In recent decades, the researches in demography and fertility in India have attracted much more attention of the researchers, planners and administrators and even of common people owing to the fact that the speed of national reconstruction in this country has considerably been lowered down by the problem of population explosion which has very adversely affected the population resource ratio: although organised attempts have been taken up to bring the directed changes in the material as well as ethical life of the Indian population. This very challenging situation to human welfare in India has concerned the people of ranks and files in the country. Social scientists and human biologists in India do not constitute a group of isolates by themselves, and naturally they have taken up some active interest in the study of the nature and intensity of this problem with a view to define and evolve all important measures and techniques which can very effectively solve this problem of human progress and welfare. However, it cannot be denied that as yet no concerted action has been taken up to study the demographic situation as found to regulate the life of the tribals in India who constitute a population of 30 million living souls (Bhowmik, et al., 1971). This observation as made by a group of social scientists receives a strong
support from the comment made by Professor M.N. Basu (1971) who holds "India, like other economically under-developed countries of the world, is handicapped in her attempt to deal with her population problem for the lack of sufficient reliable information of this field. The situation is, however, bleak in respect of her tribal population though it contributes to a good measure to the make up of the total population of India. Attempts have been made now and then to unfold demographic characteristics of the people living in rural and urban areas of India, but very few people have taken scientific notice of this phenomenon among the neglected tribal groups living in far off places in India". This serious gap in research is possibly due to the fact that undertaking of any such study on the tribal community is almost a monopoly of the anthropologists who have very little time and training to take up demographic research and fertility study. Concern of population problem has, therefore, not so far made much impact on the scientific pursuits of the anthropologists who, however, are expected to acquire better understanding of human problems in a totality of all important perspectives, although some of them have made a decent start by conducting some empirical investigations on fertility and population dynamics (Rele, 1963; Samuel, 1963; Nag, 1963; Pakrasi, 1966; Pakrasi and Malakar, 1967; Shukry El Hamamsy, 1968; Polgar and Rothstein, 1970; Scrimshaw and Pasquariella, 1970; Bhowmik, Chowdhury, Das and Choudhury, 1971;

Professor M.N. Basu (1971) has felt the need for anthropologists with demographic outlook and training to come forward for tackling the population problems which are rooted very much in the socio-cultural system than in the demographic laws and bye-laws. It is very much true that there is need for the investigation on the socio-cultural system that affects fertility life of the population and thereby delineates a distinctive demographic background for each ethnic group. It is beyond any controversy that the anthropologists can tackle the problem relating to socio-cultural system and performance of fertility of the women living in that system very nicely and efficiently than the others can do. Polgar has very nicely elucidated this point in the study of population dynamics (1972). He claimed that the first anthropological study on population dynamism dates back to 1891. It has been carried out by Ratzel (1922) on population density under different ecological and subsistence conditions and has been extended afterwards by numerous other scholars (Kroeber, 1947; Krader, 1955; Braidwood and Reed, 1957; Birdsell, 1957; and Bender, 1971). The other age old approach of anthropological research on population has been palaeodemography, the study of population dynamics based on the examination of skelated remains (Angel, 1947 and 1968; Nemeskeri, 1956; Howells, 1960; Vallois, 1960; Kobayashi, 1967; and Armelagos, 1968). It is of very late origin that the social
anthropologists have taken interest in demographic studies and have collected data for understanding marriage and residential patterns (Barnes, 1949; Borjahn, 1959; Nash and Nash, 1963; Howard, 1964; Hackenberg, 1967; and Rag, 1967). There are two major reviews available of the studies concerning socio-cultural influence upon fertility and mortality based on modern ethnographic data. These are done by Lorimer (1954) and Rag (1963). Anthropologists in many places have also collaborated with demographers to study population change (Borrie, Firth and Spillius, 1957; Lessa and Myers, 1962; and Brown and Winefield, 1965). There are some anthropologists who have published some data on fertility and mortality on their own (Mitchell, 1949; Fortes, 1954; Richards and Reining, 1954; Schapera, 1955; Darly, 1970; and Oberg, 1971). Systematic relationships of population size and density with social and political organisations have also been studied by some scholars (Naroll, 1956; Carneiro, 1961 and 1967; Stevenson, 1968; and Yengoyan, 1968). But very few concerted efforts have yet been made to study quantitatively and systematically the nature and degree of impact of various socio-cultural attributes of the population on its fertility structure as well as mortality background.

In India, the enquiry relating to fertility and mortality was first introduced by the Census of 1911, and afterwards it gradually gained a momentum through different census operations. In addition to this census approach, several attempts have been made afterwards to know the different
aspects of fertility through local surveys and individual studies. Gradually it happened that some scholars from different branches of social sciences and human biology took a keen interest in studying the reproductive life of the Indian women with special reference to some aspects of general fertility (Gurjel, 1920; Sarkar, 1944; Sen, 1953; Roy, 1954; Rakshit, 1962; Bhowmik and Bhowmik, 1967; Bhowmik and Gupta, 1968; Bhowmik and Choudhury, 1967; Bhowmik and Choudhury, 1970; Bharati Devi, 1970; and Bhowmik and Das, 1970). In addition to these studies relating to human reproduction, several fertility surveys in different regions of India was carried out by several scholars from different disciplines. In the Punjab, a fertility survey was made to know its relation with economic and social status (Jain, 1939). Afterwards, a study on the demography of the Parsis was carried on (Chandrasekharan, 1943). The social survey of Kolhapur city by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics made a detailed investigation of population and fertility (Sowani, 1948). In later years, this Institute carried on some other important fertility surveys. The fertility survey as made in the district of Poona describes the fertility pattern of the population in general and rural-urban differences relating to fertility performance in particular (Dandekar and Dandekar, 1953). It is found that the level of fertility in the city area is a little higher than that is found in the non-city area. A further survey was carried on in the three neighbouring districts of Nasik, Kolaba and Satara (north). The findings reveal that in two of these districts the rural women have slightly higher gross reproductive
and maternal net reproductive rates than the urban women, 
while the condition found in the other district is just the
reverse (Govani and Dandekar, 1955). Afterwards, a detailed
survey was carried out by the Gokhale Institute in six rural
centres in six districts of Parbhani, West Khandesh, Ahmednagar,
Baknagiri, Belgaum and Gulbarga of Western India (Dandekar,
1959). This study has made an interesting inference that the
level of fertility in general seems to have remained more or
loss static in recent years, though the investigation has
reported some evidences at some of the centres of a certain
decline in fertility in recent years. This is quite contrary
to the findings that are quoted in fertility and mortality
studies from different parts of India. The Princeton Univer-
sity contributed three valuable studies on Indian population
and fertility (Davis, 1951; Coale and Hoover, 1958; and Driver,
1963). In the first of the series, Davis analysed the data
from the census of India and Pakistan and presented a fertility
as well as mortality background of the population in relation
to the socio-demographic characteristics of the people. The
second study as made by Coale and Hoover deals with the poten-
tial effect of declining mortality on population growth and
economic development in India. The third one of the series,
based on the survey of house-holds, was conducted by Driver
in Nagpur District and the study was made to determine : (1)
"whether the number of children ever born varies among women
who are differentiated by place of residence, religious or
caste affiliation, employment status and educational achieve-
ment, and by the type of occupation, annual earning, land
tenure, land ownership and educational achievement of their husbands; (ii) 'whether the differences or similarities among sub-groups in fertility are related to their age distribution'; (iii) 'whether there is any connection between the fertility average of sub-groups in each social category and the age in which their women usually marry'; (iv) 'whether there is any relation between fertility average of sub-groups and the percentage of their couples using birth control devices. The National sample survey under the sub-title of COUPLED FERTILITY had given a wider coverage in delineating the fertility background of Indian population in general (Dasgupta and others, 1955). A detailed examination of a number of aspects of fertility and differential fertility was carried out in a sample survey in Calcutta (Lukberjenc, 1961). This study has been made in the supposition that the human fertility is essentially related to environment, culture and economy. With reference to this background, the study has made an attempt to examine the differential fertility rate as found to be reported from among the two groups of women. The first group includes those who have lived in the city all their life and have settled long enough in the city to become more or less urbanised. The second group consists of those women who have migrated from the rural areas to the city within a comparatively short period of time and therefore have not become fully urbanised. This study reveals that the women with more urbanisation are exposed to a low level of fertility. Further, the findings have shown that the factors like age at marriage
of women, duration of married life, age of woman at giving first birth, family size, family income husband's occupation and education of woman bear some relationship with the fertility performance of the woman. Chandrasekhar carried on a detailed demographic survey in a Madras village. This study has presented birth rate, death rate and factors contributing to these rates. As regards differential fertility, he has found the highest fertility among the caste Hindu group, followed by the Harijans and the Muslims and the Christians (1962: 153). Maulik of Anthropological survey of India (1970) conducted a fertility study among the patients under maternity care in three hospitals of Calcutta. She observed that such factors as literacy and the economic level have started affecting the fertility pattern in Calcutta. The Institute of Social Studies (Calcutta) has carried on a good number of research projects relating to the general fertility background and the relation of socio-cultural characteristics to fertility performance. The studies made in respect of Zemi women, Muslim women, Dule Bauri women, Foudra women, Raju women, Tiyar women, Kaora women, Rulia women, Sumandal women, Gaddi women and Angami women show certain similarity in fertility and mortality background; and as regards socio-cultural characteristics it is seen that the impact of such characteristics is differentially operative among different ethnic groups (Bhowmik, Ghoudhury and Das, 1970).

This brief review of studies on fertility in India reveals that the subject of fertility has long been recognised
to Indian scholars but it is only recently that the subject has received some considerable attention from the anthropologists. However, it is known to each and every population sociologist and anthropologist that to draw any valid conclusion or to make any generalisation requires the collection of all necessary data from all groups of the population and from all corners of the country. Thus the few number of studies so far made do not give us any over all estimate of the fertility pattern of Indian women but truly provide the research workers with the required lead and impetus in carrying on research in their respective field of studies.

This comprehensive review of all available literature on the subject has led the present researcher to select this problem with the aim at studying fertility behaviour of an ethnic group whose members inhabit the village Chiechama in Kohima district of Nagaland. The general purpose of this study is to delineate a faithful account of fertility pattern as found among the members of an ethnic group who constitute a very important Naga community of Nagaland. This study, in the first place, intends to describe population characteristics, and on the background of these characteristics it is proper to unravel all socio-biological facets of fertility performance and to evaluate the impact of all socio-cultural attributes of family on the level of fertility performance. The general outline of this study is so designed that it can give a fair treatment to all academic and applied aspects of population statistics with reference to a particular field.
situation. On the academic side, the method followed and the material presented in the study are to help the population anthropologists and sociologists in predicting the future fertility trend and to develop some methodological refinements.

Researches undertaken by the social scientists over space and time have led them to isolate human characteristics, understand those characteristic in the background of socio-cultural values, and group all human beings according to the merits of these characteristics. These are done before any attempt is made to know a part or the whole of cultural dynamics, or to analyse a part or the whole arena of societal interactions. This particular way of conceiving all human affairs and analysing all human behaviour has become very much popular in current anthropological and sociological researches. In recent decades the following of this tradition in demographic research has earned a considerable attention. In fact, several investigators belonging to the discipline of population sociology have reported fertility patterns of groups of people who are differentiated according to either residence, religion, literacy, caste, economic status, or any other characteristic of socio-cultural importance. As far as the demographic situation in India is concerned, several scholars from various fields of social sciences and human biology have already carried on some valuable studies on human fertility and have concluded on the merits of their findings that there is a strong basis for assuming a differential fertility in different strata of one and the same
population. Sociological Studies have already made it clear that each and every human being in the society has a particular role to play. The role he plays determines the volume and the direction of his deeds. Thus in sociological studies to know the role of an individual is a must, particularly when somebody wants to know the action that he has carried out or the behaviour that he has expressed. In any society the role of an individual becomes determined by the status that he owns. In acquiring a particular status the individual depends on the set of personal characteristics which he possesses. Therefore, the complex of personal characteristics of an individual determines the length, breadth and depth of what he did, what he does, and what he is to do. This situation has led us to organise the main objective of our study which assumes that personal characteristics have some influence on fertility performance. In agreement with this main objective some secondary objectives are organised to study the socio-demographic background of the population, fertility background of the population, and the relation of some important personal characteristics with fertility performance.