of the organisations. The children in need of care and protection are on the increase due to misuse of sex and commonly found divorce in Mizo society. Economically distressed persons are increasing and destitute children too are increasing in the society. These Homes and Schools and Centres are given grant-in-aid by the State Government for the welfare services.

In the concluding chapter the efforts so far made in the state to alleviate destitute, disadvantaged and under privileged section of the society has been discussed. The principle of Mizo society called 'Sem sem dam dam, ei bil thi thi' which means, 'Equal share for all to survive, curse to death for not adhering to it' is missing in the present society. The importance of all individuals in the society is emphasised for development in the state.