CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter has been categorized into two sections. The first section presents background information of the study areas. The second section deals with methodological aspects of the present study including methods of study, sampling, source of data, tools of data collection, data processing, and analysis and limitations of the present study.

3.1. Background Information of Study Area: Mizoram

Mizoram is a mountainous region. Covering an area of 21,081 sq km, Mizoram is a green and hilly state at an average altitude of 1,000 m in the Northeast of India. It was one of the districts of Assam till 1972 and it became the 23rd State of the Union in February 20, 1987 (as per the Statehood Act of 1986). Flanked by Bangladesh on the west and Myanmar on the east and south, Mizoram occupies an important strategic position having a long international boundary of 722 Kms. It has a total of 630 miles boundary with Myanmar and Bangladesh. It shares borders with other Northeastern states of Manipur, Assam and Tripura, and neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The traditional chieftainship was abolished and the District and Regional Councils (created under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India) gave a substantial measure of local control. The Village Councils are the grassroots of democracy in Mizoram. Mizoram is divided into 8 districts: Aizawl, Lunglei, Kolasib, Mamit, Serchhip, Saiha, Champhai and Lawngtlai.

World-renowned for their hospitality, Mizos are a close-knit society with no class distinction and no discrimination on grounds of sex. The entire society is knitted together by a peculiar code of ethics 'Tlawmngaihna' an untranslatable term.
meaning on the part of everyone to be hospitable kind, unselfish and helpful to others.11

Population of Mizoram as per 2011 Census is 1.09 million comprising 0.55 males and 0.54 million females which constitutes only 0.09% of India’s total population ranking 29th in terms of population among all States and UTs of the nation. The density of Mizoram is 52 persons per sq. km. The highest density is observed in Aizawl district recorded as 113 persons per sq. km and the lowest is Mamit district with 28 persons per sq. km. Mizoram has recorded a decadal growth rate of 22.8% during 2001 – 2011 as compared to 28.8% in 1991 – 2001. Sex ratio has increased from 935 in 2001 to 975 in 2011. The highest sex ratio is recorded in Aizawl district (1009) and lowest in Mamit district (924). With literacy rate of 91.6 percent Mizoram ranks 3rd in the country. Male and Female literacy rates are 93.7 and 89.4 percent respectively.12

3.2. The Setting: Profile of the Study Area

The present study was conducted in the urban localities of Aizawl city, the capital of Mizoram state. The profile of the studied areas is presented in two subsections viz. core localities of Zarkawt and Dawrpui and other two peripheral localities of Bawngkawn and Zemabawk.

3.2.1. The Aizawl City

Aizawl is the capital of the state of Mizoram. It is the largest city within the state. It is also the center of all important government offices, state assembly house and civil secretariat.

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11 http://mizoram.nic.in/about/glance.htm
12 Census of India 2011: Mizoram Highlights, Directorate of Census Operations, Mizoram
As per provisional reports of Census India, population of Aizawl city in 2011 is 291,822; of which male and female are 143,803 and 148,019 respectively. In education section, total literates in Aizawl city are 253,588 of which 125,256 are males while 128,332 are females. Average literacy rate of Aizawl city is 98.80 percent of which male and female literacy was 99.30 and 98.31 percent. The sex ratio of Aizawl city is 1029 per 1000 males. Child sex ratio of girls is 989 per 1000 boys.\textsuperscript{13}

The Aizawl Municipal Council is in charge of Civic Administration of Aizawl City. It was formed in 2010 with 19 Members and is being administered by one Council Chairman, Vice Chairman and three Executive members. The AMC consists of 19 elected members representing 19 Wards of the city of Aizawl and others appointed by the Governor of Mizoram. One-thirds of the total membership is reserved for women; these six seats shall be rotated after every five years. The tenure of the Council is five years. There is a Ward Committee in every Ward. The Ward Committee consists of a Chairman, who is an elected Councilor from that Ward, and two members each from all the Local Councils within the Ward. There is also 78 Local Council in Aizawl with a term of 3 years. The Economy of Aizawl is basically sustained by Government services as it is capital of the state.

\textbf{3.2.2. Profile of the Core Localities}

Zarkawt and Dawrpui represent the core localities in the present study.

\textbf{Dawrpui}

Dawrpui Veng originated during the British regime in India. Following the same routine all over India, the British build Aizawl Fort in 15\textsuperscript{th} February 1890, the traders and the British soldiers use to settle in the area, and it became the then main administrative and trading area and holds its importance till date.

\textsuperscript{13} http://www.census2011.co.in/census/city/185-aizawl.html (access on dt.22.6.13 time 12:01 AM)
The name Dawrpui is christened after the year 1910 when the first permitted traders from plain areas called the area Bara Bazar since the main trade activities was performed from this market area. In Mizo language, the name of the locality was christened as “Dawrpui.”

Dawrpui Veng holds various prestiges from the past. In the year 1910, the first Civil Hospital was established during the regime of Major H.W.G Cole as a District Commissioner in Mizoram. On 9th January 1910, the first Market (Bazar) was opened where the barter system of exchange was initially come to an end. The first bank in Mizoram, ‘Apex Bank’ was established in Dawrpui Veng. In accordance with the prestige the locality hold from times immemorial, the locality still hold importance in the trade and economy of Mizoram.

Community/Voluntary Organization have a presence in the community just like everywhere else in Mizoram. Young Mizo Association (YMA), Dawrpui Branch which was established on 1988 and functioning till date. Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhwam Pawl (MHIP) and Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP) also established and is functioning till date.

The Civil Hospital which is the biggest hospital in Mizoram is located in the community and Aizawl Civil Hospital Quarters Welfare Committee established on 18th July 1989. The only shopping mall i.e. Millennium Centre is located at Dawrpui.

Zarkawt

Zarkawt is one of the most important and happening place in the city. Although it is not a big locality, it is an important commercial place. It was occupied by the missionaries and they established Mizo High School. According to the property census 2013 at present, there are about 345 household in the community and only 16 families belong to the BPL group. It is quite interesting to know that there is only one
Presbyterian Church in the locality and other religions denomination do not exist at all.

Presently there are three private schools and two government schools in the locality. Important government offices viz. PHE site office, Higher and Technical, Mizoram Board of School Education were located in the area. The only museum in the state is also in this locality. It is also headquarter of the two biggest local television operators viz. LPS and Zonet.

Around twenty (20) hotels were presented in this locality. A 3-star category hotel, Hotel Regency, has recently been inaugurated at Zarkawt.

3.2.3. Profile of the Peripheral Localities

Zemabawk and Bawngkawn are the peripheral localities selected for the present study.

Zemabawk

Zemabawk is located in the eastern part of Aizawl city and is periphery which is around 8 kilometers away from the core part of Aizawl city. Zemabawk was named after, ZEMA (THANGTHAWIJEM-A) one of the Indian Army. In the year 1894-he established a small community which is still today known as Zemabawk. The Village Council gave birth to Zemabawk North Village Council on 6th November 2002.

The locality is divided into five sections viz, Lungbial, Bukpui, Bung Bungalow, Falkland and Zokhawsang. Currently there are more than 2050 household with a population of around 13000. There are between 600 to 650 households who belong to BPL, who earn their livelihood by cultivation, daily labour and small business.

Community/Voluntary Organization have a presence in the community just like everywhere else in Mizoram. Young Mizo Association (YMA), Mizo Hmeichhe
Insuihkhwam Pawl (MHIP) and Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP) are the primary organizations present in the community. According to the YMA secretary presently there are 2350 YMA members. There are other organizations viz, JAC, BPL Association, Disabled Persons Society, and Sericulture Farming Cooperative Society in the community.

There are three Government Primary School, five English Medium Schools (both Primary and Middle), two Government Middle School, one High School and one Higher Secondary School in the community. Other important institutions like Cancer Hospital, RIPANS Centre, KVI Centre and Mizoram Science Centre located in the locality.

**Bawngkawn**

Bawngkawn is one of the oldest localities (Veng) in Aizawl. It is located in the eastern part of the city. It was first occupied by the Gorkhalies and later a few Mizo’s join the community. The first Primary School was established in 1954. In 1955, the Assam government set up a Project Office. The first Post Office other than the Main Post Office was opened in 1968 and YMA branch was also started in the same year. The locality had power supply in the year 1972; in that same year State Bank of India opened its first branch in the locality. In 1975 middle school was established and high school was established in 1988.

Its location is very important for the Aizawl City as it is the busiest road which connects other district as well as Assam State. The population of the locality increased rapidly so a new locality called Bawngkawn Chhim Veng was created in the year 2003. Presently there are 1800 household with 447 families belonging to the BPL group; which means that 24.83 percent of the populations were living below poverty line (BPL). There are 2816 YMA members (1713 male and 1103 female). There are
important institutions like – Greenwood Hospital, Rural Bank, State Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Apex Bank, PHE Site Office, Police Station and Health Sub Centre. They also have five (5) Anganwadi Centres within their locality. Educational institutions presented in the locality are - One Government College, two private Higher Secondary Schools, nine High Schools (1 government and 8 private), six Middle Schools (2 governments and 4 private), nine Primary Schools (5 governments and 4 private)

Apart from the above mentioned educational institutions, there is Sikkim Manipal University and one Nursing School run by Mission Foundation Movement. There are also two cyber café and two computer training centre run by the local people.

3.3. Methods of Study

Given the complex nature of the linkages between ICT and youth development, a mixed-methods was found to be the most appropriate for this study. The quantitative approach (descriptive survey) was used for the overall design of the study whereas the qualitative method (Focus Group Discussions) was intended to validate and elaborate on the former.

3.4. Research Design

The study is cross sectional in nature and descriptive in design. It is based on the primary data collected through quantitative and qualitative methods to understand the complex nature of ICT and youth. Field survey constitutes the method used for quantitative data collection while Focus Group Discussion (FGD) represents qualitative method of data collection.
3.5. Sampling

The present study uses multi-stage sampling procedure to select the localities, households and individuals of both male and female youth from four localities in Aizawl. Firstly, localities in Aizawl city were purposively (non-probability sampling) selected as core and peripheral localities for comparisons. The selection of localities was based on the economic and infrastructural development of the localities. In other words, the core localities are high development community while the peripheral localities represent the low development community.

Secondly, regarding selection of household, the sample households are randomly selected (probability sampling) from the list of households recorded by the Local Council in each locality.

Thirdly, from the selected households, both male and female youth between 14 to 40 years of age were selected based on probability sampling method. The sample size of the present study was 365 youth consisting of 188 youth from core community and 177 youth from peripheral community.

3.6. Methods of Data Collection

Interview schedule and focus group discussions were used to collect primary data for the present study. The interview schedule contains five sections with a number of sub-sections. Likert type scale item was used very often because the interview schedule containing multiple aspects cannot easily be measured with single items. The primary data is supplemented with secondary data collected from official records, local newspapers, magazines, books and journals etc.

3.7. Data Processing and Analysis

The quantitative data collected through structure interview schedule was coded, edited and processed through computer software packages of Microsoft Excel
and analyzed with the help of SPSS package. To analyze data, apart from percentages, simple averages and cross-tabulation, Karl Pearson’s product moment correlation techniques was used for drawing inferences.

3.8. Research Gaps

There have been a few studies on how tribal youth used ICT for their development. Most of the previous studies deal with the role of ICTs in economic upliftment of the poor. Little has been written about the accessibility, usage pattern and the impact ICTs had among the urban youth in Mizoram. How ICTs have influenced the quality of life of youth have not yet been adequately probed into. Social Work research on the importance of ICTs for youth development has not been widely documented. All these aspects will be covered in the present study.

3.9. Limitation

The major limitation of the present study was the small sample size of the study. The study was conducted only in four localities in Aizawl city, so it may not reflect the overall situation and picture of ICT and youth in urban areas of Mizoram, the generality of the findings will be very much limited.

In this chapter the methodology and research design employed for the study is presented. Also a brief introduction about Mizoram and Aizawl City, and the profile of the localities studied are presented.