CONCLUSION:
The present work can be concluded as follows:

General demographic composition:

1. The percentage of males (50.42%) is found to be slightly higher than that of the females (49.58%) among the Jaintias. Similar trend has been found in the rural areas also. However, in the urban area, the percentage of female population is slightly higher than that of the male.

2. The population pyramid shows a broad base and a sharp peak indicating a large proportion of children and a small proportion of old people in the population.

3. The child dependency ratio is much higher (102.48) and the old dependency ratio is much lower (1.93). The child dependency, old dependency and total dependency ratios are lower in the rural areas than those in the urban area.

4. The sex ratio (female per 1000 males) of the Jaintias is 983. The sex ratio is higher in the urban area than that in the rural areas.

5. The literacy percentage of the Jaintias (65.44) is found to be much higher compared to that of the State of Meghalaya (49.10) and India (52.11) according to 1991 Census. Unlike other parts of India, the difference in literacy percentage between males (66.12) and females (64.73) is very less.

6. The urban area has considerably much higher level of literacy compared to that of the rural areas.

7. The female literacy is found to be higher than that of the male literacy in the rural areas. However, in the urban area, male literates are found to be higher than that of the female. The
difference between male and female literates are very less in the rural areas than that of the urban area.

8. In the rural areas, the Christians show the highest literacy (61.38%), followed by the Hindus (43.61%) and the Niamtres (39.11%). In the urban area, Niamtres show slightly higher literacy (83.47%) than the Christians (83.21%).

Fertility:

9. The mean menarcheal age of the Jaintia women is 14.45± 0.01. It is higher in the rural areas than in the urban area.

10. When the age at menarche is examined against the relation, it has been found that in the rural areas the Hindus show the highest mean age at menarche, followed by the Niamtres and the Christians.

11. In the urban area, the Christian women show the higher mean age at menarche than that of the Niamtres.

12. The mean age at first marriage of the Jaintia women is 18.74± 0.02 years. It is higher in the urban area than in the rural areas.

13. In the rural areas, the mean age at first marriage is found to be the highest among the Niamtres, followed by the Christians and the Hindus.

14. The age at first marriage of female in the urban area is slightly higher among the Niamtre women that that of the Christian women.

15. A gradual decrease of the age at first marriage of the women is noticed with the increase of their present age when they are grouped into three broad divisions that is in the order of 15 - 19 years, 40 - 59 years and 60 years and above.

16. Divorce and remarriage is not a rare phenomenon among the
Jaintias. 19.71% of women are found to marry more than once. Higher percentage of women are found to get married more than once in the rural areas as compared to that of the urban area.

17. The percentage of women married more than once is found to be the highest among the Niamtres in the rural as well as in the urban area. The Hindus show the lowest percentage of women who married more than once.

18. The mean age at first delivery of the Jaintia women is 19.91 ± 0.02 years. The mean age at first delivery of women in the urban area is significantly higher than that in the rural areas.

19. The Niamtres show the highest mean age at first delivery both in the rural as well as in the urban areas. In the rural areas, the Hindu women show the lowest age at first delivery.

20. The average number of live births to the Jaintias has been found to be 4.62. Fertility has been found to be lower in the urban area than that in the rural areas.

21. In the rural areas, fertility of the Christian women (4.91) is higher than that of the Hindu women (4.82). Fertility among the Niamtre women (4.94) is slightly higher than that of the Christians. In the urban area, however, the Christian women (3.97) show lower fertility than the Niamtre women (4.82).

22. The women of the younger age groups have lower fertility than the older age group.

23. Both in rural and urban areas, fertility increases with decreasing educational level of the couples, though wives' education have stronger influence on fertility. This is true to women, both in rural and in the urban areas and also in all the religious groups.
except in case of the rural Christians.

24. The average number of live birth is found to be the highest among the couples, where the husbands are non-workers and the wives are engaged in business category I.

25. Fertility according to the occupational status of women in the rural areas show the highest fertility among the women engaged in business and the lowest among the professional women.

26. In the urban area, the highest fertility is found among those engaged as day labourers and the lowest among the women engaged in professional category.

27. Both in the rural and in the urban areas and in all the religious groups, fertility is found to be higher among the women following night visit marriage system than that amongst the women not following the system.

28. Fertility to the women married once is lower than that to the women married more than once both in the rural and in the urban areas and among all the religious groups except among the Hindus of rural areas.

29. The mean age at last delivery of the Jaintia women is 35.13 ± 0.06 years. The difference in age at last delivery of the Jaintia women between the rural and urban areas has been found to be statistically non-significant.

30. The mean age at menopause of the Jaintia women is 45.53 ± 0.04 years. The mean menopausal age is higher among the urban dwellers than that of the rural counterparts.

31. Mean fertility in the completed family is found to be 7.41 ± 0.07.
In the completed families, fertility does not vary significantly between the rural and the urban women.

32. The Christian women show the highest completed fertility in the rural areas, whereas, in the urban area they show lower completed fertility. The lowest completed fertility in the rural areas is found among the Niamtre women.

Cultural values related to fertility and family planning:

33. Among the Jaintias, the average desired number of children (5.29) is found to be higher than the average fertility (4.62).

34. Rural dwellers (5.89) desire to have higher average number of children than the urban dwellers (4.90).

35. In rural areas, average desired number of children is found to be the highest among the Hindus followed by the Niamtres and the lowest among the Christians. In the urban area, the Niamtre women desire to have higher number of children than the Christian women.

36. Both in the rural and in the urban areas, younger women desire to have lesser average number of children than the higher age group women.

37. An inverse relationship exists between average desired number of children and educational status of women both in the rural and in the urban areas.

38. Both in the rural and in the urban areas, the working women have desire for more numbers of children than the non-workers.

39. The highest percentage of Jaintia women prefer two sons and three daughters.

40. In the rural areas, the highest percentage of women prefer to
have three sons and three daughters, and in the urban area, majority of the respondents prefer to have two sons and two daughters.

41. In the rural areas, majority of the Hindu and Niamtre women prefer three sons and three daughters. However, the rural Christian women desire to have two sons and three daughters. In the urban area also, Christian women prefer two sons and three daughters.

42. The Jaintia women of both rural and urban areas, irrespective of their religious background and educational and occupational status, have their strongest preference for two daughters or at least one daughter. They have a strong preference for at least one son as well.

43. It is found that 23.73% of total Jaintia women had their own desired number of children. 72.20% of women have less than their desired number of children and only 4.07% of women have more than their desired number of children.

44. Majority of the women having desired number of children are found in the age group of 30-34 years and majority of the women having less than desired number of children are found to be in the age group of 15-29 years.

45. The percentage of women having less than desired number of children is found to be much higher in the rural areas compared to that of the urban area.

46. Women having desired and more than desired number of children are found to be higher in the urban area than that of the rural areas.

47. In the present study, only 22.46% of the couples are found to adopt various family planning devices.
48. The percentage of adopters in the urban area is found to be three times more than that in the rural areas.

49. In the rural areas, the highest percentage of couples accepting family planning devices are found among the Christians, followed by the Hindus and the lowest among the Niamtres. In the urban area, percentage of adopter couples among the Niamtres is found to be higher than that among the Christians.

50. Among the adopters, the highest percentage are found to adopt sterilization.

51. Among the Jaintias, the average number of live births to the non-adopter is found to be higher than that of the adopters in both the rural and in the urban areas and also among all the religious groups.

Mortality:

52. The infant and child mortality rate among the Jaintias is found to be 75.67.

53. The infant and child mortality rate is much higher in the rural areas compared to that of the urban area.

54. The Christians show the lowest infant and child mortality both in the rural as well as in the urban areas. In the rural areas, the Hindus show the highest infant and child mortality.

55. In the present study, neo-natal mortality is found to be lower than the post neo-natal mortality, both in the rural and in the urban areas and among all the religious groups except the urban Niamtres.

56. The infant mortality rate in the rural areas is about double the rate of the urban area.
57. The Christian Jaintias show the lowest infant mortality rate both in the rural as well as in the urban area. However, the difference of mortality rate between the Christian and the Niamtre Jaintias in the urban area is very less compared to that in the rural areas.

58. Infant mortality rate of the Jaintias (48.00) is much lower than that of India which is 95.00 (SRS, 1987).

59. Both in the rural and urban areas, mortality rate of children below 5 years of age is much higher than that of the children of 5-9 years and 10-14 years of age groups.

60. In the rural areas, mortality rate of children below 5 years of age is much lower among the Christians than those of the Niamtred and the Hindus. In the urban area, the Christians show lower mortality of children than that of the Niamtres, though the difference between the two religious groups is not so noticeable.

61. Among the Jaintias, the lowest infant and child mortality is observed at the first birth order and the highest percentage of mortality is found at the 12th birth order.

62. The percentage of infant and child mortality to the illiterate couples are found to be comparatively much higher than that of the educated couples.

63. Both in rural and urban areas, infant mortality declines with the increase in the level of mother's educational status. Similar trend is also observed among all the religious groups of both the rural and the urban areas.

64. The highest percentage of infant and child mortality has been observed among the couples where husbands are non-workers and wives are cultivator/labourers.
65. The lowest percentage of infant and child mortality is observed among the couples where husbands' occupational status is low profession and wives' occupational status is business category II.

66. Both the rural and in the urban areas the mortality is found to be the highest among the non-working mothers.

67. The percentage of infant and child mortality is higher to the women following NVS than to those women who do not follow NVS, both in rural as well as in the urban areas irrespective of their religion.

68. The infant and child mortality to the women married more than once is found to be higher than to the women married once, both in the rural and in the urban areas, This remains valid to all the religious groups except among the Niamtres of urban area.

69. Among the Jaintias, the cause of majority of the infant death is due to cough and fever.

70. Among the rural Hindus and Christians, stomach problem seems to be the main cause of infant deaths and among the rural Niamtres, cough and fever appears to be the main cause of infant deaths.

71. In the urban area, both among the Niamtres and the Christians, majority of the infant died due to cough and fever.

72. The main cause of child death in the rural areas is stomach problem and that in the urban area is cough and fever.

73. The present study indicates an increasing trend of infant and child deaths with the increase in the number of live births.

74. The percentage of pregnancy wastage is found to increase gradually with the increase of the age of women.
75. The overall percentage of pregnancy wastage in the rural areas is found to be higher than that in the urban area.

76. In the rural areas, pregnancy wastage is found to be the highest among the Hindus followed by the Niamtres and the lowest among the Christians. In the urban area also, the Christian women show lower pregnancy wastage.

77. Both in the rural and in the urban areas, the percentage of pregnancy wastages to the women following NVS is higher than that to the women not following the night visit marriage system.

78. Pregnancy wastage is higher to the women who married more than once than to the women who married once, both in the rural and in the urban areas and among all the religious groups, except among the Christians in the rural areas.