After adopting the criteria for this regional division, certain characteristics of population found to be vital in revealing the demographic personality of each part of it, have been considered of a decisive significance.

The locations, altitude and terrain, the composition, distribution and density of population, sex ratio and the characteristics of occupational structure are found meaningful in an integrated fashion to realise the goal outlined above.

Although the literacy aspect of population geography is instrumental in supplying the key to bring about socio-economic changes and is highly operative in improving the quality of population, yet low rate of general literacy with very few and broad spatial variations does not serve much of the purpose by
including it in the essential criteria of this regionalisation. Similarly, the decisiveness of urbanisation in classifying the area into population regions is reduced because of its low level in the study area of this type. The selection of the uniqueness of areal locations in respect of the accessibility or isolation of a region in the hills is vital, marking out a near homogeneity of physical and caste-tribal aspects of cultural environments have a great hand in supplying the frame for this division.

The altitude and nature of slope are important in conveying the general type of terrain which goes to influence the local soils, the productivity and limits of cultivation upon which most of the people depend for their living.

The choice of distribution and density of rural population can in no way be missed as they go to reflect the natural conditions characterising individual areas, precisely setting apart the vacant chucks from inhabited parts suggesting thereby a population-resource relationship. The density-distribution patterns become all the more essential in any scheme adopted for laying down population regions in an area possessing varied hilly topography.

The sex ratio has been purposely chosen as many of the implications of migrational trends, cultural tracts and issues of manpower hinge upon it, making it a central reference point for deciphering the demographic personality of the region.
Although the occupational structure is largely agrarian, a pasting evaluation of local agricultural base, the consideration of the size of working force, the modes and trends of hill agriculture have been incorporated to know its potency as a source of living.

With the help of this criteria, whose need and relevance has been pointed out in preceding account, the following areal classification is arrived at for a regional summing up of all important aspects of this population study (Fig. 42):

(i) Outer valley plains (South central tracts);
(ii) Low valleys and hills (a) western and (b) eastern margins;
(iii) High hills and valleys;
(iv) Mid range mountain pockets and
(v) The Inner zone consisting of (a) Lahaul and (b) Pangi-upper Churah.

(1) Outer Valley Plains (South Central Tract):

From all essential viewpoints, Kangra-Palampur-Jogindernagar and Mandi valleys situated in outer zone to the south of Dhaura Dhar make a well-recognised region in respect of its easily accessible location, relative proximity to the plains and a transition from low hills and plains to high mountains. It is favoured by having a larger area of low altitudes below 4500 ft., easiest terrain, an extensive flatter topography, congenial
soil-slope relations and the longest growing season, all suitable for making it appear as thickly populated region on map showing the distribution of its population.

It is distinguished by a larger proportion of inhabited area, still carrying moderate to high densities of population over its rolling to flat valley plain. The cultivable land being conducive for intensive and diversified cropping, the pressure of population on its proportionately smaller size has led to a great fragmentation of cultivated holdings. Although these valleys are the agricultural tracts of supreme importance, it provides an insufficient resource base for such a heavy population. It has resulted in out-migration of people to neighbouring regions, joining Indian armed forces, factories and business; the large number of small hill towns also partly providing an outlet for side employment to the hard-pressed peasantry.

The working force, no doubt considerable, gets reduced as compared to its dimensions in higher Himalayas, under the spell of the out-migration of adult males, a tendency which acts as a connecting link with people in adjacent regions. It leaves behind the larger proportion of females, many of them young war widows leading to a clearly marked very high sex ratio in a number of local tracts.

(ii) Low Valleys and Hills:

Towards the western and south eastern extremities of the outer zone and around terminal spurs of Dhauladhar, a greater
number of isolated pockets, low hills and small valleys in place of the wider valley plain, set these parts apart as a distinct region.

The two areas have broader similarities in respect of their hilly terrain, smaller extent of flatter topography, larger prevalence of rough slope and greater scattering of human habitations around small clusters in centres of the valleys rising to 5000 ft. altitude. More than the rise in altitude, valleys being small-sized it is the usable forested slope of their marginal hills where encroachments for extension of cultivation has become well-marked. Both parts of the region are distinguished by moderate population, moderate densities and a gradual expansion of inhabited area up the forest-clad hills. Sex ratio remaining generally moderate with small deviations in local tracts following a low range of temporary movements of male workers from one to another. Despite such shared characteristics, certain striking differences between the western and the eastern margins mark them off as two clear-cut sub-units.

(a) Western Margin: Lower Chamba, lower Churah to the north of Dhaula Dhar and Bhattiyat to its south along western fringes are locationally three different areas. But a general topographic homogeneity and the two main roads accelerating the inter-communicational links combine them into one sub-region.

In the whole study area, it is distinct by having a medium intensity of both the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes unlike the outer valleys where the classified tribal population is generally the lowest and the inner valleys where it is fully concentrated.
Although cultivation remains the primary occupation, lesser reliance could be placed on its remunerativeness and a greater need is felt to combine it with grazing-forestry and particularly the household industry.

(b) Eastern Margins: Towards the south east of our study area, the valleys of Chichiot-Karsog, falling in Beas-Sutlej basins, are included in this east marginal part of the region.

Culturally these tracts have the highest proportion of scheduled castes and the lowest of tribal people marked by a noticeable degree of socio-economic backwardness. Unlike the western margins and the outer zone valleys, even the seasonal movements of graziers from and to the high hills are limited and most of the local population is virtually sedentary because the area has lagged behind in the development of non-agricultural sector and means of communication for long. A characteristic worth noticing is a greater disinclination of the people to leave their ancestral villages even when they come to own good cultivable land in forest clearings along the mid hills. It has checked the re-distribution of population to such an extent that the density of population in many original villages has gone on increasing to the highest level found anywhere in the whole region.

(iii) High Hills and Valleys:

To the south of Pir Panjal in eastern part of the study area is Kulu-Seraj region physically and culturally isolated by its location marked by high mountains on all sides, setting it
completely apart from the surrounding parts. But a linear
distribution of its small size of inhabited area with a flatter
terrain stringing the central valley of Beas, has lent a
relatively higher accessibility within. As the altitude rises
to more than 6000 feet with slope becoming equally steeper
towards the valley-margins, the contrast is sharper between
greater crowding of population in the valleys and its sparsity
merging abruptly into tracts carrying no population beyond
mid mountain slopes. As a whole it is sparse to moderately
populated in respect of its total area, but the local densities
are fairly high within the settled zone where the people are
desperately engaged in, adding to the scarce usable area in
the mid altitudes.

As the people are closed in, and there is little influence
of migrations on the high hill-dwellers of Kulu, the sex ratios
tend to be fairly moderate. Another distinguishing trait of the
people is their lesser interest in the subsidiary occupations of
grazing and forestry and relatively more in household industry.
Besides the latter making a slow headway, the economic developments
for tourist attractions along the arterial road and in respect
of fruit orchards along the mid hills are the only diversions
from unrelieved predominance of scarce cultivation keeping the
people to the bare subsistence level rather reducing them to
straits in high elevation villages.
The Mid Range Mountain Pockets:

The Central part comprising Brahmour, Chota-Bara Banghal and a few adjoining tracts falling upper Ravi and Uhl river basins is at once remarkable by its location amidst the axis of Dhaula Dhar-Pir Panjal ranges, by the altitude of villages rising to 8000 feet and the slopes becoming steeper even within the small extent of inhabited zone.

The mountainous topography of the region, small pockets of human habitations mutually isolated and a transition from valleys of low Himalayas to those of high Himalayas are the hallmarks of regional personality.

The area is sparsely populated, high to moderate densities confined to localised pockets within its sparsity of area suitable for human occupancy.

Occupationally the region is distinct by having the concentration of Gaddi people, mostly classified as tribals and partly not included in their scheduled list. They are more of high Himalayan graziers than cultivators. For this reason, the large-scale seasonal migrations up and down the mountain pastures play their part in the emergence of well-marked population culture traits spoken of in various chapters of this study.

The onerous duties of eking out a difficult living for supporting the region's population by making a use of vertically stratified resources, has kept the larger working force fully occupied. Rather the sex ratio pulled down to slightly below the
average is indicative of periodical spurt of migratory male
labour in response to eliminate the shortage of man power.

(v) The Inner Valleys:

The mighty and Himalayan range of Pir Panjal clearly
demarcates the high inner valleys, suffering from the greatest
physical and cultural isolation, human habitations rarely marked
below 3500 feet, altitude and slope both restricting their
distribution to a slice of the vast territory and the region
setting oriented to cultural practices of Ladakh and Tibet to its
north. It is a realm apart in its location, physical-cultural
setting, characterisation and plenty of population.

Other common characteristics are sparsity of population
but an obvious high density of population within small dimensions
of inhabited and cultivable area in a number of local tracts.
The populated zone completely disappears as soon as one moves
away from the fringes of a few main streams and under cold-arid
mostly, one crop cycle of cultivation, its large scale irrigation
has been the life of its scarce resource base. Both on grounds
of isolation, exclusiveness of religious and cultural practices,
the people are classified as scheduled tribes requiring a
directional approach to the development of their areas.

Notwithstanding an overall homogeneity of natural and
living conditions the whole of trans-Pir Panjal zone with a few
contiguous parts (where alone the settlements are found where
the lowest level of 6000 ft.) has two well-marked sub-regions
differing in population characterises and in modes of human
adaptability to this type of setting.
(a) **Pangi—Upper Churah**: This part of the region forms the western half of trans-Pir Panjal area extending partly on the southern side of the range. Unlike the other similarly inaccessible tribal areas, the people here are marked by a comparatively lesser mobility even seasonally, for resorting to large-scale grazing. It has made Pangi, the poorest tract, its inhabitants helplessly stuck up amid high mountains, frequently suffering during food scarcity conditions, the scarce cultivation already proving just sufficient in favourable years.

Culturally it is easily marked as a Buddhist-Muslim transitional zone having them as its sizable minorities. The largest working force both of men and women is the biggest hope, helping in drawing out the maximum from land, plied grazing and household industry as aids to sole dependence of people upon difficult cultivation of land in the high Himalayas.

The sex ratio in general population goes lower than the regional average consequent partly upon periodical in-coming of adult male workers and partly by a little of family migrations from part of the rural tracts occupying high isolated elevations.

(b) ** Lahaul**: The eastern part of the inner zone along upper courses of Chandrabhaga river system is populated by Mongoloid, tribal and polyandrous people distinguished by their half Hindu half Buddhist religious faith and by the former's spiritual and secular institutions.

It has the lowest sex ratio in general, rather than in the tribal population caused by large-scale in-migration of male
labour to go away with the chronic shortage of manpower for completing the developmental works in short working season. The region's highest working force is itself busily occupied in various activities of life-sustenance limited to short summers.

By taking resort to business, transportation, grazing and an enterprise, in adapting to changing current situations, the people have shown a fair degree of mobility and have been keeping better levels of living as compared not only to the other tribes, but even to many non-tribal communities.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:**

The totality of population characteristics helps to mark out three minor regions in the outer zone; two in the middle, and two in the inner zone, synthesising various attributes, earlier discussed separately, in an areal frame.