

DIAGRAM 1

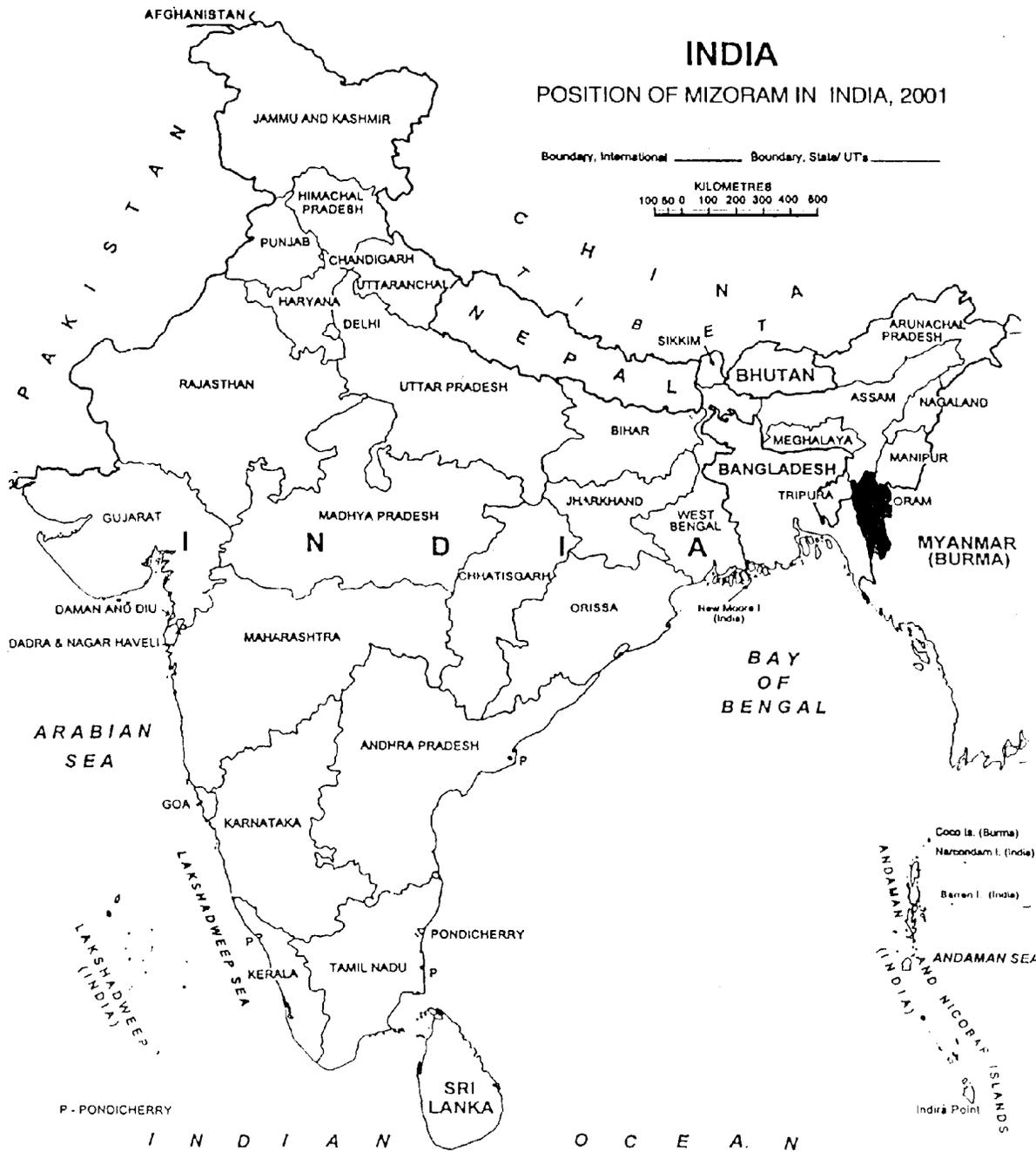


DIAGRAM 2



DIAGRAM 3

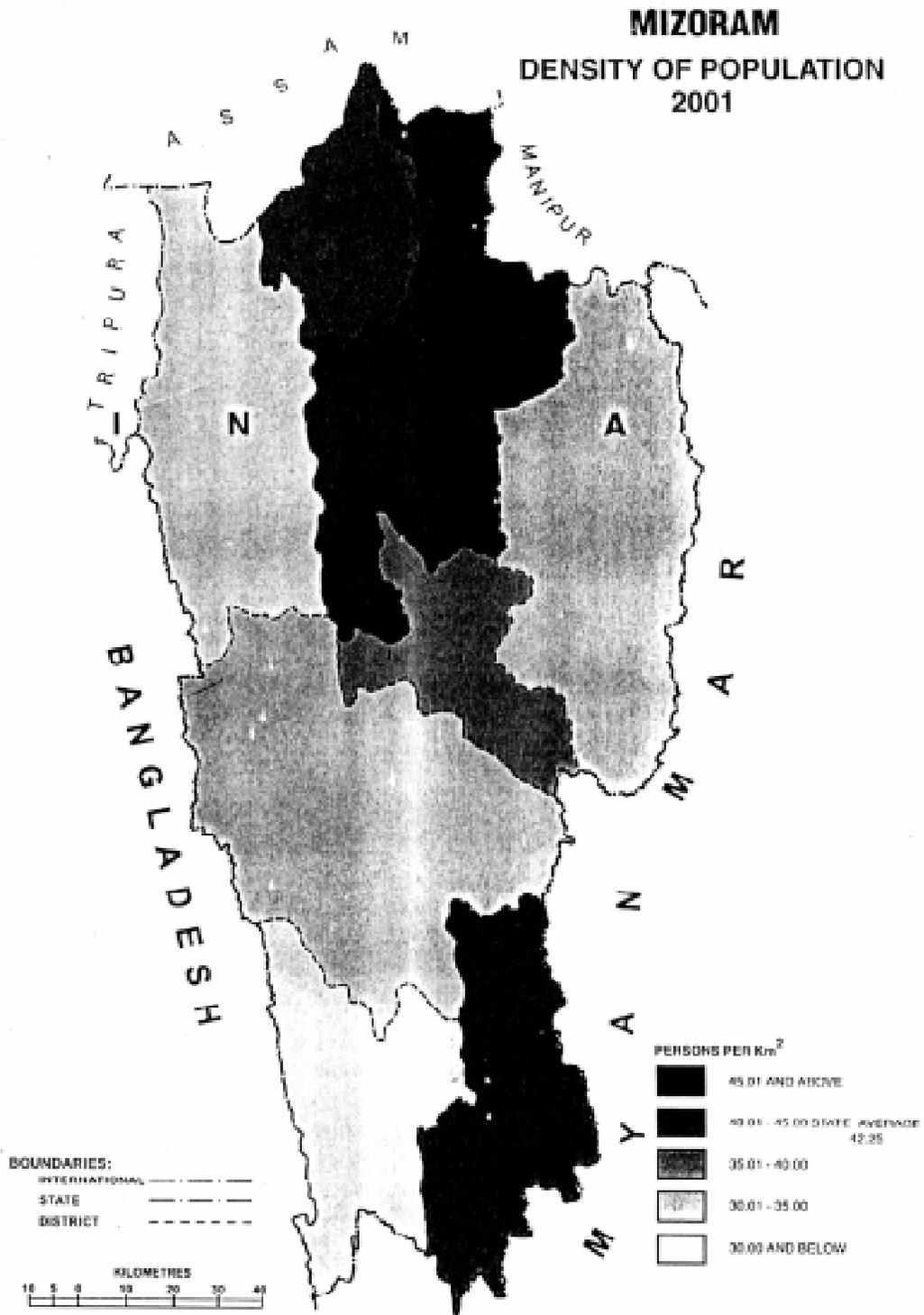


DIAGRAM 4

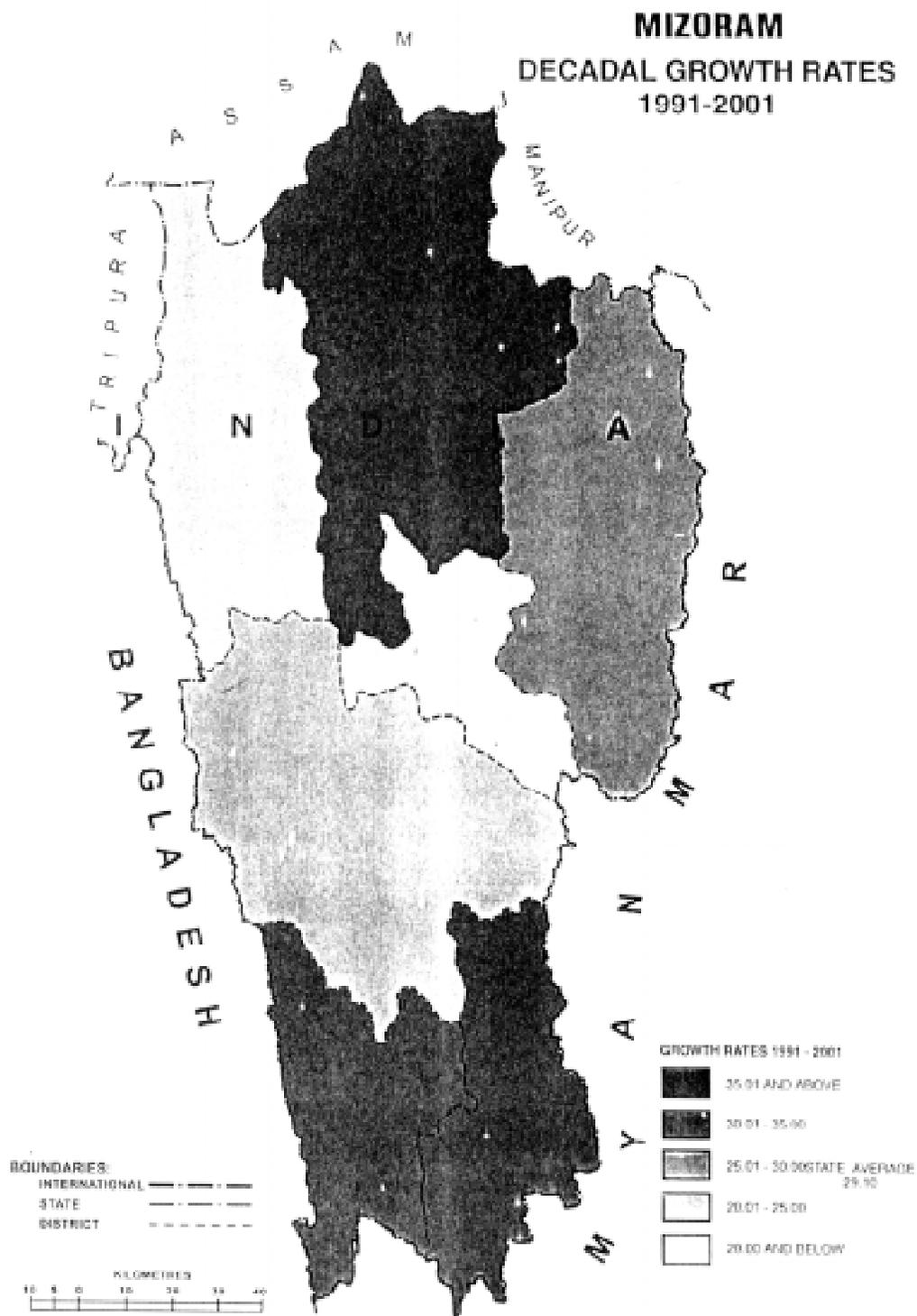


DIAGRAM 5

MIZORAM
SEX RATIO 2001

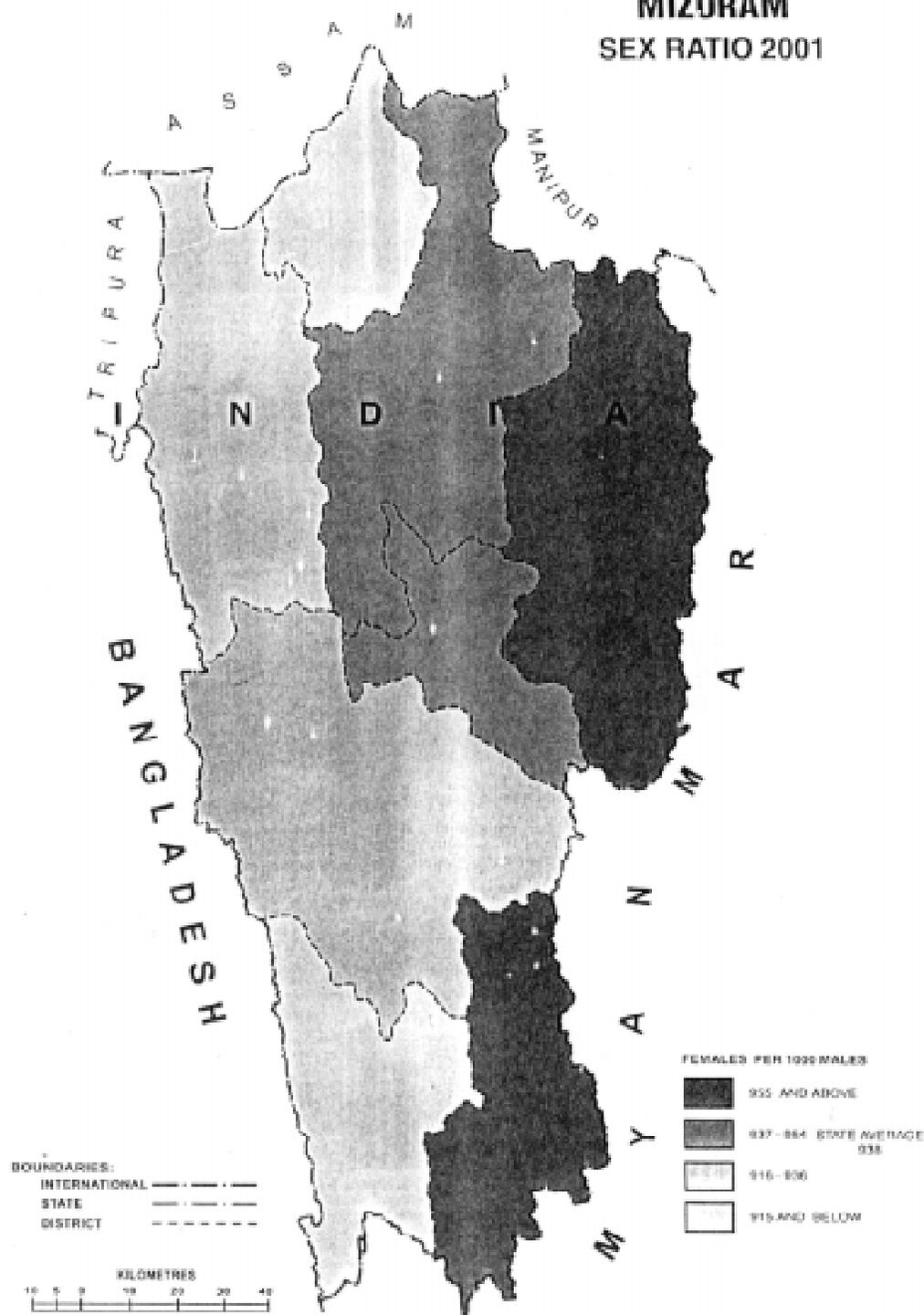


DIAGRAM 6

MIZORAM LITERACY RATES OF PERSONS AND FEMALES 2001

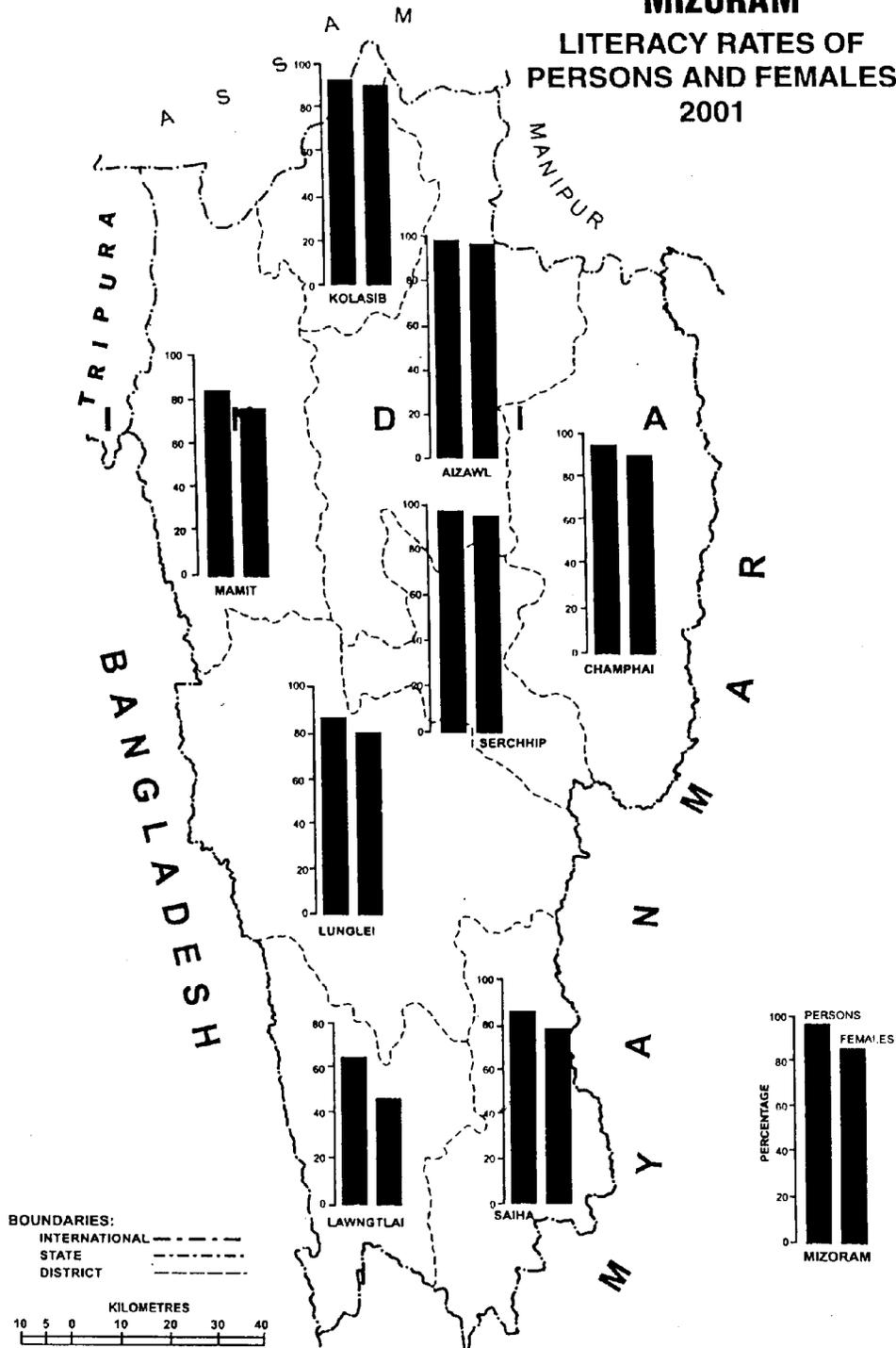


DIAGRAM 7

MIZORAM

SIZE OF AREA AND POPULATION OF DISTRICTS

2001

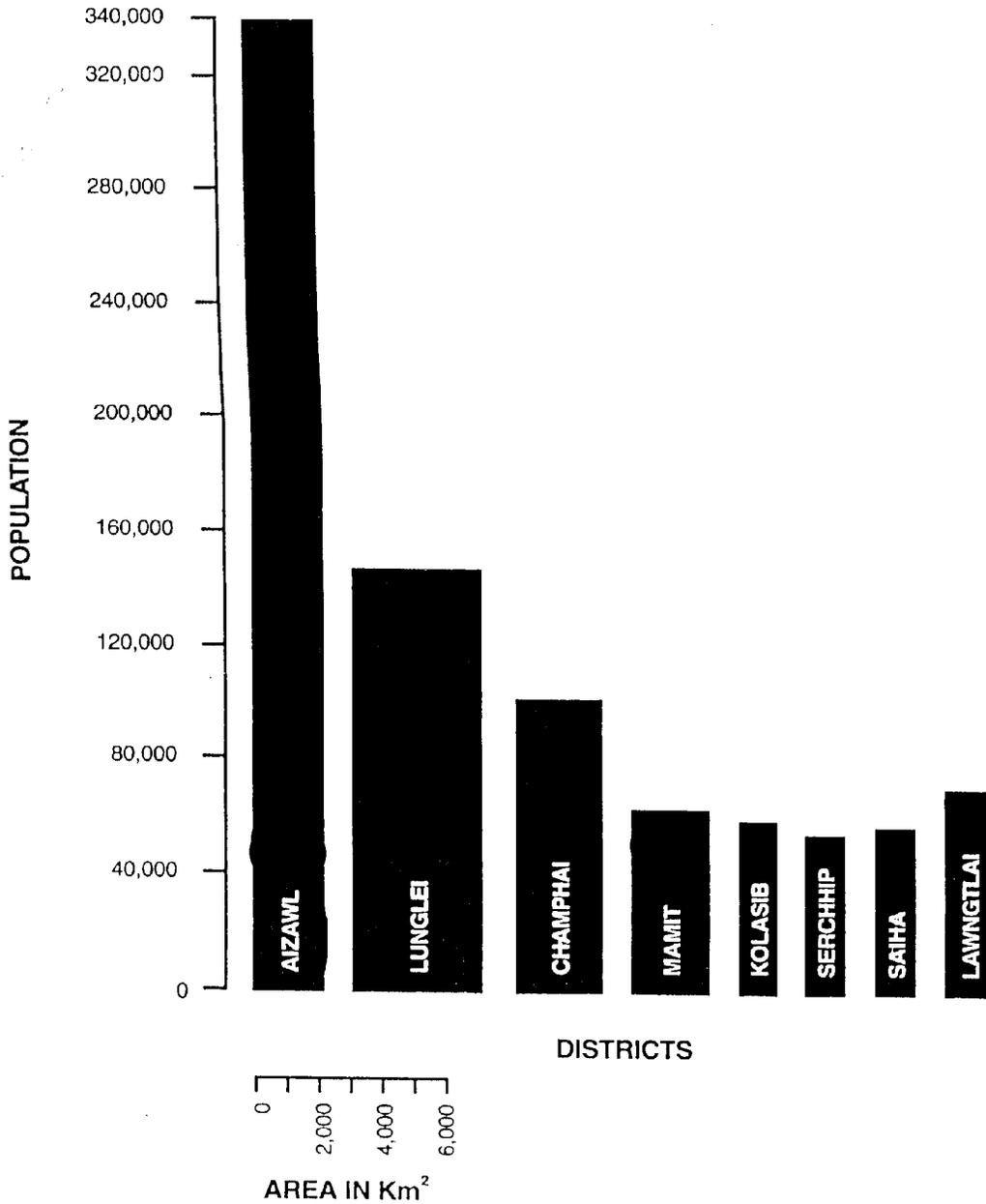


DIAGRAM 8

MIZORAM

GROWTH OF POPULATION

1901 - 2001

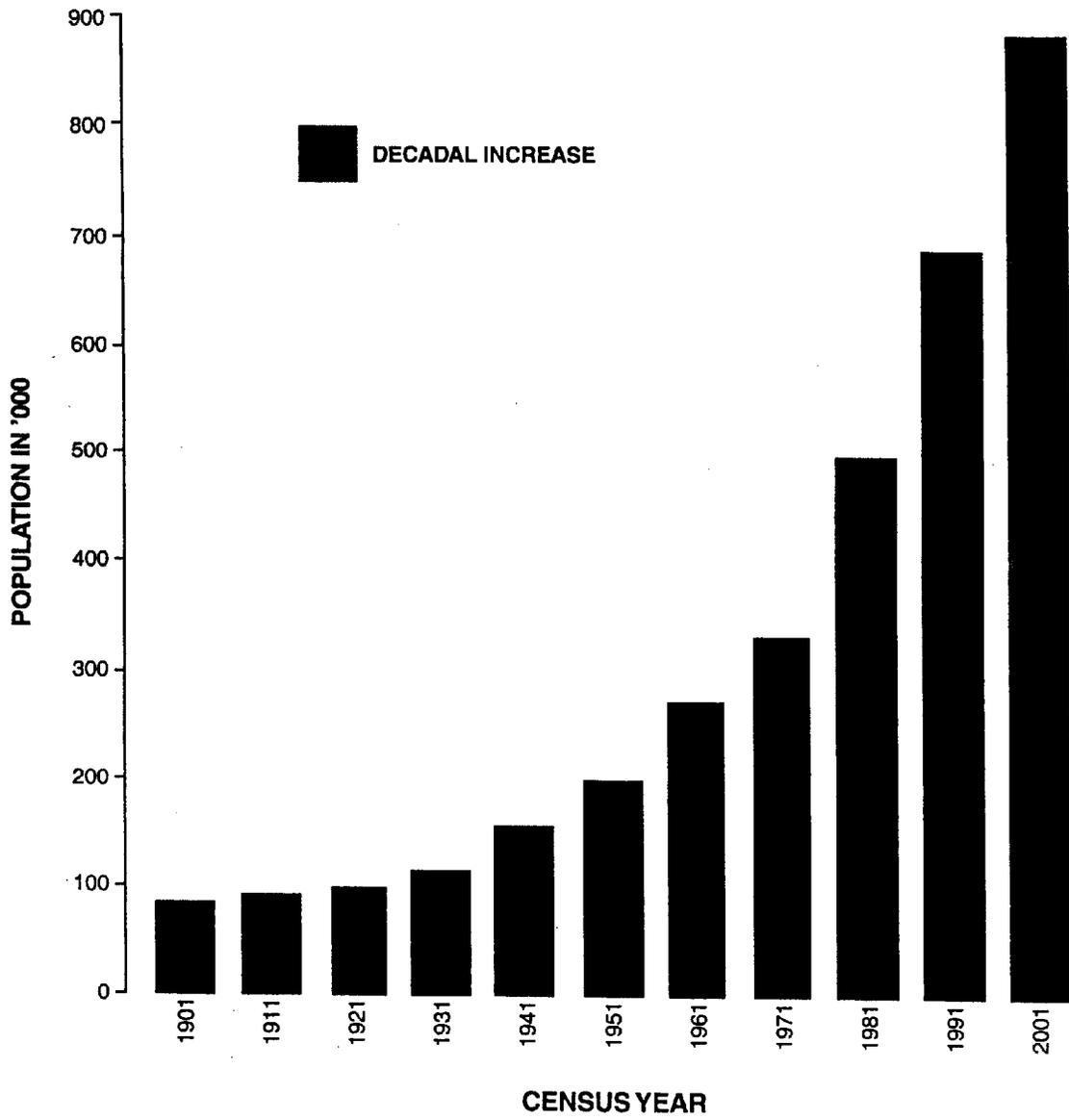


DIAGRAM 9

MIZORAM

TRENDS IN DECADAL GROWTH OF POPULATION 1901-2001

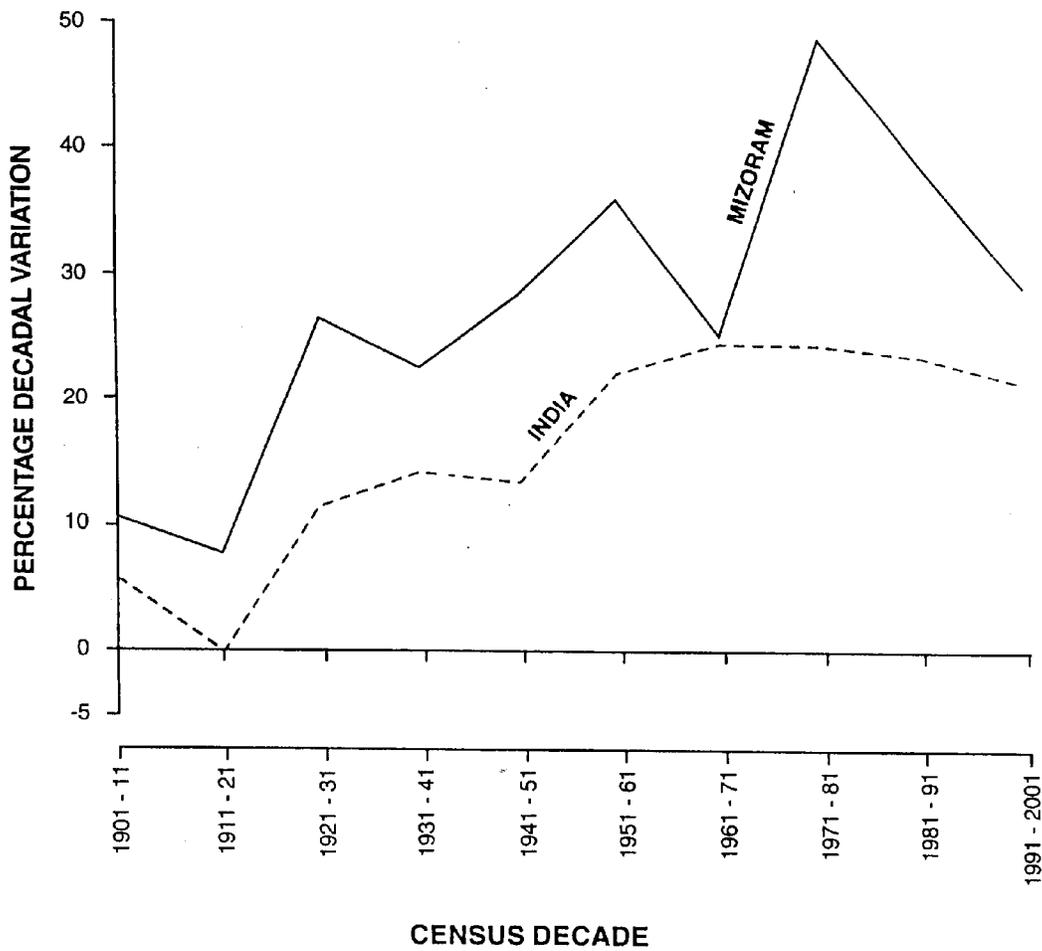


DIAGRAM 10

MIZORAM
SEX RATIO 1901 - 2001

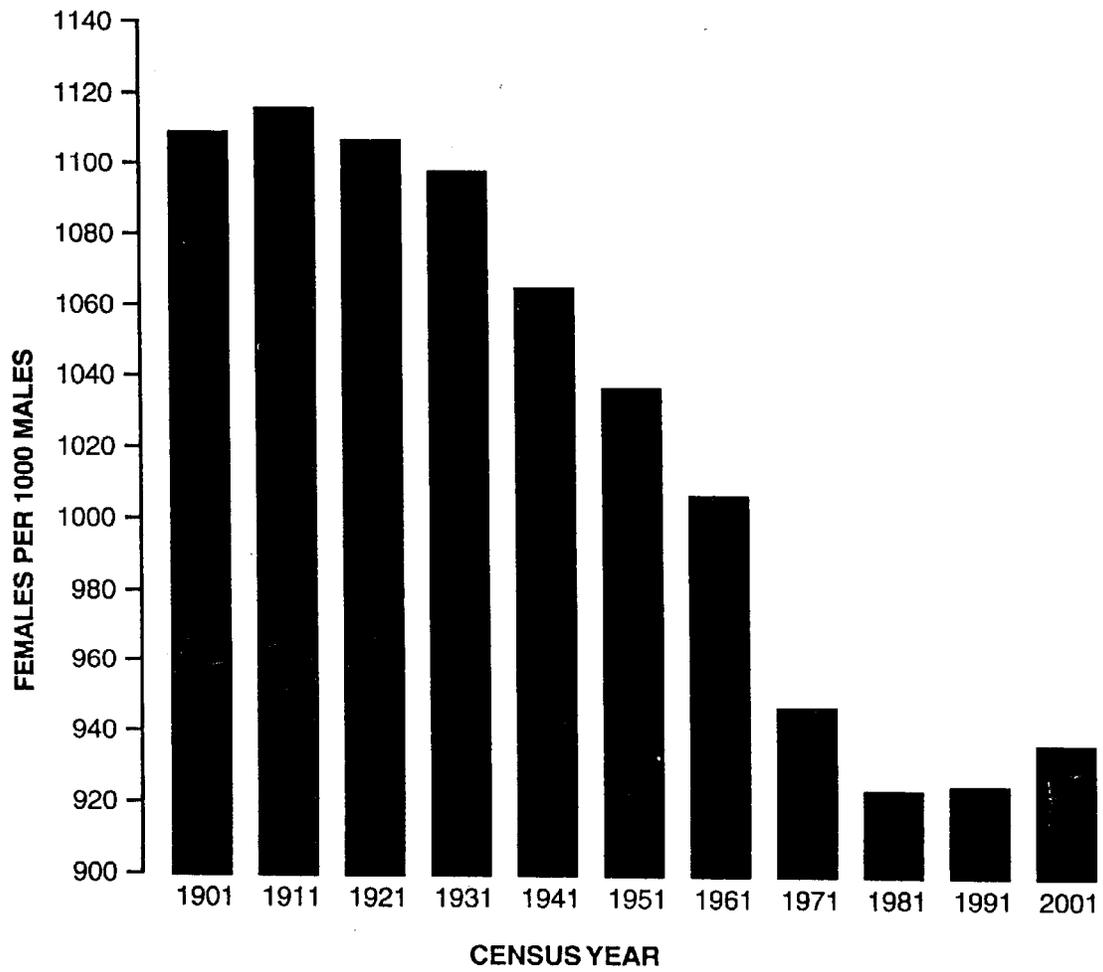


DIAGRAM 11

MIZORAM

TRENDS IN SEX RATIO 1901 - 2001

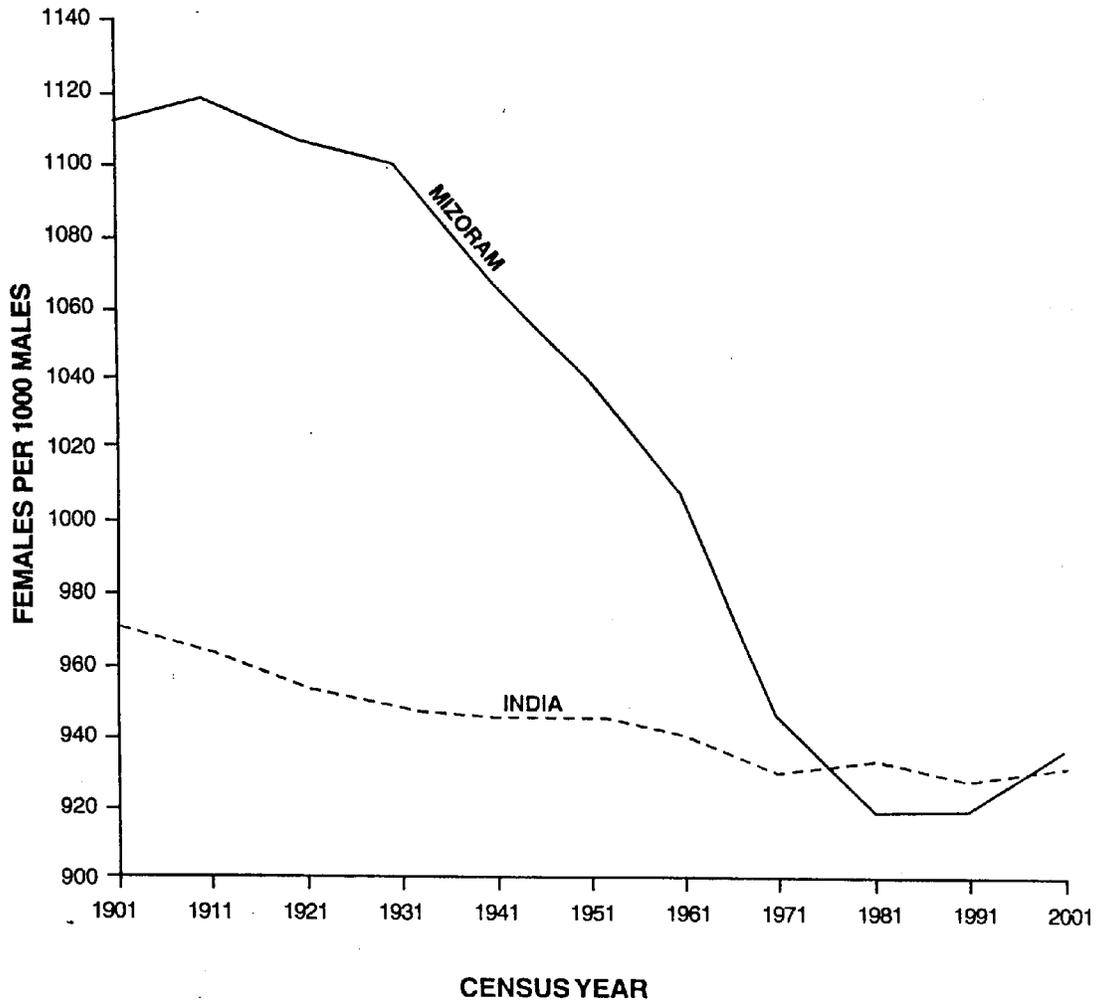


DIAGRAM 12

MIZORAM LITERACY 2001

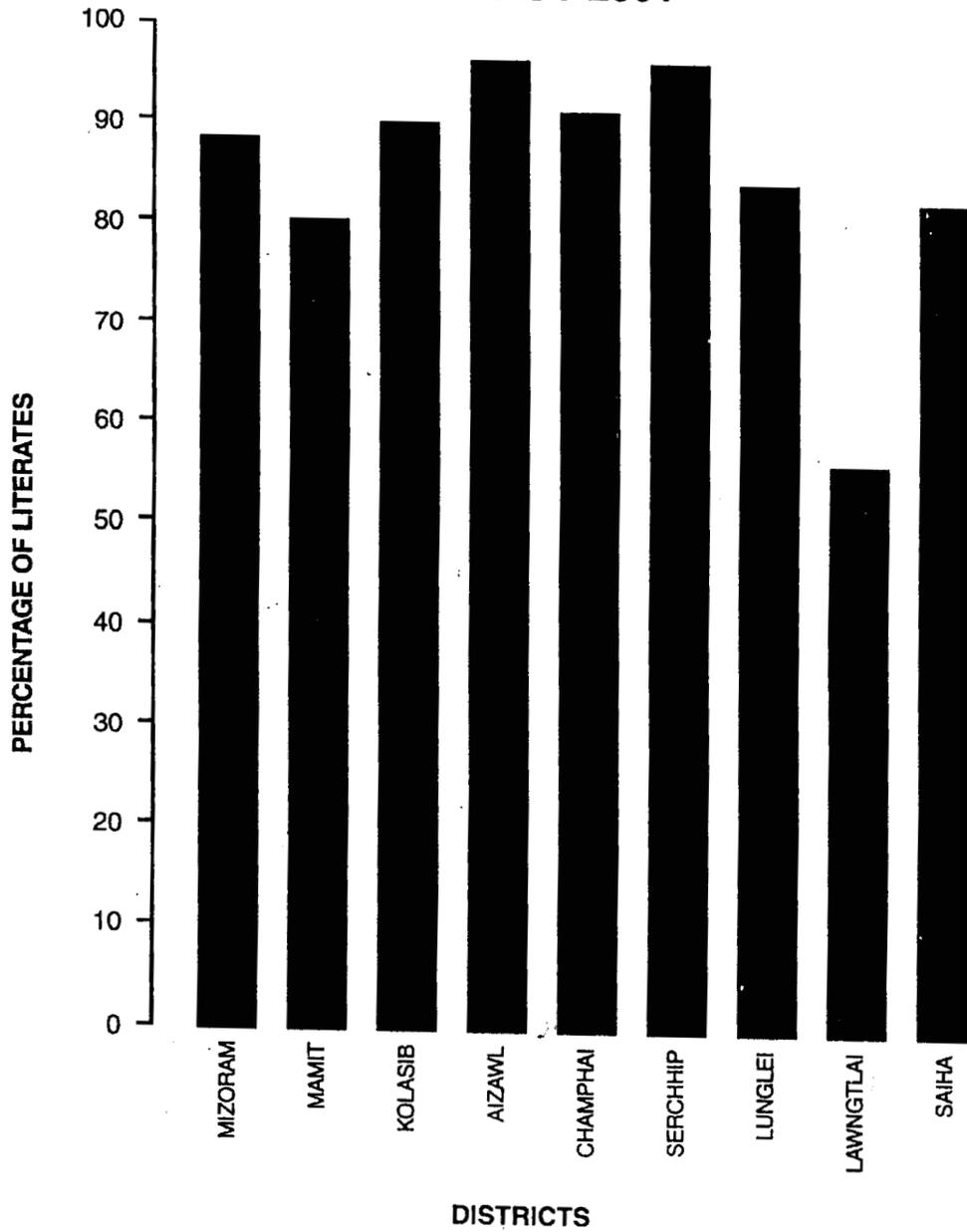


DIAGRAM 13

MIZORAM

FEMALE LITERACY 2001

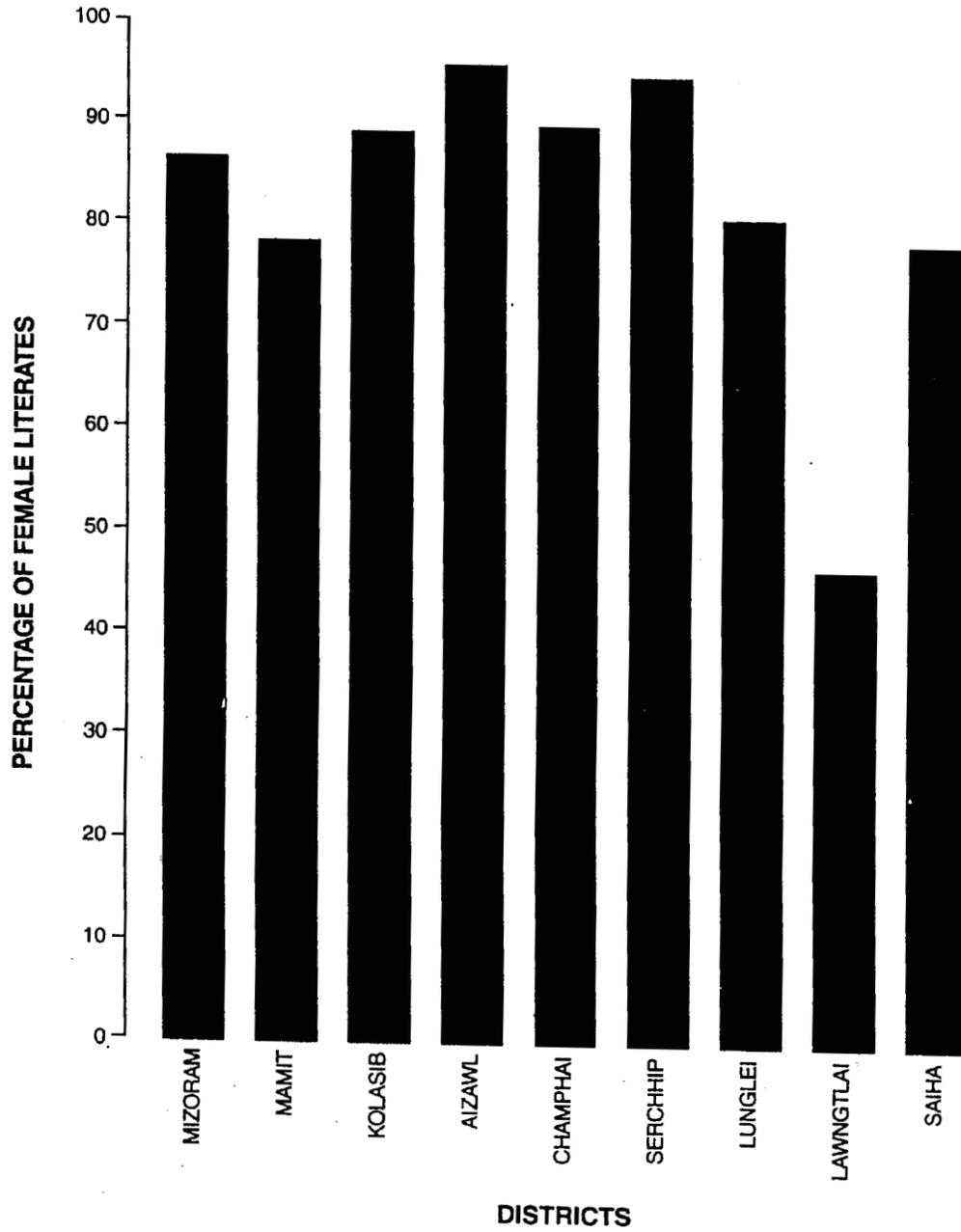


DIAGRAM 14

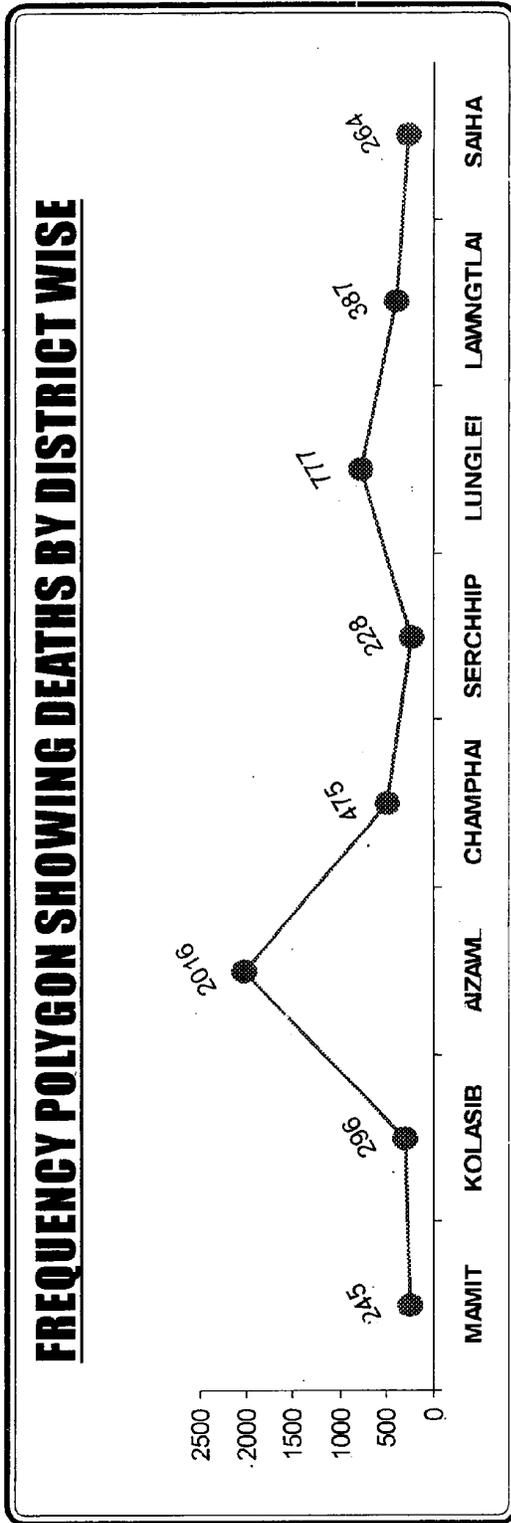
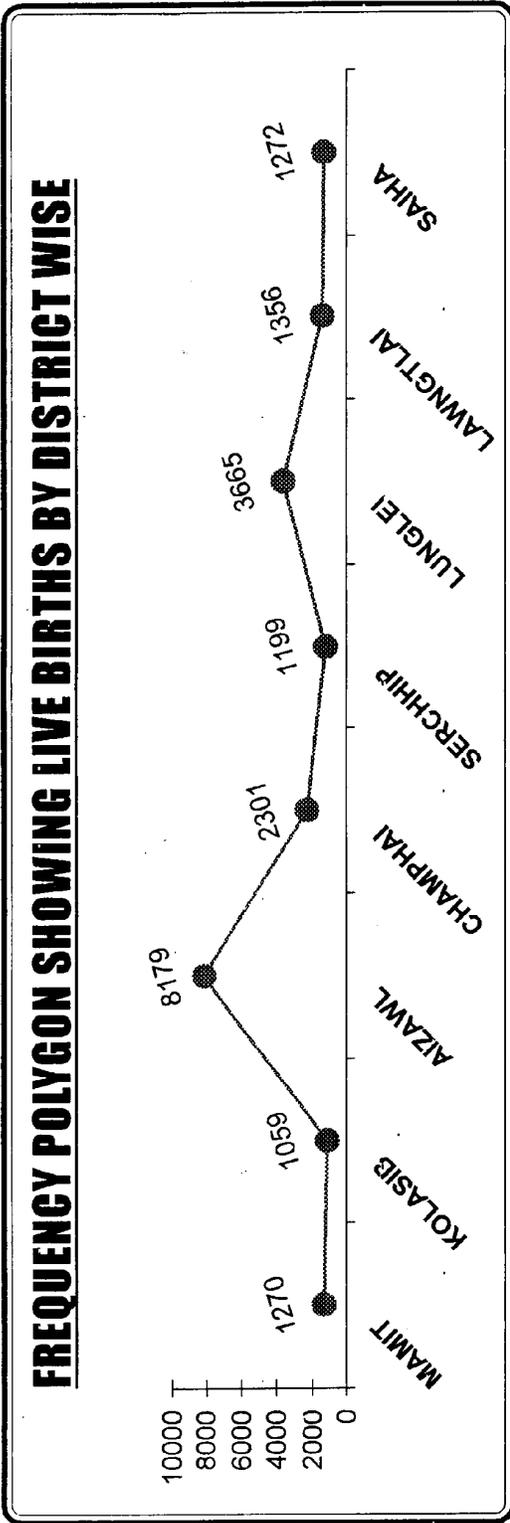


DIAGRAM 15

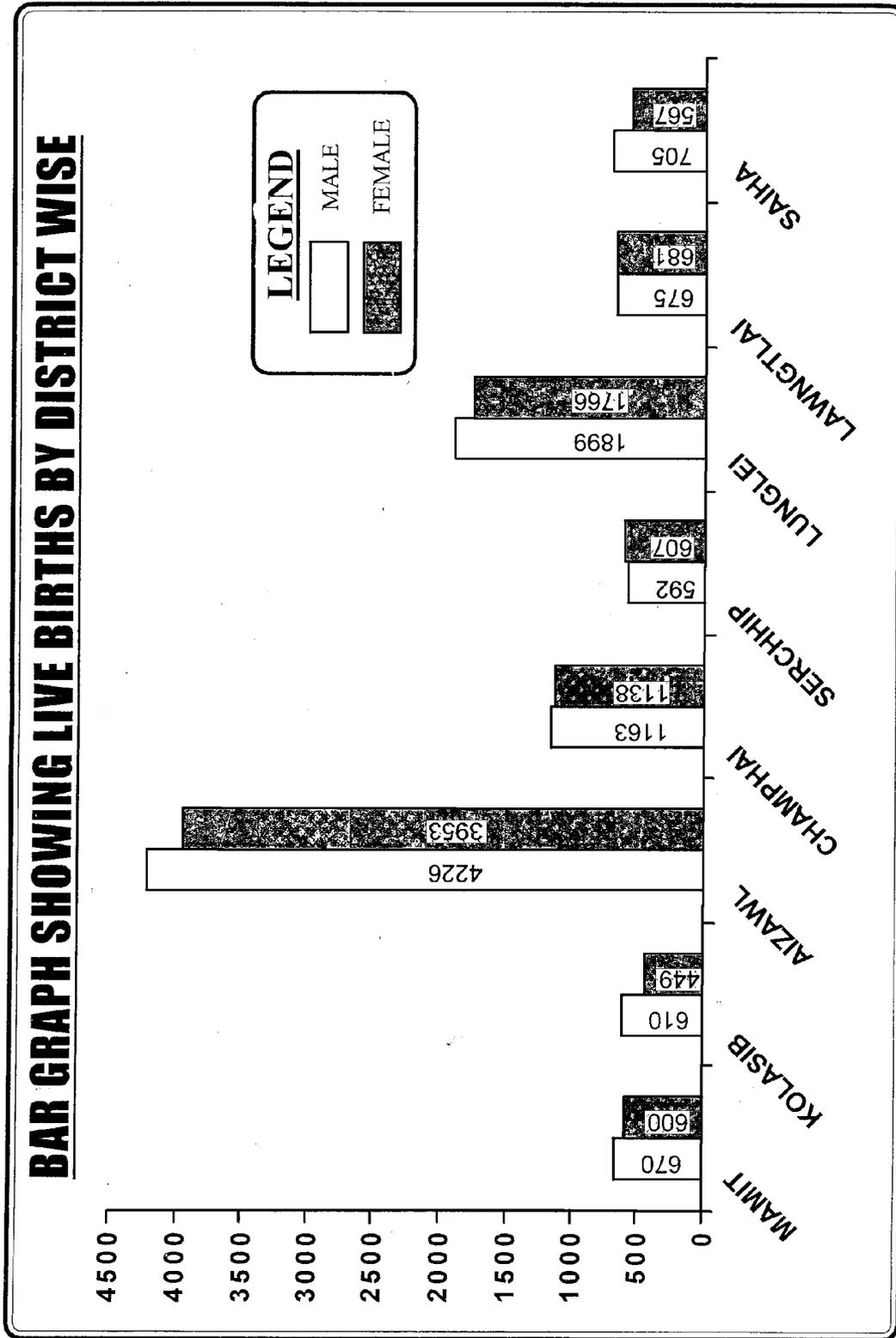


DIAGRAM 16

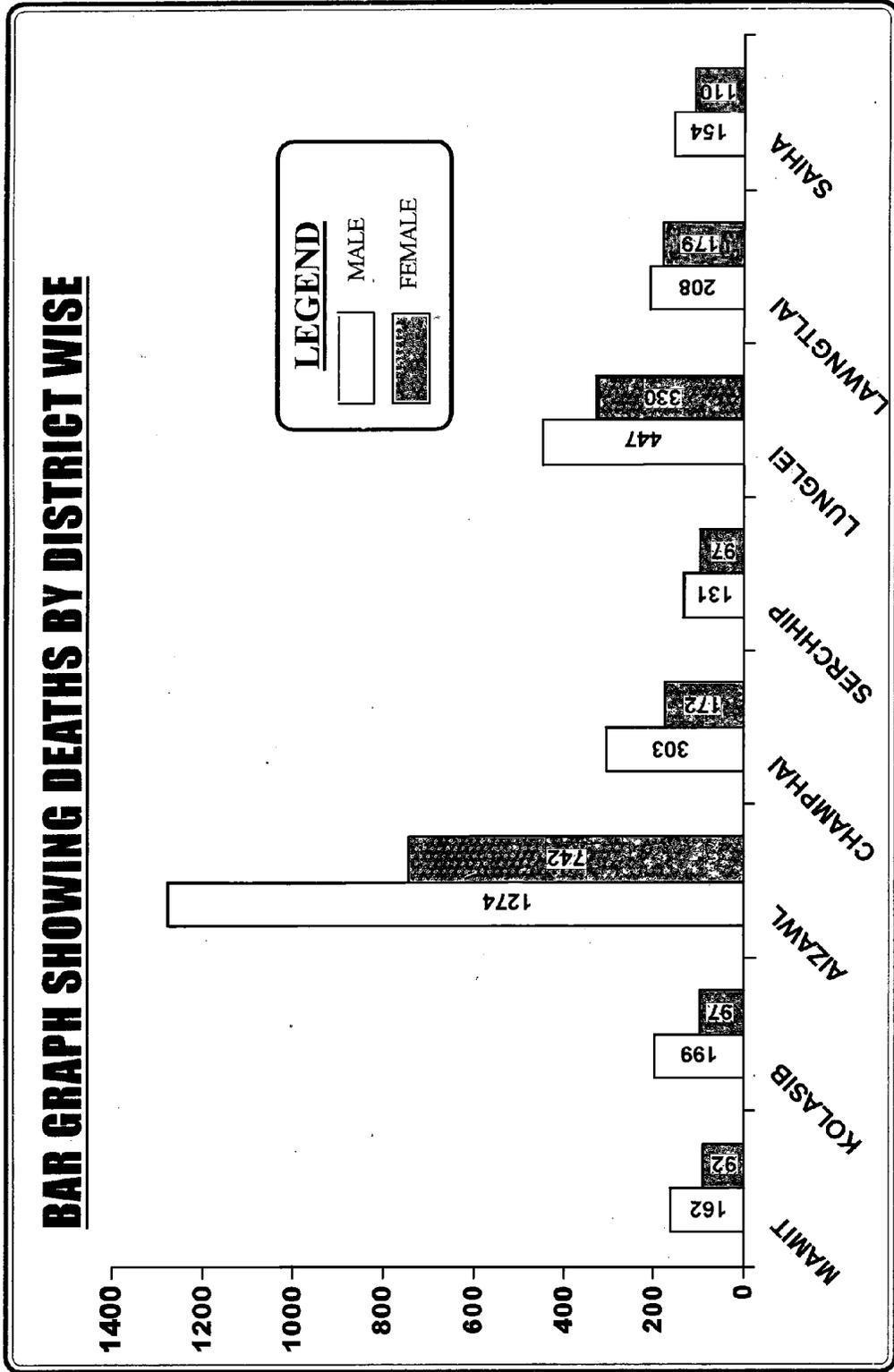
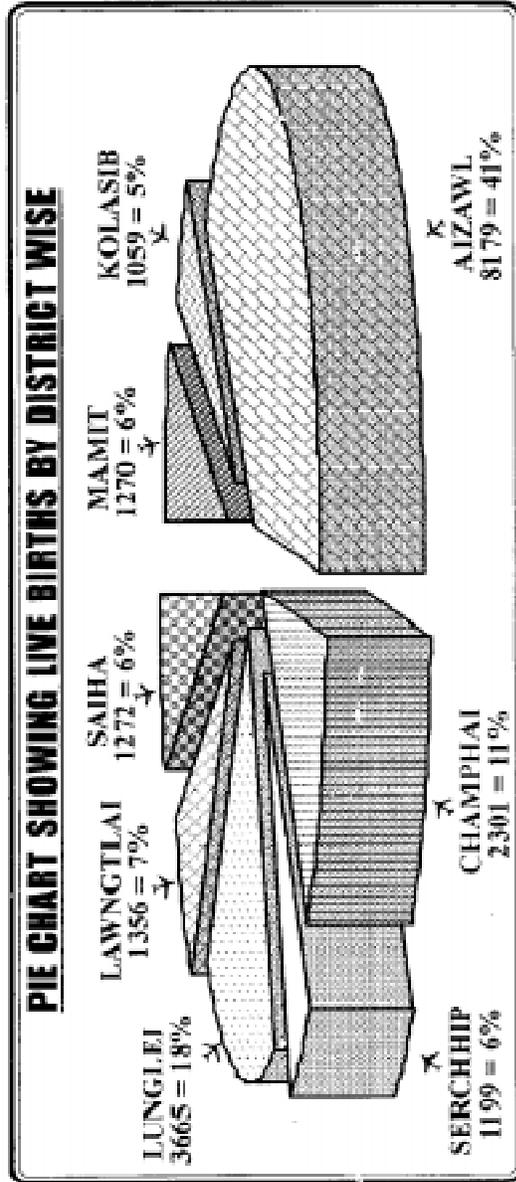
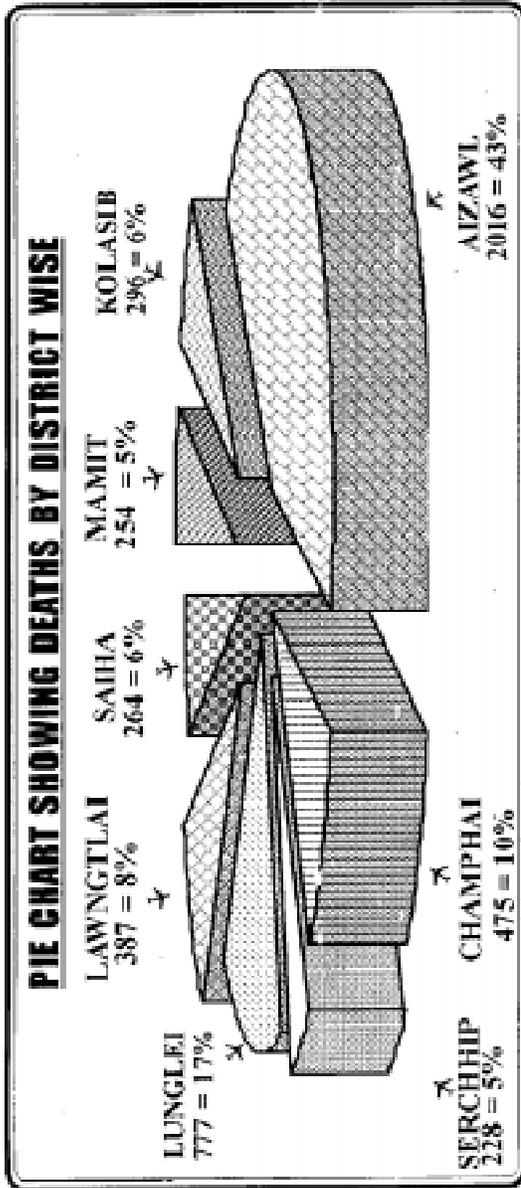


DIAGRAM 17



GENDER PROFILE OF MIZORAM ON SELECT INDICATORS

TABLE 1
DISTRICT WISE POPULATION

Sl. No.	District		Population 2001	Estimated Population 2003
1.	Mamit	R	52132	53549
		U	10653	11210
2.	Kolasib	R	28461	25714
		U	36499	37534
3.	Aizawl	R	77531	94581
		U	248145	258509
4.	Champhai	R	66343	65663
		U	42049	39570
5.	Serchhip	R	27983	27324
		U	25878	30311
6.	Lunglei	R	79267	82224
		U	57956	60522
7.	Lawngtlai	R	73620	75845
		U		
8.	Saiha	R	73260	42626
		U	41230	20468
9.	TOTAL	U	447567	467526
		R	441006	458124
		T	888573	925640

R = Rural U = Urban T = Total

TABLE 2**BLOCK STATISTICS 2001 & 2003 : DISTRICT WISE ABSTRACT**

Sl. No.	District	No of houses	No of household	Population			No. of BPL	No. of electrified houses	No. of community Hall	Water connection
				Male	female	total				
1.	Aizawl									
	2001	53684	62238	171867	167968	339835		49421	132	15179
	2003	65385	72212	192146	188064	380210	27194	58067	126	20888
2.	Champhai									
	2001	20161	19606	51598	51521	103119		14235	55	1439
	2003	20893	20118	56597	54252	110849	10256	14091	56	1616
3.	Kolasib									
		11055	11009	30165	29072	59237		7787	19	1486
		10945	11257	29867	29690	59557	5809	8900	18	1694
4.	Mamit									
		11691	11609	32467	29976	62443		7511	58	311
		13404	12213	33597	31254	64851	7681	8615	60	432
5.	Serchhip									
		11671	9961	29285	28807	58092		8638	35	799
		11665	10360	30803	30368	61171	6517	8659	35	1070
6.	Lunglei									
		28809	25424	69092	67129	136221		20088	61	5676
		26947	25771	69616	69616	141300	16796	18574	60	5060
7.	Lawngtlai									
		12881	11760	37179	34815	71994		3814	31	602
		14815	14239	38406	37071	75477	10116	4625	21	1209
8.	Saiha									
		11618	10340	31299	29539	60838		4525	9	933
		12019	11190	31286	29871	61157	6667	6667	21	1362
	Total									
	2001	161570	161947	452952	438827	891779		116019	400	26425
	2003	176073	177360	484386	470186	954572	91036	127797	397	33331

TABLE 3
HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER GOVT. OF MIZORAM (2001)

Sl. No	District	Hospital	CHC 30 bedded	PHC/SHC 10 bedded	Main Centre	Sub Centre
1.	Aizawl	2	2	8	14	76+21Clinics
2.	Kolasib		1	6	7	28
3.	Champhai	1	2	11	14	56
4.	Serchhip	1		6	7	28
5.	Mamit		2	9	11	35
6.	Lunglei	2	1	8	12	68
7.	Saiha	1		5	8	33
8.	Lawngtlai		1	3	5	27

TABLE 4
Number of BIRTHS & DEATHS : DISTRICT WISE

Sl. No.	District		Live Births			Deaths			Infant Deaths			Maternal Deaths	Still Births
			M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T		
1.	Mamit	R	569	524	1093	148	83	231	9	7	16	0	0
		U	101	76	177	14	9	23	0	1	1	0	0
2.	Kolasib	R	267	347	614	76	37	113	2	1	3	2	0
		U	343	102	445	123	60	183	6	6	12	2	0
3.	Aizawl	R	767	694	1461	230	147	377	12	15	27	4	0
		U	3459	3259	6718	1044	595	1639	28	26	54	5	102
4.	Champhai	R	764	761	1525	195	105	300	10	12	22	3	0
		U	399	377	776	108	67	175	8	5	13	0	0
5.	Serchhip	R	305	341	646	80	68	148	3	4	7	2	0
		U	287	266	553	51	29	80	2	1	3	0	0
6.	Lunglei	R	971	915	1886	216	186	402	12	9	21	3	0
		U	928	851	1779	231	144	375	26	21	47	6	0
7.	Lawngtlai	R	675	681	1356	208	179	387	22	19	41	3	0
		U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Saiha	R	427	357	784	100	80	180	2	8	10	2	0
		U	278	210	488	54	30	84	5	3	8	1	0
9.	Total	R	4745	4620	9365	1253	885	2138	72	75	147	19	0
		U	5795	5141	10936	1625	934	2559	75	63	138	14	102

A total of 4697 deaths were registered in 2003 as compared to 4401 deaths in 2002 [Males -2723, Females- 1678]. Out of 4697 deaths, 33 are Maternal deaths, 285 Infant deaths. In Mizoram, Infant Mortality rate is worked out as 14.03 per thousand of Live Births.

TABLE 5
VITAL RATE OF DISTRICT : 2003 [per 1000]

Sl. No	District	RURAL			URBAN		
		Births rate	Deaths rate	Infant Mortality rate	Births rate	Deaths rate	Infant Mortality rate
1.	Mamit	20.41	2.76	14.63	15.79	2.05	5.64
2.	Kolasib	23.88	4.4	4.88	11.85	4.87	26.96
3.	Aizawl	15.44	3.98	18.48	25.98	6.34	8.03
4.	Champhai	24.1	4.74	14.42	19.61	4.42	16.75
5.	Serchhip	23.64	5.41	10.83	18.24	2.63	5.42
6.	Lunglei	22.93	4.89	11.13	29.39	6.19	26.41
7.	Lawngtlai	17.87	5.1	30.23	0	0	0
8.	Saiha	18.39	4.22	12.75	23.84	4.1	16.39
9.	TOTAL	20.03	4.57	15.69	23.87	5.58	12.61

State Total : Births Rate: 21.93
 Infant Mortality rate: 14.03

Deaths rate: 5.07

TABLE 6
DEATHS BY AGE AND SEX

Sl.No	Ages	Male	Female	Total
1.	Below 1 year	147	138	285
2.	1 to 4	225	202	427
3.	5 to 14	160	126	286
4.	15 to 24	335	131	466
5.	25 to 34	355	116	471
6.	35 to 44	282	129	411
7.	45 to 54	270	141	411
8.	55 to 64	267	161	428
9.	65 to 69	141	104	245
10.	70 & above	533	440	973
11.	Age not stated	163	131	294
12.	TOTAL	2878	1819	4697

TABLE 7
EDUCATION : NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, TYPE OF INSTITUTIONS, NO OF TEACHERS, STUDENTS
ENROLMENT, TEACHER – STUDENT RATIO (AS ON 30.9.2001)

Sl. No.	Level	Type	No of schools	Teachers			Students			Ratio
				Male	Female	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
1.	Primary School	Govt	1064	1933	1953	3886	45119	41204	86323	1:22
		Private	313	782	761	1543	12831	15075	27906	1:18
		Total	1377	2715	2714	5429	57950	56279	114229	1:20
2.	Middle School	Govt	340	1811	552	2363	13747	12968	26715	1:11
		Deficit	245	1193	364	1557	6552	6989	13541	1:8
		Aided	55	248	108	356	1395	1253	2648	1:7
		Private	211	796	675	1471	5127	5099	10226	1:7
		Total	851	4048	1699	5747	26821	26309	53130	1:9
3.	High School	Govt	151	1064	302	1366	10038	10839	20877	1:15
		Deficit	46	281	72	353	2971	2906	5877	1:17
		Aided	10	51	8	59	340	324	664	1:11
		Private	163	794	281	1075	6524	9088	15612	1:14
		Total	370	2190	663	2853	19873	23157	43030	1:15
4.	Higher Secondary School	Govt	17	126	137	263	3165	3143	6308	1:24
		Deficit	8	73	60	133	1001	944	1945	1:15
		Private	8	42	24	66	362	332	694	1:10
		Total	33	241	221	462	4528	4419	8947	1:19

TABLE 8
LITERACY RATES

(in percentages)

Year	MIZORAM			INDIA		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1971	53.79	60.49	46.71	34.4	45.95	21.97
1981	59.88	64.46	54.91	43.56	56.37	29.75
1991	82.27	85.65	78.60	52.11	63.86	39.42
2001	88.49	90.69	86.13	65.38	75.85	54.16

TABLE 9
GENDER GAP IN LITERACY RATES

(In percentage)

Year	MIZORAM	INDIA
	Gender Gap	Gender Gap
1971	13.78	23.98
1981	9.55	26.62
1991	7.05	24.44
2001	4.56	21.69

TABLE 10
EMPLOYMENT : SEX-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYEES IN MIZORAM : 1998 – 2003

Sl. No.	Statutory	Year	Group - A				Group - B (G)				Group - B(NG)			
			M	F	Total	% of F	M	F	Total	% of F	M	F	Total	% F
1.	State Govt	1998	1884	470	2354	19.97	66	26	92	28.26	4916	1985	6901	28.76
		1999	1972	518	2490	20.80	308	54	362	14.92	4915	2345	7260	32.30
		2000	1928	483	2411	20.03	308	58	366	15.85	5027	2273	7300	31.13
		2001	2047	428	2475	17.29	419	85	504	16.87	4870	2292	7162	32.00
		2002	2203	446	2649	16.85	272	184	456	40.35	5168	2266	7434	30.48
		2003	2252	558	2810	19.86	231	76	307	24.76	5202	2499	7701	32.45
2.	Central Govt.	1998	66	13	79	16.46	34	01	35	02.86	71	11	82	13.41
		1999	166	37	203	18.23	89	07	96	07.29	49	22	71	30.99
		2000	157	36	193	18.65	84	07	91	07.69	42	16	58	27.59
		2001	169	38	207	18.36	78	07	85	08.24	54	18	72	25.00
		2002	164	42	206	20.39	68	05	73	06.85	67	18	85	21.18
		2003	184	46	230	20.00	80	07	87	08.05	58	26	84	30.95
3.	Semi-Govt.	1998	151	28	179	15.64	04	00	04	00.00	46	33	79	41.77
		1999	63	08	71	11.27	02	00	02	00.00	40	31	71	43.66
		2000	59	07	66	10.61	01	00	01	00.00	36	27	63	42.86
		2001	61	09	70	12.86	11	02	13	15.38	36	26	62	41.93
		2002	58	07	65	10.77	07	04	11	36.36	48	34	82	41.46
		2003	59	09	68	13.24	06	05	11	45.45	49	36	85	42.35
4.	Banking & Insurance	1998	144	29	173	16.76	04	01	05	20.00	133	78	211	36.97
		1999	140	28	168	16.67	17	05	22	22.72	136	72	208	34.62
		2000	141	27	168	16.07	18	04	22	18.18	133	69	202	34.16
		2001	142	31	173	17.92	18	04	22	18.18	60	11	71	15.49
		2002	198	45	243	18.52	20	04	24	16.67	57	28	85	32.94
		2003	200	46	246	18.70	24	04	28	14.29	49	29	78	37.17
5.	Autonomous District Council	1998	144	29	173	16.76	00	00	00	00.00	153	29	182	15.93
		1999	140	28	168	16.67	15	02	17	11.76	165	34	199	17.09
		2000	141	27	168	16.07	22	03	25	12.00	169	34	203	16.75
		2001	142	31	173	17.92	102	10	112	08.93	108	24	132	18.18
		2002	198	45	243	18.52	74	07	81	08.64	148	23	171	13.45
		2003	200	46	246	18.70	107	11	118	09.32	123	25	148	16.89

TABLE 11
SEX – WISE COMPARISON OF EMPLOYEES (GROUP WISE) OF DIFFERENT STATUTORIES IN MIZORAM
FOR THE PERIOD 1998 – 2003

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group A	M	2334	2429	2373	2511	2762	2791
	F	564	595	557	509	543	665
	Total	2880	3024	2930	3020	3269	3456
	% F	18.96	19.68	19.01	20.27	16.61	19.24
Group B(G)	M	108	431	433	628	441	448
	F	28	72	68	108	204	103
	Total	136	505	499	736	645	551
	% F	20.59	14.26	13.63	14.67	31.63	18.69
Group B(NG)	M	5319	5305	5407	5128	5488	5481
	F	2136	2504	2419	2371	2369	2615
	Total	7455	7809	7826	7499	7857	8096
	% F	28.65	32.07	30.91	31.62	30.15	32.30
Group C	M	19173	19470	20082	18281	20952	20615
	F	5840	6279	6603	6399	6391	6455
	Total	25013	25749	26685	24680	27343	27070
	% F	23.35	24.39	24.74	25.93	23.37	23.85
Group D	M	10068	10684	10531	9796	9848	9637
	F	1122	1279	1288	1634	1610	1612
	Total	11190	11963	11819	11430	11458	11249
	% F	10.03	10.69	10.90	14.30	14.05	14.33
Over All Summary	M	37002	38219	38826	38038	39455	38972
	F	9672	10725	10939	11021	11117	11450
	Total	46674	48944	49765	49059	50572	50422
	% F	20.72	21.91	21.98	22.46	21.98	22.71

SECTION - I
INTRODUCTION

Mizoram is one of the youngest, smallest and isolated State in India. It has a population of 8,91,058 (2001 Census) with the estimated population by the year 2003 as 9,26,640. It has a very variegated hilly terrain where internal communication is still difficult in most rural areas. It shares 404 kms border with Myanmar and the "Golden Triangle" in the East, 95 kms with the Indian States of Manipur and Cachar District of Assam in the North and 318 kms with Bangladesh in the West. Being adjacent to the Golden triangle, Mizoram is one of the drug-trafficking routes from the Golden Triangle to India and elsewhere. Due to its proximity with Myanmar, the state is host to a large number of Myanmar migrants, many of whom are long term settlers. They are most commonly involved in trade of goods from other Asian countries as well as providers of unskilled labour and services. Migrants from other Indian states are largely involved in road construction, trade and other unskilled labour.

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DISTRICT WISE POPULATION

Sl. No.	District		Population 2001	Estimated Population 2003
1.	Mamit	R	52132	53549
		U	10653	11210
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		U		

Sl. No.	District		Population 2001	Estimated Population 2003
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		U	41230	20468
9.	TOTAL	U	447567	467526
		R	441006	458124
		T	888573	925640

The state comprises of eight districts, of which five were created in 1997 from a larger erstwhile Aizawl district. The combined population of erstwhile Aizawl district is 6,20,030 with the percentage of urbanization being 37.5. The sex ratio is 944 to 1000 as compared to 938 for the state and 933 for the country.

Mizo society is characterized by a deeply communitarian nature where social life is free and men and women mix together freely. Thus it is not easy to make rigid distinction, between male and female in work areas which usually make outside observers believe that there is no distinction between men and women and that the status of women was in no way inferior to that of men and hence suffered none of the derogatory and discriminatory treatment as may be found in some societies.

The status of women in Mizoram, *prima facie* may not be as low as women in other societies, but is having its own unique problems and is not at all satisfactory. Women have always played an important role in the socio-economic life of the Mizos. It is the women who have shouldered most of the family's burden of work. However, the status of Mizo women in the past, especially in the pre-Christian days was very low both in the family as well as in the social life. No doubt, a wife was fully engaged with the household duties, but her status was insignificant and always subordinate to men. In case of divorce, Mizo women did not have any legal claim on the family property except a small share at the time of marriage which they carried with them as a sort of dowry. Even in the absence of a male child, a daughter could not claim, as a matter of rights, the family property, but would normally go to the nearest male relatives.

Regarding the family institution of the Mizos, the whole management of the household affairs belonged to the women. They had to do everything at home except to build a house and to repair tools of jhuming etc. In some cases, women also helped their husband in cutting jhum etc.

Mizo women are workers in the family, but recognition is not given to their hard labour. Like in the past, Mizo women today continue to be the main work force and economic source in various capacities as government employees in various categories and in business and commercial sectors and in religious life. Many Mizo women are bread earners for their family, yet their contribution is never given due recognition. Despite their hard labour, they have no right of inheritance or ownership either in their parents home or after their marriage. They have no right over their own income, over their children or over their properties.

Mizo women are excluded in all decision-making bodies in social religious and political fields. In social organizations such as YMA (Young Mizo Association) and VDP (Village Defence Party), women are active and important members, in fact, their presence and contributions make these social organizations successful. But the sad thing is that women are seldom given any decision making opportunities. At best, they are given membership in the Executive Committee but are never given the status of Office Bearers.

In the religious field, although women play an important role in the Church activities, they continue to play only assisting roles and are not given the right job and responsibilities in the Church. They are excluded from various decision making bodies, ordination and other responsible positions.

In the field of politics, the lowest governing body is Village Council where women are seldom given membership. The higher level bodies like Legislative Assembly very seldom has a women representation and not even once has a Mizo woman been given a chance to become Member of Parliament.

Although the status of Mizo women has improved significantly especially after the propagation of Christianity, it still has a long way to go to reach a stage of gender equality.

SECTION - II
STATUS OF WOMEN

The status of women here means the relative prestige or honour she enjoys in different aspects of her life. In case there are certain discrimination against her on the basis of her sex, she has a low status.

There are a number of indices which were felt vital for determining the status of Mizo women. For this purpose, information were collected from the following:

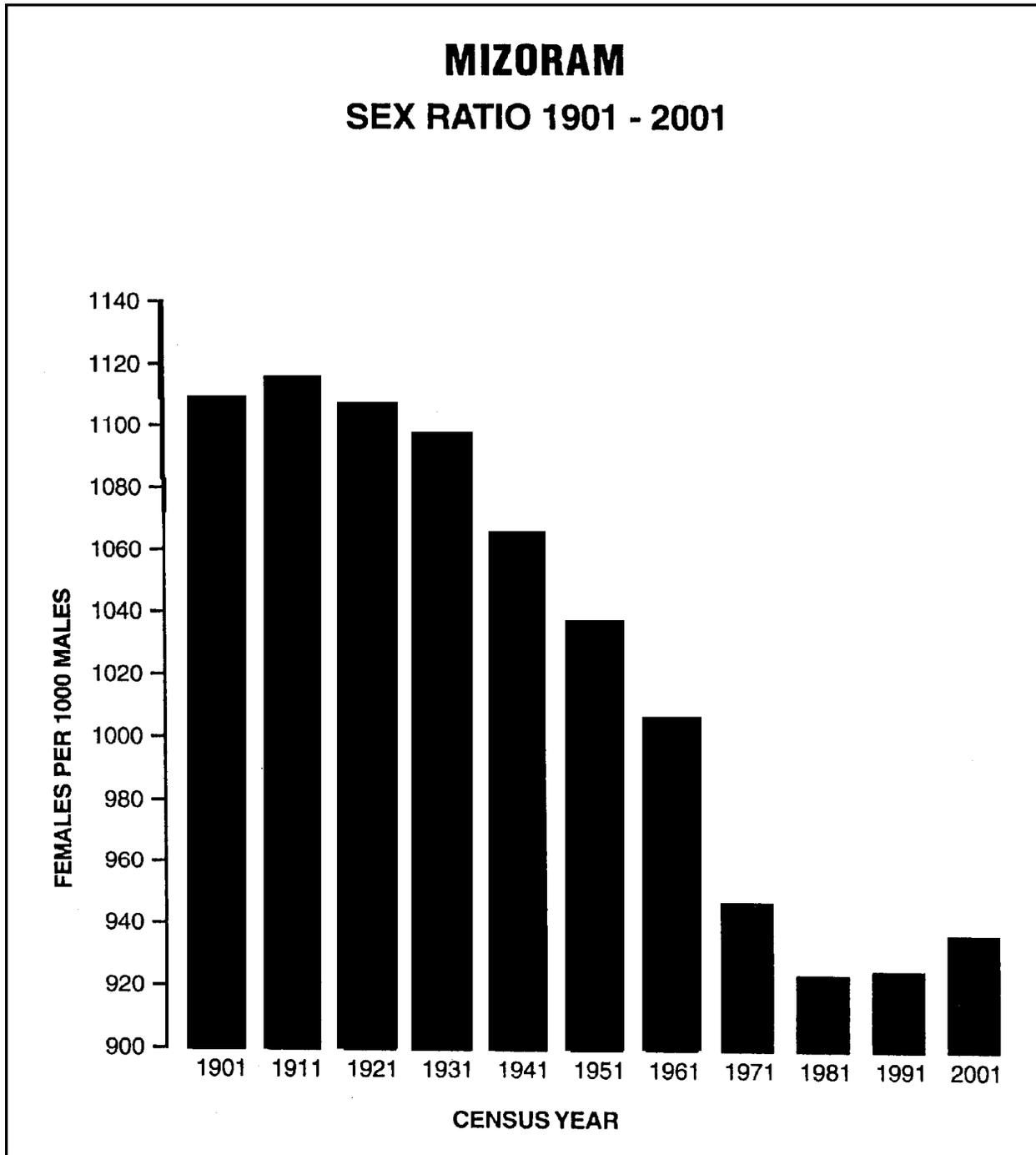
- 1) Health Indicators
- 2) Educational Indicators
- 3) Economic Indicators
- 4) Social Indicators
- 5) Political Indicators and
- 6) Legal Indicators

SECTION 2.1 : HEALTH INDICATORS

TABLE NO 2.1
HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER GOVT. OF MIZORAM (2001)

Sl. No	District	Hospital	CHC 30 bedded	PHC/SHC 10 bedded	Main Centre	Sub Centre
1.	Aizawl	2	2	8	14	76+21Clinics
2.	Kolasib		1	6	7	28
3.	Champhai	1	2	11	14	56
4.	Serchhip	1		6	7	28
5.	Mamit		2	9	11	35
6.	Lunglei	2	1	8	12	68
7.	Saiha	1		5	8	33
8.	Lawngtlai		1	3	5	27

The health indicators such as mortality by sex and sex ratio of the population are considered as important variables which determine the status of women in Mizoram.



Review of different studies suggest that in a non-discriminatory world, women would live some three to four years longer than men on an average because on an in-born biological advantage. The strength of this advantage is such that the mortality rate for male infants will always exceed that for

Sl. No.	District		Live Births			Deaths			Infant Deaths			Maternal Deaths	Still Births
			M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T		
5.	Serchhip	R	305	341	646	80	68	148	3	4	7	2	0
		U	287	266	553	51	29	80	2	1	3	0	0
6.	Lunglei	R	971	915	1886	216	186	402	12	9	21	3	0
		U	928	851	1779	231	144	375	26	21	47	6	0
7.	Lawngtlai	R	675	681	1356	208	179	387	22	19	41	3	0
		U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Saiha	R	427	357	784	100	80	180	2	8	10	2	0
		U	278	210	488	54	30	84	5	3	8	1	0
9.	Total	R	4745	4620	9365	1253	885	2138	72	75	147	19	0
		U	5795	5141	10936	1625	934	2559	75	63	138	14	102

A total of 4697 deaths were registered in 2003 as compared to 4401 deaths in 2002 [Males -2723, Females- 1678]. Out of 4697 deaths, 33 are Maternal deaths, 285 Infant deaths. In Mizoram, Infant Mortality rate is worked out as 14.03 per thousand of Live Births. Out of 285 Infant Deaths, female infant deaths was lower than that of the male (F-138, M - 147) which is accepted to be an indicators that there is no discrimination against the female infants.

**TABLE NO 2.4
DEATHS BY AGE AND SEX**

Sl.No	Ages	Male	Female	Total
1.	Below 1 year	147	138	285
2.	1 to 4	225	202	427
3.	5 to 14	160	126	286
4.	15 to 24	335	131	466
5.	25 to 34	355	116	471
6.	35 to 44	282	129	411
7.	45 to 54	270	141	411
8.	55 to 64	267	161	428
9.	65 to 69	141	104	245
10.	70 & above	533	440	973
11.	Age not stated	163	131	294
12.	TOTAL	2878	1819	4697

The number of deaths registered in 2002 in Mizoram was 4401 out of which 2723 were male and 1678 were females. As for the sex ratio, which is another indicators of the status of women, the number of females per 1000 males has been declining steadily from 1991 and 2001 (According to Census records). The sex ratio in 1901 was 1108 : 1000 which increased to 1116 : 1000 in 1911. The ratio declined steadily and in 1981, it was as low as 919 : 1000 with a slight increase of 921 : 1000 in 1991 and 938 : 1000 in 2001.

On the basis of the sex ratio, the status of Mizo women has declined steadily the reasons for which may be found through on in - depth study of the case. However compared to the other states and the whole country and the findings on mortality by sex, one may well conclude that as far as health indicators were concerned / applicable, women in Mizoram do not face any discrimination and that they are better placed than majority of the Indian states.

SECTION 2.2 : EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS:

Education is one important variable which determine the status of women. Taking into account the literacy rate, enrolment and drop-out rate, one can find out if there exist any discrimination and the extent of discrimination which prevail in a society at a given period of time.

Prior to 1894, when the first christian missionaries set foot in Mizoram, formal education was not in existence. Knowledge, traditions and customs were handed down from generation to generation in the family and except for the family and Zawlbuk, a bachelor's dormitory where elders of a village would educate the young bachelors, there was no institution for formal education.

The first christian missionaries, knowing fully well that the introduction of western education was the best method to convert people, ventured to prepare Mizo alphabets in Roman script and they opened a school in their small hut in Aizawl. Only few Mizos enrolled for the preliminary lessons. The first persons to get their education were mainly the chiefs and their sons and women were not included.

After then two first missionaries left, their successors started schools in 1898. By 1900, there were six lower primary schools in different localities in Aizawl. Though the introduction of education was expected to open new opportunities for women, in all the educational institutions, there were comparatively small number of girls. According to 1901 census, there were 736 literates out of which only 25 were females. In 1903, the first Lower Primary School Examination was conducted and out of 19 successful candidates, only 2 were women. Despite the activities of missionaries towards education, there was slow progress for women. This maybe mainly due to the parents attitude that women were meant for domestic chores only and that education has little value for them.

Because of the negative attitude that parents held in respect of education of their daughters, the rate of literacy remained very low for a very long time. The main factors responsible for this negative attitude were the responsibility shouldered by women and the girl child in the family related

to household chores and looking after the younger siblings respectively. Another factor responsible for this attitude is the ignorance of parents about the benefit of educating their daughters. Mizo parents, in the earlier days were of the opinion that writing love letters and her literacy had no productive value. Thus, during these earlier periods, even if a girl was sent to school, she had to carry her baby siblings with her to relieve her mother at home.

TABLE NO 2.5
EDUCATION : NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, TYPE OF INSTITUTIONS, NO OF TEACHERS, STUDENTS
ENROLMENT, TEACHER – STUDENT RATIO (AS ON 30.9.2001)

Sl. No.	Level	Type	No of schools	Teachers			Students			Ratio
				Male	Female	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
1.	Primary School	Govt	1064	1933	1953	3886	45119	41204	86323	1:22
		Private	313	782	761	1543	12831	15075	27906	1:18
		Total	1377	2715	2714	5429	57950	56279	114229	1:20
2.	Middle School	Govt	340	1811	552	2363	13747	12968	26715	1:11
		Deficit	245	1193	364	1557	6552	6989	13541	1:8
		Aided	55	248	108	356	1395	1253	2648	1:7
		Private	211	796	675	1471	5127	5099	10226	1:7
		Total	851	4048	1699	5747	26821	26309	53130	1:9
3.	High School	Govt	151	1064	302	1366	10038	10839	20877	1:15
		Deficit	46	281	72	353	2971	2906	5877	1:17
		Aided	10	51	8	59	340	324	664	1:11
		Private	163	794	281	1075	6524	9088	15612	1:14
		Total	370	2190	663	2853	19873	23157	43030	1:15
4.	Higher Secondary School	Govt	17	126	137	263	3165	3143	6308	1:24
		Deficit	8	73	60	133	1001	944	1945	1:15
		Private	8	42	24	66	362	332	694	1:10
		Total	33	241	221	462	4528	4419	8947	1:19

To understand the latest position with regard to the education of women, as well as to find out the persistence of discrimination against them, it is desirable to have a look at the enrolment pattern at the school level by sex of the students. As per the available data (30.9.2001) for school going children (Primary, Middle, High School and Higher Secondary Schools), the total enrolment of female was 110164 as against 109172 for males. This finding on the enrolment of school going males and females showed that the discrepancy, although small as it was in favour of females. A more detailed study also revealed that the discrepancy in favour of girls was found only in High School and that in the other stages (viz, Primary, Middle and Higher Secondary), male enrolment is more than the female.

The literacy rates percentage of females in Mizoram in the last four decades indicates that the growth rate in the percentage of female literates is more than the males. However, the female literacy rate is still lower than the male literacy rate.

TABLE NO 2.6
LITERACY RATES

(in percentages)

Year	MIZORAM			INDIA		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1971	53.79	60.49	46.71	34.4	45.95	21.97
1981	59.88	64.46	54.91	43.56	56.37	29.75
1991	82.27	85.65	78.60	52.11	63.86	39.42
2001	88.49	90.69	86.13	65.38	75.85	54.16

TABLE NO 2.7
GENDER GAP IN LITERACY RATES

(In percentage)

Year	MIZORAM	INDIA
	Gender Gap	Gender Gap
1971	13.78	23.98
1981	9.55	26.62
1991	7.05	24.44
2001	4.56	21.69

Taking into consideration the female literacy percentage and student enrolment as indices of status of women in the field of education, Mizo women are in a far better status than other parts of the country.

SECTION 2.3 : ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

In the economic field, one important discrimination faced by women in Mizo society is the right of inheritance. According to the customary law, women are not entitled to any inheritance to family or ancestral property. Even in the absence of a male child, a daughter could not claim, as a matter of right, the family property, but would normally go to the nearest male relatives. This is an extreme case of deprivation for women.

To determine the status of women on the basis of economic parameters, there are certain problems in delineating work as economic activity from the household activities.

Until recently, economic role of women did not attract much attention in Mizoram because much of women's work is done at home or outside the formal economy. It is imperative to understand women's participation in economic activity as the economic role of women cannot be isolated from the process of development. Since employment of women is an indicator of status of women, the status of women in the economic field was studied using two available secondary data viz. Distribution of main workers in the total population of Mizoram.

TABLE NO 2.8
DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN WORKERS AS CULTIVATORS, AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, HOUSEHOLD
INDUSTRY WORKERS AND OTHER WORKERS IN TOTAL WORKERS OF MIZORAM : 1971 – 2001

Census Years	Total Workers			Cultivators			Agricultural Labourers			Household Industry Workers			Other Workers		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
1971	151619	87858	63761	126652	65171	61481	558	385	173	488	375	113	23921	21927	1994
1981	206064	129011	76453	145545	75556	65989	5118	3465	1653	1758	959	799	53643	45628	8015
1991	290317	178011	112306	178101	94878	83223	9527	6181	3346	2958	1997	961	99731	74955	24776
2001	469597	264162	205435	253161	128829	124332	27494	13010	14484	6572	3164	3408	182370	119159	63211
g	3.84	3.74	3.98	2.34	2.3	2.4	13.9	6.86	11.59	9.05	7.4	12.04	7.01	5.8	12.21

P = Persons M = Male F = Female

Main Workers are those who have worked for 183 days or more in a year.

g = Annual Average Growth Rate (%)

One of the important aspects of female participation in the worksphere of Mizoram is the concentration of female workers in the primary sector that is, as cultivators, household workers and agricultural labourers. Not only that the percentage is quite high but also in agricultural labourers it has shown an increasing trend. The annual growth rate of female agricultural labourer is 11.59% which almost doubled male annual growth rate of 6.86%. This shows that expansion of economic opportunities is much lesser for female than that of the male counterpart. This forces one to think that lack of employment opportunities forces the female workers to concentrate in the agricultural and allied activities. A large number of women work as self-employed in cultivation, they are working not as hired persons but mostly as helpers to the members of the family. Their work is definitely economic work but they generally do not get monetary return for their job.

TABLE NO 2.9
EMPLOYMENT : SEX-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYEES IN MIZORAM : 1998 – 2003

Sl. No.	Statutory	Year	Group - A				Group - B (G)				Group - B(NG)			
			M	F	Total	% of F	M	F	Total	% of F	M	F	Total	% F
1.	State Govt	1998	1884	470	2354	19.97	66	26	92	28.26	4916	1985	6901	28.76
		1999	1972	518	2490	20.80	308	54	362	14.92	4915	2345	7260	32.30
		2000	1928	483	2411	20.03	308	58	366	15.85	5027	2273	7300	31.13
		2001	2047	428	2475	17.29	419	85	504	16.87	4870	2292	7162	32.00
		2002	2203	446	2649	16.85	272	184	456	40.35	5168	2266	7434	30.48
		2003	2252	558	2810	19.86	231	76	307	24.76	5202	2499	7701	32.45
2.	Central Govt.	1998	66	13	79	16.46	34	01	35	02.86	71	11	82	13.41
		1999	166	37	203	18.23	89	07	96	07.29	49	22	71	30.99
		2000	157	36	193	18.65	84	07	91	07.69	42	16	58	27.59
		2001	169	38	207	18.36	78	07	85	08.24	54	18	72	25.00
		2002	164	42	206	20.39	68	05	73	06.85	67	18	85	21.18
		2003	184	46	230	20.00	80	07	87	08.05	58	26	84	30.95
3.	Semi-Govt.	1998	151	28	179	15.64	04	00	04	00.00	46	33	79	41.77
		1999	63	08	71	11.27	02	00	02	00.00	40	31	71	43.66
		2000	59	07	66	10.61	01	00	01	00.00	36	27	63	42.86
		2001	61	09	70	12.86	11	02	13	15.38	36	26	62	41.93
		2002	58	07	65	10.77	07	04	11	36.36	48	34	82	41.46
		2003	59	09	68	13.24	06	05	11	45.45	49	36	85	42.35
4.	Banking & Insurance	1998	144	29	173	16.76	04	01	05	20.00	133	78	211	36.97
		1999	140	28	168	16.67	17	05	22	22.72	136	72	208	34.62
		2000	141	27	168	16.07	18	04	22	18.18	133	69	202	34.16
		2001	142	31	173	17.92	18	04	22	18.18	60	11	71	15.49
		2002	198	45	243	18.52	20	04	24	16.67	57	28	85	32.94
		2003	200	46	246	18.70	24	04	28	14.29	49	29	78	37.17
5.	Autonomous District Council	1998	144	29	173	16.76	00	00	00	00.00	153	29	182	15.93
		1999	140	28	168	16.67	15	02	17	11.76	165	34	199	17.09
		2000	141	27	168	16.07	22	03	25	12.00	169	34	203	16.75
		2001	142	31	173	17.92	102	10	112	08.93	108	24	132	18.18
		2002	198	45	243	18.52	74	07	81	08.64	148	23	171	13.45
		2003	200	46	246	18.70	107	11	118	09.32	123	25	148	16.89

TABLE NO 2.10
SEX – WISE COMPARISON OF EMPLOYEES (GROUP WISE) OF DIFFERENT STATUTORIES IN MIZORAM
FOR THE PERIOD 1998 – 2003

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Group A	M	2334	2429	2373	2511	2762	2791
	F	564	595	557	509	543	665
	Total	2880	3024	2930	3020	3269	3456
	% F	18.96	19.68	19.01	20.27	16.61	19.24
Group B(G)	M	108	431	433	628	441	448
	F	28	72	68	108	204	103
	Total	136	505	499	736	645	551
	% F	20.59	14.26	13.63	14.67	31.63	18.69
Group B(NG)	M	5319	5305	5407	5128	5488	5481
	F	2136	2504	2419	2371	2369	2615
	Total	7455	7809	7826	7499	7857	8096
	% F	28.65	32.07	30.91	31.62	30.15	32.30
Group C	M	19173	19470	20082	18281	20952	20615
	F	5840	6279	6603	6399	6391	6455
	Total	25013	25749	26685	24680	27343	27070
	% F	23.35	24.39	24.74	25.93	23.37	23.85
Group D	M	10068	10684	10531	9796	9848	9637
	F	1122	1279	1288	1634	1610	1612
	Total	11190	11963	11819	11430	11458	11249
	% F	10.03	10.69	10.90	14.30	14.05	14.33
Over All Summary	M	37002	38219	38826	38038	39455	38972
	F	9672	10725	10939	11021	11117	11450
	Total	46674	48944	49765	49059	50572	50422
	% F	20.72	21.91	21.98	22.46	21.98	22.71

Even after four decades of development and planning, majority of women in Mizoram are still concentrated in a narrow range of occupations characterized by low level of skill thereby low wages and income. Though their contribution is substantial, it is a fact that the labour put in by women in discharging their economic and non economic activities do not get their due recognition. They are not only economically exploited but are also socio-culturally oppressed.

It is obvious that in successive census, concept of workers has been changing and some do not get a comparable data of women and their exact contribution to economic work. There is an exclusion of a whole range of activities performed by women, the unpaid economic activities, their contribution

in work through domestic sectors, their long hours of household work remains unaccounted. The productivity of women in Mizoram is high as compared to the average Indian women, vegetables markets, petty shops etc are run by them.

SECTION 2.4 : SOCIAL INDICATORS :

The history of the social background of the Mizo women can be understood from an old saying, "Hmeichhe thu, thu ni suh, chakai sa, sa ni suh" which means "The meat of a crab is no meat; the word of a woman is no word". In this old saying, she was compared to a crab, which was regarded as less than an animal by the Mizos as it has no ears, head, stomach etc. This old saying shows the disregard given by the men in the Mizo society towards the opinion of the women. For instance, if a woman had any substantial authority in the family. Hence, being dominated by men, the words of women were never considered important.

Another saying, "Hmeichhe finin tuikhur ral a kai lo", which , when translated means, "The wisdom of women does not reach beyond the village spring" refers to the traditional belief that there is a limit to the wisdom of women. Even from only these two sayings, one can understand the attitude of men towards women. It is obvious that women had no voice in social administration and even if she had, her words were never accepted. Thus, like other societies of India, women's traditional role in the society was characterized by obedience to and dependence on men.

However, when compared with the social life of traditional Hindus and Muslims, Mizo society is free so far as the mixing up of men and women are concerned. But the fact remains that inspite of all their social freedom and their significant contribution in the family, Mizo women are not liberated and they are regarded as subordinate to men and they are very much discriminated in various aspects of life.

From the analysis of work participation of women in the economic indicators, one noticed that women, in addition to performing their traditional role of housekeeping were also responsible for looking after the domestic animals, drawing water from the village spring and fetching firewood from the forest and are also actively engaged in productive sectors of the economy.

Women are workers in the family, but recognition is not given to their hard labour. Like the earlier times, Mizo women continue to be the main workforce and economic source in various capacities. Many Mizo women are earners for the family, yet their contribution is unrecognized. Despite their hard labour, they have no right of inheritance or ownership either in their parents' home or after their marriage. They have no right over their own income, their children or their properties.

Not only in the family, in social organizations such as YMA (the largest NGO in the state where all the youths and majority of the Mizos are members) and other organizations, women are active and important members. In fact, there is no social organizations where women do not take part. They are prominent and helpful members and it is their presence and contribution which make the organization

successful. But the sad thing is that women are seldom given any decision – making opportunities. At best, they are given membership in Executive Committee, but are seldom given the status of Office Bearers. Social organization running and deciding without women members in the present day is very unfortunate.

To summarise, one can conclude, without doubt that it is in the social life that Mizo women faced discrimination the most although the situation is improving gradually.

SECTION 2.5 : POLITICAL INDICATORS:

Earlier historical writings and literature of politics have very little to say about women's political involvement and according to them, Mizo women seem to be less interested in political fields than men. Therefore, women live with decisions they have not made and which they cannot make.

In the political history of Mizoram, we come across some women who participated in administration but to a lesser degree than men. In fact, though there were women who were older than the male elders, they were not considered in the village administrations. In all the administrative posts, they chose only men. Their contribution were usually neglected or relegated to the background and the whole history of politics and chieftainship, village administration etc. were male-centred.

The present day Mizo society has witnessed low participation of women in the political field. In fact, their representation in all higher level decision making bodies is almost nil.

The lowest form in the administration set up is the Village Council. Each village is governed by this Village Council, the members of which are elected. Secondary sources on the number of elected Village Council revealed that only very few women were elected in these Village Councils. Women, as much as they are capable, were seldom given the opportunity by men even to stand for these elections.

In the Legislative Assembly also, women's representation is negligible. Out of the five State Legislative Assembly elections, only once was a woman elected as a member. The number of women fielded for the election by the different political parties was also insignificant, much less is the elected. The only way women participate actively in politics is by supporting their husbands at the time of their election campaigns. The last Assembly election saw three women candidates but none was elected. The reason is that people still look at men to be their leaders and even when some women attempt to climb the ladder, the notion that women are not capable of holding responsible post is still very strong and this idea still strongly govern people's mindset.

Based on these political indicators, it can be concluded that women continue to suffer discrimination in the political field and occupy a lower position as compared with men.

VOICES

CASE STUDY - I :

Tluangi is an 18 year old girl whose past was filled with violence. She was told by her mother a few years ago that her father was not her biological father. She was also told that her real father is in U.S.A. She learnt that she was born out of an extra – marital affair her mother had which even led to divorce of her parents. Her parents patched up after a few months but were divorced for good after a while.

She and her older siblings were taken care of by her mother and they were poverty stricken. Her mother had strings of affairs with different men. Her day was always filled with drunken brawls, violent outbursts and verbal abuses. This led her to run away from her home twice.

When she left home for the first time, she was engaged in the business of selling drugs (No 4 etc) and she also befriended commercial sex workers the second time she left home. She stayed with one family for six years but felt unwanted. It was at this time that she was invited by one relative to go to Delhi where she would be taught beauty – course. She however ended up in a house of a pimp where she was threatened, bribed and blackmailed.

Tluangi fully aware of her helplessness (she doesn't know English or Hindi) complied with the said relative, all the while looking for a way out. After gaining her trust of her relative, she was allowed to visit her mother at Aizawl. The situation at home still the same and finding no other option, she went back to Delhi. She returned to Aizawl to spend Christmas and began drinking and abusing with any kind of drugs she could get hold of. She was arrested under MLTP Act. She was referred to a Home for women drug abusers as her connection with commercial sex was unknown. She ran away from this Home, and continued to take drugs. She was admitted to another Home at the request of her adopted mother.

Tluangi also revealed that she was raped by her own brother when she was a little girl, a confession she made only recently as the brother threatened to kill her if she tells anyone.

CASE STUDY - II :

Liani is an only child whose parents divorced when she was very young. Both parents remarried and have children from their second marriages. Liani lived with her father till she was in Class III. She was taken in by her grand – aunt when her father shifted to another village.

When she was in her teens and her body started showing physical changes, her grand uncle – in – law, who was having health problems, started behaving unconventionally and irrationally.

The grand uncle – in – law began showing sexual interest in her and would harass her whenever they were alone in the house (i.e. when her grand – aunt was away on a short trip or working in the jhum). He also used to sexually abuse her by showing her his sex organs and falling on top of her while she was asleep in her bed. On certain occasions, she would scream and he would flee.

Liani said that although her grand – uncle – in – law used all forms of sexual abuses, he never succeeded in having sexual intercourse with her. She sought help and protection from her relatives and even her grand – aunt just told her to keep quiet. Even her father tried to blame Liani which she felt it is because of the financial support they receive from the grand uncle.

Liani left their house unable to continue living in the said situation. Her grand – aunt searched her out and gave her money to go to Aizawl where she stayed with her paternal grandfather. She felt she was mistrusted by her grandparents and ran away again to live with her cousin. While she was roaming around the town, she met a commercial sex worker, a girl from her village with whom she befriended and started moving around with her.

On a visit to a Day Care Centre with her friend, they were told about a Rehabilitation Home and were asked if they would like to be admitted. Liani took up the invitation as she claimed she was fed up of her life on the streets.

Liani is now 16 years of age and learning tailoring at the Rehabilitation Home.

CASE STUDY - III :

Mawii was married to her co – worker, Muana in the government sector. She was happily married to him for almost five years with a son between them. Then, her husband, Muana was transferred to another district. Within a span of six months, Muana pretending to be a bachelor married another woman. Without any warning Muana came to the house which they built on the plot belonging to Mawii's father and had taken all the furnitures leaving the house almost bare except the gas stove and one gas cylinder and Mawii's personal clothes, he even took the jewelleries that Mawii was putting on. However, the house was built with the loans taken from the sector they are working in and both Mawii and Muana had contributed towards the construction of the house from the loan they had taken. Their only son was not claimed by the father, Muana.

Mawii really loved her husband and was heartbroken. Her health failed her slowly. On top of this, Muana did not sent any money to take care of their only son and most of Mawii's earnings had to go for her treatment. She was finally admitted to hospital within a span of a year from her separation from her husband. While she was in the hospital, she called his name many times in her dreams and sub conscious state. She finally passed away in the hospital.

After the death of Mawii, Muana did not take any initiative towards his son who stay on with his aging grand parents and care by his maternal aunt.

CASE STUDY - IV :

Marthi and Lala were happily married but childless they were. Both were working in the government office, in a small town. They had taken House Building Advance and with that built a house of their own. One night Lala suddenly died with heart attack.

A month had gone by, the brother of Lala, Kunga came to the house and told Marthi to move out of the house, claiming that since Lala died and they had no son of their own, all the belongings and properties now been passed over to him, the nearest male kin of Lala. Marthi still grieved over her husband death and had very limited knowledge about Legal issue and Rights to property, moved out of the house and rented a house, taking their belongings from their house.

Her brother – in – law, Kunga followed her and snatched away the belongings like furnitures, refrigerator, TV etc saying that even those were rightfully his then, Marthi being a female had no right to claim anything for everything belong to his husband. After he is gone, the Right is his, as his next kin, to claim.

So heartstricken with the situation and grief, Marthi passed away within a year.

CONCERNS VOICED BY SUPERINTENDENT, PROTECTIVE HOME

1. Protective Home, established according to PITA 1956 is the only Home in the state for destitute women. This is not sufficient for the whole state. The capacity of the Home is 25 which is unable to take in all the booked women. It is necessary to establish at least one Home for each district, as suggested by the PITA 1956.
2. The Home is not sufficiently staffed. At least Mandatory Staff (Example : Superintendent, Case Worker, Probation Officer, After Care and Welfare Officer, Moral Teacher, Office Staff, Nurse, Vocational Trainer) be sanctioned and provided to enable the reform and rehabilitation work smoothly. The present Staff comprises of Superintendent, LDC (Clerk), Warden, 1 Instructress and 1 IV Grade which is very much below the requirement.
3. To be more successful, Step – wise Rehabilitation should be followed. Clients must first be admitted to Correctional Centre after which they will be referred to Protective Home for their rehabilitation. The present scenario is that Protective Home is multi functioning home which is creating lots of problems among the admitted and discharged inmates.
4. There is a provision for admitting girls below 7 years in the PITA 1956. However, the present situation do not have any facility for these young girls. As it is not good to let them stay with their mother at the Home, for their development, establishing Day Care or Foster Care near the Home is desirable. This is true also for Central Jail.

PITA 1956 has detailed provision which is applicable to most states in India. Since there is no Red Light Area in Mizoram, PITA's applicability is limited. One popular common cause of prostitution is need of money to buy drugs and other intoxicating things. As the Act is meant for those who want to reform themselves, and as it is very difficult to prove their prostitution from their own testimony, it is always difficult to place them in the Home.

The Immoral Traffic Bill 1993 which provides for admitting even women in moral danger at the Home is very much appropriate for Mizoram situation. As such it is desirable to know whether the Immoral Traffic Bill 1993 recommended by National Council for Women is now legalized or not.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF STATE LEVEL MEETING WITH NGOs ORGANISED BY MIZORAM STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, HELD AT STATE GUEST HOUSE, AIZAWL on 23rd September 2004.

(The State Level Meeting with NGOs on the theme 'Gender Profile of the State' was supposed to start at 1:00 P.M. But due to cancellation of flight from Calcutta, Dr. Poornima Advani, Chairperson, National Commission for Women could not reach the venue. With her permission and encouragement, the meeting was however conducted one hour later than the previous schedule although the expected participants arrived well ahead of time.)

After the arrival of the Chief Guest, Mr. R. Tlanghmingthanga, Hon'ble Minister i/c Social Welfare Department etc, the Inaugural function of the State Level Meeting with NGOs was started at 2:00 P.M. under the chairmanship of Mr. Lalramthanga Tochwawng IA & AS Secretary, Social Welfare Department etc. The Chairman after welcoming all the participants and apologizing for the inconveniences caused due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, gave a brief introduction on the main theme of the meeting which was sensitization of gender issues in Mizoram. He also highlighted the other important agendas of the meeting and the various activities of the National Commission for Women. He said that the status of Mizo women *prima facie* may not be as low as women in other societies but is having its own unique problems which is not at all satisfactory. Although a handful of organizations and bodies are established for the welfare of Mizo women, the approaches of these bodies are general and only need to adopt different approaches – viz. Project mode, Mission mode, Campaign mode etc. which he said will be a great step for improvement.

The Chairman then requested Mrs. Lalhlimpuii, Chairperson, Mizoram State Commission for Women to give a short speech. Mrs Lalhlimpuii gave a brief history of the Mizoram State Commission for Women. The MSCW was established in 1998 and its growth and development is not very satisfactory. However, she highlighted that the Commission had tried its best to cater to the welfare of Mizo women and tried to make its presence known. The Honorarium of Rs 3000/- per month which is sanctioned for the Chairperson of the Commission has been donated to Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Normal and disabled children who are victims of rape, who reported themselves for help and assistance were provided help and assistance accordingly. The Commission also did a follow – up on the accused in rape cases to find out whether the guilty rapists received the punishment they deserved. It had also provided assistance to divorced ladies who sought assistance for alimony by means of getting them

lawyers etc. She also reported to the participants that the Commission members had made a visit to Women's Cell in Central Jail and Police Station to have first hand in information on the problems faced by women in Jails and Lock – ups and whether they can be solved.

After the speech from the Chairperson, MSCW, the Chairman requested Mr. Tlanghmingthanga, Chief Guest of the function to address the meeting.

Mr. Tlanghmingthanga said that Social Welfare Department is a very important department as it is concerned with human beings. He said that departments dealing with the physical and material needs (eg. Agriculture, Horticulture, PHE etc) are very important, but more important is the department which deals directly with people. He added that even God who is the Creator created man only after. He created the different needs of man in the first five days. With development and progress in mankind, the need of man also increases and all these are taken care of by the Department of Social Welfare.

According to the Chief Guest, women are degraded and regarded as inferior in every society and that the establishment of National Commission for Women and the State Commission for Women in Mizoram is an encouraging step towards the solution of different problems faced by women. He also said that the willingness of the National Chairperson to come and visit Mizoram is really encouraging. He then thanked all the participants who enthusiastically came for the meeting saying that whatever plans and objectives a department or an organization may chalk out, it needs to be put into action which can only be done by the representative of the different bodies present. Addressing the meeting Mr. Tlanghmingthanga said that whatever one does one must do it with conviction and determination even if it does not receive the attention of the Government, the Commission or other concerned Organisations should not give up. Good deeds for others should be done out of love and regard for mankind and respect for God and not for recognition. He once again thanked the participants saying that it is only because of their hard work that the Govt. of Mizoram is able to attain first position in various activities since 2001. He ended by saying that the Central Government may not do everything according to our expectations, but it wants the State Government to stress the welfare of man, but above all, one is responsible to the Creator to take care of the welfare of all.

After the address of the Chief Guest, the Chairman concluded the session with a noteworthy remark that whatever project is taken up with the zeal of a missionary (e.g. ICDS), it is always successful.

SESSION - II

After a short break, the next session which was set aside for discussion of various women related issues was started. The facilitator started the session with an introduction on the Gender Profiles of Mizo women which she said could not be distributed as the responses received for finding out gender profiles of Mizo women, (the form for which was sent by the National Commission for Women) could not be analyzed properly because of certain loopholes. Out of 30 forms given out to various NGOs,

only 16 responded, and by the way the different criterias were responded to, it was felt that the respondents were also not very clear about the whole questionnaire which was prepared in English, thereby the data may not be reliable. Due to these, profiles could not be distributed and the same will need to be prepared keeping in view of the expected respondents.

She then introduced the different issues for discussion which was received from the NCW stressing that the NGOs we now have are just functioning need – based, but that we should now try to step up on project – based issues. She then suggested that discussion may be made on the lines of the issues mentioned. She then opened the time for discussion on “ Position relating to crimes against women” as the first issue since “Gender Profile of Mizo Women” could not be discussed for the time being.

Pu Thanseia, representing M.U.P.(Mizo Elders Association) opened the discussion presenting the figures they collected related to Crime Against Women. He said that Mizoram is much lower in position compared to other states and that it is also declining. Out of 46 big crimes identified, he said that mention will be made only for 4 (viz. Murder, Theft, Rape and Kidnap)

Following is the statistics reported by Pu Thanseia on the crimes reported and detected :

		1996		2003		upto June 2004	
		Reported	Detected	Reported	Detected	Reported	Detected
1.	Murder	43	22	43	20	20	16
2.	Theft	967	588	1302	1009	694	515
3.	Kidnap	7	1	8	5	8	2
4.	Rape	49	37	94	40	30	21

Pu Thanseia added that MUP followed up the case of rape only as it pertains mostly to women, saying that the case of rape has declined this year and it is quite low compared to other societies. He however reported of a paper published outside Mizoram in which he read of a report of torture received by a husband from a wife adding that this may also happen with some Mizo husbands and this, he suggested, may also be deliberated upon. He also cited reports where in some societies a rapist is caught by the victim’s family and is punished by incision which resulted in the rapist not able to repeat the same act. Pu Thanseia ended his discussion by suggesting a similar kind of punishment may be introduced which may end the problem of rape.

Angela Ch. Ralte, representing Human Rights and Law Network then took on the dais reacting strongly to Pu Thanseia’s comment on the “few” cases of rape in Mizoram saying that if the figure 30 Or 29 is regarded as small, it clearly depicts the attitude we have towards women. She then related the real life story of two women who were caught selling country liquor and were not only tortured but their heads were shaved off thus physically abusing their dignity. She said that such is the attitude when it comes to women.

Zohmingthanga, representing CHAN (Community Health Action Network, The Salvation Army) then joined the discussion first by posing the question on whether or not the Women Commission take up care and support services to rape victims. He said that even though our state is high in the number of rape cases, even our government hospital is not equipped with facilities to detect rape in time. He said that our society has pre-conceived ideas about rape victims are not provided with any counseling or support services. He also pointed out that most of the rapists are married men and those who rape children are sexual perverts. He reported that one of their clients was raped at the ages 2, 7 and after, by her own uncle. What can we do about the mental problems of these victims? The culprits may receive their due punishment, but that is not all. We must also think in terms of giving the victims care and support.

Dinari, Assistant Public Prosecutor then reported to the gathering that sometimes it is not possible to convict the criminals because of lack of expert opinion. She said that many times, the laboratory could not provide the sperm count which is essential in a rape case. She also said that majority of public do not want to appear as witness which leads to problems in gathering evidences. In the case of rape of children between 3 – 15 yrs there has to be enough evidences in the form of witnesses for the rapist to be convicted. Two important reasons given by the APP which resulted in conviction impossible was that, i) sometimes, the victims and the rapists come to a compromise as a result, witnesses backed out. li) Doctors failed to send the sperm in time to the laboratory – whereas it was understood that the life span of sperm is 24 hrs, sending of sperm sometimes took even three days. If doctors can send it in time, many of our problems may be solved. Dinari then concluded by saying that with the backing of the public by giving evidences, if one criminal is given a punishment his action deserves, crime may be reduced.

Pi Zosangi, President, MHIP Lunglei Sub – Headquarters said that one big problem she felt is that culprits are always released on bail. She reported that rape victims also used to approach them, but since they are always from a poor family and the rapists are generally from a better background, sometimes they were threatened and other times, they would be bought off. She posed the questions as to why these accused are always released on bail and ended her discussion by adding that there is a possibility of cases of unreported rape which may be committed by close relatives.

Prof V. Pushpa Kumari, Head of Deptt, Social Work, Mizoram University then took on the dais opening her discussion with a strong note that Mizoram State Commission for Women do not have legal status because it is a commission for women. She said that there are no separate department for women and children in Mizoram whereas it is very much there in other states. There are no Village Council Presidents, no M.L.As and no M.Ps. This may be the reason why reservation for women is still under the table as there are no women in policy making bodies.

Prof. Pushpa then said that Mizo women are completely different and their problems are also different from other parts of the country. She then gave a brief report of one cell in Silchar which deals with crimes against women where more than 500 cases are reported every month. She then said that

the issues with the Mizo women are not gender specific, but society specific. The structures in the family compels a girl to become alcoholics, drug addicts and prostitutes. She then stressed on two aspects of the Mizo society – institution of marriage where there exist no security for the wife, and the reconstituted step families, which always lead to drug addiction – sex – illegal children – insecurity – drug addiction and the cycle continues. She also pointed out that one should not look at the women in Aizawl only. Village women faces lots of problems – no toilet facilities, no good facilities for education, and the women has to go to the jhum to produce agricultural crops and they again face difficulties in selling even the fruits of their hard labour. She said that all these problems in the end will lead to the present problem of HIV /AIDS. Prof Pushpa also expressed her concern about suicide committed by Mizo girls / women and whatever might be the possible reasons behind it. She questioned the availability of any device to find out about this issue of female suicides. She added that the Laws available are not adequate to protect the rights of women whereas many women involve themselves not only in domestic chores but very much in the economic process. She then suggested that if there can be ways to prevent drop-outs in schools and get the girls more educated, the vicious cycle of addiction to drugs / alcohol – pre-marital sex – illegal child etc may be reduced.

Due to shortage of time, the facilitator had to cut short the discussion time on the Crime Against Women with an apology. She then introduced the next two topics which were clubbed together to save time. The topics opened for discussion were Situational Analysis of conditions of women in jail and Adequacy of Laws / proposals of the State Government to enact laws or to make provision in existing laws to further promote the cause of women, functioning of women courts. She also informed the gathering that it would not be possible to discuss the other issues because of time constraints.

The second round of discussion was started by Pi Laldingliani, President, MHIP, Kolasib Sub Headquarters who said that many rape victims used to approach the MHIP who can do very little for them. Public procession and demonstration which were some form of protests launched by the MHIP has no legal knowledge, it may be more appropriate to have a Women Court, the proposal of which, according to her is still denied. She also suggested care and support services for the victims and asked the house the extent of the meaning of rape and way to deal with other abuses.

Pi Lalthlamuani, Advocate then took the platform informing the gathering that our existing laws are very much inadequate to protect the rights of women. She said that it is high time to have separate laws on marriages, divorce, inheritance and property instead of basing everything on our customary laws which is outdated, and according to this customary laws, a wife when asking for heirship is required to obtain no objection from her son which denies her, her rightful claim and this needs to be prevented. She said that the position of women needs to be clearly defined in terms of marriage, divorce, inheritance etc. She also suggested that Family Court may be more feasible as this will have a wider jurisdiction and also told the meeting of the existence of rape of a wife by a husband which may be dealt by a Family Court. She recommended the resolution to study the feasibility of a Family Court which she felt is the need of today. She then ended her discussion by giving information to the

meeting of the existence of Legal Services Authority (for poor people who could not afford a lawyer) where one can request the services of a lawyer from government who will bear the fees.

Pi F.Lawmzuali, former member of S. C. W. then took part in the discussion by saying that since S.C.W. was established only recently, it could not make much headway. She incited of cases of murder and rape where procession and demonstration were held, but said that follow-up was not satisfactory. She said that since the Women Commission is having only very few members, it is always easy to take action accordingly. However, whatever steps are taken by the SCW, it can be assisted by Women NGOs and the present young energetic women who are having legal literacy. She then ended her time saying that we should not stop at demonstration, and as MHIP also, the good intentions needs to be followed up and also stressed that all the participants are responsible for spreading the existence of Legal Services Cell to poor victims.

Dr. Sangliani, Director, SHALOM then enlightened the gathering on the situation in the Jails. She said that there are many women in jails who are jailed for a number of times. Some are detained even upto 30 times. This is because of the fact that they are left with no choice as care and support services for them is non-existent.

Regarding hygienic needs of women, Dr. Sangliani pointed out that water scarcity in jails is creating a big problem to women in jail, and the government may be requested to provide more water at least to the women inmates. The cells are congested as it housed more than its limitations. Sharing of clothes by female inmates is creating lots of problems hygienically and lack of nutritional needs of children of women in jail also needs to be taken care of.

Pi Lalparmawii, Secretary, MSSWAB, the next person to discuss the issue suggested a separate jail for women. She also expressed her concern regarding innocent children who has to stay in jail because of their mothers. Pi Pari also advocated having separate Acts for Marriages, Divorce, Inheritance etc which will safeguard the welfare of women and voiced her thought that if men can leave a Will, many of the problems faced by women would be solved.

Pi Pari also showed her concern about many cases of unreported rape which may be because of social stigma and asked the gathering how to find ways to help these women. She then informed the participants about the availability of many schemes for destitute women under Social Welfare Department, and also the establishment of Residential School for Children of Divorced/Widowed women. She then ended by saying that our pre-conceived ideas about a girl child who is raped turning into a prostitute when she grows up had been proved wrong and that with the right kind of guidance and change of environment, she could lead a normal life again.

Lalbiakmawii Renthlei, who is in charge of Women Cell at Aizawl Police Station, said that the dignity of women should be safeguarded at all cost. Although we are living in a society which does not impose any restriction on both the sexes, many of the actions of men which are accepted as normal are punishable offence under IPC and this should be spread to safe the dignity of Mizo women.

She then gave information that there are some bailable offences which cannot be denied to anyone if they have reliable bailers and this is not always the wilful acts of the police. She also said that as many rape victims come from poor families, before concrete evidences are formed, they are sometimes bought off. She also said that the Women Cell is ill-equipped, they have no separate telephone or vehicle and they are not having even a decent room.

The last person Ms. R.Lalnunmawii, Superintendent, Protective Home said that the Protective Home is the only one in the whole of Mizoram and although the PITA is very good, it is not implemented as such. She reported that at present, there are 38 inmates as against 25 seats which is a big problem. She also said that although PITA makes provision for separate 1st Class Magistrate for the Home, such is not the reality, and Special Court provided in the Act is not to be seen and even mandatory posts are not filled up. She reported that only 4 posts are sanctioned and the rest are working on a temporary basis. She also reported that the rules they are now using is an outdated one which needs to be amended, and although there is a provision to keep girls below 7 years, this is not feasible in the present condition. She also informed the meeting that there is no plan for their after care because of low budget. She then concluded saying that the Prevention of Immoral Traffick and rehabilitation of Prostituted Persons Bill 1993 is not suitable for Mizoram condition.

The facilitator then took the time for concluding the discussion time apologizing for the inconveniences caused by time constraints. She then introduced the following points to be considered for Follow – Up and Action Plan.

1. Who will take the lead for Action ? SWD or SCW ?
2. Trauma Counselling Centre.
3. Women/Family Court.
4. Atrocities against women.
5. Awareness regarding rape.
6. Torture to women criminals committing the same level of crime as men.
7. Mizo Customary Laws.
8. Legal Awareness and After Care
9. Separate Jail for women
10. Need for joint inspection – SWD reported that they gave nutrition. Whether or not it reaches the target group.

The facilitator then requested Pu Lalramthanga Tochwang, Secretary, SWD to present his recommendation for drafting Action Plan.

The Secretary then suggested the following lines of action to be resolved by the Meeting.

1. Consider the exact need for legislation – Family or Women Court, different Acts – this may be deliberated by a smaller group of say 4/5 members
2. Joint inspection of Jails to study conditions of women. This may be done by representatives from SCW, SWD and NGOs who will give their report
3. The points which could not be deliberated be taken up by groups and NGOs concerned (e.g. CHAN, SHALOM etc)
4. Creation of Posts – Trauma Rehabilitation Centre, Different Centres may be converged. This will be taken up by SWD
5. Introduction of Toll – Free Helpline. Even 1098 (for children) as there is increase in child sexual abuse
6. To have research based project and to reconstruct Gender profile

The suggestions put forward by the Secretary was placed for discussion for a few minute and it was seconded in to by Pi Rintluangi from MHIP and Er. Dunglema and Pu Lalhmingliana Saiawi I. A. S. (Rtd), prominent citizens even went to the extent of recommending doing away with the existing Mizo Customary Laws so as to make women enjoy equal rights as men. Pu Hminga said that many of our rape cases are social rape. Ms. R.Lalnunmawii also suggested that situational Analysis of Remand Home and Protective Home may also be taken up.

After all these suggestions were taken up, the meeting resolved that the suggestions placed by the Secretary may be taken up with necessary additions and slight modifications, by the appropriate authorities.

The State level Meeting with NGOs was then concluded at 5:00 PM with the Facilitator and the Secretary thanking all the participants.

Reported By Mrs. Lalbiakdiki Hnamte

ACTIVITIES OF THE MIZORAM STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN 1998 – 2004

Activities between 1998 – 1999:

1. The Chairperson with six members of the Mizoram State Commission for Women visited the Central Jail i.e. the Women Prisoners. The women prisoners were given – Bible, Song books, Sanitary towels. Besides these a representation was submitted to the I.G.Prisons – provision for the unique needs of the women prisoners.
2. The Maternity Ward at Civil Hospital was visited by the Chairperson and members. The need to build a separate building for Gynaecology & Maternity Ward was strongly felt and representation was submitted to the concerned Minister and Chief minister for the same.
3. A meeting of Chairpersons and members of state commission for Women's at Calcutta on 27th Jan. 1999 was attended by the Chairperson and one member of the Mizoram State Commission for Women.
4. Remand Home at Durtlang run by the Social Welfare Department was visited by the Member – Secretary, Pi Lalzarliani. The main purpose of her visit was particularly to see the girl inmate, how the home was taken care of and also a closer study to the situation of the girls section. During her visit, 15 female inmates were present in the Home. In spite of the dedicated staff attached to them who work hard for total rehabilitation and improvement of moral standard of the inmates, it was found that there is a great need for the improvement and upgradation for better functioning. For the improvement of Female Wing of juvenile-cum-Observation Home, some recommended points were submitted to the concerned authority.

1999 – 2000

1. State Level Awareness campaign was conducted in all the district Headquarters and some other interior village. Five resource persons presented papers in every district to make the public aware of the various issues of women, the wide gap between the goal enshrined in the constitution, legislation, policies – plan, programmes etc. and the situational reality of the status of women on the other hand.

2. Chairperson and members of Mizoram State Commission for Women visited the female prisoners in Jail. Some gifts were given to all the female prisoners as Christmas Gift.
3. "Women Commission Week" was organized at Vanapa Hall. It was Inaugurated by Pu R.Tlanghmingthanga, Hon'ble Minister i/c Social welfare. Papers were presented by two persons namely (1) Women and politics by Pi B. Sangkhumi, Member, Mizoram Public service Commission (2) Safeguards provided for Women under Constitutional and other laws by Lala Khobung, Magistrate. Women representatives from every districts and villages were invited to attend the Seminar. The invitees actively attended Seminar during the Week.
4. A Seminar on "Hmeichhiate leh kan Ram Dan" was organized at Vanapa Hall on 17th Feb. 2000. The Hon'ble Minister, Pu R.Tlanghmingthanga i/c Social Welfare inaugurated the function and Hon'ble Minister Pu K.Vanlalauva was Guest of Honour for the day. Participants from Women Wing representing every Church and YMA, MUP and NGOs from different organizations were invited. Women Federation representatives from every village were also invited.

Three Resource persons presented papers on

- Women and Law - Pu Lala Khobung, President, District Consumer Forum
- Women and Politics Pi B.Sangkhumi, Jt. Director, H&TE
- Women and Church Dr. R.L.Hnuni, Director, AICS

2000 – 2001

1. A Workshop on "Dowry and Immoral Traffik (Prevention) Act" was organized at Synod Conference Centre on 19th September 2000. The Hon'ble Home Minister Pu Tawnluia inaugurated the function and Hon'ble Minister Pu F. Malsawma was guest of Honour. Pu Chawngtinthanga, Deputy Secretary, Law & Judicial Deptt. Presented a paper on Dowry and some aspects of proposed amendment of the Dowry prohibition Act 1961. and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956 and social aspects of the Proposed Amendment. Participants from every Women organization, Advocates, NGOs like MUP, YMA, CHAN and individual invitees from Women activists, Colleges etc were invited. The invitees were actively present throughout the programme.
2. A Seminar on National Policy for Empowerment of Women was organized at Aizawl Club on 31st May 2000. Women representative from different organizations were invited to participate in this Seminar. Two resource persons Pu Lal Khobung and Dr.R.L.Hnuni presented papers in this Seminar.
3. Chairperson Pi Lalnipuii attended a National Seminar on "Better Laws against Rape" at Calcutta organized by West Bengal Women Commission.

4. Chairperson Pi Lalnipuii and one member Dr.Lalmalsawmi attended a Seminar at New Delhi organised by the National Commission on 12th & 13rd October 2000.

2001 – 2002

1. Awareness and Publicity Campaign was organized at different districts. A speech on awareness and publicity campaign are given by Pi Lalhlimpuii, Chairperson at All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendra and LPS (Local Channel). Leaflets / Pamphlets on the aims and objectives of the Mizoram State Commission for Women was distributed at every locality within Aizawl among the MHIP members.
2. Rape Case of Ms. Lalchhandami, Lunglei : Two members of the Mizoram Commission for Women, PiLalzarliani and Pi Vantirhkohi went to Lunglei regarding the rape of Ms Lalchhandami, Lunglei. They visited the accused rapist, Lalmangaiha at Lunglei Jail and they also requested the Jail Superintendent to remand the accused person in jail for a longer time.
3. Members of the Mizoram State Commission for Women and other representatives from department like Art & Culture, News Editors etc attended the "Bhooni – The North East Festival" on 5 – 12 January 2002 at Mumbai.
4. Chairperson Pi Lalhlimpuii attended a meeting at Kolkata on Women Empowerment on 22 March 2002. Chairperson from four States attended the meeting. The Chairperson, Mizoram State Commission for women reported the condition and function of the MSCW.
5. Pi Zoramnghaki and Ms Lalhriatrengi, Bawngkawn raped by non Mizos near Bagha, Assam were given Rs 1000/- each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund at the request of the Chairperson and members of MSCW.

2002 – 2003

1. Chairperson and members of MSCW visited Central Jail on 12 June 2002. The problems faced by the women prisoners were submitted to the Director General of Police, Mizoram.
2. The Women Cell at Aizawl Thana Outpost was visited by the members and Chairperson. A report of their visit was given to the Director General Of Police. A letter was given to the Home Minister to create Women Cell in every district. The Chairperson donated Rs 500/- to buy a Water Filter to be used in the office of the Women Cell.
3. Chairperson and member, MSCW visited underage Lalramhluni, Zemabawk who was raped by Zirkhawngghaka on 3 August 2002. A letter was given to the ADM(J) not to release Zirkhawngghaka on bail. The Chairperson and member, MSCW gave Rs 1000/- to the victim from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.
4. Press Release was made at Local Newspaper, LPS and Skylinks (Local Channels) regarding the rape of underage girl at Vancy Hotel, Chanmari by Vanlalchhanga.

2003 – 2004

1. International Women's Day i.e.8 March was observed by Mizoram State Commission for Women by organizing Legal Awareness for Empowerment of Women.
2. Two days State Consultation Meeting on State Policy at State Guest House was held at Aizawl on 23 -24 March 2004. Prof. Susheela Kaushik, Co-Ordinator, Centre for Development Studies and Action, New Delhi presented a paper on National Policy for Women's Empowerment. Keynote address was given by Prof. Susheela Kaushik. The Consultation Meeting was inaugurated by Pi Laltnanmawii, Chairman, MSSWAB. Three papers were presented :
 - The status of Mizo Women according to the Mizo Customary Law by Mrs Thankhumi
 - Decision Making opportunities for Women in Mizoram (Social and Political) by Dr. R.L.Hnuni
 - Economic Empowerment in the context of Mizo Women by Ms.Lalhriatpuii

Participants from NGOs like Women Federation, Older Persons, different women organizations, women activists, Social workers etc were invited.

3. A State Level Consultation Meeting with NGOs on Gender Profiles of Mizoram was held at State Guest House on 23rd September 2004. Due to cancellation of flight from Kolkata, Dr. Poornima Advani, Chairperson, National Commission for Women and her team from New Delhi could not reach Aizawl for the meeting. The Meeting was however held with approval and encouragement of the Chairperson, NCW. Mr. R.Tlanghmingthanga, Hon'ble Minister i/c Social Welfare inaugurated the meeting. Representatives of different NGOs and Women Organisations and women activists from all the districts of Mizoram actively participated in the discussion.

The Meeting scheduled for the second day was however cancelled due to the cancellation of the visit of Chairperson, National Commission for Women.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
SEMINAR ON
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Venue : I & PR Hall

Date : 15th October 2004-12-10

Organised by : Department of Economics, Mizoram University.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. In the paper presented by Miss Lalhriatpuii, she mentioned that women in Mizoram are developed but they are not equally empowered. It was discussed that the State Government has an important role to play in empowering the developed women of the state. Mobilisation of public opinion is highly recommended for this purpose, so as to enlighten the State authority.
2. Family institutions have to be recreated so as to educate and create an awareness among the women themselves. Change of the present approach is necessary.
3. In Mizoram, the Synod occupies an important position. There are only a few women representatives in all levels of decision making. The significance of this issue was analysed and the discussion highlights the importance of having women representing their church.
4. Valuation of women work participations was discussed. It was suggested that the monetary value of the work done by women in domestic chores must be worked out, so that the women themselves would be aware of their contribution in the family income etc.
5. In almost all the NGOs in Mizoram, men occupy the top post such as President, General Secretary etc. and even if women are in the office bearer they usually occupy the post of treasurer, Financial Secretary etc. Therefore, leadership training and more active participation in social organisation is an area where women are required to be prepared.
6. Cooperation among the various women organisations such as MHIP and Women's Wing of various Churches is necessary. These organisations must join hands and work together to uplift the status of the Mizo women.

7. The women NGOs have a much wider scope than the Women's Fellowship of various Churches in improving the status of Mizo women. Churches Women's Fellowship cannot use force or pressure to take up women's matter because it is not the motive or purview of the Church. At the same time, the NGOs such as MHIP can use pressure or take any alternative methods to do the needful for the upliftment of women.
8. Female representation in the decision making body of various Churches was given due importance. In Presbyterian Church, women members can be elected as representatives in the Conferences etc. But in Baptist church and evangelical Church of Maraland they cannot be elected etc. The discussion focussed on the ways and means to let women represent their own church.
9. Codification of the Mizo Customary Law is a pre – requisite for the upliftment of the statue of Mizo women. According to our customary law, women do not have any saying in the decision making. The male member of the family takes decision and women have to live their life accordingly. Women do not have any inheritance rights. Taking into consideration the gender differences, the customary law have to be codified.
10. Political participation is a necessary condition for empowering the Mizo women. It is entirely the development ability and competency of women that will bring them at par with men.
11. The discussion highlight the need to organise Workshop or Seminar with the active participation of the women daily wage earners, agricultural labourers etc.
12. Female work participation is high and their productivity is much higher than their male counterparts. But they are deprived of getting equal remuneration with men in the agricultural fields. The discussion focussed on how to do away this discrimination.
13. The discussion highlight the need for capacity building for women. The Mizo women are economically empowered, but they should strive more to achieve economic independence.
14. Skill development is necessary for improving the status of women. If women control the means of production such as capital at the household level, they would be able to achieve their economic independence more easily.
15. Self Help Group (SHG) have emerged as one of the major convergence of services and activities. The target group is women at the grassroot level. Comparative study was made regarding the status of women in Mizoram and Bangladesh.
16. Women in Mizoram are engaging themselves in all sorts of work ranging from butchers to vegetable – sellers. If better arrangements and financial support could be provided by the State government, the economic contribution of women would increase in many folds. The discussion highlights the Grameen Bank system which is running successfully in Bangladesh.

17. We should develop a work culture without relying too much on grant in aid and subsidy. The need of the hour is moral regeneration or moral development.
18. The practice of dowry system was discussed at length. The discussion focussed on how to do away with this evil practice.
19. In Aizawl city, there is not enough market place to accommodate all the vegetables sellers. Women sat along the roadsides and footpath selling vegetables. The discussion focussed on the cleanliness of the vegetables and the health condition of these women. More markets and Malls where retail and wholesale transactions of agricultural and other goods take place should be constructed by the government.
20. Even till today the general feeling is that if a meeting is called to discuss issues relating women—their upliftment or their empowerment, one thing that matters significantly is who called the meeting? If it is called by the women themselves men do not usually give their full co-operation! So the best thing is that this type of meeting be called by the church themselves as their voice is better heard/better cooperated. The suggestion therefore is that, if organisation like ZKHC (Joint Committee of Churches in Mizoram) can be moved or requested to convene the meeting to discuss the said issues, men's participation would be much better.

The overall discussion highlights the economic role of women in Mizoram. Creating an opportunities for women will be a prudent policy, not only on the ground of equity but also for economic growth. The discussion also focus on dowry system, female work participation and codification of the Mizo Customary law.

**SCHEMES AVAILABLE UNDER GOVERNMENT /
PRIVATE FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Govt. / Deptt.	Scheme available	Activities undertaken	Area of work
DRDA	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana [SGSY]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for skill development for BPL & APL [mixed group] - SHG [7 started] - Handicapped & disabled 3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Started in April 1999 & it covers erstwhile Aizawl district - SHG in Champhai [Champhai district], Sihphir[Aizawl district]
Industry	State Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for tailoring, knitting [6mths course twice a year – below 30 seats] - Handloom [1 yr course, once a year – below 30 seats] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saiha, Lunglei, Champhai, Aizawl - Aizawl district
Agriculture	Central Sponsor Scheme [CSS]	<p>Women in Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gardening - Handloom - Pig rearing - Bee rearing - mushroom - jam, squash etc making - knitting - field visit within & outside the state - crops & handicraft exhibitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hnahthial [Lunglei district] - Proposal for other areas
Doordarshan Kendra [DDK]		Frequent telecast on women legal rights, activities of women, discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mizoram
All India Radio, Akashvani		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broadcast on women issues twice a week, duration 15 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mizoram
AH & Vety	CSS assistance to State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for women Poultry farmers in groups only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selesih [Aizawl district] - Lungpher [Lunglei district]

Govt. / Deptt.	Scheme available	Activities undertaken	Area of work
SSWAB [Khatla]	NORAD [Norway]	Vocational training course - Tailoring 6 mths, 50 members 2 in Aizawl district, 4 in Lunglei district, 1 Mahila Imdad Committee] - Computer course 1 year - English Language Coaching Society - Handloom - Typing & Shorthand - Condense Course of Education 10 months for under Matriculation. Family Counselling Centre – run by YWCA	
Sports & Youth Services	State Plan	- Youth Hostel Association – Trekking - Bharat Scouts & Guides - Adventure Club - NYK - NSS - NCC	
Horticulture	State Plan Proposed under CSS	Women development in Horticulture - Training in flower arrangement, green house etc under Florist Association - Water shed scheme - Integrated Wasteland development Project [IWDP] - IWD in the rain fed areas	
Co-operative	Under Macro Management {CSS}	Women Cooperatives - Handloom & Handicraft sections	

Govt. / Deptt.	Scheme available	Activities undertaken	Area of work
Health & Family Welfare		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maternity Child Health [MCH] - RCH - STD clinic 1 in each district - School Health Education - Antenatal Clinic [ANC] - Civil Hospital 	
Higher & Technical Education		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women politechnic - Electronics & Telecommunication - Garments Technology - Beauticulture [2003-2004] 	The entry qualification is Matriculation
SCERT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population education for Secondary School - Adolescent education/Sex education 	
Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women Cell [one] - Proposal to attach women unit in every Thana 	Aizawl city
D.C.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal awareness and Women Rights given through talks and write ups, sometimes NGOs and some other organisations invited them to participate 	
Sericulture	<p>State Plan</p> <p>Proposal submitted to CSS for schemes for women</p>	<p>Women development in Sericulture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training in silkworm rearing - Supply of mulberry tree for plantation - Employment of women 30 numbers [Muster roll] for silk reeling and weaving - Marketing of products through Mizoram Apex Sericulture Co operative Society 	

Govt. / Deptt.	Scheme available	Activities undertaken	Area of work
Social Welfare		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protective Home/ Reception Centre [seat capacity 25] - Residential Institute & Training Centre [RITC] – Tailoring & Knitting [1 year course] - Handicapped Training Centre [female] – Tailoring & Knitting 1 year course - Women Commission a) Socio Economic Programme for poor & destitute women b) Platform for Action Strategies for women / IEWEP c) Adolescent Girl Scheme [Kishori Shakti Yajona] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aizawl [33 seats], Lunglei [15 seats] - Knitting –Aizawl 9 seats, Lunglei 15 seats
Govt. Aizawl College	College Fund	<p>Various activities apart from formal education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remedial Teaching/Free tutorial to prevent dropouts - Research Consultancy & Extension of studies - Infrastructure & Learning Resource [teaching aids, sports & games] - Organisation & Management - Healthy practices - National Service Scheme [NSS] - Student Self Support Union [SSU] - National Cadet Corps [NCC] - Flower arrangement [Self employment scheme] 	<p>For college students only This is a programme for National Accreditation & Assessment for Colleges as prescribed by UGC.</p>

Govt. / Deptt.	Scheme available	Activities undertaken	Area of work
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Computer [Self employment] - Medical - Youth Adventure club - Indira Gandhi National Open University [IGNOU] - Sanitation & Beautification - Disciplinary [to care for students having bad habits] - Counselling & Guidance Centre - Cultural club 	
Pachhunga University College		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCC - NSS 	
SBI		Refinance to SHGs under RD Blocks	A small loan below Rs 50,000 for BPL and above Rs 50,000 for others, SHGs are formed with at least 10 members in the village level and is monitor by RD Blocks
APEX	NSFDC [National Scheme for SC/ST Finance & Development Corporation	Refinance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture & allied - Small scale industries - Small scale business - Piggery - Carpentry etc 	Petty loans are given with lower interest.
Labour & Employment		ITI [Women] 1 year course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cutting & Tailoring - Hair & Skin Care - Bakery & Confectionery 	Aizawl city
Hrangbana College [Deficit]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NSS - NCC - Evangelical Union 	
University of Mizoram	Social Development Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently conducting awareness camps, research, etc 	Source of human resource for project

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A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN & GIRLS IN MIZORAM

By
LALTHANSANGI



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
NEW DELHI

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FOREWORD

The existential pathos of a woman's life has been inimitably captured by the great Hindi poet, Shri Maithilisharan Gupta, in a memorable couplet which says, "Alas, woman! Thy destiny is eternal sacrifice, eternal suffering!"

Despite the exalted position given to women in some of India's religious texts and the exceptional attainments of individual women in fields as diverse as philosophy, statecraft and even warfare, the profile of the average woman through the ages has been that of a perpetually poor, perpetually pregnant and perpetually powerless being.

Independent India has tried to redeem the situation by proclaiming equality of the sexes as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution and directing state policy towards removing the various disabilities that thwart women in realising their potential. Five decades of Independence have also seen a plethora of laws passed by the State and Federal Governments to protect women from violence and discrimination and to strengthen their entitlements in the social and economic fields. Numerous committees and commissions have x-rayed the position of women, the advances made by them and the obstacles faced by them, and they have made umpteen recommendations to improve the situation. Scores of schemes have been floated by various Ministries of the Government to address women's problems, particularly those relating to education, health, nutrition, livelihood and personal laws. In the institutional area, independent administrative departments to give undivided attention to women's problems have sprung up at the Centre as well as in the States. Development corporations were an innovation of the Eighties to energise economic benefit schemes. The Nineties saw the setting up of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and State Commissions in various States to inquire into the working of various legal and constitutional provisions concerning women, to investigate cases of violation of women's rights and generally to advise on the socio-economic policy framework in order to mainstream women's concerns. In recent years, the Governments, Central and State, have also articulated comprehensive policies for the empowerment of women through a variety of instruments and approaches focusing on an explicit vision of equal partnership of women in all walks of life.

Credit must also be given to a robust women's movement which has often given forceful expression to women's aspirations and joined issue with all the organs of state — legislative, executive and

judicial — for reviewing the age-old prescriptions of a patriarchal society. Often they have networked effectively with the international community and fora in the quest for worldwide solidarity on issues affecting women. These interactions have often times changed the idiom of discourse on women's right to justice and development.

The half-century of struggle and reform has undoubtedly had considerable impact on women's world. Some of the key indicators of development have perked up significantly; women's life expectancy has risen; education levels have improved; economic participation has grown. But there are areas of darkness too; crimes against women, both at home and outside, continue unabated; traditional economic occupations have withered in the face of global competition; there is increasing commodification of women's persona and vulgarisation of their image in the media's marketplace. The new economic regime, where Sensex swamps sensibility, has meant the precipitate withdrawal of the state from many fields leaving the weak, including women, in the cold. Similarly laws change; minds don't. Therefore between progressive legislation and sensitive enforcement falls a long shadow. Critics also point out that whatever advances have been made remain confined to urban India and the vast hinterland resists change obstinately.

The overall picture is thus a mixed one leaving the profile of the average Indian woman not substantially altered. But in this vast country there is no average Indian woman. As in all other matters, diversity marks the Indian woman's picture too. How society and economy are coping with the forces of modernisation differs substantially from region to region. The geography of a state provides its own constraints and opportunities; history gives its own moorings to values and momentum to change. Thus the regional profile is superimposed on the national profile. The NCW has therefore commissioned these studies to gauge how women's life has been changing or not changing in different States of the country, and to situate these studies in the historical and geographical context of each region or State so that progress can be measured across time and across space. Such spatial comparisons can highlight what lessons there are to be learnt from the 'leading' areas and equally they help in focusing the attention on the 'lagging' areas. Regionally disaggregated data helps in benchmarking progress of different regions, areas or districts, and can be used for improving performance by attempting to raise the performance levels of the laggards to the average of the State and then matching the State's average to the national average. Interesting insights can also be gleaned from the experience of implementing agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, in dealing with different problems. Some of these may be rooted in the soil of the region and may not lend themselves to replication but many others can be useful examples to emulate. That is how Best Practices become common practices.

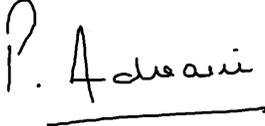
These studies have been carried out by different research groups having special knowledge and interest in the area — its people, its history, its administration, its cultural ambience etc. They have interacted with

official agencies as well as with leading NGOs working with women in the respective areas. The NCW has given a helping hand by providing information from its own database where available and also by interacting with the government of the State to set the stage for these exercises. The result is in your hands.

It is our hope that this effort will eventually result in the compilation of a comprehensive index of gender development focusing on the key issues in women's lives thus enabling comparisons of achievements and gaps regionally and nationally. This will help scholars and administrators alike.

Place : New Delhi

Dated : January, 2005


(POORNIMA ADVANI)

PREFACE

A brief historical survey of the changing status of women can be traced back to the early Vedic period (2500 – 15000 BC) where researchers claim that women held a position of equality in almost all spheres of life. Degradation started in the Brahmanic period (1500 – 500 BC) and it was during the period of Sutras and Epics (500 BC – 500 AD) that the position of women deteriorated to a great extent due to various socio – political factors, foreign invasions and misinterpretations of the old religious texts. This situation continued in the period of later Smritis (500 AD – 1800 AD). After independence, a pledge was taken to improve the status of women, by the Constitution makers and admitted by the Government, as one of the major tasks facing the country. However, the pressure of traditional customs and norms continue to determine the society's attitude towards women.

The status of women here refers to the relative prestige or honour she enjoys in different aspects of her life. In case there are certain discriminatory practices against her, she has a low status. Mizo society is characterized by a deeply communitarian nature where social life is free and men and women mix together freely. The status of women in Mizoram, *prima facie* may not be as low as women in other societies, but is having its own unique problems and is not at all satisfactory. The National Commission for Women (NCW), the apex women's development institution in the country has commissioned Situational Analysis of Women in various states within the country, among which, one of them is Mizoram.

I am indeed privileged to be called forth by the NCW to make a study of the situational status of women in Mizoram. I am much encouraged and supported by Mr. Lalramthanga Tochhawng I.A & A.S, Secretary, Social Welfare Deptt., Govt. of Mizoram, Ms Vanlaldini, Secretary, MSCW and Mrs Lalbiakdiki Hnamte, the Rapporteur. I have great pleasure in submitting it to the National Commission for Women.

Aizawl : Date 10 December 2004

Dr. LALTHANSANGI