CHAPTER - II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of literature preceding a research work bears significance in as much as it helps develop the conceptual, contextual and methodological background and find out the direction required to be followed in it. The present work, as outlined in first chapter, belongs broadly to population geography, though it emphasises to analyse some basic socio-cultural and socio-economic characteristics of a particular group of people in their urban milieu. The review thus, encompasses works both of population geography and social geography and other related works. However, the fundamental theoretical inference for the work is drawn from the field of population geographical studies.

Population geography, as Trewatha puts, focuses in understanding the regional differences in the earth’s covering of people (Trewatha, 1953). He views population as the point of reference from which all other elements are observed and from which they singly or collectively derive significance and meaning. The theme of population geography, as he puts it, should incorporate three basic components, namely, the historicity, dynamics (distribution, growth, movement, etc.) and quality (both physical and socio-cultural) of people. Any study related to population, either area based, or group based or both, has to deal with these three basic components. The present work too, is framed in a similar thematic pattern, with however, modifications at several instances. But, before dealing with the
content of the work or for that matter of population geography, it is necessary to look into the development of population geography as a separate entity within geography.

The development of geography of population is virtually a recent sprout from the main trunk of geography. This is not entirely due to the fact that population and its studies were rejected or neglected in geography in the past, but rather the various aspects of population were treated in most cases in general terms, as for instance, the aspects like distribution, density, occupational structure and mobility were considered as basic contents of human geography (Wrigly, 1970). Therefore, its development remained obscured and the various aspects were subsumed within the broad field of human geography.

Though, the roots of population geography can be traced back to classical period of geographical thoughts and ideas through the works of Herodotus and Strabo, but actual crystallization of the contents and methods in this branch of geography have started only recently, i.e. during nineteen fifties. The earlier geographers, dealing with the problem of development and branching out of the subject geography, have quite often failed to recognise the importance of population geography. Even Richard Hartshrone in his monumental work on geographic thought Nature of Geography, though attempted a systematic subdivision of geography recognising almost every field, namely physical, historical, political and economic, made no reference to population geography. The book The Making of Geography, by Dickinson and Howarth, discusses thoroughly the evolution of
human geography, analysing the sub-fields of economic, political, social and historical geography. But there is no mention, however, of the place of population in geography. In a similar manner, Wooldrige and East's *The Spirit and Purpose of Geography*, does not seem to give proper weightage to the population element in geography. Camille Vallaux and Carl Sauer in their essays, "Human Geography" and "Cultural Geography" respectively, contained in *Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences*, also did not refer to population as the central or direct object of geographical investigations. Particularly Sauer, who dealt with the content of several branches of geography, remained silent about the field of population geography. Even Hurlon H. Barrows, in his essay, "Geography as Human Ecology", omits any reference of population. It was only Sten De Geer who in his essay on the "Definition, Method and classification of Geography", recognised population geography as a distinct subfield of the discipline and also attempted delineating its content, but did not become successful to give a comprehensive picture of the subject matter (Ghose, 1987).

It was from the later part of the 19th and early 20th century, that the geographers started giving a social science orientation to the subject, bringing population in the central focus for a great mass of published geographical works. In this context, mention may be made of Fredrich Ratzel's *Anthropogeographie* (1882-1891), in which a sincere attempt is made to correlate the human societies and environment in order to explain the survival, existence and occupation of population
groups (Hussain, 1988). This was, in fact, the first systematic study of geography of man. But, Ratzel, who was very much influenced ideologically by Darwin, had basically a deterministic approach and thus conceived man being entirely dependent on his environment for his life and work.

A distinctly different trend than that of Ratzel's was set by Paul Vidal-de-la Blache and his followers. In his La Geographie de Humaine (1921) Blache criticised the environmental deterministic approach by explaining the relation between man and his milieu through a more possibilistic approach. But, Blache has primarily dealt with population distribution and associated density patterns. The other geographical aspects of population were not recognised by him and as such he too failed to develop population geography as a distinct and primary subdivision within the broad field of human geography (Trewartha, 1953).

Jean Brunhes, a follower and student of Blache, however, recognised more specifically the population element in geography, but his was an oblique approach, since he stressed more on the habitation and settlement pattern of population. Thus, he made more positive contribution to another subfield of human geography, i.e., Settlement geography. Alfred Hettner, who viewed geography as the study of 'areal differentiation of the earth' (1898), pleaded that man being an inseperable part of nature, add distinct character to an area, and thus geography should study the individual areas on the earth, which differ in respect of location, content, and human organisations. It was Hettner, who for the first time treated population as an integral
part of human geography, giving it a higher position among all the branches of human geography. He also took note of the fact that study of population of an area should be based on the interdependence of man and his natural, economic and social conditions, which in turn, bring regional differences in populations. Thus, Hettner's dealing with population was much more direct and illuminating than his contemporary German and French geographers (Trewartha, 1953).

The most comprehensive treatment of population geography, in the beginning of nineteen fifties was, however, done by Pierre George in his book Introduction to Geography of Population (1951). George was one of the great systematizer of various branches of social geography (Buttimer, 1968) and presented for the first time a geographic study of world's population in book form. George's approach was somewhat more social than demographic. He stressed more to work out the close link that exists between social and economic aspects of human behaviour of any area, for he considered social as one of the many facets of economic aspect. However, inspite of having a social slant, George's work can be considered as a pioneer study in this field, because through this, population geography started getting somewhat definite boundary, which was otherwise lacking within the broad framework of human geography.

The contemporary trend in population geography, however, owns at large to G.T. Trewartha, whose presidential address to the Association of American Geographers in 1953, lent a sound footing for population geography to branch out as a separate
field of study. Trewartha's idea of population geography was widely hailed by his colleagues both from America and Europe. Preston E. James was one of them, who considered population as the central most theme of all geographic investigations, and thus, his idea was very much similar to that of Trewartha's. James, however, laid much emphasis on the regional variations of population number and their character, which were responsible for creating areal differentiations. Nevertheless, James', or for that matter, Trewartha's viewpoint has been mostly accepted by recent geographers. This acceptance, however, was largely due to a gradual shift of approach in geography as a whole from a traditional systematic to a regional one, a trend which was distinctly set by Paul Vidal-de-la Blache through his studies of 'local' human societies of different parts of France (Wrigley, 1970).

The trend set by Trewartha in the field of population geography was sustained and further developed by other geographers interested in this field of study. They took to define the subject and fix the scope and content of the subject as well. According to John I. Clarke, population geography is primarily concerned about the spatial variations of distribution, composition, migration and growth of people, which in turn bring variations in the character of areas. Thus, emphasizing on spatial variations, Clarke distinguished population geography from demography which deals basically with the measuring of rates or trends of population characteristics through numerical and quantitative techniques (Carke, 1965). However, Clarke
appreciated the increasing importance of application of quantitative analysis in almost all social and behavioral sciences, including geography, and thus, modified his earlier view. He further stated that, demography and population geography have a common base, since both have to depend on large amount of statistical data. But, while demography uses quantitative approaches in order to understand different human qualities (physical, economic, intellectual, etc.) population geography uses them to understand the variety of interrelationship existing between environment (both natural and cultural) and man. The explanations and analyses of these interrelationships form the core of all population geography studies.

The view of Wilber Zelinsky, differing slightly from those of the rest of western geographers, holds population geography as the science dealing with the ways in which the geographical character of places is formed. These geographical characters, Zelinsky observes, have impact on the population phenomena of the places which change both over time and space. Thus, the main concern of population geographers is to describe the existing population attributes in any given place; to analyse and justify their existence and find out the interrelationship of the demographic and non-demographic phenomena and the areal differences of these interrelations as well (Zelinsky, 1966). It is due to the stress Zelinsky puts on establishing the character of places, that his definition of population geography appears to be more comprehensive one than the previous definitions. The
processes cropping up from the spatial interaction of demographic and non demographic phenomena, however, did not find any place in Zelinsky's interpretation.

The views of French geographers, particularly that of Garnier, regarding population geography is quite distinct from the above mentioned geographers. Garnier stresses that the basic task of population geographer is to 'describe the demographic facts in their present environmental context, along with their original characteristics, their causes and possible consequences (Garnier, 1965).

The views of Newman and Matzke, demand a special mention in this juncture, since they have explored a more applied approach to the study of population geography. They view population geography as a 'relatively open field of enquiry which has a recognizable core with the demographic variables as its constituents, but population distribution, age, sex and marital characteristics are also given high weightage primarily because of their impact on demographic variables' (Newman and Matzke, 1984).

The definitions stated so far, attempt at least a rough sketch of the conceptual background of population geography. These definitions, agree in one point that population geography lays emphasis upon finding out the regional differentiation of areas in terms of their populations. In population geography, however, man is not considered, as a phenomenon in itself, rather it is seen as an element characterising and differentiating areas
on the earth's surface. This theme, though maintained in general in geography, is particularly maintained in population geography.

The population geographers, however, were not in general agreement about the approaches to the study of the subject, and the approaches were not very distinctly developed until nineteen fifties. Trewartha, being a pioneer in this field, pleaded for a topical approach in population geography. This approach gained wide acceptance, because it established population as the pivotal element of all geographical studies and thus bringing regional differences within areas. Thus, population geography was developed as a systematic speciality (Trewartha, 1953). A large number of population studies were made using this approach, which were mainly concerned to analyse the spatial patterns of physical, social, cultural or economic attributes of population.

Gradually, however, more than the spatial patterns of population attributes, the behavioral processes stemming out from the patterns were attracting geographers' attention. The topical approach was thus substantiated by behavioural approach, which lent a new insight into the man-environment system and helped introducing a variety of models and techniques in geographical studies. The maximum use of behavioral approach is made in those studies dealing with decision making processes of population, such as fertility control, migration, literacy, etc. Lately, a third approach in population geography is gaining popularity, this is system approach, which is a holistic approach in the sense that, this approach helps understand both structure and function of any system of population as a whole rather than the
constituent units of the system. System approach is particularly useful for the studies in which predictions are to be made after analysing the population systems.

At this juncture, it should be stated that, the three approaches in population geography are complementary to each other. The traditional systematic topical approach help developing the conceptual framework, whose essence lies in understanding the spatial or regional patterns of population. The behavioral and system approaches, on the other hand, offer new modes of explanations of the processes inherent within the spatial patterns.

Having dealt with the theoretical and conceptual basis of population geography, it is now aimed to review the studies made in different regional scales which are based on the concepts and definitions of population geography. The two most classical works in this regard are the dual papers of G.T. Trewartha and W. Zelinsky, which deal with the population patterns in general of Tropical Africa in the first, and that of Belgian Africa in the second paper (Trewartha and Zelinsky, 1954). In these papers, a sincere attempt is made to develop techniques for population maps which can be used to map the population of any part of the world. Both the papers depend largely on Trewartha's "A Case for Population Geography" (see Reference No. 1), for their theoretical background.

In the first of these papers, with the help of maps, the authors could identify three population regions of high density
(West Africa - Serdan), low density (central Africa), and of both high and low densities (East Africa). A thorough treatment of rural-urban and racial groups (Africans and non-Africans) of these regions led the authors to arrive at a conclusion that population distribution and its size is more or less directly controlled by environmental conditions, among which the cause and effect relationship between the physical and economic resources is the most significant. The variety of African culture and degree of Europeanization were thought as affecting the degree of use of resources. The environmentalistic attitude was quite strongly reflected in the paper which could be also due to a dearth of statistical information.

In the second paper, source of data being again limited and sometimes unreliable, the focus has been sharpened on one unit of Tropical Africa, and a brief treatment of population geography as a whole of the area is attempted with every sincerity. Though a detail description of population numbers and their distribution, their socio-cultural attributes, movements, etc. along with a frequent substitution by population maps - both choropleths and symbol maps, the authors arrived at a regionalisation of Belgian Africa. The regions identified by them were density regions, in which density and its variation was thought to be strongly connected with population growth. However, the growth of population was basically viewed as being affected by genetic factors. The in or out migration and degree of Europeanisation, though acknowledged were given, only a secondary place.

Another contemporary work was that of famous demographer
Donald J. Bogue, who introduced a radically new concept of population growth by comparing the population statistics of 1940 and 1950 and analysing the population changes in U.S.A. in all the levels of national, regional, subregional and even local (Bogue, 1954). Bogue was of the opinion that major population changes over a definite period of time should bring changes in three basic locational, demographic and compositional, aspects, and consequently, new processes would be generated which, in turn, would further modify the trends. The fundamental changes, as stated above, were sure to deviate from national level within geographic divisions and sub-divisions. Thus, population changes in a nation should be the outcome of interpretation of environmental changes in different areal units of the nation.

The contemporary trends in population geography show an increasing awareness of the new social and cultural factors which have considerable impact in understanding the population characteristics or population geographies of societies or nations or regions. One such attempt is that of John P. Augelli and Harry W. Taylor, who considered the consequences stemming from the racial and cultural diversity in order to explain population distribution in particular and land and people in general of Trinidad on the Caribbean (Augelli and Taylor, 1960). The population in Trinidad is so distributed that distinct groups emerge within the country which are consequences of differences in economic function, land use, settlement, agricultural system, place names and other areal socio-cultural phenomena.

Population geography in Indian context is a very recent
development. There are, however, a number of works done dealing with the allied aspects of population geography as migration and mobility, economic composition, socio-cultural attributes and their distribution of groups of people etc. The first systematic research in population geography of India was that of A.S. Gosal's, which dealt with population characteristics of the regions in India (Gosal, 1956). Following the systematic approach of study, the work made a thorough investigation and analysis of distribution, growth, sex-ratio, migration, occupational structure and urbanisation for the country as a whole. However, the work failed to highlight the specific conditions of populations in different regional scale in the country.

The methodology adopted by Gosal was followed widely by Indian geographers and a number of research works were submitted on similar themes. Mention may be made that of Gopal Krishna's thesis which is basically a study of individual villages of Punjab's boarder and thus depicts primarily the rural population characters. However, the work is first in its kind to present thematic mapping and analysis at local levels (Krishnan, 1968).

The population maps with one in million series published by the National Atlas Organisations had been the basis of S.F. Chatterjee's detailed work on the distribution and density of India's population, which took into account the regional patterns of these aspects as well (Chatterjee, 1962). This is one of the most competent work on the basic aspects of India's population, because the effects of physical factors, the history of peopling
and settlement in India through ages, and also the political events bringing regional variations in population all find a place in Chatterjee's account of rural and urban population of the country. A further insight is drawn from the work when the population conditions of the seven macro regions of the country are analysed. However, the weightage given to the different regions remained unequal, which could be also due to non-availability of maps particularly of border areas of the country.

The analysis of population distribution and density was the theme of many other Indian geographers, but most of them restricted their studies either on a regional or state scale. Significant among these is Krishnan's work on the distribution and density of population in upper Bari Doab region of Indian Punjab. With the help of symbolised population maps and charopleths, the population data of both villages and town of the region are analysed to establish a relation between population distribution and the locational factors along with history of oriental culture, agricultural economy etc. (Krishnan, 1971). He could identify two distinct areas of differential concentration of population in this region, namely, the upland plain with heavy concentration and adjoining floodplains with a sparseness in contrast. The main reason of contrast was identified as the availability of arable land and resulting agricultural capabilities. The political changes in country which affected this region, also have a bearing on the density pattern of population. Though the study is meant for a specific
region, it can be used in understanding the distribution and density pattern of other regions with similar physical and socio-economic background.

The other works done following the similar methodology are those of Kerala (Kuriyan, 1938); Punjab (Verma, 1956); Bihar (Prasad, 1956); Madras (Anant Padmanavan, 1957); West Bengal (Chatterjee, 1961) and Orissa (Krishnan, 1968). Another worth noting work regarding the population geography of India in general is that of Bhattacharjee’s, which attempts to analyse the population aspects and compositional characteristics of India. The work does fair judgement to almost all aspects as distribution, movement, marital status, literacy levels, religious and linguistic composition of population (Bhattacharjee, 1978).

The population growth and its consequences in all macro, meso and micro levels, have attracted the attention of a number of Indian geographers, particularly since Independence. In this context, the work of P. Dayal, based on the population growth in India during 1891-1951, demands special mention, which besides explaining the nature of growth, also stresses on the consequent problems of rapid increase, in respect of per capita land and rural-urban inigrations etc. (Dayal, 1959). Again, the study made by Gosal based on the country’s population growth for 1961-1971 highlights that unless the first priority is given to the problem of population growth in India, it would neutralise much of the gains of economic development (Gosal, 1974).
The work participation rates and occupational structure of women folk in any population has always attracted the population geographers, particularly, who are interested in population studies of India. This is because, female participation in underdeveloped and developing economies have a different implication. Significant works done in this respect are those of Viswanath, Mukherji and Mehta. A.B. Mukherji has some pioneering works in this aspect (Mukherji, 1974). In one such attempt, he has identified, described and interpreted the spatial pattern of female work participation in rural agricultural labour in Andhra Pradesh. He arrived at a conclusion that female participations are higher in rural areas where absentee landlordism is practised engaging agricultural labourers at low wages; and where the recent upward trend of urbanisation have pushed out the male workers; and also in areas of predominant scheduled caste population. Mukherji and Mehta together focussed on the pattern and distribution of female agricultural labourer in both district and state level in the country (Mehta and Mukherji, 1975). With the help of choropleth maps prepared on available data, they commented that, the participation rate of female workers in agricultural labour sector varies from a mere 1.3 per cent in Punjab to a maximum of 53.7 per cent in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. This variation they attributed to a combination of several factors as proportion of female workers to total workers, rural sex ratio, landholding size, cropping pattern and labour requirement for any pattern, extent of diversification of economy or rate of urbanisations etc. Three broad regions identified on the spatial pattern of distribution of female agricultural
labourer are those which correspond with the three macro natural regions and thus, female participation rate emerges as one the basic area differentiating element in the country.

A different type of study made on female work participation rate in general is that of V. Viswanatha's, in which 1971 census data were used to interpret the regional variations and their causes in respect of female workers. (Viswanath, 1975). Here, the author observes that the female workers as a whole are much less in urban areas than their counterparts in rural areas. Moreover, the participation rate is maximum in primary sector than the secondary and tertiary sectors. However, the author fails to highlight the factors in detail which are responsible for regional differences of female participation in different sectors of economy.

The works done on age and sex composition of India's population are quite few in numbers. In this context, Gosal's work is worth mentioning. According to him, the present general sex ratio in India is primarily due to the differential in sex at birth which is followed by differential in the mortality rate of men and women at different age groups (Gosal, 1961). A similar observation regarding the phenomena of sex differential is made by Krishan and Chandna for Haryana's population (Krishan and Chandna, 1973).

A good number of studies made by population geographers in India deal with the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe populations and their patterns. Roy Burmon's work in this
context demands the lead position. By using the method of centrality index for domicile tribes, he made a detailed analysis of distribution pattern of scheduled tribe population in India. He further categorised tribals in six groups basing on territorial and ethnocultural relations, in which tribes of north east India are grouped in a distinct category (Roy Burman, 1971).

Compared to Roy Burman, the work done by Chib, which is based on the district level data of 1961 and 1971, is a generalised study of the population aspects of scheduled tribes in India, in which the patterns emerging at the micro level remain mostly blurred or sometimes even hidden. However, it gives an overall idea of tribal population in the country (Chib, 1981). In the work of Prasad, stress is given on the evolution of literacy patterns among the tribals of a particular region, i.e., of Bihar region. Here the author stresses that the efforts put by Christian missionaries along with the policies of the then British Government, were primarily responsible for the spread of literacy among the tribals in the region (Prasad, 1971).

In the context of north-eastern India, several works can demand attention. Among the state level works, mention can be made of Singh’s study on Manipur, in which the author attempts a justifiable account of the usual demographic characters of the state (Singh, 1986). Analysis of population characteristics of several tribes in the state has added a special dimension to the work which helps understanding the demographic phenomena in spatial context.
In another attempt, the socio-economic changes of a periurban village of Manipur and the urban influences on rural areas of the particular village is examined by D.S. Sharma and A.B. Sharma (Sharma and Sharma, 1978). The impact of these changes on population distribution and patterns is also analysed though it remains quite primary in its level. Bhuyan has studied the spatial consequences of immigrant population in Assam as reflected in population growth, land-use types, economic development and socio-economic innovations within the geographical framework of the region. Thus certain socio-demographical characteristics are found to develop in the population composition of Assam, which may be solely attributed to immigration (Bhuyan, 1975).

In his Geography of Manipur, Singh attempted a description of the demographic features of Manipur such as distribution, density, sex ratio, language and literacy, urbanisational and occupational structure (Singh, 1981). Though the study encompasses almost the entire scope of population geography the deliberations are very brief and at times are partial. Lanusosang Ao, on the other hand, attempts a comprehensive view of certain geographical aspects of Nagaland. This is an integral work based on population characteristics, social components and composition and social character of Nagaland as a whole, and thus provide an insight into understanding the real situation of people in their spatial context. The study, though belongs to the field of social geography, helps understanding certain very basic characters, e.g. the distribution, density, growth, etc. of
the State's population, which can be applied in population studies of Nagaland (AO, 1989).

The study of population characteristics of Siang region of Arunachal Pradesh, though in a regional scale, demands attention, since it depicts the interesting socio-demographic characteristics, which may be true for the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh (Borah, 1990). Another study in regional scale is that of Goonalata Barooah, who analysed the evolution of heterogeneous population structure of Dibrugarh District of Assam during 1872-1971. Her work has a historical and racial background and emphasises on the emerging pattern of variations in growth, distribution and density, occupational and socio-cultural attributes (Barooah, 1984).

A fairly good number of works are there dealing with certain particular aspects of population of either North-East as a whole or of a particular unit of the region. Sharma's work in this context is worth mentioning which attempts a comprehensive analysis of spatial pattern of sex disparity in literacy in Assam, basing on thana-level data of 1971 census. In another attempt, he made a detailed study of literacy pattern of North Eastern region with emphasis on the differentials that occur in literacy among rural urban and male female populations. A composite social profile of the states of the region also emerges from this study (Sharma, 1985, 1992). In the same context, mention may be made of the book Patterns and Problems of Population in North-East India, edited by B. Datta Ray, in which the authors of various research articles have dealt with the
population aspects of north-east India. One of these works is that of Srivastaba's which analyses the salient demographic characteristics like population number, density, growth, immigration, socio-cultural compositions, economic structure and female participation, etc. There has been intensive use of census data for this work, but, it lacks in general a deeper cause and affect analysis (Srivastaba, 1986). In another contribution in the same source, Sebastian attempts the inter State and inter district movements of people and the differential pattern of population mobility in the states of North-East. The data base is mainly 1961-1971 and 1971-1981 census schedules, which have been used to analyse the change in age and sex composition and urban activities of people of the region (Sebastian, 1986). The growth of urban population in North-East over the period of 1961-1971 is the theme of still another paper, contributed by D.K. Saikia. The paper particularly examines the effects of urbanisation on the demographic pattern in North-East and the changes experienced in the aspects of socio-demography of the region (Saikia, 1986). Besides, these, there are also other contributions in the book, dealing with population of the North-East as a whole or a part of it, throwing information on all demographic features or at times on a few of them.

Regarding the tribal population and their demographic and socio-economic patterns the studies are quite scarce. The most intensive work on the tribal population of the region is that of Roy Burmon's, in which the demographic and socio-economic aspects of the hill tribes of North-East have been dealt with all
details, and thus presents an overview of socio-economic life of the tribal people of the region (Roy Burmon, 1961). Also, Taher's work have some pertinent bearing in this line, who made a diagnostic survey of spatial distribution of tribal population in North-East India (Taher, 1977).

Coming to Meghalaya, true population studies are scarce, though, there are a good number of socio-demographic and anthropogeographic studies, made so far for the state. The most classical population studies on Meghalaya are those written by the British Rulers particularly on the Khasi and Garo people of Meghalaya. these accounts though primarily deal with the tribal organisation and history of origin of the tribes, a general attempt is also there in all these accounts, to describe the habitat, and adoption of people to habitat in their respective territories. In the process, a picture also emerged regarding the settlement patterns and their distribution of these groups of peoples. The Welsch Calvanistic Missionaries and the American Missionaries as well worked among the people of this part of India and have produced number of reports on their way of life, food habits, religious practices etc. But these reports and account, however, fail to give a comprehensive geographical account and integration of geographical and demographic aspects for the people of Meghalaya.

The most detailed work on population made so far on Meghalaya is that of Mathew's which deals with spatio-temporal analysis of demographic, economic and socio-cultural characteristics of the entire population (Mathew, 1984). Though,
he has dealt with individual tribes and communities, his work lacks integration between the description of cultural and political evolution and organisation of the groups on one hand, and their impact on demographic characteristics on the other.

The tribes in Meghalaya and their socio-cultural aspects have attracted attention of many social scientists, and they attempted describing and analysing the life and occupation of these tribes particularly from the viewpoint of sociology, social anthropology and history. In this context, mention must be made of Thomas' work, which aims at a complete picture of the Pnars (Jaintias) of Meghalaya dealing with aspects like occupation, houses and village sites, food and drink habits on one hand, and religion, festivals, matriliny and inheritance of property, folklore, tribal organisations and administration and the dialects of pnars, on the other (Thomas, 1982). Though some general ideas can be made about certain aspects of pnar demography as settlement pattern, occupation etc., from the work, the study being basically descriptive, lacks analysis of cause and effect relations of these aspects on one hand, and putting more stress on religion and religious aspects of the pnar society on the other, has very small bearing in population studies as such.

In a different type of approach, Bareh deals with a detailed historical account of origin and development of Khasi people in Meghalaya. This is primarily a work of the political history of the Khasis dealing particularly with the evolution and gradual transformation of the political and cultural life of these people from their earliest beginning upto the present day (Bareh, 1964).
Though the study primarily aims at understanding the history of Khasi society and polity, it also lends information regarding the peopling and change in the pattern of trade and commerce of the Khasis at different point of time. However, the work has much importance in social or cultural geographies of Khasis than population geography. The accounts of Britishers, as already mentioned, on culture, history and society of Khasi and Garo people of Meghalaya, in a similar manner with those mentioned in previous paragraph, have oblique bearing on the population and population characteristics of these groups of people. Noteworthy among these accounts are those of John (John, 1992); Francis (Francis, 1940); Pemberton (Pemberton, 1966); Fisher (Fisher, 1840); Robinson (Robinson, 1841); Logan (Logan, 1850-1857); Dalton (Dalton, 1872); Grierson (Grierson, 1967); Gait (Gait, 1963); Gurdon (Gurdon, 1981) and Playfair's (Playfair, .................).

The very recent trend in population studies in Meghalaya reflects that, geographers and other social scientists are largely concerned about the unusual growth of urban population and their socio-demographic characteristics along with the impact these unusual urban growth have on the overall development of the state. A number of studies have so far conducted dealing with patterns, problems and prospects of urban population in Meghalaya in general and those of Shillong in particular. The demographic growth, settlement pattern, changing administrative systems and land relations of four major urban areas of Meghalaya, namely Cherrapunji, Shillong, Tura and Jowai made respectively by
Syiemlier, Hussain, Sangma and Gassah, draw attention of all those interested in studies of urban population and related matters (Sinha, et.al., 1993). However, in all these, though population growth and distribution and settlement patterns have found a place, the primary motive of the works is to deal with history of urbanisation and changing face and status of administration of the towns.

The urban development particularly in Shillong and the latest developments that had taken place in the city during the decade 1981-1991, is the main concern of another group of scholars, who besides dealing with urban developments, also considered various global and national issues having some bearing on the Shillong city like urban human ecology, problem of housing, water supply, sanitation and traffic congestion crime and social tension, economic problems of planing, etc. (Datta Roy and Agnihotri, 1993). In many of their attempts, demographic composition, pattern and characteristics of Shillong city are reflected as primary scope of the studies, though, in most cases, the works remain in descriptive level, failing to present any critical analysis or appreciation of the existing conditions.

In light of the foregoing discussion, it appears that, detailed works on population geography of Meghalaya in general and those dealing with the patterns and compositional characteristics of tribal population of the state in particular, are practically scarce. Though there have been some specific attempts, as mentioned in the previous paragraphs, to deal with various tribes and or castes and their socio-economic aspects of
certain parts of the State, analyses of population characteristics of a particular tribe in their urban milieu are rare. Furthermore, there has been but limited and partial attempts for studying the population characteristics and composition of Shillong town of Meghalaya.

It is in such a backdrop, the present work is attempted to deal with the detailed population aspects of Meghalaya in general and also those of the Khasi tribes in their urban set up in particular. The work is designed keeping in view the conceptual clarity and methodological soundness as much as possible. Though the study is an exploratory one in nature, it makes an humble attempt to fill in the gap existing in the area of population studies of Meghalaya.
REFERENCE


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