CHAPTER – III

METHODOLOGY
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3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter depicts the method and procedure followed in the study in order to obtain necessary data with reference to the objectives of the present study. The investigator followed the survey method. This method describes and interprets what exists at present. This kind of investigation is concerned with conditions and relationships that exist, practices that prevail, points of view or attitudes that are held and processes that are going on.

The data needed for the present study were collected from various documents and records maintained by the different government offices, Deputy Inspector of Schools, libraries and Primary Schools. A survey of the Primary Schools was also made through questionnaires and interview schedule.

3.1 POPULATION:

The population of the present study consisted of all the primary schools in three different districts of Garo Hills in Meghalaya. These schools in the districts of Garo Hills fall under the following categories according to management:

(i) Government Primary Schools,

(ii) Deficit Primary Schools receiving grants from the government for the maintenance

(iii) Private Primary Schools receiving no grants at all from the government.
The information regarding the total number of primary schools was obtained by the investigator after consulting the records of the Directorate of Elementary and Mass Education, Basic Information on Education in Meghalaya and from the records maintained by the Deputy Inspector of Schools. The number of primary schools has been given according to the sub-divisions in Garo Hills District.

Table 3.0.1 The number of primary schools according to the subdivisions are given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI No</th>
<th>Sub-Divisions</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Non-Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Williamnagar</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Resubelpara</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tura</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ampati</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dadenggiri</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Baghmara</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1611</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>2041</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Basic Information on Education in Meghalaya with special reference to Elementary Education, 2000

So, there are all together 1611 government Lower Primary Schools and 430 Non-government Lower Primary Schools in Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya at the time of inception of the study (or till the date of its study).

It was found that a total number of 4205 teachers (including head teachers) were serving in these 2041 schools spread over the three Garo Hills districts of Meghalaya.

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3.1.1 SAMPLE:

On ascertaining the location of primary schools in three Garo Hills districts it was found that the majority were located in rural areas. The investigator decided to include 15% of the schools, taking schools from all the categories, government, deficit and private proportionately from all the three districts of Garo Hills located in urban and rural areas.

Stratified Random sampling method was used for selecting the sample of the heads and assistant teachers from the government, deficit and private primary schools spread over urban and rural areas of the Garo Hills Districts. The investigator included about 15% of the schools in the sample. Accordingly, 303 primary schools were selected. All the heads of the selected schools, i.e., 303 some of whom were both assistant and the head, the schools being run by single person, were selected. While 315 assistant teachers from these schools were included in the sample. The selection of the samples were done with reference to various categories of schools, government, deficit and private located in urban, semi-urban and rural areas of Garo Hills. However, responses were received from 259 head teachers and 303 assistant teachers from government, deficit and private schools spread over urban, semi-urban and rural areas of three districts in Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

Thus the sample finally consisted of 259 heads and 303 assistant teachers of primary schools under different types of management.

**Table 3.0.2 Number of Teachers (Heads and Assistant Teachers)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Deficit</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heads</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Teachers</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1.2 SOURCES OF DATA

Both primary and secondary sources were used in the collection of pertinent information regarding the primary education in Garo Hills Districts.

The investigator used all the available primary sources such as records of Basic Information on Education in Meghalaya in the office of the Directorate of Elementary and Mass Education, Shillong, Deputy Inspectors of Schools in Garo Hills Districts. Data were also collected from the government officials through interview schedule and also from a sample of primary school head teachers and assistant teachers through questionnaires.

The other sources included were the Statistical Hand Book published by the Government of Meghalaya 2002 Census Reports, reference books and records from the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools of different districts in Garo Hills.

3.2 DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS

The instruments which are employed for gathering new facts for exploring new fields are called tools.

In order to obtain information or data so far unknown, several tools may be employed according to the requirements of the study.

In the present study the investigator planned to collect information regarding various aspects like administration, financing, progress and problems at present in primary school education (i.e., Classes I – IV) in Garo Hills at the institutional level from primary school head and assistant teachers and from government officers. Besides various government records were also consulted for the purpose of the data collection. The tools used for this purpose were ‘Interview Schedule’ for government officials and questionnaires for head and assistant teachers of primary schools.
main objectives of the present study it may be recalled there that to collect information about present position of administration, financing and problems of primary education with reference to the curricular and organisational aspects.

3.2.1 CONSTRUCTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES

Questionnaire is one of the most important and extensively used research tools. It is a device for securing information by administering a set of questions to respondents.

Since there was no readymade questionnaire available for the present study, the investigator developed two questionnaires, one for the head teachers and the other for the assistant teachers of primary schools to collect information regarding the development and the existing system of administration and financing of primary education and the problems. Items were identified under each of the two different questionnaires. Though some of the items were common in the two different questionnaires, many others were different also.

In the questionnaires for the heads of the primary schools the first few questions were included in respect of their personal particulars. The questions concerning about the present position regarding school building and other infrastructural facilities were included. Questions regarding curriculum, method of teaching, examination procedure, management of the school, administration and finance were also included.

The questionnaire for the assistant teachers of primary schools included the items in respect of their personal particulars. Besides questions regarding their workload, curricula transaction, method of teaching, conduct of examination, service benefits and problems faced by them were included in the questionnaires. The
investigator consulted relevant literature available in this connection and drafted the questionnaire for the present study.

After developing the questionnaires for the head and the assistant teachers of primary schools, the investigator felt that it was necessary to ensure their content validity by obtaining the views and comments of a few experts. Accordingly, copies of the draft questionnaires for the present study were then submitted to five experts from the Department of Education, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong. The experts examined the draft questionnaires and gave their expert comments and suggestions for improving the same. Their suggestions were accepted and some new items were added while some other modified. In some items, the language and structure were changed. The questions included both closed type and open-end type. The closed type questions included probable answer to tick mark the most appropriate answers. An additional item "Any other, please specify", was given towards the end of most of the items. In this way both the questionnaires were finally constructed and cyclostyled copies were made and kept ready for administration.

3.2.2 CONSTRUCTION OF INTERVIEW SCHEDULE:

The investigator developed an interview schedule for collecting information from the offices of the Directorate of Elementary and Mass Education, Meghalaya, District Inspector of Schools in Garo Hills districts and some NGOs of Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya.

In the interview schedule, the government officials were asked to give their personal particulars. Then questions regarding the school organisation like requirements for granting permission to open new schools, provincialisation, problems of administration, improving the standard, future plan and suggestions for
primary education in three districts of Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Questions such as the ones regarding training of teachers, conduct of school examinations, power and responsibilities of Deputy Inspector of Schools, School buildings, games and sports were also included. Then questions concerning curriculum at primary level in Garo Hills districts as per the New Education Policy and a few questions regarding financing of primary education in three districts of Garo Hills.

3.3 DATA COLLECTION:

The final data collection was started in the month of March 2002. The investigator went personally and distributed the questionnaires to most of the head and assistant teachers of the selected schools, but in the case of some interior places the questionnaires were sent by post along with stamped envelop for returning the questionnaires. The respondents were made to understand their answers to the items in the questionnaire were intended for the purpose of research and would be treated as confidential.

While distributing and mailing the questionnaires to the selected head and assistant teachers the investigator continued to contact the respondents for returning the questionnaires. But in spite of repeated requests, data could be collected from 259 head teachers and 303 assistant teachers of primary schools. Because of the time limit for the completion of the present study and because of the fact that non-receipt of the data from 39 respondents would not affect the representativeness of the sample, the investigator decided not to pursue them. Accordingly, the questionnaires returned by 259 head and 303 assistant teachers as well as the interview scheduled administered to seven (7) Education Officers (3 Deputy Inspectors, 3 Sub-Inspectors of Schools and the Director of Elementary and Mass Education) were arranged for analysis.
3.4 ANALYSIS OF DATA:

The data regarding the administration and financial aspects and the problems of primary school Education, collected from the heads and the assistant teachers through questionnaires and the Director, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Sub-Inspector of Schools through interview schedule were analysed and tabulated. The data were analysed in terms of percentages.