CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

FINDINGS

Socio-Political

1. Manipur is indeed endowed with bountiful natural resources.

2. The abundant rainfall is not fully utilized. Water conservation and management if properly undertaken can greatly produce Hydro-power.

3. Forest and forest products have been exploited in the absence of other alternative sources of income to the people. It is a fast dwindling resources of the state.

4. So far, no serious effort seems to have been made to tap the fossil fuel resources such as coal and oil.

5. Surface transport and communication appear to be the biggest bottleneck in the socio-economic uplift of the state. Remote places are still isolated adding to the backwardness of the State's trade Commerce and education and health services.
6. Corruption in the Government has seriously affected the socio-economic progress of the state in all directions. Schemes are presented to get funds from Delhi. But once the funds come nobody knows how they disappear and the state remain as backward as it was a decade ago and schemes remain on paper only. It seems we are in a new age of "Grab and grab" and "make hay while the sun shines" by everybody in power. One wonders what they will rule with when as they cry hoarse they will realise their goal of independence from the Imperial rule of Delhi which they say is exploiting the state "The pot calling the kettle black".

Essential commodities such as rice, sugar, kerosene etc. under the public distribution system, never reach the poor especially in the hill areas. Black marketing thrives in this state as no where else.

Insurgency

... All aspects of civil life of the state is being seriously affected by insurgency. They are the ones who lead in human rights violation. Their tax collection
from every employee drains the resources of the family life of a wage earner. That means giving proper education and health care to the children are being eroded by their demands. Large chunks of funds allotted for various development schemes are siphoned off at source by threats to the Government administrators to part with them, even before implementation of the schemes. Education in the state is one which has suffered much on this account. The deplorable state of schools and their basic needs of infrastructure are affected so much that combined with corruption and red tape education in the state is on the decline. The National Students Union of India Manipur are planning on a mass suicide (Free Press, 8-1-98) if their charter for improvement of eduction in the state is not met by Jan. 9th 1998. Another alarming situation is day by day more insurgent groups or mushroom groups are appearing, out to extort money, abduct and hijack vehicles. These have become the order of the day.

The ethnic violence does not seem to abate. The Government because of the politician insurgent nexus, is a failure in governance. In fact, the insurgents call the time of public life, calling forth for public
bandhs, harrassing trade and commerce, blocking High ways impairing movement of essential commodities and making life anything but peaceful.

The final conclusion is that if this situation continues much longer, the Manipur state as such may lose even its identity and turn out to be the hunting ground of insuregency. The vast natural potential and human resources will all be given the go by. The cream of the society will go where they can find opportunities and only the scum will remain.

**Education**

1. The state of education in Manipur is anything but satisfactory. Rural hill areas are the most neglected.

2. The facilities available are mismanaged. Schemes for improvement are on paper but not implement.

3. In terms of quantitative development, the progress in education is impressive in the plain as well as in the hill areas of Manipur. With the coming
of the Missionaries, modern education has taken firm ground in the minds of the people. When we look back on the product of the early schools, the qualities were far better then the present days product. For example, most of the leaders of the states are the product of those early schools.

4. It is sad to say that today's schools or institutions are a mere show box, which is empty inside. People in the villages are satisfied with the mere coverage of the National Educational Net Work. The Government schools in the villages depict hopelessness, frustration and sense of injustice. For ages, the condition of these school remain the same or rather it is worsening year after year. There is no sign of improvement in the Government run schools. So much of financial investment is involved, yet, the output is extremely poor. The results in most of the schools in H.S.L.C examinations are below standard. There are hardly anyone passing in the first division in H.S.L.C examinations in the Government schools. The performance of the Government schools as a whole is indeed disappointing.
5. Once the editorial of Free Press Imphal (16/10/96) gave a commendable suggestion. "If we are to improve performance of the Government schools, the only means is to privatise them."

6. It is observed that schools are established at random without seeing whether they are properly located or not. Just to fulfill the universalization of education till the age of 14 years, Primary schools are opened up without proper check and maintenance. The existing schools need proper administration.

7. Infrastructure :-

   i) Many school buildings need immediate repairing. Some of the schools do not have their own school building. They are running the school in rented houses.

   ii) There are no staff quarters, the properties of the school cannot be safeguarded.

   iii) There are no Library and Science Laboratory facilities.
iv) Many schools do not have their own playground. Every school should be provided with proper playground.

8. Uplifting teachers:

1) The Headmasters are not given special orientation programme. They need special attention on institutional planning and management.

2) As far as possible, special advance increment should be given to the sincere teachers so that others may also be challenged to take up positive steps for improvement of education specially in teaching. Some teachers are so indisciplined and with no sense of responsibility, this sort of irresponsible teachers should be corrected.

3) The best teacher award should be given circlewise, district wise and state wise respectively once or twice a year in order to improve the quality of teachers. But these things are not practiced.

4) There is absolutely no co-ordination in the matter of training teachers.
v) Proper substitutes are not provided during the period of training of the teachers.

9. Discipline :-

1) Many teachers do not give top priority to their jobs. There are teachers who engage themselves in trade, business, contract and use their teaching profession only as a stepping stone.

ii) Teachers attendance are not checked strictly by the Headmasters. The headmaster must record the leave account to show at the time of inspection. All type of leave except casual leave should be entered in the service book.

(iii) There are teachers who hire substitutes by proxy to work in their posts.

(iv) The teachers are not punctual at all. Many teachers come late to school and leave the school before time.

(v) Headmasters are not effective in controlling the teachers.
(vi) Many a teacher takes extra tuition and shows partiality to his tuition students.

10. Appointment, Posting and Transfers:—

1) Most of the teachers are appointed by the ministers or through bribery without considering the merit of the person. Many unqualified teachers are appointed.

ii) There are many adhoc appointment and substitute teachers which should be done away with.

iii) Government recruitment rules are not followed.

iv) Teachers are transfered without replacement.

v) Many teachers are transfered along with the post.

vi) Teachers posted in the hill areas are utililized in the valley. Twentyeight male teachers which are mostly from Science stream have been utilized including the Vice-Principal of the Ukhrul Higher Secondary School, L. Gourachandra singh.
vii) Many Science teachers from Ukhrul District have been transferred to valley along with the posts, various appeals have been made but there is no improvement on the problem.

11. Health Care :-

There are no health care facilities for the school children, especially in the hill areas. Of course there are some Primary Health Centres in the District but most of them are not functioning properly. Children in the villages are extremely poor hygienically.

12. Inspection of schools :-

i) Many inspectors are not sincere in their duties. Many schools located in remote places are not inspected for many years.
11. The inspectors after having found the problems faced by the schools do not try to solve the matter, such as irregularities of teachers, indiscipline of students and lack of proper infrastructure etc.

iii) Some of the schools are located in remote and far-flung parts of the state. These places do not have communication and transport system. One had to walk for days together on foot. Under such circumstances, it is difficult to go and inspect and collect information from the school personally. And in some areas due to ethnic clash, there is no free movement.

13. There is no co-ordination among the parents, village leaders, headmaster and the teachers of the school, which is very essential for the development of schools.

14. There are many private schools which are in great financial problems. The Government should help them financially or check the mushroom growth of school in the state.
15. A thorough survey is needed to diagnose the real problems of the existing schools as to why the common people and the students in general have lost faith in the Government schools and teachers.

16. Drastic change from grass root level is the need of the hour. The Government should nurture the already existing schools and uplift them before spending more funds for new avenues.

RECOMMENDATION

For what is it worth in the light of the author’s study of the Socio-political impact of Education, the following recommendations if given a trial, will go a long way in improving the present state of backwardness of the state of Manipur.

Socio-Political

There is great imbalance in the exploitation of the natural resources of the state to make the state economically viable. Great improvement in several directions such as transport and communication, health
services and education can be achieved if the income to
the state exchequer increased. Forests are over
exploited with no simultaneous afforestation programme.
So much manpower is available and can be used to carry
out intensive afforestation programme. The water
resources need to be more effectively managed and
utilized. It is amazing that with such heavy rainfall
people suffer from acute drinking water shortage during
the dry winter months. The Fisheries potential is also
only marginally exploited and must be intensified.

Fossil fuel and mineral wealth of the state remain
untouched almost. Steps should be taken to tap these
resources soon to help out the state from its perennial
financial crunch.

There is no heavy industry worth its name in the
state. This is tied up with poor power generation. In
the last five years, load shedding is only on the
increase with no diversion of power at all to any other
consumer, such as heavy industry, etc. Hydro-power can
be exploited with proper water management and as
construction of reservoirs, etc.
Every village must be made accessible by construction of roads. This is one of the main cause for the backwardness of the state. Agricultural products do not find outlets from the villages and trade and commerce are handicapped for lack of transport facilities. Not only trade, but also health and education of the hill people continue to be primitive. In this context, the disturbance of the undergrounds to laying new roads, by BRTF is hindering further any improvement to the prevailing condition. But this work should proceed with army protection and not given up. The existing two National Highways are prone to constant interference from the undergrounds that any blockade cuts the state from the rest of the country. This brings great economic hardship to the people since the state has to depend only upon supplies from outside. The frequent bandhs blocking the highways is an additional problem. The exhorbitant tax collected illegally by the Check Post staff and undergrounds adds to the high cost of living in the state. These must be checked and smooth movement of traffic insured.

Politically, Manipur has been a cauldron of instability and unrest and has brought all progress to a halt and more than that the chaotic condition is in
the increase. As the saying goes 'Fence eating the crop', corruption in the Government goes on with impunity. They speak of India Government imperialism and so on. But the huge amount of State's budget demands provided by the Government of India vanishes into thin air because of corruption. The undergrounds talk about human rights violations by the Government of India. But through their 'gun tax' do not allow any employee the right to enjoy his salary and extortion goes on unchecked. In this way they are forcibly taking out money intended for the people of the state and in the process shedding innocent blood and destroying the bread winner crushing the human rights of whole families. The problem is compounded further by the nexus between the politicians and Undergrounds. There appears to be no tangible solution to this problem which has put the political clock back altogether and has stalled all progress in the state. Being by far the most important socio-political problem, no easy solution can be found unless Undergrounds came over ground and join the main stream and co-operate with the Government to build the society. This focuses one to the fact that the people must be educated and public opinion built up to resist these forces of evil. But
this cannot be achieved overnight. It is in this context that education must play its key role in character building.

Education

In view of the poverty of the people, education up to +2 should be made free with free meal and books at subsidised rate. The funds saved by abolishing scholarships, to the backward which is lost in corruption, could be plowed back to improve infrastructure and quality of education. There are many drop outs at the 7th to 10th standard stage because most of them who came from the hills cannot afford to live in cities to prosecute their studies too long.

This existing institutions should be improved qualitatively with proper inspection and stricter enforcement of rules and regulations regarding discipline, promotion, transfer of staff and not politically manipulated. Proxy teaching by teacher who cannot stay at the place of posting but appoint their own substitutes is abetted by the ethnic problem. To avoid this, teachers belonging to the same ethnic group in the place where the institution is located should be posted there. There is no point in posting of a teacher to a place where his life will be in danger.
Refresher training to update teachers should be properly managed so that the student community is not deprived of reaping of the benefits of updated teachers. There should be no favouritism and political interference. Such updated teachers should also be properly utilised by providing the necessary infrastructure.

Even pupil in remote areas should be exposed to modern technology such as Computer Science and through mass media (electronic) T.V. Their knowledge should be widened by bringing within their reach, the culture and life of other people of the world, nature, advances in Science and technology etc. For this purpose the Education Department should organise a mobile team which will visit different schools and conduct their programme routinely.

Education in Manipur should have some relevance to its primarily agro-based economy. Their curricula must relate to developing this economy and make the people self reliant. They must be taught scientific methods of Agriculture and Horticulture. Fisheries, Apiary, Sericulture, Poultry, Piggery etc. A good part of the curriculum must be based on applied sciences.
Dearth of Science and Maths teachers should be overcome by recruitment even from outside the state and by offering suitable incentives.

The dreadful spectre of AIDs is taking a heavy toll of lives combined with drug abuse. Most of the victims are trapped out of ignorance. Health education therefore is a must in the school curriculum, which may go a long way to halting the toll of human lives. Almost allied to this problem is lack of serious efforts in people to have small families. Family planning should be formed as an important part of Health Education at all levels starting from the high schools.

Above all as referred to elsewhere trying to build the human personality by dealing only with the physical and mental level of the human to the exclusive of his spiritual life tends to produce a lopsided personality. Corruption, drunkenness debauchery, blackmail and delinquency are social evils that can be traced to such a lopsided development. Therefore, the curriculum must include exercises in character building. For "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is reproach to any people" (King Solomon).