CHAPTER III: MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this chapter we shall discuss the materials collected for the present study and the methods that we have applied in it.

3.1. Period and Duration of Field Work.

The field work of the present study was conducted in the five villages falling under the War area during the period from September to November, 1990.

3.2. Sampling Method

Since the War Khasi are distributed in more than 250 villages, we have made a 2% statistical-random sampling of the War villages. In preparing this sampling, first of all, we have made a list of villages falling geographically under the War country. It may be mentioned that some problems were arising at the time when we prepared the list of villages (including hamlets), because we were not ascertained which villages would be included in our sample. Consequently, we have taken the help of the State Government list of villages, falling under the Border Area, along with the assistance of some individual sources in preparing the above mentioned list. The 2% statistical-random sampling of the listed villages were done by a statistician, and eventually, five villages, namely, Kenbah, Mawsiangeni, Nongla, Wahummlein and Lapa-lang were covered under our study. The location of these five villages has been shown in the map (Figure 1).

The total number of households in these five villages is altogether 366; 58 in Kenbah, 41 in Mawsiangeni,
Table 1. Distribution of households according to village and religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Total No. of households</th>
<th>Christian</th>
<th>Non-Christian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenbah</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mawsiangei</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongla</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahummlein</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapalang</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 366       152     214

Table 1(a) Distribution of Christian households according to village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Number of Christian households</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenbah</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mawsiangei</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongla</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahummlein</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapalang</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 101       38     6     7     152
Fig.1

LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

LEGEND

- KHYNRIAM
- PNAR
- WAR
- BHOI
- LYNGNGAM
- GARO

ROAD
TOWN
THE VILLAGE WE CONDUCTED THE FIELD STUDY

Fig.1

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24 in Nongla, 33 in Wahummlein and 210 in Lapalang. Table 1 shows that out of 366 households, 152 are Christian and 214 non-Christian households. Table I(6) shows the household distribution of Christian sections in each of the five villages. Out of 152 Christian households, 101, 38, 6 and 7 are the Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Church of God and Fellowship respectively. It may be noted that there are no other communities, like the Garo, Mizo, Naga, Nepali, Bengalee, etc. who have settled in the above five villages, except those who have come through matrimonial alliances. Thus, data were collected from the Christian and non-Christian War Khasi only. It may also be mentioned that complete enumeration was done in each of those five selected villages.

3.3. Christian and non-Christian Defined

In the present study, the term 'Christian' has been used to refer to those individuals who are by faith Christian. Christianity includes the Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Church of God and Fellowship denominations.

**Non-Christian**, on the other hand, includes those people, who believe in traditional War-Khasi religion (i.e. Seng War Khasi) and those who are believer of Hinduism.

3.4. **NATURE OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

The nature of demographic data collected, was based on the parameters suggested by the World Health
Organisation (1964 and 1968). These are as follows:

**Individual records:** include - name of informant; relationship to head of the household; date and place at which record was taken; clan; tribe; religion; community affiliation; total number of family members; age; sex; marital status; place of birth; place of residence; etc.

**Fertility** includes - pregnancy history of each woman; present age of mother; approximate age at each conception; total number of livebirths; birth order; name, age, sex and marital status of each offspring; etc.

**Mortality** includes - number of death children; sex; date of birth; age at death; number of reproductive wastages (abortions and stillbirths); etc.

**Social correlates:** include - monthly and annual income; age at marriage; education; etc.

**Marriage pattern:** includes - consanguineous relationship between husband and wife prior to marriage; present place of residence; original place of residence; frequency of multiple marriages; function of clan exogamy; etc.
**Family Planning:** Includes positive and negative attitude towards family planning; availability of family planning advices; sources of advices; nature of contraceptives; duration of use; reason for discontinuation; etc. However, as far as the present study is concerned, no report has been obtained regarding adoption of family planning methods.

3.5. **Methods of Data Collection**

The entire demographic data were collected through pedigrees and questionnaires from all the 366 households of the five villages. The household schedule/questionnaire - carrying information on age, sex, marital status, tribe, religion, occupation, place of birth, place of residence, etc. was collected from the head of the household or in his/her absence from other elderly member of the household, who is capable of supplying the relevant information. The questionnaire used has been given in Appendix.

The fertility schedule was completed by filling information on number of livebirths, dead children, reproductive wastages, etc. from the married women. Pedigrees were also collected for cross checking the data on fertility. Sometimes, data, given to us by the married women, were cross-checked from their respective husbands.
It may be mentioned that great difficulties were experienced in the assessment of age, particularly of the elderly women, since they were not aware of their real age. Consequently, in these cases, we had to estimate their age with reference to some important local events and to the age of some other individuals, who seemed to be in the same age group. Thus, in this connection, there could be some mistakes in the estimation of age.

3.6. ANALYSES OF DATA: CLASSIFICATION

Mortality: For analysing the data on mortality, three parameters have been taken into consideration. These are: infant mortality (died before one year of life); juvenile (or premature) mortality (deaths before 15 years of age) and reproductive wastages (abortions and still-births).

Income Level: In sorting out the income groups, the families having a monthly per capita income of Rs. 300/- or less, were considered to be in the Low income group. The families having a monthly per capita income of Rs. 301/- to Rs. 500/- were categorised as the Middle income group; and those with monthly per capita income of Rs. 501/- and above, were termed the High income group. However, this economic classification is certainly arbitrary. But as far as the present study is concerned, we have used this classification with the main objective to observe how fertility and mortality are influenced by
the rise in income level.

**Educational Level:** The individuals who are not able to read and write are grouped as Illiterate. Those who could read and write and those who have had education up to the standard III, are grouped under Primary Level. All other academic, vocational and professional types of education are included in the category of Above Primary level. This classification of educational standard is also arbitrary. It may be noted that there were a very few persons, who have had educational standard up to Above the primary level. So, this classification has been followed in this report in order to find out the effect of education on fertility and mortality.

**Mating pattern:** The following points were taken into consideration, while analysing data on mating pattern:

a) Consanguineous relationship between husband and wife before their marriage; pedigrees were drawn showing the exact relationship between the couples.

**Marriage distance:** For analysing the marital distance, we took into consideration the distance between the birth places of spouses; and the distance between the two places as reported by them were later cross-checked as far as possible. It may also be noted that in determining the distance between the birth places of spouses, we have taken into consideration the shortest walkable
distance (in Kms) and not the actual map distance.

Comparison: We shall compare the present findings with those available on the populations of northeastern region of this country and also with those on the populations in the rest of India and elsewhere. We shall do all comparisons as far as possible. It may be noted that due to non-availability of all possible literature and inadequate infrastructural facilities in this part of the country, we might have missed some existing literature.

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