Chapter 3

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA
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Land

Manipur, one of the seven sisters of the North Eastern Region of India, is an isolated hill state. It is one of the most beautiful places on the earth, comprising large area of hills and a small oval shaped valley in the middle surrounded by layers of blue-green hills ranges from all sides. For its location and scenic beauty is ethically described by many as “Little paradise on earth” and “Switzerland of India” by Lord Irwin and “Jewell of India” by Jawaharlal Nehru.

From time to immemorial, Manipur was an independent princely state. It lost her independence to the British in the year 1891. From 1892 onwards it became a princely native state under the political control of British India. The British paramouncy continued till India won independence in the year 1947. On being hard pressurized, Bodhachandra Maharaja of Manipur had finally signed the Merger agreement on 21st September, 1949 and the state was formally amalgamated with the union of India on 15^{th} October 1949. Thereafter Manipur was placed as part ‘C’ state and subsequently placed as Union Territory till 20^{th} January, 1972. And finally got as full-fledged state on 21^{st} January 1972. Under the 8^{th} scheduled of the constitution, Manipuri language was included as a National language of the country in the year, 1992. And, Manipuri is the principal language for communication among the different tribes of the state. There are many Others tribal dialects which are spoken by the 33 different tribal communities.

Topography

Manipur is situated between 92°52’E to 94°45’E longitudes and 23°42’N to 25°42’N latitude. The total area of the state is 22,356sq.kms, 90percent of the total area is hilly with an account of 20,513 sq.kms and valley claims only 10percent of the total area with 1843 sq.kms. The state has 352 Kms. long international border with Myanmar to the south-east and 502kms long border with adjacent states of Nagaland on the north, cachar district of Assam on the west and Chin Hills of Myanmar and Mizoram on the south and south-west and Surma Tract and upper Chindwin of Myanmar on the east. The altitude of the state above the mean sea level varies from 790 meters to 2020 meters. It is
hot and wet during summer months while the winter months are cold and dry. Naturally Manipur is a sub-tropical monsoon climate. The state enjoys a healthy and comfortable climate in most places of both hills and valley. The actual rainfall of Manipur during 2004 was 2075.1mm as against the normal rainfall of 1969.5mm as recorded by the Indian Meteorological Department.

The state can broadly be divided into two natural divisions viz the hills and the valley. The hills comprises of five districts namely (i) Senapati (ii) Tamenglong (iii) Churachandpur (iv) Chandel and (v) Ukhrul, while the valley consists of four districts viz (i) Imphal East (ii) Imphal west (iii) Bishnupur and (iv) Thoubal.

People

The population of Manipur as per 2001 census is 22.9 lakhs comprising 11.6 lakhs of males and 11.3 lakhs of females. Population of the state constitutes nearly 0.22 percent of the total population of the country. The density of population of Manipur as per 2001 census is 103 per sq.km. The sex ratio is 978 females per 1000 male.

Manipur is inhabited by Meiteis and 33 indigenous tribes. The people of the state can broadly be classified into three main groups they are (i) The Manipuri speaking people or Meiteis (ii) Naga tribes (iii) The Kuki-chin Mizo tribes.

Economy

The economy of the state is mainly depend on agriculture. About 67 percent of the total population of the state depends on agriculture for their livelihood. The total area under cultivation is 2,85,00 hectares. Agriculture in the state is mainly depends on rainfed and weather condition. Permanent cultivation is generally practiced in the valley districts while terrace cultivation is practiced in some pocket of the hills where shifting cultivation is widely popular in most of the hills areas. Rice is the staple food and is grown in both hills and plain areas and it accounts for about 98 percent of total foodgrains production of the state in 2006-07.

Natural Forest Resources

The state occupies vast area of forest covering as much as 17,418 sq kms which is about 78 percent of the total geographical area of the state. Reserved forest and protected forests account for 1,467 sq kms and 4,171 sq kms
as recorded during 2005-06. The remaining 11,780 sq kms is remained as unclassed forest. The important major forests products are timber, firewood, bamboos, cane, etc.

**Industries**

Inspite of the fact that Manipur is bestowed with mineral and forest resources, it is an industrially backward state because of poor transport and communication facility, shortage of power and lack of proper infrastructure. But Handloom and Handicraft Industry is well developed in the state. It will not be wrong to say that by tradition that handloom & handicraft industry is common to every household. Its oriented products and design are very popular and highly demanded within the country as well as abroad.

**Transport and Communication**

The state has neither railways nor navigable waterways. The only major functional railhead linking Manipur with the rest of country is at Dimapur town of Nagaland state which is 215 kms away from Imphal. The state capital will find its place in the country’s railways map within a few years as the survey as well as construction work from Jiri to Tupul has been started.

At present the state is connected with the rest of the country through NH 39 and 53 and by airways. That the state’s total road length is 8,648 kms of which 4573 kms and 4075 kms are surfaced and unsurfaced roads.

**Education**

In the field of Education sector the state has two central universities i.e. Central Agricultural University (CAU) and Manipur University and one Medical Institute, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences. Total Schools and Colleges by the end of 2005 of the state were 4086 and 62 Nos.

In terms of literacy, the state ranks second among the North Eastern states of the country as per 2001 census. The literacy rate is 70.53 percent. Literacy rate among males and females are 80.30 percent and 60.50 percent respectively.
Art and Culture

The state is rich in art and culture. Ras Leela, one of the classical dances of India, is well acclaimed throughout the world for its extremely graceful movement and unique costume. It depicts the plays of Lord Krishna as a child with Gopies of Brindavan and love between Lord Krishna and Radha. Lai Haraoba, spring festival held in April/May is symbolized as a traditional, styles and ritualistic dance performed for peace and prosperity. Tribal folk dances are an expression of nature, creativity and athleticism of the tribal way of life. One can witness the colorful customary dance, unique rituals on Lui-ngai-ne (seed showing festival of Naga Communities) and Kut (the biggest festival of Kuki-chin-Mizo communities). Indeed, Manipur is very rich in the field of art and culture which have been associating with more than 2000 years.

Manipur “a little paradise on the earth” having pleasant climatic condition throughout the year has many places of interest with attractive natural features. Keibul Lamjao National Park, on the bank of Loktak Lake, the only habitat of Brow Antlered Deer locally known as “Sangai”, INA Memorial Complex at Moirang where INA hoisted tricolor flag for the first time on Indian soil, Shiroi National Park at Ukhrul, is the world renowned tourist spot, where the only famous Shiroi Lily belonging to Lilum family is grown here, Loktak Lake, the biggest fresh water Lake in the North-East Region and Khongjom war Memorial Complex, where the last war of Manipur Independence was fought are worth major tourist spots of the state.

3.1 Profile of Chandel District

Physical Structure

Chandel district formerly known as Tengnoupal is situated in the south-eastern part of the state. It is surrounded by Myanmar on the south, Ukhrul district on the east, Churachandpur district on the west and Thoubal district on the North. The geographical area of the district is 3,313 sq kms which is 14.83 percent of the total state area.

For the administrative convenient, the district is divided into four subdivisions viz. Chandel, Tennoupal, Chakpikarong and Machi. Chandel is the district Head Quarters of the district. Moreh, the border town of the district is an important commercial hub of the state and international trade centre between
India and Myanmar. When the Trans Asian Super Highway comes up, it will be one of the business gateways to the Asian Country.

![Figure 3.1 Map of Chandel District (Source: Dept of Earth Science, M.U)](image)

**People**

The district is inhabited by several communities. It is sparsely inhabited by about 20 different tribes. Prominent tribes inhabitat are Lamkang, Moyan, Monsang, Chothe, Aimol, Anal, Thadou, Paite, Maring, etc. There are other communities also inhabited like Meiteis and Muslims in small number compared to the tribes. Cent percent population are cultivators and agricultural labourers.

The total population of the district is 1,18,327 comprising 59,741 male and 58,586 female. The district contributes 5.15 percent of the state’s total population. The density of population is 36 per sq kms which is against the state average of 103.

**Education**

Literacy rate of the district is 56.2 percent as against the state average of 70.5 percent. As compared to female, male are more literate with 48.0 percent and 64.3 percent respectively. Altogether the district flourished 285 schools and three colleges for general education.
Health

As for the infrastructure of health care, the district has two hospitals, four community Health Centers and Primary Health Centers and 26 Dispensaries and Primary Health Sub-Centers. But due to lack of adequate infrastructure and poor transport and communication system, people of the district faced a lot of problems especially for the people residing in the far flung areas. They are compelled to travel on foot for a long way to avail of medical treatment. Consequently every year many patients including the children falls victim of common diseases like Malaria, Disentary, Typhoid, etc. People living in remote areas of other hill districts of the state too confront the same fate relating to health care.

HIV/AIDS

In terms of HIV/AIDS infection the district is categorised as highest sero-positivity rate of HIV as compared with other districts of the state. By May 2008 out of 5873 blood sample screened 1204 were found HIV positive.

Though the district contributes 5.08 percent of total HIV/AIDS cases of the state relating to sero-positivity it has reached to 20.50 percent which is againstst the state average of 12.61 and categorized as highest among the districts of the state.

3.2 Profile of Churachandpur district

Physical Structure

The Churachandpur owes its name Maharaja Churachand Singh (1892-1941AD) as a mark of his visit to the area during the early part of the year 1921. The district is situated in the south-western part of the state. It is surrounded by Tamenglong district on the North, Chandel District on the East, Myanmar and Mizoram on the South. The Geographical area of the district is 4570 sq kms which is 20.46 percent of the total state area. Churachandpur is the largest district in the state. It lies between 23°55’N to 24°3’N latitude and 92°59’E to 93°50’E longitude.

For the administrative convenient, the district is divided into five sub-divisions viz Tipaimukh, Thanlon, Churachandpur, Henglep and Singhat. Churachandpur is the district Head Quarters of the district. Among the hill districts of the state, Churachandpur leads in the field of development activities.
People

According to 2001 census, total population of the district is 2,27,905 comprising 1,17,232 male and 1,10673 female. It contributes 9.93 percent of the total state population and spread over 504 villages. The density of population is 50 per sq km as against the state average of 103. The sex ratio is 1034 females per 1000 males, which is much higher than the state average of 978 females per 1000 males.

Majority of people of the district belongs to Kuki-chin-Mizo communities. Each tribe has its own unique art, culture and tradition. Cent percent of the population is Christian. Majority of the people are farmer, practicing extensive shifting cultivation and entirely depend on forest products extracted from the forest.

Education

Literacy rate of the district is 70.6 percent which is higher than the state average of 70.5 percent. Literacy rate among male and female are 77.7 percent and 63.1 percent.

As per statistically abstraction of Manipur 2007, there are altogether 276 schools in the district. For higher education there are four colleges and one for professional course.
Health

As for the case of facilitation of health care of the people of the district it has one Hospital, 10 Community Health Centers and primary Health Centers and 68 Dispensaries and Primary Health Sub-Centers.

HIV/AIDS

In respect of HIV/AIDS infection, Churachandpur get the title of “AIDS Capital of India” (NIC, Churachadpur). By May 2008, out of 12440 blood sample screened about 2078 were found HIV positive. The district contributes 8.77 percent of the total HIV/AIDS cases of the state which is against the state’s average of 12.16 percent. In terms of sero-positivity, Churachandpur stands third next to Ukhrul with 16.70 percent.

3.3. Profile of Senapati District

Physical Structure

Senapati district is situated in the Northern part of the state. It is bounded by Imphal District (Imphal East and West) on the south, Ukhrul District on the east, Tamenglong District on the west and Nagaland on the North. The total area of the district is 3,271 sq kms which is 14.65 percent of the total geographical area of the state. It lies in between 93°29’E to 49°15’E longitude and 24°37’N to 25°37’N latitude.

For the administrative convenient, the district is divided into six subdivisions viz. Mao-Maram, Paomata, Purul, Sadar Hills West, Saitu Gamphazal, and Sadar Hills east. Senapati is the district Head Quarters. Senapati is one of the most important districts of the state as the life line National Highway Number 39 passes through it which is the backbone of the state as the state has no rail line. Through N.H. 39 transportation of essential commodities, developmental including other commercial items of the state are plying throughout the year.
People

The total population of the district is 2,83,621 comprising 1,4,6,548 male and 1,37,073 female and spread over 625 villages. The density of population is 87 per sq km.

Majority of population of the district is dominated by Naga tribes. Prominent tribes in the district are Poumai, Mao, Kom, Kabui, Kuki, Maring etc. Cent percent of the population are farmers and agricultural labourers.

Education

District literacy rate is 59.8 percent. Literacy rate of male is 80.3 percent and that of female is 60.5 percent. By 2007, the district has 547 schools and six colleges for general education.

Health

In respect of health care, the district has one hospital, 14 Community Health Centers and Primary Health Centers and 68 Dispensaries and Primary Health Sub-Centers. Inspite of having numbers of health centers, people do not get proper health care services due to lack of adequate infrastructure and poor transport and communication facilities.
HIV/AIDS

According to the latest epidemiological analysis report by May 2008 of Manipur AIDS control society, out of 10001 blood sample screened 1178 were found HIV positive. In terms of sero-positivity percentage it contributes 11.78 percent as against the state average of 12.61 percent. Overall status position of the state, Senapati stood fourth next to Churachandpur having contributed of 4.97 percent of the total HIV/AIDS cases.

3.4. Profile of Ukhrul District

Physical Structure

Ukhrul or Hunphun, in local dialect, is the land of colourful Tangkhul tribes. It is situated in the eastern part of the state. It bordered with Nagaland on the North, Myanmar on the east, Chandel and Thoubal District on the south and Imphal East and Senapati District on the west. Total area of the district is 4,544 sq kms. The district lies between 24°N to 25°41’N and 99°E to 94°E. The terrain of the district is almost hilly with varying heights of 1913 to 3114m above sea level.

For administrative convenient, the district is divided into five subdivisions viz. Ukhrul North, Ukhrul South, Ukhrul Central, Kamjong Chassad and Phunguar Phaisat. The district manifested the birth place of Christianity and Western education in Manipur and it was brought as early as 1896 by a Baptist Missionary called Rev. Pettigrew. Ukhrul is famous for its Shirue Kashung, Shiroi Peak, the floral garden of Shiroi Lily, and it manifest a beautiful tourist spot of the state. The only famous Shiroi Lily belonging to the Lilum family is grown here.
People
As per 2001 census report, the total population of the district is 1,40,778 comprising 67,313 female and 73,465 male. It contributes 13 percent of the total population of the state and spread over about 198 villages. Tangkhul Naga community constitutes major population. About 99 percent of the population of the district have baptized into Christianity. The economy of the Tangkhul Naga people is based on agriculture and it is the main source of their livelihood.

Education
In the field of Educational infrastructure it has 342 schools and one college for general education. District literacy rate is 73.1 percent which is higher than the state average of 70.5 percent. Literacy rate among the male is 80.1 percent and that of female is 65.4 percent.

Health
Regarding medical facilities, the district has one hospital, seven Community Health Centers and Primary Health Centers and 42 Dispensaries. Health care service system is far from satisfactory of the people and is almost similar condition with that of other hill districts of the state.

HIV/AIDS
Though the district introduced to the world by its beautiful Shiroi Lily it has become one of worstly HIV/AIDS affected in recent time. According to the latest report of Manipur AIDS control society by May 2008, out of 8772 blood sample screened, 1713 were found HIV positive that is 19.53 percent. In terms of average sero-positivity rate it is much higher than the state average (12.16 percent). Overall, Ukhrul contributes 7.23 percent of the total HIV/AIDS cases of the state.