CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, PROGNOSIS AND SUGGESTIONS

7.1 Summary

The foregoing chapters have been devoted to the introduction of physical and socio-economic elements of Nagaland, and analysis of these elements as they act, react and interact in bringing about rural development in the State. The nature of the interplay of these elements varies from region to region and has given raise to varying degree of development. An attempt has been made to measure the levels of development region-wise to identify the backward areas.

The first chapter has been devoted to introduce the problem of study. It also reviews the foregoing work on non-environmental relationship since the time of Vidal de la Blache with special reference to that in the rural city. The works of various authors on rural economy and rural development have also been reviewed with special reference to that of the developing countries in general and India in particular. The work on rural development in India under the regime of planning have been reviewed. The studies on Nagaland have also been probed. It is found that practically no work has been done on the rural development of Nagaland except a few synoptic studies.

This chapter also includes the objectives of the study and the working hypotheses on the basis of which this work has
been carried out. Also includes the significance and scope of the work have also been described in this chapter.

The methodology adopted for the work finds its place in this chapter itself which is followed by an introduction of the format of the thesis and an explanation of the special terms and terminology used.

The second chapter gives a description of ecological setting of the study area. The various ecological aspects studied are physiography, relief, drainage system, climate, soil, flora and fauna. The climate has discussed in detail with necessary tables showing temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, etc. Similarly soils have been discussed in the entirety. Various class and sub-classes of vegetation and types of forest have also placed in it. The aim of this chapter is to show the impact of physical environmental elements on the economy and way of life of the people inhabiting the area.

Chapter III traces the history of immigration of the Nagas and their settlement in the present areas. It attempts to give an idea about the source, route and time of their immigration. The chapter also includes a synoptic description as to when and how the Britishers occupied the present Nagaland. The insurgency that took place in the State during the nineteen-fifties and early sixties has also been mentioned in a nutshell. The spread of Christianity and its impact on the social
Life of the Nagas has also been focused. This chapter also presents the demographic basis since 1981 showing the population figures and enumerating the factors influencing a high percentage of population growth. The age and sex composition of the population also presented for 1961 and 1971 with the help of tables and figures. The rural and urban composition and its change since 1901-81 has also been presented here. In order to understand the growing pressure of population it has been projected up to A.D. 2011 with the help of the formula:

\[ P_x = P_0 \left(1 + \frac{r}{100}\right)^n \]

where \( P_x \) = Population of the area to be projected,

\( P_0 \) = Population of the base year,

\( r \) = Average rate of growth in percentage per annum,

and \( n \) = Number of years for which the projection is intended.

On the basis of the above projection it is estimated that by 2011 the State's population will number about 2.9 million, bringing with it alarming consequences.

Chapter IV is devoted mainly to the study the resource position and economic condition of the State. The analysis of the traditional economy shows that despite traditional tribal rivalry there had been a large measure of intertribal and intervillage economic interaction. The present economy of the Naga which is based essentially on subsistence agriculture has
been analysed with the help of such criteria as land-use pattern, area under different crops, yield, etc. The small number of manufacturing industries that have come up in recent years has also been enumerated and discussed in both economic and spatial contexts. The tertiary occupations of the people and their contribution to the economy as also the infra-structure of this newly constituted State have been analysed in detail here.

The resources of Nagaland, especially the land, mineral and forest resources have been examined in this chapter. The total revenue and expenditure involved in the State annually from 1976-1983 have been enlisted revealing the economic weakness of the State in the absence of proper development of the primary and secondary sectors. The State has immense potential human resource and this fact is shown through an examination in this chapter. An attempt is also made here to assess socio-economic development of the State under the regime of planning. It presents a table showing the State domestic products from 1970-71 to 1982-83. A brief description of the development achieved during the plan periods departmentwise has also been included in this chapter. While assessing here the developments in the State in the national context it is found that Nagaland lags far behind the nation in almost all the socio-economic aspects. The revenue participation in planned development has
also been examined in this chapter and found to be nominal, authenticating the apprehension of inherent economic weakness of the State.

In chapter V case studies of seven representative villages (one from each district) have been presented. This is meant to check the information and analysis presented at meso-level largely on the basis of secondary data. It gives a synoptic study of each village under the major physical and socio-economic heads.

An attempt has been made in chapter VI to present a synthetic view about the levels of socio-economic development of each of the twenty-one blocks on the basis of quantification. Based on as many as thirty-four socio-economic indicators, the blocks have been assessed and they are ranked on the basis of composite scores. The blocks are then divided into relatively developed, marginally developed and least developed categories. This gives one an insight as to the spatial variation in the levels of development and helped one to take a holistic view of development and backwardness occurring in the State.

7.2 Conclusion, Prognosis and Suggestions

Nagaland is a newly constituted State lying in the eastern frontier of the Indian Union. The area is inhabited by
many tribes some of whom have their habitats extended beyond the Indo-Burmese boundary. The area was never effectively administered either by the Britishers or by the local kings and chiefs as a whole. The hilly terrain with deep gorges and canyons have been obstructing intercourse between different tribal groups. Inter-tribal feuds and head hunting were common in the past. The economy was subsistence based largely on shifting cultivation. It is from this background that the State has slowly marching forward in the path of modernisation and economic growth. The tempo has taken up only after Nagaland was constituted into a State in 1963. The socio-economic conditions under such circumstances would obviously be not advanced. It is however, thought proper and useful to keep a record of the present socio-economic condition based on in-depth study.

Although Nagaland falls within tropical belt its high relief imparts sub-tropical and temperate climate to it. This has influenced its soil and vegetation. As the hills of the State are of tertiary origin and loose in nature and as seismic instability is prevalent in the area, the rivers have dug out deep canyons and gorges with steep slopes preventing construction of roads and bridges. The steep slopes further provide little facility for terracing and permanent cultivation. This along with soil erosion are found to be a major constraint of agricultural development in the State. Although the State is covered with vegetation, the forest resources
are not adequately developed. Traditionally, a forest is a common property of the local tribe much of it is destroyed for shifting cultivation. The State has now only three reserved forest. The secondary growths on the areas cleared for Jhum are economically not productive. The minerals discovered so far have not been assessed for commercial use because of its frontier location and lack of transport and communication and an extension market manufacturing industries have not grown up. All these point to the fact that the State still lags in self generating economic strength.

In the social field it is noticed that the physical constraint have kept the different tribes isolated from one another. The limited resources available in the context of primitive economy made each tribe zealously guard their meagre resources from the neighbouring tribes leading to frequent inter-tribal feuds. The present day society of Nagaland is therefore divided into many socio-cultural groups. However, Christianity has brought in some amount of unity today which has been further augmented in recent years by the political aspirations of the people. Nagaland is one of the most tribal States in India with 84.00 per cent of the total population being as classed as such.

The mainstay of economy of Nagaland is subsistence agriculture with 72.56 per cent of the total workforce engaged
in it but despite this the food crops produced in the State constitutes only 65 per cent of the total needed by the State annually. Cottage industry has found to be least important commercially. Manufacturing industries include only a sugar mill-cum-distillery, a khandari sugar mill, a paper mill, a mini cement plant, a few plywood industries and some workshops. Tertiary occupations however, has been found to be important engaging 26 per cent of the total workforce. Extension of administration, construction of roads and bridges, office and public buildings, expansion of trade and commerce, as are found in a pioneering frontier, have contributed to the large workforce in this sector. The expansion of administration, trade and commerce and construction is revealed by growing number of towns within the State. While there were only three towns in 1971, the number rose to seven by 1981 and the urban population accounted for 15.51 per cent out of the total as against 9.9 per cent of 1971.

Effective planning for the purpose of development started only from the beginning of the fourth plan. The measures undertaken have brought about some sort of development in the State and it is found that average per capita income increased from Rs. 500.00 in 1970-71 to Rs. 1,777.00 in 1982-83. The percentage growth rate of the State net domestic product also showed an increase. Efforts have been made to
develop the resources and the economy of the State in all their spheres. Rural development has been taken up with programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme, Special Livestock Production Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Housing Scheme, Special Rural Road Development, etc. Further some of the areas have been identified as 'backward' and special efforts have been made to develop them. However, one important feature of development is that the funds necessary come mostly from the Central Government rather than from the State. This is a disturbing feature for it indicates an internal economic weakness of the State.

In order to understand the actual state of development, seven villages, one in each district of the State have been personally surveyed. It is found that some amount of development have occurred in almost all the villages especially in respect of transport and communication, education, medical services, etc. Although measures for water and power supply have been adopted these are yet to be effectively provided. Thus the survey reveals that although development in respect of social welfare has made a headway, the same in agriculture and industry is lagging behind.

An analysis of the levels of development has been undertaken and it is found that the western part of the State is relatively more developed. The middle part has been found
to be marginally developed while eastern part bordering Burma has been left least developed. District-wise Mokokchung has been found to be most developed and Mon the least.

The researcher started this work with eight working hypotheses (pp. 23, 24) all of which have been found to be valid on the basis of the findings of this work. The work has clearly revealed that the State is socio-economically backward. Positive and purposeful efforts must be made if the State is to be developed quickly in the right direction. The researcher's experiences in the field make him feel that the following suggestions may be useful in the developmental programmes of the State:

1. So far rural development is concerned the problems and prospects of any rural area, the local people should be consulted and their initiative and leadership should be taken into account.

2. The Rural Development Department should be manned with qualified people at village, block and district levels rather than leaving it as it is now who get their work done through the officials of other departments at lower level.

3. The Rural Development, Social Welfare, and others extend material help in cash and kind to some selected villagers. It is complained that such beneficiaries are often not the right persons for it is suspected that the personal manipulation affect proper distribution of such helps.
It is therefore suggested that selection of the beneficiaries should be left to the Village Development Board which would announce the names of the selected persons due to get help sufficiently before the actual help is given. This is necessary to be done so that the objections of the villagers against the selection if any can be made.

4. It is found that some Government departments procure some materials meant for distribution among the villagers through a third party. The third party i.e., middleman makes a benefit and raises the price of the goods. This practice should be discontinued and the department should directly buy the materials from the market at competitive price.

5. It is found that the trainees who come out through the Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment Programme can not compete in respect of their crafts in the open market and hence their training goes in vain. It is therefore suggested such training should be more extensive and intensive so that the trainees when pass out can attract the consumer by their products.

6. In spite of Government prohibition and measures some unscrupulous contractors have been found to be exploiting the remaining forest resources of the State. Necessary legal loopholes should be seal and stricture measures should be taken so that felling of the trees can be checked effectively.

7. It has been mentioned earlier that Nagaland is inhabited by a
large number of tribes with their own socio-cultural identities. For the sake of integration and unified development of the State, all the tribes must come closer socially and economically. This may perhaps be achieved at least partially by initiating goodwill visits by the leaders and chiefs of one tribe to another tribal area and exchange of ideas and feelings.

It is difficult to make a comprehensive survey of the problems and prospects of a State like Nagaland with its varied physical, social, cultural, and economic dimensions in one work like this. It is therefore suggested that more research work covering different aspects of the State should be undertaken to bring out the facts and figures of the State at micro and meso levels. It is through such in-depth studies that the real problems and prospects of the people especially the rural areas can be assessed and measures for development identified.