CHAPTER V

MORPHOLOGY OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

In the last few decades, the European geographers have produced a lot of research works and valuable projects in the field of morphological studies on European towns and villages. Numerous research studies on London\(^1\) and Paris\(^2\) may be referred to for the formulation of theories, concepts, structural analysis and morphological frame. The utterly lacking morphological studies of cities and villages were substituted to some extent by some important works of Robert E. Dickinson in Europe. There are some other important works by Smailes, Mumford, Conzen and others on the morphological aspects of geography of villages or towns. Besides the functional analysis and land use patterns there are some works on ecological organisations of European villages and cities. Recently, some theoretical discussions based on regional aspects have been multiplied to expose the personality of the urban and rural centres in different stages of growth.

In this context it is to be mentioned here that during the last four decades or so quite a good number of morphological studies have been undertaken in India exposing numerous urban and rural problems, features and prospects within certain limitations.

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\(^1\) P. Geddes, "Cities in Evolution" (London, 1915)

\(^2\) R. Clozier, "A through study of paris", Paris 1941
Some of the recent references in these lines of studies in India are that of Singh P.B.R.\(^3\), Singh R.Y\(^4\), Singh R.L.\(^5\), Sinha\(^6\), Raza\(^7\) and Rao\(^8\). In Manipur, Singh\(^9\) has made a preliminary attempt on urban morphology considering the various urban structures of Imphal city.

Keeping in view of this growth of studies on various villages and towns with respect to their various components the study attains paramount importance in the frame-work of rapidly increasing pace of over population, congestion and unhealthy living. The study of villages and towns which falls under the domain of settlement geography - a subject conventionally divided into two sections, i.e., the study of number, size and growth of the inhabitants in the city or village and secondly the study of the pattern, distribution, internal and external shape. The former can be broadly indexed under the demographic study while the latter under the morphological study of towns or villages. Both the branches have their distinct importance and scope. The present endeavour however, relates to the second aspect of the study.

Before attempting to outline the fundamental elements of the present study, it is rather necessary to give a prelude formulating the meaning and concept of morphology.

5.1 Meaning and Concept of Morphology

The term ‘morphology’ had been used in various sciences, like Geology, Philology, Geography and other social sciences. Stamp has defined it as, “the science of form and structure and development which influences the form”\(^10\). Dickinson is of the view that “morphology

is concerned with plan and build of the habitat, viewed and interpreted in terms of its origin, growth and function". Thus, any morphological study involves the study of the factors leading to its developments.

In geography, morphology implies the study of the forms of earth surface or some other elements, such as, human settlements, and the term ‘morphology’ can be developed in terms of structure, process, and stage, according to the concept of Davis. The mode of the arrangement of buildings and streets represents the physical structure of the settlement, the social and economic character and the tradition of the community denotes the process which determines the structure of the town or village, and the stage is expressed by its historical or evolitional development. But according to some modern geographers the order of the three expressions should be arranged as process, structure and stage, because in a human agglomeration no structure can come into existence, without any process, which may be historical, cultural, social or economic. It is in the processes of city building that the city takes its structural form or shape. Then comes the stage. Stage it self can be sub-divided according to Tailor as sub-infantile, infantile, youth, mature, late mature, and senile (old).

From the town planners’ point of view, the background of the term morphology of a town or a village necessitates the study of the existing lay out of streets, arrangements and characteristics of buildings, associated patterns of land-use and ultimately investigation of historical circumstances influencing their origin and evolution. It will be noted that the morphological studies so far made in India and abroad generally deal with the location, evolution and growth and interaction among the various urban or rural functions. Thus ‘rural morphology’ may be regarded as the study of forms of the rural settlements. In general, rural settlements differ in shape, size, nature and the degree of compactness. All the village acquire some definite observable forms. These aspects of rural morphology have been termed as “village patterns” by certain geographers.

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5.2 Village Pattern

Under the assemblage of different factors such as physical, socio-economic and cultural entity, the arrangement of houses and other associated infrastructures in the study area are arranged in different Geometrical shapes and patterns in relation to their convenient sites and determining features such as terrain, water point, soil, cultivated field, defence point, paths, streets and religious centres etc. Those shapes and patterns associated in the study area are mentioned as under.

5.2.1 Rectangular Pattern

The most common form of the nucleated settlements in the central region of the state is rectangular. The general factor influencing this pattern is the rectangular form of the cultivated fields. The aggregation of rectangular or square buildings in the plots of the same shape, produces rectangular place of the village. Most of the houses remain rectangular with their main axis from north to south and east to south and east to west so that they may get maximum sunlight. Besides, the measurement of the land in the area is generally based on some sort of rectangular or square unit which has resulted in similar field pattern. The boundary of the field is sometimes used for foot path and cart-track. Such fields are easier for measurement and turning of plough. The other advantage of rectangular shape lies in maximum accommodation of houses in several rows. People prefer to orient their house in rectangular form because of certain superstitious belief. Most or the non-tribal and tribal people do not like to construct perfectly square house as these houses are considered bad from their religious point of view.

Some selected examples like Yumnam Khunou $83 \frac{H}{13}$, Thinungei $83 \frac{H}{14}$, Ngaikhong Khunou $83 \frac{H}{14}$, Lourembam $83 \frac{L}{2}$ etc. are found in the valley districts of the state.

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5.2.2. **Linear Pattern**

A linear pattern of settlement is generally formed where the attractive or restrictive forces encourage or discourage the growth in any direction. For the development of these patterns, the site has played a very important role. In the valley of Manipur, the cases of linear settlement pattern have been developed along the sides of highways, river banks, margins of the marshy lakes and along the hill routes and ridge lines.\(^{15}\) The settlements along the river sides have a curved line while the straight lines are in the road sides. This is the commonest form of nucleated rural settlement in most part of the state. In the hills, the settlements represent a "line in steps" descending from the hill tops and ridges. The examples of these villages are Heingang Kontha 83 $\frac{H}{13}$, Khonghampat, Khundrakpam, Lilong Turen Ahanbi 83 $\frac{H}{14}$ Arong Turen Khunou 83 $\frac{H}{15}$ etc.

5.2.3 **Square Pattern**

In the case of a modernised village many cart-tracks or lanes and village crossing roads tend to divide the village into four or more distinct blocks all in square shapes. Such type of settlement can also be found in the fertile agricultural field developed within the central valley.\(^{16}\) The square pattern is the beginning stage of the rectangular pattern. Square villages often turn into rectangular patterns after slight growth in certain directions.\(^{17}\) The best examples of such pattern are commonly exist in the valley districts of the State. Khurkhul 83 $\frac{H}{13}$ Maibong Khunou 83 $\frac{H}{15}$, Leimaram 83 $\frac{H}{14}$ etc. are the distinct examples of such pattern.

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\(^{16}\) Chandrasekhar, N., op. cit., p. 59

\(^{17}\) Prasad, V.N., op. site., ref. No. 9, ch. 4, p. 83
PATTERNS OF RURAL SETTLEMENT

A. Semi-circular pattern
B. Hollow rectangular pattern
C. Triangular pattern
D. L-shaped pattern
E. Square pattern
F. Polygonal pattern
G. T-shaped pattern
H. Circular pattern
I. Horse shoe pattern
J. Linear pattern
K. Chessboard pattern
L. Rectangular pattern

Fig. 5.1
5.2.4 Hollow-Rectangular or Square or Circular Pattern

Hollow rectangular or square or circular is visible in the region. Presence of some typical features in the centre of the village, such as open space, ruined sites in the form of mound, temple, mosque, pond, playground, etc. lead to the development of this hollow pattern of settlements. Besides, superstition has its own role in preventing the use of ruined sites which existed in the form of mound or depression in the centre of the village, and all the later habitations are built up by avoiding the inauspicious site. In Manipur such pattern of settlement is very common around ponds, playgrounds and Umanglai Hanapham (temple). In some villages like Lourembam 83 $\frac{1}{2}$, Keirak 83 $\frac{H}{15}$, Thanga 83 $\frac{H}{14}$, Ithing 83 $\frac{H}{14}$ etc. such type of patterns are seen.

5.2.5 Chess Board Pattern

The chess board or rough grid pattern is really a by-product of the large rectangular village. It denotes a right angle, mesh of streets with or without a central rectangular market place. The intersection of lanes and cart-tracks creates rectangular sub-blocks giving the form of a chess board. Such plan is generally found in planned rural settlements but exceptionally it also occurs in rural areas. In Manipur, such type of pattern is very few. Sairo 83 $\frac{H}{15}$, Langol Housing Complex and Games Villages are suitable for taking up examples of such patterns. In such villages, principal roads, carts tracts and foot paths are meeting each other at right angles and make several rectangular sub-blocks.

5.2.6 Circular Pattern

This pattern of settlement is caused by aggregation for certain facilities such as defence and easy accessibility from some central attractions like ponds, temple, etc. In such settlements, the nucleus is generally occupied by either market place or landlord and businessman or social institution or some religious places. Since the past time, rich people construct their houses in
the centre of the village surrounded by peasant’s dwellings. Examples of such villages are found in and around the central valley of the State. Nongangkhong Khullen $83 \frac{H}{14}$, Thinungei $83 \frac{H}{14}$, Irengban $83 \frac{H}{14}$, Ukhongshang $83 \frac{L}{2}$ are the suitable examples of such pattern exhibit in the state.

5.2.7 L-Shaped Pattern

L-shaped pattern is found at the junction of a minor street with the main road or water lines like streams and rivers. Sometimes, the villages settle along the curvature of roads or rivers and form L-shaped pattern. In the study area, Panjai $83 \frac{H}{13}$ (Fig. 5.1D) is the most significant example for this type of settlement pattern. This village is established at the meeting point of Imphal-Yaingangpokpi Road and inter village road of the village.

5.2.8 T-Shaped Pattern

Usually, T-shaped patterns are found by the additive development of “L” shaped village in time space. This village pattern comes into existence due to modification of the rectangular pattern. An example of such village is Sekmaijin Khunou $83 \frac{H}{14}$ (Fig. 5.1G), where the influence of road and river is well marked. The Mayai Lambi road meets at right angle with Imphal River and settlements have been developed along the roads and river in the form of T-Shape. Khumbong $83 \frac{H}{13}$ at the crossing of N.H. 53 and Manklang River is also well marked for the tendency towards the pattern of settlement.

5.2.9 Polygonal Pattern

Under, the influence of different environmental factors and expansion of population, settlement patterns are changed from one to another such as from circular to rectangular and from rectangular to circular etc. Polygonal pattern is the intermediate stage of such changes. The outer edges of such pattern are mostly demarcated by paddy fields, tanks, hills, roads etc.
such settlements usually occur in the clustered regions and very scanty in the hilly districts. Tangjeng Khunou $83 \frac{H}{15}$, Ukhongshang $83 \frac{L}{12}$, Phumlou $83 \frac{H}{13}$, Nachou $83 \frac{H}{14}$, Moidangpok $83 \frac{H}{13}$ (Fig. 5.1F) etc. are the notable examples of such patterns.

5.2.10 Amorphous Pattern

In the hilly districts of Manipur, villages are dotted with numerous hamlets in irregular arrangements. In such arrangements several patterns are linked with the central hamlets by the village path and no definite pattern is recognised. "Such loose distribution of settlements link with central site only by crude paths may be termed as amorphous pattern"18. This type of settlements are predominantly found in the five hill districts - Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Senapati, Chandel and Tamenglong but in the valley districts such pattern is very scanty.

5.2.11 Contour Pattern

In the hilly regions of this state, somewhere in the slopes of the hills settlements occur along the contours in terraced form. Their rows of dwellings and terraced fields are almost parallel to the contours. The distribution of such tarraced or contoured settlements are guided by the intensity of slope. The elevation over 1000 ft. and where the slope is more than 30° it is not suitable for settlements. Such contour settlements and terraced fields are quite attractive to look from the surrounding sites, Khunou $83 \frac{H}{15}$, Tinupai $\frac{H}{15}$, Tusom $83 \frac{L}{5}$, Nambasi $83 \frac{L}{6}$, Phunal $83 \frac{H}{15}$ are the suitable examples of such pattern. Base on the convenience, the use of lower terrace fields for cultivation and the upper for settlements is the similar character of each of such settlement.

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5.2.12 Semi Circular Pattern

Under certain physical features, some of the villages take development along the curved foot hills or curved streets or on the meander bend of a stream. This pattern is mostly common in the valley districts. Langathel Khunou $\frac{83}{2}$ (Fig.5.1A) of Thoubal District is the most significant example of this pattern. In the south-west of this village there is curved margin of the Louisi lake while, curved hilly site in the north-east. Wangoo Laikha $\frac{83}{15}$, Chairel Nungou $\frac{83}{15}$, Maibam Loukok $\frac{83}{14}$ etc. are well marked for this pattern.

5.2.13 Radial or Starlike Pattern

In the radial pattern, settlements are spread out in several directions. This pattern is common to both villages and towns and is guided by radiating character of cart-tracks and lanes. There is a convergent point where all roads or cart-tracks or lanes are convergent. Such convergent points are characterised by market centre or religious place or other social institutions. Kameng $\frac{83}{13}$, Moidangpok $\frac{83}{13}$ and Sangaiathel $\frac{83}{13}$ are the agreeable examples of such pattern where roads and cart-tracks converge at a focal point in the centre.

5.2.14 Irregular Pattern

In the valley districts - Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal and Bishnupur, where the compact settlements are predominant this irregular pattern is mostly common. In this pattern, houses are huddled in an irregular fashion following no definite plan. Such villages are generally common to the sites where such facilities are found as fertile soil, good communication, water availability etc. Generally large villages consist of several sections (Leikai) having different forms and when compiled together do not provide any definite pattern. Such fashion of settlements are mostly prevalent in the sites following no definite street or rivers. Khangabok $\frac{83}{2}$, Tekcham $\frac{83}{2}$, Yurembam $\frac{83}{13}$, Hiyangthang $\frac{83}{14}$ are the best examples of such sprawling pattern.
5.2.15 Triangular Pattern

Triangular patterns of rural settlements mostly develop at the confluence of rivers and roads or on those sites where growth of settlement is restricted from three sides. In such locations, the lateral expansion of the village is restricted by three physical elements. At certain places, cart-tracks, roads restrict the expansion. There are two suitable examples for such villages such as Phumlou $83\frac{H}{13}$ and Lairen Sajik $83\frac{H}{13}$. In the village, Phumlou (Fig. 5.1C), the external shape is maintained by the geographical factors such as hills in the eastern side, roads in the south west and paddy fields in the northeast. Being surrounded by these three geographical factors the settlements form the triangular pattern.

5.2.16 Horse Shoe Pattern

Horse Shoe Pattern of rural settlements is very common at the meander of a river or hillock. Here the shape of the settlement is guided by accurate bend or rivers. The example of such pattern is found along the Imphal, Iritel and Thoubal rivers. The village, Sabaitongba $83\frac{H}{4}$ (Fig. 5.11) and Tulihal $83\frac{L}{2}$ are the best examples of such horse shoe pattern. The village Sabaitongba is located along the Thoubal river with horse shoe shape. The shape of the village is restricted by the meander of the river.

5.3 Factors Influencing Village Pattern

The villages in the state are just a sort of natural growth in their physical and cultural setting as they do not give defined form and internal shape and plan. Consequently, no morphological pattern is discernible due to the cohesion of dwellings in regular haphazard way and tortuous lanes. Never the less, in most of the villages there is considerable arrangement both in the internal and external outlines. The evolution of varied morphological patterns is greatly influenced by sets of physical and cultural factors which are indicated here.
5.3.1 Physical Factors

Among the various factors influencing the rural morphological patterns site plays a significant role. Site and morphology are interrelated to each other. Prasad discussed the influence of geographical factors in the rural settlements and made it clear that “The two aspects of site, the size and configuration find most eloquent expressions in the layout of the villages”\(^\text{19}\). Among the water forms found on the surface rivers are more significant in dictating the rural patterns. But in central part of the region under study, tanks are the essential features of the rural landscape that lie mostly on the periphery of the rural settlement and influence the external shape. Playgrounds, lakes, paddy fields and grazing grounds in the peripheries of the villages are the important factors that determines the pattern. The hill factors is also important in some parts such as Leitanpokpi \(83\frac{L}{1}\), Langathabal Khunou \(83\frac{L}{2}\), Kangchup \(83\frac{H}{13}\), Nareng Konjil \(83\frac{H}{13}\) Thanga, Ithing, Karang \(83\frac{H}{14}\) etc. In the hill districts of the region the shapes of villages are conspicuously controlled by the hills and their slopes. In certain parts the interfluvies are narrow and elongated. As such the villages of linear patterns are seen and at times semicircular pattern is discernible in the villages sited on tongue like hilly projections. The layout in such cases corresponds to the contour of the spur. Most of the villages in hilly, dissected or frosted tracts are completely amorphous with any pattern. The consideration of soil or agricultural value of land, seldom comes in the way of extension of the settlement area.

5.3.2 Cultural Factors

Roads, cart-tract and foot paths, influence the rural morphology to a large extent. The crossing and convergence of various routes have influenced the pattern of villages in various ways and have very often, given rise to oblong, rectangular, square and linear or star pattern villages\(^\text{20}\). Social and religious customs have influenced the forms of villages. Such as village temples, Mosques and deities occupy fine places. Temples and wells are usually located at

\(^{19}\) Prasad A., “Chotanagpur: Geography of Rural Settlements”, Ranchi, 1973, p. 379

\(^{20}\) Ibid. p. 380.
the intersection of lanes or on the periphery of the villages. They function as local points. The need of defence in the past was an important factor influencing the village patterns but their impact is still seen on the layout of the villages founded by the Maharajas (Kings) in some parts of the regions. The outlines of the villages differ greatly but the internal structure shows little variation. Some of these forms are common and ubiquitous. The compact villages exhibit varied patterns but the dispersed one acquire a few external shapes.

5.4 Distribution of Plots and Sizes

The distribution of plots and sizes have a close relationship because as much as the distribution is frequent the size of plots become smaller. The principal factors which observed in the state for the distribution of plots and sizes are drainage conditions, irrigational facilities, nearness to the habitation sites, soil fertility, growth of population, separation of new families and right of inheritance etc. In the state, the law of inheritance allows all children to have their shares equally in each farm unit of the family. Once, a farmer inherited then distributed the fragmented plots again to the number of inheritance. Therefore, the number of plots become increased in the next generation and turn to smaller in size in an unending process. (Fig.5.2) shows fragmentation of plots of rectangular shape smaller in size near the residential unit and bigger on the marginal sites.

5.5 Household Structure in Relation to Land Holdings

As per mentioned by the census of India a household is a group of persons who commonly live together in the same house and take their meals from a common kitchen. In the state, there are 222035 rural households with 1331504 rural population. The present analysis of the state is based on the 15% household samples from different rural areas of the State. The finding of the sample survey reveals that the average size of a household is 5.99 persons but in the hill districts where less educated areas, size is some what bigger i.e 6.37 in Churachandpur , 6.98
LOUREMBAM VILLAGE
DISTRIBUTION OF PLOTS
(COMPARISON IN BETWEEN 1962 AND 2000)

POSITION OF PLOTS IN 1962

POSITION OF PLOTS IN 2000

Fig. 5.2
in Tamenglong and 6.15 in Ukhrul district. In the valley area also Muslim people have large size of household due to the less practice of family planning. The distribution of cultivating households in rural areas by the size of their holding signifies that 70% of the total household are under two acre of land holding. The main cause of this lessing of land holdings in the state is made by the wide extension of hilly areas (i.e. 91% of the total Geographical area). In other words 64.5% of the total population are concentrated in the 9% total land of the state. It is therefore revealed that the per acre population pressure is higher in the valley while there is plenty but no land records of land holdings in the hills.

5.6 Allocation of Village Infrastructures

From the detailed morphological study of different villages from deferent geographical units of the state it is perceived that there is a similar allocation of village infrastructures such as playgrounds, grazing grounds, ponds, cultivated fields, crematories, temples, community centres etc. In the meitei villages there is compulsorily one temple known as Umanglai which is located in either site centre or peripheral boundary of the village. In the same way as in the meitei villages mosques and churches are taking the place in the village of Muslims and Christian people respectively. Usually, mosques and churches are located in the central part of the villages. In the past days the main source of water for domestic uses was from the rivers and ponds. Therefore one public pond is necessarily maintained in the outskirts of each village but not so in the tribal villages due to geographical factors.

The main homogeneous part of a village habitation is cultivated fields. So the integrated built up area is surrounded by fields. Playgrounds, grazing fields and crematories are usually seen in the outer isolated part of the village. In the wide homogeneous portion, most of the cultivators follow intensive cultivation in the plots lying adjacent to the residential units which yield double crops of vegetables, cereals and fruits. Road networks in the rural area of the
state is very scattered. One or two routes link the village with the main road or the village
directly extends along the road. In large villages like Khangabok, Thanga, Tentha and Charangpat
many small roads known as Leirak divide the villages into different parts called Leikai. Thus
the study of allocation of village infrastructures and farm dwellings makes it easier to discuss
the pattern of villages showing various morphological structures and geometrical forms.

5.7 Residential Segregation and Social Structures

The structure of rural settlement of different communities in the state is somewhat different
in comparison with different parts of the country. In the villages of the country different communities
like Brahan, Nomia, Koiri, Lohar, Barber, Dhobi, Teli, Kohar, Dhunia, Tolaha and Muslims
altogether settle in one village but in our state different communities do not settle in a village.
They settle in different villages without mixing each other. Originally such patterning of residential
segregation is not only based on caste level, but also based on the level of clan and occupational
structure, Hindus, Meiteis, Muslims, Scheduled castes, Brahmans are the principal communities
of the valley districts and most of the scheduled tribes settle in hill districts. Brahmans are
respected among the meiteis (Hindu) and all religious activities are also done by the Brahmans
being the mutual strong co-operation and attitudes.

So at least one or two families of Brahmans settle at the centre of Hindu Meitei village.
They occupy a large plot comprising one residential house one temple and one mandop (a
typical community Hall.) Usually Muslims settle along the bank of rivers. Perhaps the main
causes of this result may be that Muslims use to namaj five times daily, for each namaj they
need to take bath. In Manipur Imphal district has the largest number of Muslim population.
According to 1991 census it is counted as 62152. Among the Muslim villages Moijing,
Sangaiyumpham, Cherapur, Khetrigao, Sora, Phundrei, Keirao Makting, Changantabi and
Hayenlabuk are remarkable. The place of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes in the state is very remarkable one and constitute a very important segment of the total rural population. Such scheduled tribe population is composed of different 29 communities like Naga, Kuki, Anal, Rengmei, Rongmei etc. Such communities of big number settle separately in the hills in different villages while scheduled caste people are separately settle in the valley regions. In the past days during the reign of Manipur kings they are made to settle in the isolated outskirts of Meitei village.

With these observations cited above, an attempt is made here to analyse some of the morphological structure of rural settlement of the state in order to understand and analyse the complex and intricate pattern of the rural morphology. The author selected the villages on purposive random sampling from various sizes, castes, districts and regions. The selected villages for case studies are Mumlo Ringpam, Haokhong Ching, Huikap, Khoribok, Kang Yambem, Tentha, Sunusiphai, Leimaram, Kamaranga, Phaiton, Changamdabi, Lourembam, Torbung and Khumbong.

5.8 Case Study of Selected Villages

**MUMLO RINGPAM**

Mumlo Ringpam a small sized village has its location on 24°37' N. latitude and 94°6' E. longitude in Chandel T.D block of Chandel district. This village is situated in the foot hills of “Mamang Ching” surrounded by paddy fields of Salungpham in the west, Machi Range locally known as Tolen Ching in the east, Mariland village in the south and Ingourok ching in the North. It has an area of 562 acres. Out of this total area about 56 acres (i.e. 10%) is dominated by terraced field, the rest are planted with pine trees and also covered with wild forest. Originally this village had been settled since the time immemorial but it was ruined and shifted to different hill villages of Chandel district during the Awa Lal (seven years devastation).
VILLAGE MORPHOLOGY-MOMLO RINGPAM

SCALE

100 50 0 100 200 300 400 metre

PAMY FIELD

PINE FIELD

TO UHKONGSHANG

SALUNGHAM LOUKOL (PAMY FIELD)

VILLAGE CHIEF'S HOUSE

CHURCH

NEPALI'S HOUSE

KACHA ROAD

HILL BOUNDARY

DWELLINGS

Fig. 5.3
In the year 1964, again this village was revived by the returning of a few Tangkhul people and become the present state of the village.

Morphological Structure

The impact of physical environment is quite obvious on the rural landscape. Due to uneven topography, the dwellings of the village are scattered. That is why the village takes the street pattern. The streets have developed in a natural way opening to the road. Actually the main centre of the village is pictured by a crossing of village road and Salungpham Shikhong road. The only one church of the village is also situated near the crossing. The village chief's residence is located towards the west of the village crossing. Due to uneven surface of the village there is no big playground but a small Volleyball ground is at the western margin of the settlement area. There is one Govt. elementary school in the village at the southern foot hill. There is no bus services and any type of medical facilities. For such facilities they go to Salungpham and Shikhong. Unavailability of drinking water is the main problem of this village. There is no hand pump, Tap water and well. Only they use to take water from a spring by the help of pipe.

There is no impact of caste segregation in the village morphology because all the inhabitants are Tangkhuls except one family of Kuki and another of Nepali. Usually, in the isolated hill villages of the state natural environment has deeply affected the houses. The image of this natural impact is properly seen in this village. The dwellings of the inhabited tribes are made of wood, bamboo and thatch. Due to economic weakness of the people, there is no pucca and semipucca dwellings. The occupational structure of the village is not mainly based on cast segregation but on environment. Due to availability of terraced field in the western side of the village all the inhabitants are engaged on paddy cultivation of subsistence type. Out of total population (306) only 36.5% are workers of which 92% earn their livelihood on agriculture.
HAOKHONG CHING
(A Vaiphei Village)

Haokhong Ching village (population 175 area 2400 acres) has been chosen from the south eastern part of the Senapati District. It is locally known as Uchan Pokpi (Original place of pine trees) because of its total coverage of pine trees. The pine forest available in this village and its surroundings is not a plantation but of wild growing. This village lying in Saikul east tribal development block is situated at 4 km. North of Shikhong small town and 11 km. from Yairipok town in the east.

Morphological Structure

Settlements of Haokhong Ching are semi-compact forming circular pattern. The main settlement occurs at the road crossing of Toubull Nongmai Ching Tampak road and local foot path. The village has one hamlet in the north of main settlement area. This hamlet is newly formed at the foot hills on the bank of Haokhong river with the best opportunities of water and communication facilities. Nowadays most of the tribal settlements in the top of the hills have shifted to the down sites because of its difficulties of transport and communication to the up side of hills.

This village has two churches one in the main settlement area and the other in the new hamlet. The village infrastructure like playground, school, cemetery, pond, river, post office, electrification and church are all together available in the village but for medical facilities and higher education the village need to go to Shikhong, Yairipok and Thoubal.

Lacking in the marketing facilities the village has no shops for supply the articles of daily use. As such the villagers have to go to Shikhong Bazar for their usual purchases. There is only one primary School in the eastern side of the village. Higher Schooling facilities up to Class (x) are available in the Shikhong town. The village has poor drinking water with only on handpump under block development programme and by now it is out of function.
There are total 32 households in the village. All the households belong to vaiphei caste only. As a whole, standard of living and dwellings of the people of the village are very low as the people are in the low income group. Out of 32 houses only 5 houses including two churches have C.I. sheeted roof, the others are of mud wall and thatched roof houses.

**HUIKAP VILLAGE**

Huikap the name of the village comes from two Manipuri words “hui” + “kappa”. “Hui” means “dog” and “Kappa” means “cry”. This village is said to have been named that once upon a time the two brothers Nongban Nanba Sathiba and his younger brother Nanba Saphaba went for hunting to a nearby jungle. Sathiba threw his spear to the animal but unfortunately, the spear targeted his brother’s leg and injured. In that incident their faithful dog immediately came back home and informed the wife of Saphaba of it crying and bending its tail. In this occurrence the wife and the dog ran fast to the place of the incident crying and crying thus the place where the dog ran and cried had been known as “Huikap”21.

Huikap latitude 24°43’ N, longitude 94°2’ E. is located on the Imphal Andro road at a distance of 28 km. from Imphal and 6km. from Yairipok. It occupies an area of 505.77 acres inhabited by 2120 persons. This ancient settlement was primarily settlement by Meiteis.

**Morphological Structure**

Natural environment has a strong hold on the site and morphology of the village. This medium village represents a linear pattern along the road due to the encircling hills in the western part and fertile paddy fields in the east. Different village lanes extended perpendicularly from the main road to east and west wards. The expansion of the village is extended towards west along the foot hills due to availability of plenty of slums.

VILLAGE MORPHOLOGY-HUIKAP

Fig. 5.5
The functional morphology of the village is not very complex because of the agricultural economy. Most of the dwellings are used for residential purposes and for cattle and domestic articles. There is a small market centre along the road having 10 shops of varying nature i.e. 4 shops of general merchants, 2 confectioners, 2 betels sellers, 1 tailor and 1 medical shop. There are three educational institutions viz one govt. primary school one govt. middle school and one private middle School. Apart from it, there are other buildings of local importance such as post office, dispensary, panchayat office and two club buildings.

The village consist of only one hamlet containing 350 dwellings of different types - kutchha house with mud wall and thatched roof, kutchha house with mud wall and C.I. sheeted roof, semi pucca and pucca houses. About 40% of the total houses are Kutchha thatched roof while 50% of C.I. sheeted roof and 1% of pucca houses.

**Khoribok Mathak**

The village Khoribok Mathak 94°10' E, 24°21' N, is in the south of Kasom Khulen sub-division of Ukhrul district. It is a small sized village, representing semi compact of settlement. Village Khoribok Mathak covers an area of 2536 acres of land populated by Tangkhuls of 218 persons. The land under forest is 836 acres (33%) and 28% is used for cultivation.

**Morphological Structure**

The salient feature of the village landscape is totally a hilly. Actually the village itself is located at the side of a hill. It is located at about 27 km. from Yairipok by road and two km. behind the main road. This village consists of 31 households in two hamlated form, one in the lower part of the hill and the other in the upper. The new settlement is extended towards the lower side of the hill which is near to the main road. As an isolated village in the hill district, the infrastructure of the village are very poor. There is no medical facility, high school, drinking
VILLAGE MORPHOLOGY-KHORIBOK

INDEX
- DWELLINGS
- DWELLING OF VILL. CHIEF
- COMMUNITY HALL
- SCHOOL
- CHURCH
- METAL ROAD
- FOOT PATH
- CEMETERY
- BUS STAND
- POND
- SHOP
- PLAYGROUND

SCALE

Fig. 5.6
water facility, community hall, post office, panchayat office etc. All village roads are also represented by footpaths only. As the settlement area of this village is surrounded by two main roads “Yairipok Kasom road” in the north and “Ukhrul chandel road” in the east, it has a rectangular shape. One elementary School is located in the lower hamlet. Village Chief’s house also located in the lower hamlet but church is in the upper hamlet, one small playground is also exist in the upper hamlet. Surrounding homogeneous part of the village is occupied by forest and jhoon cultivated fields. Drinking water is collected from pond which is in the eastern foot hill of the village.

The functional morphology of the village is not so complicated due to the agrarian economy of the village people and more than 90% of the total workers depend on cultivation. Mostly the dwellings are used for residential purposes in which animals, agricultural implements and products and other domestic articles are kept. At present the village has no shops. Out of 31 households there is no pucca and semipucca houses. All houses are Kutcha of mud wall, wooden wall and bamboo mat wall of thatched and C.I. sheeted roof. It indicates that the economy of the inhabitants is very poor. The occupational structure of the village is governed by its surroundings.

**KANG YAMBEM**

Kang Yambem a compact large sized village is situated at 94°5’ E, 24°36’ N in the south eastern part of Thoubal district. It covers an area of 934.40 acres. This village is located on Salungpham - Wangjing road at a distance of 8 km. from Wangjing and 36 km. from Imphal. In 1991 this village had a population of 2137 which increased to 3035 in 2001. In the evolitional process of the village there were great changes with the construction of roads and availability of bus services. This village is bounded by Ukhongshang and Langmeithet in the north, Kangthokchao in the west, Heirok in the south and Mamang ching in the east.
VILLAGE MORPHOLOGY-KANGYAMBEM

SCALE

Fig. 5.7
Morphological Structure

With the total household of 625 this village has a linear pattern along the road and river being extended in east and west direction. A small river known as Salungpham River passes through this village in north east and west direction. Two parallel roads with this river run in north and south of this river and the road that comes from Ukhonghang meet with these two roads at the middle of this village. As a whole this village is in the plain area of fertile paddy fields. These fertile paddy fields represent the homogeneous part of the village. The built up part of the village is concentrated at the central zone with a small rural market centre containing 15 shops. Moreover the village accommodates one high school, two govt. primary school, two private middle schools of English medium, three temples, one post office, one primary health centre, one veterinary office and one panchayat office. Recently in the last few years this village extends one hamlet in the eastern boundary near the foot hills of Mamang Ching. The name of this hamlet is known as Prem Nagar consisting only 6 dwellings.

The dwellings of the village vary greatly on the basis of status of the people and building materials found at hand. The old houses are built of wood, bamboo and thatch in traditional house types but the newly constructed houses are built of wood and roofed with corrugated iron sheets. About 70% of the total number of houses are of Kutchha, the remainings are pucca and semi pucca of brick and stones. Mostly, the pucca houses are constructed in the central part of the settlement site and deteriorated gradually towards the periphery.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the village as there is plenty of agricultural fertile land at the surrounding of the village. Out of the total population of 3035 about 75% are workers of which 68.85% are cultivators, the other rest are engaged in other services such as carpentry, gold smithy, tailoring, trade and commerce.
TENTHA

Tentha, a typical Manipuri village at 93°69’ E, log 24°34’ N is located in the outskirts of three lakes Ikoppat, Kharung pat and Lousipat and comprises an area of 5868.52 acres. Major life line the Wangjing River passes through the heart of the village and divides into two parts north and south. It enjoys a central position in the valley of Manipur and lies at a distance of 33 km. South of Imphal, the capital city of Manipur, 7 km. west of Wangjing town and 12 km. south west of Thoubal, the district headquarters.

This village is said to have been founded by Kangla Khongteknga known as Nongda Laren Pakhangba at his royal palace during 33rd A.D. There is one legend in Manipuri Purana that once a time there was a servant called Nongjengba Piba Yekma Haotangba during the reign of two brothers, Kuptreng and Sendreng. In that epoch, the governance of the country Kangleipak (Modern Manipur) was divided into two-day time governance and night time governance between the two brothers. While one was the king in one shift with supreme power the other was only nominal head and vice versa. Failing to look after his family and to bring up his children properly, Khwai Nungjeng Piba felt a sense that he would be a bit free from the duty of being a servant by killing either the sun or Tao Huiyengba. As an ordeal, Khwai Nungjeng Piba, a mighty warrior, shot Tao Huiyeng Ahanba with a bow from a high peak. There followed a huge collapse of Tao Huiyeng Ahanba’s war horse from above being struck into its breast with the arrow fallen on the spot. Since then the spot has been known as “Tenta”. In Manipuri “Ten” means “arrow” and “Ta” stands for “fallen”. Thus the present name Tentha becomes undeniably associated with Tentha in a process of linguistic change.

Morphological Structure

The village consist of 8 hamlets, viz, Mairenkhul, Marongban, Khunou, Heibung, Khongbal Khunjao, Tuwaband and Thambal Chingya. Among these Khunjao and Khongbal are the most compact area and well-to-do. The other hamlets Mairenkhul, Marongban and Khunou are scattered in the east of the main settlement area while Heibung in the north and the other remaining Tuwaband and Thambal Chingya in the south. The village is predominantly inhabited by Hindu Meiteis (83.40%) of the total village population) followed by Muslims (16.08%) and Christians (0.52%)\(^\text{24}\). There are a few Brahmans settled easterly among the Meiteis. Veritably these Brahman people are engaged to settle among the Hindu Meiteis for their involving with the social and religious activities.

The spatial morphology of the village is governed by its uneven level ground. The occupied land of this village is sloped towards west and the western and southern portion of the village is occupied by lakes. There is one small hill known as Kangla Chingdong in the south central portion of the village being given great opportunity for the expansion of settlements. The settlement pattern of these villages is concentrated in linear fashion along the roads, river and surrounding foot hills.

The village has 5 lower primary schools, 6 primary schools one high school, three rural market centres with more than 20 shops, one playground, 6 temples, 2 mosques, one church, five club buildings and one primary health centre. As a whole, the functional morphology of the village is moderately well developed and developing increasingly with the corresponding population.

Out of 1103 households, there are 12 pucca, 305 semi pucca, 421 katcha and 365 mud and dilapidated houses. It is interesting to note that most of the pucca and semi pucca houses are concentrated in Khunjao and Khongbal as it is the oldest, compact and central inhabited area.

The occupational structure of the village is mainly oriented by its environment and source of land. Out of the total population of 7087, about 61.6% are workers of which 66.2% depend upon cultivation 25.3% on household duty and fishing and 4.8% are engaged in other services.

**SUNU SIPHAI VILLAGE**

Sunu Siphai Village 94°45' E, 24°31' N is located on the Imphal Churachandpur road (Tidim Road) at a distance of about 40 km. From Imphal and 8 km. from Bishnupur the district headquarters. It occupies an area of 619.60 acres inhabited by 1627 persons comprising 265 households. The village is surrounded by Loktak Lake in the east, Thangi Ching in the west, Phubala and Naranseina villages in the north and south respectively.

**Morphological Structure**

This village is said to have been founded by migrated peoples from different neighbouring villages like, Thanga, Moirang and Phubala during the 2nd century A.D. The site is well protected on the east and west by surrounding perennial Loktak lake and Thangi Ching respectively. In the north and south it is passed by Imphal Churachandpur Road (Tidim Road). It is therefore not seemed to have paramount significance in its defence siting in north and south. This villages stands picturesquely on the western bank of Loktak Lake as well as on the side of Tidim Road which transmit the village to other places of the state.

The village underwent various upheavals during the course of its evolution. Hindu Meiteis the original inhabitants formed a compact settlement in the vicinity of the Loktak Lake. As occurred in the other villages of the state, this village also is predominated by a single caste (Meiteis) except a few mixing of two or three families of Brahmans and Christians. Out of 265 households there exist only two households of Brahmans and three households of Christians, the rest are Hindu Meiteis. Brahmans are also very few in the village i.e. their population is
less than 1%. Traditionally, in the Hindu Meitei communities Brahmans are employed with an immense respect in the religious occasions. Muslims and Hindu Meiteis separately settled in different villages, they never make a joint settlement in all majority of villages. On the other hand no Brahmans families are in the Muslim village due to diversities in their religions.

The functional morphology of the village is not very complex because of the predominance of subsistence agricultural economy. Most of the dwellings are used for housing the people and their cattle, fishing equipments as well as for keeping agricultural products and other domestic articles. There are only 5 shops which cater to daily needs of the villages. There are only two schools - one is government primary school and the other is private junior high school. There are two temples in the central part of the village where Brahanam’s house is located and two churches, one in the north and the other in the south. The other public buildings of local importance are the panchayat office, post office, community hall and club houses. The village consists of only one hamlet but it is expanded in three sides east, west and south. It is caused by availability of plenty of land both in the east and west and linear extension towards south direction. In north, expansion of village is blocked by Phubala village.

The house of different types pucca, semipucca, kachha (mud wall and thatched roof, mud-wall and C.I. sheeted roof) and mixed are found in the village. Most of the houses (about \( \frac{3}{4} \)) have mud walls and C.I. sheeted roofs. The brick walled and C.I sheeted roofs as well as pucca houses have their negligible percentage in the village. 85% of houses are mud walled and C.I. sheeted roof. 7% brick walled and C.I. sheeted roof, 5% mud-wall and thatched roof and 2% pucca.

As the village is near to the Loktak Lake and there is plenty of agricultural land in the west of the village the main occupation of the village is oriented in fishing and cultivation of rice.
Out of the total population of 1627 about 82% are workers of which 60% depend upon cultivation and fishing, 35% only fishing and 25% only cultivation. Remaining 18% of the total population are engaged in trade and commerce, services and household industries like weaving, gold smith, blacksmith, carpentry and tailoring etc.

As a whole this village is developed in medium stage with well electrification, drinking water, road transportation and communication but poor in medical facilities. For medical facilities they use to go to Moirang and Bishnupur towns. Village infrastructures like, school, community hall, playground, public pond, club houses and crematoriums are also available in and around the village.

LEIMARAM

Leimaram, a compact large size village is situated at 93°46′ E, 24°43′ N in the north western edge of Bishnupur C.D Block. It covers an area of 990.84 acres. Leimaram village is linked by a small road known as Leimaram road to the Tidim road with a distance of 2 km. In the evolitional process of the village there were great changes in all trades and communication, education, culture and other social amenities. In the immediate vicinity of the village, there is a hill in the western side of the village providing day today need like firewoods, typical vegetables and house building materials. The three small rivers Leimaram river, Lokpal river and Imoinu river which feeding water in the village are originated from the western hill. Topographically, the village is sloped towards south east.

Morphological Structure

The street pattern of the village is quite peculiar with rectangular linear pattern. The internal arrangement of roads is comparatively systematic like that occur in a planed city. The functional morphology of the village is not very complex owing to the agricultural economy and local wine manufacturing, but most of the dwellings are multifunctional. There are about 40 shops of varying nature catering the needs of the people.
VILLAGE MORPHOLOGY-LEIMARAM

SCALE

Fig. 5.10
The village obtains two elementary schools, one high school, panchayet office, one veterinary office two community halls, post office, three club houses and one rural market centre. It has no block office, dharamsala, police station and banks. The village is provided with bus service daily. The village consists of only one hamlet, the main village. It is chiefly settled by scheduled caste people only. One family of Brahamans and five or six families of Christians settle in the villages.

The dwellings of the village very greatly depend on the basis of economic status of the people and building materials found at hand. The old Houses are built of bamboo, mud, wood, unburnt brick and thatches. The houses of poor people are of Kutch with mud walls and thatchoofed. The kutcha houses are 70% of the total number of houses. In the centre, the houses of pucca and semi-pucca of double storeyed are concentrated and deteriorated gradually towards periphercy of the village.

Occupational structure of the village is chiefly based on caste system and surrounding environment. The two main occupations of the village are cultivation due to the availability of plenty cultivable land in the western part of the village and the others are manufacturing of local wine. Piggery, poultry, carpentry, blacksmith, goldsmith, trade and commerce, tailoring, handlooms and other services are the secondary occupations of the village. Out of the total population of 2365, about 60% are workers of which 48.85% are cultivators, 43.12% are busy in manufacturing wine, 40.4% in both cultivation and manufacturing wine, 9.03% in trade and other services.

The village is well electrified, there is tap water facility and also easy communication with the neighbouring towns. Besides, there is plenty of land for agricultural products and usual practice of manufacturing wine. Thus, it is prospect that in the near future, this village will bring in the better economy and rapid progress.
KAMARANGA VILLAGE

The Kamaranga at 93°7' E, 24°48' N comprising an area of 264.8 acres with 1772 persons and 289 households is located in the Jiribam sub division of Imphal East district. Two major groups of people i.e. Bangla Muslims and Meiteis settle in this village in separate sites west and east respectively. Muslim people with a number of 939 persons i.e. 53% of the total population while 833 people of meiteis, Tribals (7 families) and Brahmans (2 families) settle in meagre quantity. In comparison with Meiteis, Muslims are rapidly increasing due to migration from Bangaldesh. This large sized village is surrounded by Jiri River in the north, Bidyanager villager in the South, Hilghhal in the east and Jiribam town in the west.

Morphological Structure

New Cachar Road (N.H. 53) passes through the middle part of the village. An unmetalled road which is known as Tongjej Maril runs straight east to west direction. It joins the N.H.53 at Khuningthek to the east and connects the same at Bbupara to the west. This portion of unmetalled road is almost straight with the connection of N.H.53 at Kamaranga Khuningthek. So, the settlements found along this road has been named as “Sorok Atingbi (Straight Road). Now this portion of old “Tongjej Maril” remains as inter-village road. Many village lanes are arranged in rectangular pattern connecting perpendicularly with the straight road. Along both sides of the village lanes, settlements are formed. The north western portion of the village is surrounded by Jiri River in three sides forming the horse shoe pattern of settlement. The first lane of the village from the western side is longer than the other remaining four. Maximum number of households are concentrated along the lane. The Second Lane demarcates the Muslims in the west and the meiteis in the east. Besides, this lane connects the N.H.53 and the ferry which is used to cross the river. The southern part of the village where the south of the N.H.53 is almost occupied by paddy fields.

There is one market centre along the N.H.53 at the meeting point of first lane and the National Highway. There are about twenty shops of different varieties i.e.7 shops of general merchants, 2 confectioners, 5 betels, 2 tailoring, 1 medical shop, 2 carpentry and 2 workshops and one saloon. Three schools - one Govt. primary school and two private schools educate
the village. The postal service of the village is covered by Bidyanagar Branch Post Office. This village is fully electrified but there is no medical facilities. For medical facilities, people go to Jiribam Town. The dwellings of the Muslim people have a little discrimination in comparison with that of the Meiteis. The Muslims migrated from Bangladesh built their dwellings with locally available materials like bamboo, thatch, coconut leaf and others because their economic level is very low. They are living on their daily wages of such works as tea plucking, bamboo carrying along Jiri river, fishing and others. Out of total houses of the village, only 7 houses are of pucca and two are of semipucca and the rest are of Kutch type. Most of the pucca houses belong to meiteis, it denotes that meiteis have earlier settlement and more improved economic status than that of the Muslims. The settlement is expanded towards east along the road, this is due to the availability of space and communication line.

**PHAITON VILLAGE**

Phaiton a medium sized and semi compact village is located at 93°9'E, 24°47'N in the western part of Tamenglong District. Phaiton is situated on the side of National Highway No. 53. It is just in the east of Gularthong. It occupies an area of 2528 acres and 1170 inhabitants. This village lying in Tousem T.D. block of Tamenglong district is situated at 6 km. east of Jiribam town.

**Morphological Structure**

Settlements of Phaiton village are semi compact forming rectangular patterns. This village is inhabited by Thadou tribes only. The village is surrounded by Tatbung in the north, Kamaranga Khasia in the south, Vagai Chungpao in the east and Gularthong village in the west. Though the village is situated along the National Highway No. 53, the condition of inter village roads is very poor due to rough topographical features and unimplementation of Govt. policy. Lacking in the marketing facility the village has no shops for supply of the articles of daily use. The villagers
VILLAGE MORPHOLOGY-PHAITON

SCALE

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VILLAGE CHIEF'S HOUSE
DWELLINGS
METAL ROAD
UNMETAL ROAD
BUS STAND

S
SCHOOL
CHURCH
BUS STAND

Fig. 5.12
therefore go to Gularthon and Jiribam town for their usual purchases. There is only one private English school in the lower portion of the hill. Higher educational facilities are available in Jiribam town lying far away 6 km from the village. There is inadequacy of medical facilities to serve the villagers. There are four churches in different part of the village. Public sanitation is very poor in the village. There is neither tap-water nor hand pump water. People use water from the river and nearby springs. Recently, under the block development programme some pipes have been installed for developing drinking water. Usually in the tribal villages the house of village chief is situated at the centre of the village. This is due to the reason that all mankind desire to settle in such places where there is communication facility with others. In the same way some families which are economically sound had been shifted down wards where by the side of N.H.53. About 30 houses have shifted near the national highway. In the past days tribal people chose their settlement sites that may serve as defensive sites but nowadays they have selected more habitable and more communicable sites.

Phaiton village is an electrified village but economically backward. Therefore, no pucca and semipucca houses exist in the village, all dwellings are of kutchra type. Majority of kutchra houses have thatched roof and mud wall. About 50 houses excluding school and churches are of C.I. sheeted roof.

Collection of forest products, cultivation of pineapples and other fruits like lemon and orange in the nearby hill slopes and other services are the main occupations of the village. In some parts of the village cultivation of rice and maize is done in subsistence type through jhooming. Most of the families rear pig for their economic development.

CHANGAMDABI VILLAGE

Changamdabi a compact large size village at 94°4' E, 24°41' N is situated in the south eastern margin of Imphal East district. It is a Muslim village with an area of 1020.37 acres. This
village is extended along the Yairipok Keithenmanbi road with a distance of four km. from Yairipok. Though this village is situated in the Imphal East district maximum facilities like medical, marketing, electricity and education are available from Thoubal district. In 1991 this village recorded a population of 3817 which increased to 4962 (2001). In the evolutonal process of the village there were great changes. In the immediate vicinity of the village, there is Thoubal river in the south. Due to the continuous erosional work of the river large part of the village have been eroded. Consequently, the dwellings along the bank of the river become gradually shifted towards the food hills of Ining Ching. With the construction of Thoubal project at Keithenmanbi the road through this village has become a metal road. In Manipuri history, Changamdabi village extends a red mark that once upon a time there was a big tree in the eastern part of the village. By cutting the big tree the “Kangla Pungjao” (a large musical instrument) have been made which is still in Kangla (a royal palace). After the tree had been cutout the remaining portion has been standing for many years with the name “Kangla Ukok”. From this name the eastern hamlet of the village is known as Kangla Ukok.

**Morphological Structure**

The village has a linear pattern of settlement along the Keithenmanbi road. It devides the village into two parts north and south. In a few decades back the southern portion had a large extent but due to the crossing of Thoubal River it has become smaller. Many village lanes are extended perpendicularly towards north and south. This village has one hamlet called Kangla Ukok in the eastern part. There are nine lanes in the north and 7 in the south. Both sides of the village lanes are congestedly occupied by settlements. The functional morphology of the village in not very complex because of the predominance of agricultural economy. A large number of houses are of multipurpose uses. Changamdabi is predominantly a single caste (Muslim) village. No Brahmans and Meiteis settle in the village. There is a small market on the main street at the crossing of village lanes in the western part of the village. There are about 30 shops
of varying nature selling sweets, grain, grocery, betel nut, tailoring, gold smith and workshops. There are seven mosques in different parts of the village. It serves everybody to get namaj easily. This village has one post office, two govt. primary schools, two private English schools. The village is provided with transport service too.

The dwellings of the village vary greatly on the basis of the economic status of the people and locally available building materials. The old houses are built of wood, bamboo, mud and thatch. In course of time, locally available building materials become scarce and become generally represented with the market available materials. Out of 829 houses there exist 8 pucca and 12 semi pucca houses. The rest are of kacha but 80% of the total houses are C.I. sheeted. At the Centre, the houses are of pucca and double storeyed and the standard is deteriorated gradually towards the periphery.

Occupational structure of the village is chiefly based on the surrounding environment. Out of the total population of 4962 about 65% are workers of which 55% are cultivators, 12% are busy in collection of building sand from the nearby river, 13% are engaged in trade and 25% are in other services.

**LOUREMBAM**

Lourembam village located at 94°4' E 24°38' N has been selected from Thoubal district as a large sized village. This village is lying in Thoubal block at a distance of 4 Km. from Yairipok and 8 km. from Thoubal (Fig.5.14).

**Morphological Structure**

Settlements of the Lourembam village are compact forming rectangular pattern. About a length of one and a half kilometer of unmetalled ODR (other district road) divides the village into two parts east and west. A small river also runs through the village parallel to the road.
VILLAGE MORPHOLOGY-LOUREMBAM

INDEX

- Dwellings
- Shop
- Post Office
- School
- Veterinary Office
- Club House
- Pond
- Unmetal Road
- Canal
- Temple
- Groves
- Crematorium
- Community Hall
- Bus Stand

Fig. 5.14
Small village lanes (leirak) divides the settlement portion into many parts. Two crematoriums are located at the both ends of the village north and south. From the reasonable reports given by old agers there were gaps between the houses in the past days but now with the increasing population and breaking up of the joint families, these gaps have been filled. (Fig.5.14). The homogeneous portion of the village is represented by paddy fields extending in the east and west. A large grazing ground covers the slope of the hill in the western margin of the village.

Lacking in the marketing facility the village has only a few shops which supply the articles of daily use. The villagers go to Shikhong, Yairipok and Thoubal town for their usual purchases. There is only one primary school and one U.J.B. school in the northern end of the village. Three Angalwadi Centres, two playgrounds, one post office, one veterinary office, two club houses and one community hall exist in the village. We look as a whole, the infrastructures of the village are neither too poor nor too rich. Lourebambam is an electrified village but it has no telecommunication facility.

Lourebambam is a meitei (Hindu) village, out of 1280 of total population only 11 people are Brahmans. It means that 99.14% are meiteis. No other communities are there in the village. Agriculture is the main occupation, cottage industries like carpentry blacksmith and handlooms are the secondary occupations.

Out of 215 houses only 2 houses are of puccas, 12 houses are of semipucca and 201 are of kutcha type. Again out of the 201 kutcha houses 158 (78.61%) are C.I. Sheeted, the remaining 43 houses are of thatched roof. This type of houses indicates that the economic status of the villagers are moderate.
TORBUNG

Torbung, (93°42' E, 24°26' N) the village having a redmark in the history of Manipur. Once upon a time Khamba the hero of Moirang Parba catch a wild and ferocious bull known as “Kao” from this village to exhibit his heroic activity which would help him to marry princess, Moirang Thoibi (the incomparable beauty of the time). Tidim road divides the village into two parts east and west. The eastern part is included in Moirang C.D. block of Bishnupur district whereas the western part is in Churachandpur T.D. block of Churachandpur district. In this present context, only the western part i.e. a revenue village of Churachandpur district will be studied. This small sized village consists of 421 persons and 61 houses. The settlements is spread in linear pattern along the western side of Tidim road.

Morphological Structure

This village appear to have been a sub settlement of original Torbung Village (included in Bishnupur district) during the past. This village became a separate village of Churachandpur district later on. This is a semicompact nature forming linear pattern in the western side along the road. But in course of time, the village expanded in the north and the south directions along the road. In the western side also expansion is done but in small quantity due to the steep slope of Khoingou hill.

In the northern part of the village, there is one small market centre having 7 small retail shops which deal in the articles of daily use e.g. grocery, pan, medicines, sweets and tea stalls, etc. These shops do not suffice the requirement of the villagers. The villagers generally visit Churachandpur and Moirang town for the purchase of different commodities. There are only one rice mill, two tailors and one carpentry centre. This village is electrified but no tap water. Recently, under block development programme, the provision of pipe water has been made to supply drinking water in the village. There is no facilities for higher education but only one
primary school is on function. For higher education, the people have to go to Moirang and Churachandpur. There is one church in the village. As the village has no medical facilities, the villagers are facing a great difficulty of medical problems.

Most of the villages in Manipur are not multi caste village but Torbung is a multi caste village. Out of 61 houses 49 Vaiphei, 2 Kuki, 3 Muslims, 7 Meiteis settle in the village. There is a specific reason for the village to be a multi caste i.e. the village is settled by migrated peoples from different parts of the state. This village is economically poor and lack of village infrastructures like playgrounds, veterinary centre, medical centres, panchayat offices, post office and other social amenities. Out of 61 houses there are no pucca and semi pucca houses because of poor economic status of the villagers.

**KHUMBONG**

This large village 93°49'E, 24°48'N is selected from Imphal West district. It is located along the national highway 53 (New Cachar Road) with a distance of 14 km. from the state capital Imphal, consisting an area of 795.30 acres, 2060 of population and 353 houses. It is surrounded by Moidangpok in the west, Ngairangbam in the north, Khaidem in the south and Konthoujam in the east.

**Morphological Structure**

The village is constituted with two hamlets known as Joipur Khul in the north west and Laingamkhul in the east of the main village Khumbong. Joipurkhul and Laingamkhul are the newly separated hamlets from the main village Khumbong. The layout plan of the village is more or less rectangular with open space in the west occupied by vast paddy field widely known as Khumbong Labuk. The remaining western portion of the village is mainly occupied by settlement areas. The type pattern and shape of settlements are naturally arranged in accordance with the arrangements of roads and river. There is developing a rural market centre at the crossing of National Highway 53 and a small local river.
There are around 15 shops in the market centre. Out of these shops 5 or 6 are general provision shops and others are cycle workshops, tea stalls, jewelleries, tailorings and confectionery shops etc. The commodities of the market centre are mainly consumed by this village only but in the rare cases the neighbouring villagers of Moidangpok, Khadem and Ngairangbam also come and purchase commodities. This village has got comfortable facilities to reach Imphal with the help of jeep and bus services. As the village is not too far from state capital, it obtains many of infrastructures like electrification, well transportation, PHCD, tap water, drainage, irrigation canal, market facility, post office, telecommunication, veterinary centre, club houses, public pond, crematorium, playground and educational centres. There are one government higher secondary (Navodaya School), one elementary school and two private high schools and one community hall.

Economically, the village is in the moderate status. The main occupation of the village is agriculture and other services. Out of the total population of 2060, 62% is working population. Out of this 70% in agriculture, 22% in business and 8% in govt. services. There are 353 houses in the village including two hamlets Joipurkhul and Laingamkhul. Maximum number of houses are of Kutch type of C.I. sheeted roof with mud-wall. Traditional type of houses of three rooms of thatched roof and mud wall are very few. There are only 4 pucca houses and 15 semipucca houses in the village.