

Spatio-Temporal Analysis on the Changes in the Social Structure of Meghalaya

Badahun Mary Rymbai¹ and Dr. Mahtab Alam²

¹M.Sc. Department of Geography, Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India

²Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Lovely Professional University, Punjab

Abstract: An arrangement of the fundamental characters that doesn't change effortlessly is called structure. Social structure involves a change in the pattern of organization which maybe initiated by factors such as the population, production, policies and programmes and the society as a whole. The present paper seeks to analyse the changes in the social structure of the population of the seven districts in Meghalaya and data were collected from the two census years i.e., 2001 and 2011. The social structural change in population reflected traces of social developmental trends as well as the inequalities in terms of demography, education, religions and work-force participation in the State. When the trend of growth in the two-time period was carefully analysed, a positive growth or a negative growth resulted in the decade. The spatio-temporal analysis revealed that Meghalaya has a very high rural population but four districts in the State recorded a negative growth. Urbanization recorded positive in all the districts however it is growing at a faster rate only in the State capital i.e., Shillong. The male population recorded a negative growth of population in all the seven districts, in contrast the female population recorded a positive growth. In terms of religion, Christians dominated most of the population followed by the Hindu community although in the later there was a decrease by 1.75%. Further, literacy among the male increase through the decade but most of the female literacy witnessed almost 5% decline. Rural Literacy resulted in a positive growth whereas almost all districts in the urban areas resulted a negative growth of about 3%. Total working population recorded a negative growth whereas the non-working population increases between 2001 and 2011 in Meghalaya. In conclusion the study was based on a limited chosen set of indicators due to lack of the availability of relevant data,

Keywords: Social structure, spatio-temporal, population, positive and negative growth.

INTRODUCTION

One may define structure as the relation of a group of elements that have some degree of consistency, rationality, and solidity, which are represented in some order. It is a set of



arrangements and patterns that are stable within societies and cultural organizations where social interaction exist. It can also be added that structure both permits and limits probabilities in a community or a society at large. Thus, it is important to note that 'Structure' which is used to analyse social and economic indicators, is considered as a concept that is not dynamic or easily changed. However, a change in the social structure thus occurs when there is a shift from one degree of the economy to the next or it may also be referred to liberalization or globalization of an economy. It can only take place through strict government policies, technological advancement, changes in resource and population or social relations such as norms, values, cultural products in a society.

The present study is based on the structural change in the population where population change is defined as the change in the total count of individuals within a specified time. Meghalaya has lack behind in terms of social development when compared to the other States in mainland India and its continued backwardness, be it in terms of infrastructure, unbalanced economic growth, inadequate delivery of social services such as health, education and less productive and competitive agriculture. A sharp contrast between rural and urban regions would affect the demography, sex ratio, literacy rate, work force and the overall well-being of the region. The study further discusses on how the various parameters are taken, to project a comparison on the social structure of different districts and its analysis. How well each indicator complements another to achieve a sustained livelihood.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the spatio-temporal changes in the demographic structure of Meghalaya.
2. To analyse the spatial distribution of Schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste population of Meghalaya.
3. To analyse the decadal changes in the working and non-working population of Meghalaya.

METHODOLOGY

In this study, application of quantitative methods is displayed by appropriate graphical representation. The quantitative method followed here was the Simple Percentage Method and QGIS software techniques. I have also used different statistical techniques to get authentic

information from the collected data and on the basis of that several maps have been prepared to make the research productive and qualitative

SOURCES OF DATA

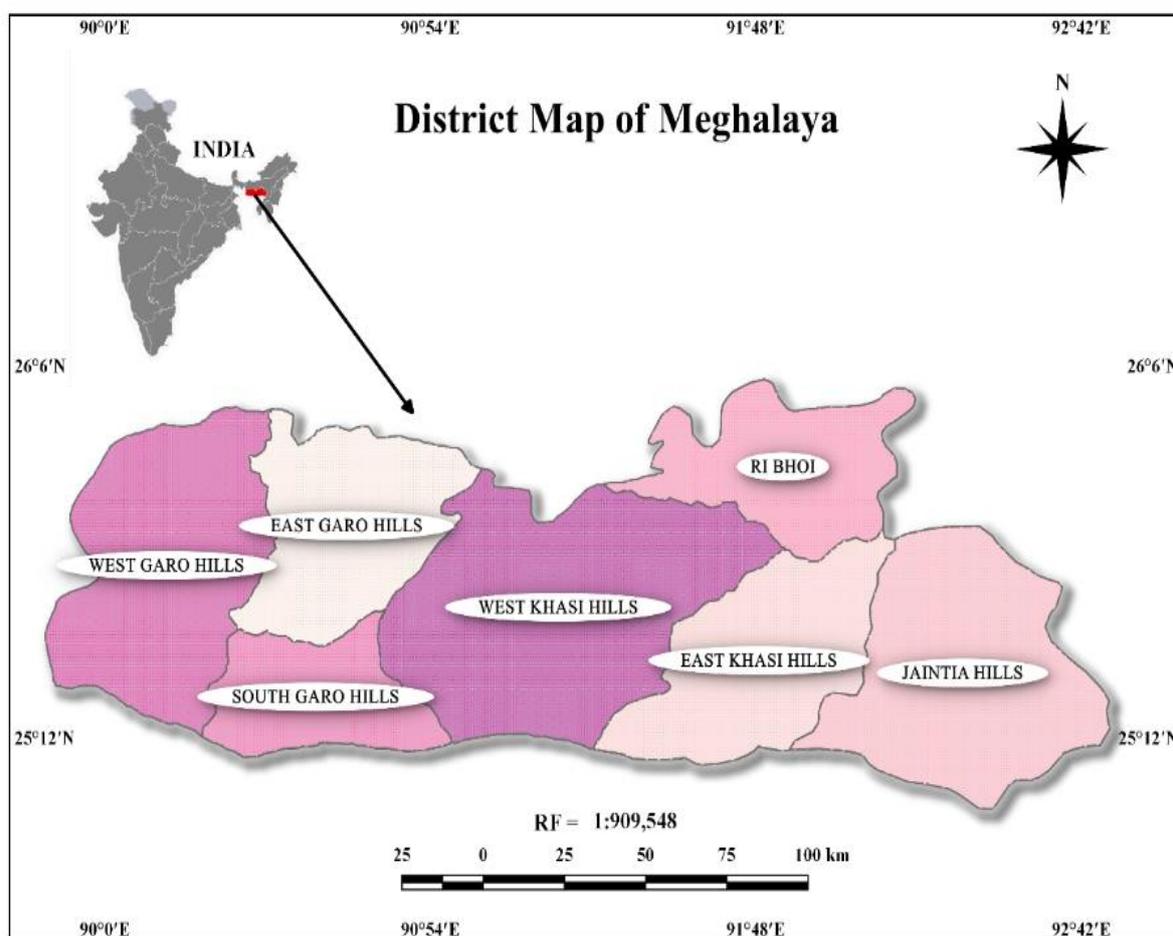
Most of the data was collected from secondary sources. Secondary data have been collected from Census of India, Directorate of Economics and Statistics of Meghalaya and Government of India. The research is also based on the referred sources-published, unpublished and electronic.

STUDY AREA

Hidden away from the rest of the Indian Sub-continent, a land amidst the north- eastern states is the state of Meghalaya. A Sanskrit word which literally means “Abode of Clouds”. Famously known for its attractive scenic beauty, it goes by the name “Scotland of the East”. The State stands tall between the Assam Valley (~1000m) and the plains of Bangladesh (~105m), has an average height of about 1,496 m above mean sea level. With its highest point on a peak, known as the Shillong Peak at 1966 m. Meghalaya was a part of British India during the 19th century and later the State developed into an independent and self-governing state on 21st January 1972. Meghalaya stretches for about 300 km from east to west and almost 100 km from north to south. It is located between 85°49' East and 92°53' East longitude and 20°1' North and 20°5' North longitude. The over-all geographical area of the State is 22,429 sq.km, which is 8.6 percent of the entire area of the North Eastern Region (NER), and only 0.7 percent of the country. A small hilly State which is ranked as the third biggest state area wise in the NER after Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Its total population is 29,66,889 (Census 2011) and with a population density of 132 persons per square kilometre.

There are three main tribal communities in Meghalaya namely Khasi, Jaintia and Garo and most of the population live in rural areas. The State of Meghalaya is a land locked region which is bounded by Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts of Assam in the East, Nowgong district of Assam and Goalpara and Kamrup in the North, and an international border of 443 kms on the South and Bangladesh in the West. Its rugged topography made up of mainly three well known hills (Garo hills, Khasi hills and Jaintia hills), deep gorges and valleys. Important rivers flowing in the state are Simsang river in East Garo Hills, Manda river

in North Garo Hills, Bugi river in South Garo Hills, Digaru river, Kopili river, Myntdu river in Jaintia Hills, Piyain river, etc. With an average annual rainfall of 12,000 mm, Meghalaya is known as the wettest place on the earth, where Mawsynram, a town in the Khasi hills holds this record. According to the latest statistics, there are a total of Eleven Districts in the State. However, as per 2011 census, data availability was for seven districts. Thus, Meghalaya was then divided into seven districts and thirty nine Communities Development Blocks (CDB). These are the East Khasi Hills district, West Khasi Hills district, Ri Bhoi district, West Garo Hills district, South Garo Hills, East Garo Hills district and the Jaintia hills district.



DEMOGRAPHY STATUS

According to 2011 Census, the State had a Total Population of 2.96 million, which grew about 27.82% from 2001 i.e., 2.31 million. The spread of population is uneven in the State and the rural population is comparatively higher than the urban population. When analysed among

different districts of the State by area, it was observed that East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, South Garo Hills and West Garo Hills recorded a negative growth of rural population i.e., -2.4, -2.9, -0.59, -0.3 respectively, due to an increase in educational awareness on family planning. The highest negative growth was recorded in Ri Bhoi i.e., -2.9 percent (Table 1). The growth in the other three districts such as West Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills and East Garo Hills recorded a marginal positive growth in which the highest recorded in Jaintia Hills i.e., 1.13% (Table 1).

Although only 20.07% live in urban areas, with increasing amenities, accessibilities and connectivity, we can see a positive urban growth in all the seven districts between 2001 to 2011. The highest positive decadal growth was recorded in East Khasi Hills District i.e., 12.66%, due to rapid urbanization in the capital of the State i.e., Shillong (table 1). The district that recorded the lowest positive growth in urban population was Jaintia Hills, i.e., 0.92% (table 1) because of its large geographical area and slow economic growth which is mainly based on the rampant illegal mining activities that hindered progress.

Table 1: District wise Decadal Growth of Male-Female and Rural-Urban Population in Percent between 2001 and 2011

Districts	Decadal Difference in Male-Female and Rural-Urban Population			
	Male	Female	Rural	Urban
East Khasi Hills	10	0.67	-2.4	12.66
West Khasi Hills	-0.67	0.33	0.54	2.49
Jaintia Hills	-0.33	0.31	1.13	0.92
Ri Bhoi	-0.31	0.26	-2.9	3.02
East Garo Hills	-0.26	0.06	0.4	3.02
South Garo Hills	-0.06	0.07	-0.59	3.47
West Garo Hills	-0.07	0.28	-0.3	2.79

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

Figure 1 is a graphical representation of the differences of the Decadal Growth of Population according to male-female and figure 2 represents the rural-urban population in Meghalaya between 2001 and 2011. With regard to the male population, all seven districts recorded a negative decadal growth, mainly because of out-migration from the State due to various socio-

economic push factors such as better employment opportunities and for higher educational purposes.

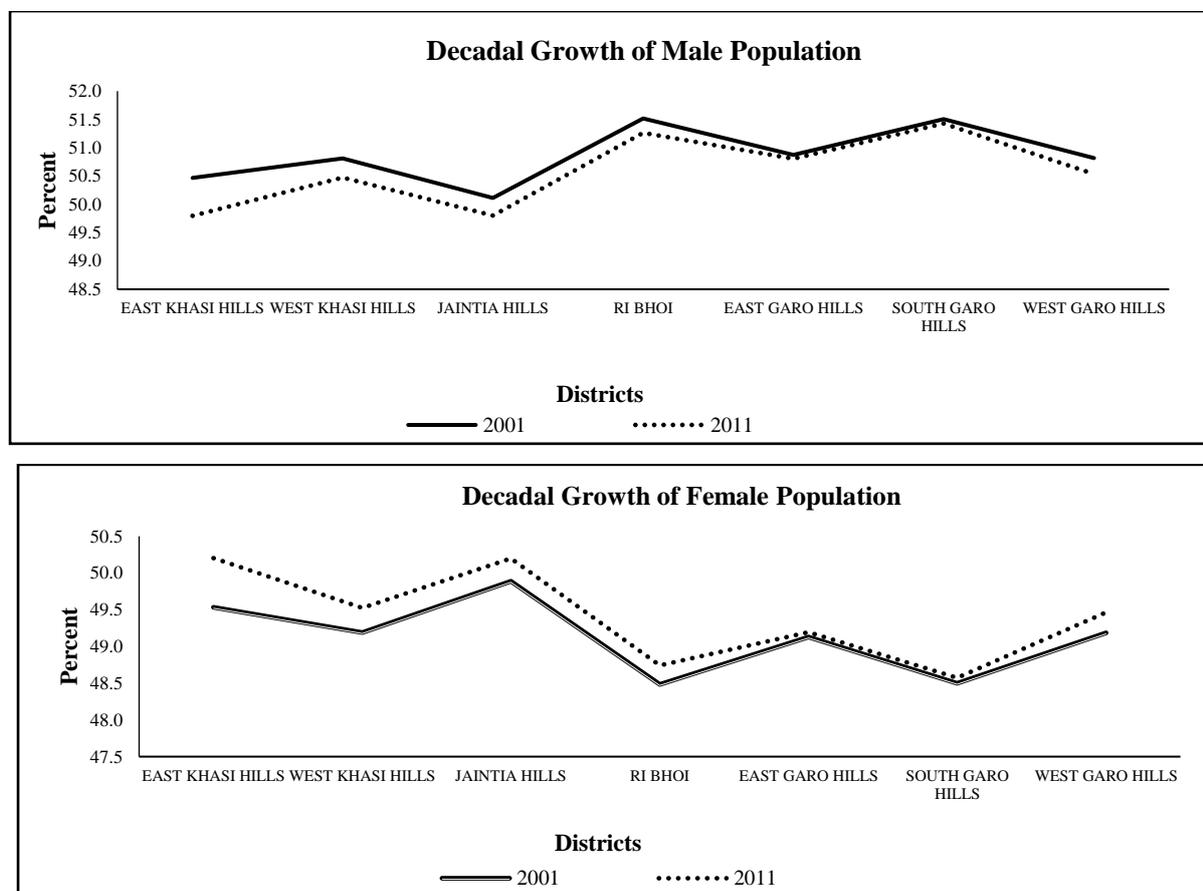


Figure: 1

In contrast to the male population, the pattern of female population is slow or negligible, whereby a positive growth was recorded in all seven districts. Since there is neither gender biasedness nor child preferences in the State, as is evident in the other States of India, the female population is growing at a faster rate compared to the male population. The other reason being the reluctance for out-migration among the females of the State due to poverty, early child marriage and unplanned pregnancies, which lead to a high female population.

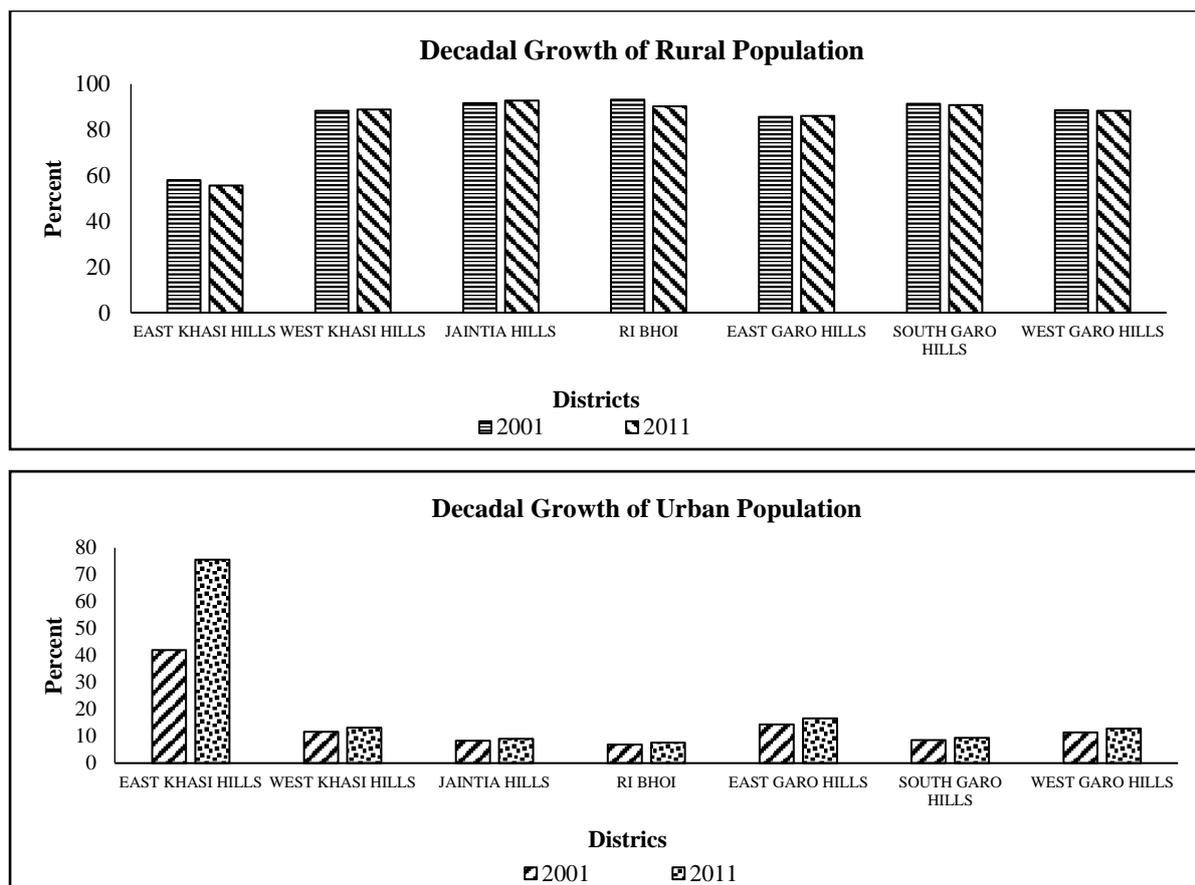


Figure: 2

MALE –FEMALE SEX-RATIO:

In comparison to other States in India, the sex-ratio of Meghalaya is fairly good. The sex-ratio of Meghalaya in 2001 is 972 females per 1000 males and in 2011 it raised up to 986 females per 1000 males. Thus, the sex-ratio records a higher number of females per thousand males in East Khasi Hills i.e., 1011 females per 1000 males and Jaintia Hills district i.e., 1013 females per 1000 males. However, child sex-ratio decreased from 973 in 2001 to 970 in 2011.

Table 2 shows the Distribution of Sex-Ratio in the seven districts of Meghalaya between 2001 and 2011. In 2001, Jaintia Hills records the highest sex ratio at 996 females per 1000 males followed by East Khasi Hills District at 981 females per 1000 males, West Garo Hills District and West Khasi Hills sharing the same value at 968 females per 1000 males, East Garo Hills at 966 females per 1000 males, South Garo Hills at 942 females per 1000 males and lastly Ri Bhoi District at 941 females per 1000 males.

Table 2: District wise Distribution of Sex-ratio Between 2001-2011 in Meghalaya

Districts	District wise Decadal Differences of Sex-Ratio		
	2001	2011	Differences
East Khasi Hills	981	1011	30
West Khasi Hills	968	980	12
Jaintia Hills	996	1013	17
Ri Bhoi	941	953	12
East Garo Hills -	966	972	6
South Garo Hills	942	945	3
West Garo Hills	968	984	16

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

In 2011, the highest sex-ratio was found in two districts namely the East Khasi Hills District and Jaintia Hills District at 1008 females per 1000 males. The second highest sex-ratio was recorded in West Khasi Hills District at 981 females per 1000 males and West Garo Hills District ranked third with 979 females per 1000 males. East Garo Hills recorded 968 females per 1000 males, followed by Ri Bhoi District at 951 females per 1000 males and the least at South Garo Hills at 944 females per 1000 males. The decadal difference is the highest in East Khasi Hills District with 27% as the decadal difference. The lowest is seen in East Garo Hills and South Garo hills District. Through the decade there remains a positive growth of population.

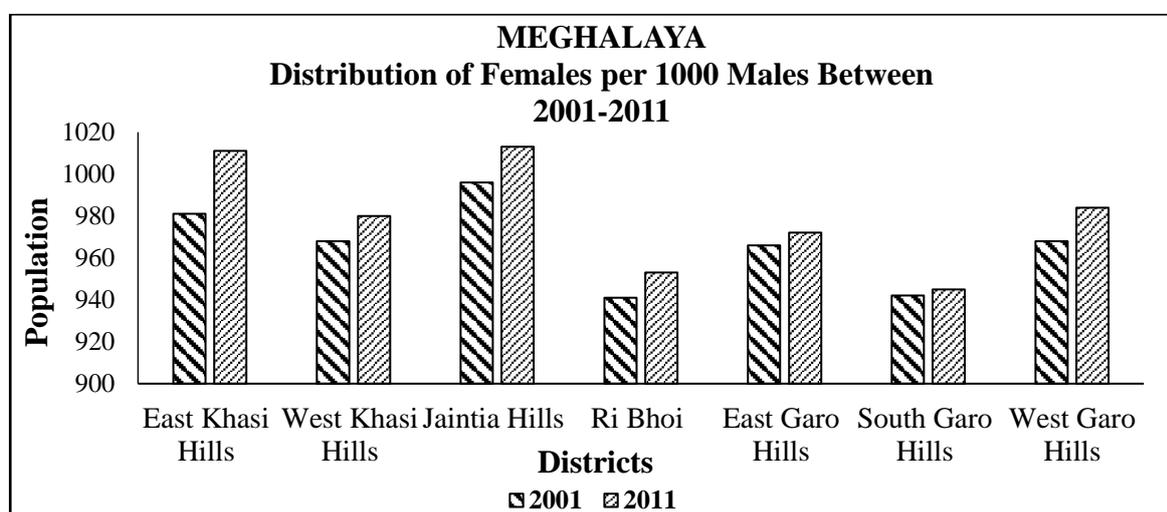
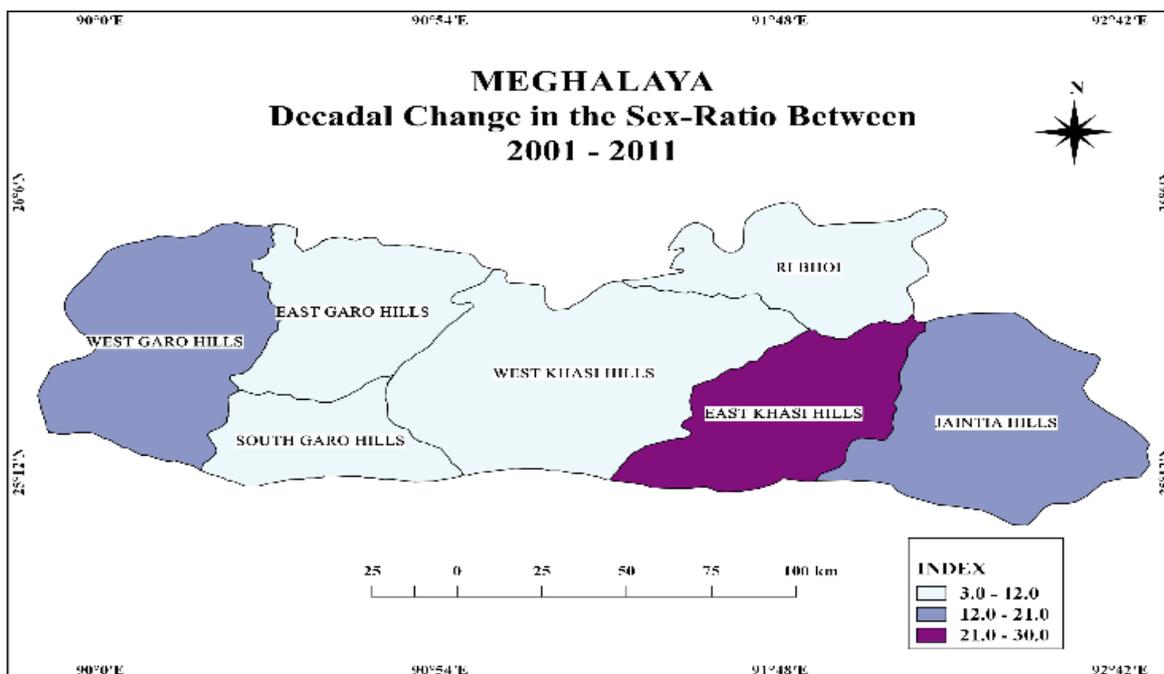
**Figure: 3**

Figure 3, is a graphical representation of decadal difference of the sex-ratio in the state from 2001 to 2011. The pattern of shows a positive increase in all the seven districts of the state. With the number of female populations exceeding the male population in some districts of the

state and more than 900 females per 1000 males in all the districts, it remains true that the sex-ratio is fairly good in the state as a whole. This is a reflectance that being a matrilineal society it does not have any sex preference as is evident in most Indian societies.



Map: 3

SCHEDULE TRIBE (ST) AND SCHEDULE CASTE (SC) POPULATION IN MEGHALAYA:

The total schedule tribe population in Meghalaya was 1.99 million in 2001 and increased to 2.55 million according to the 2011 Indian Census data. The schedule tribe represents the indigenous communities known as the Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Bhoi, War, Hajong, Raba, Mikir, etc. Overall there has been a slight to negligible increase in the ST male population in the seven districts. Where six districts namely, East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, Ri Bhoi, East Garo Hills and West Garo Hills recorded a negative growth of ST male population. Where the highest decline was recorded in East Khasi Hills i.e., -0.55% and the lowest decline in Ri Bhoi district i.e., 0.15% (Table 3). Further a marginal increase was recorded only in South Garo Hills districts with only 0.02% increase (Table 3). ST population among the female also witnessed a marginal increase from 2001 to 2011, where the highest was in East Khasi Hills

with a decadal difference of only 0.55% and a negative growth only in South Garo Hills district i.e., -0.02% (Table 3).

Table 3: Decadal Differences between Male-Female Schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste Population between 2001 and 2011

District	Decadal Difference Between 2001-2011			
	ST Male	ST Female	SC Male	SC Female
East Khasi Hills	-0.55	0.55	-3.14	3.14
West Khasi Hills	-0.27	0.27	-1.78	1.78
Jaintia Hills	-0.25	0.25	-4.07	4.07
Ri Bhoi	-0.15	0.15	-3.24	3.24
East Garo Hills	-0.17	0.17	4.1	-4.1
South Garo Hills	0.02	-0.02	-0.8	0.8
West Garo Hills	-0.4	0.4	0.12	-0.12

Source: Census of India, 2001 – 2011

The total schedule caste population was 11,139 in 2001 and 17,355 in 2011. District wise, this population predominantly include the inhabitants living in West Garo Hills and East Garo Hills district of the state. Namely, Namasudra, Muchi, Jhalo, Mehtra, Bhuinmali, Brittial Bania, Bansphor, Sutradhar, Dhupi, Kaibartta, etc. The SC male population runs at a negative growth rate in five districts of the state such as East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, Ri Bhoi and South Garo Hills district in which the highest negative difference in a decade was recorded in Jaintia Hills district i.e., -4.07% (Table 3). The SC female population is seen to be increasing through the decade in almost all the districts except in West Garo Hills district with a slight decline of -0.12%. The highest increase with more than three per cent was recorded in Ri Bhoi i.e. 3.24% and East Khasi Hills district i.e. 3.14% (Table 3).

Figure 4 discusses about the gender-wise decadal differences between total Schedule Tribe and figure 5 represents the Schedule Caste population of Meghalaya. In this diagram, we found that the overall ST male population recorded a negative growth of population in all the districts of Meghalaya except South Garo Hills. However, the female ST population saw a positive growth of not more than 1% increase within the decade. The SC male population in figure 5 reflects a negative growth of population in most of the districts, in comparison to which there is positive growth of SC female population. It is also observed that the highest SC male population reside in East Garo Hills with the least SC female population.

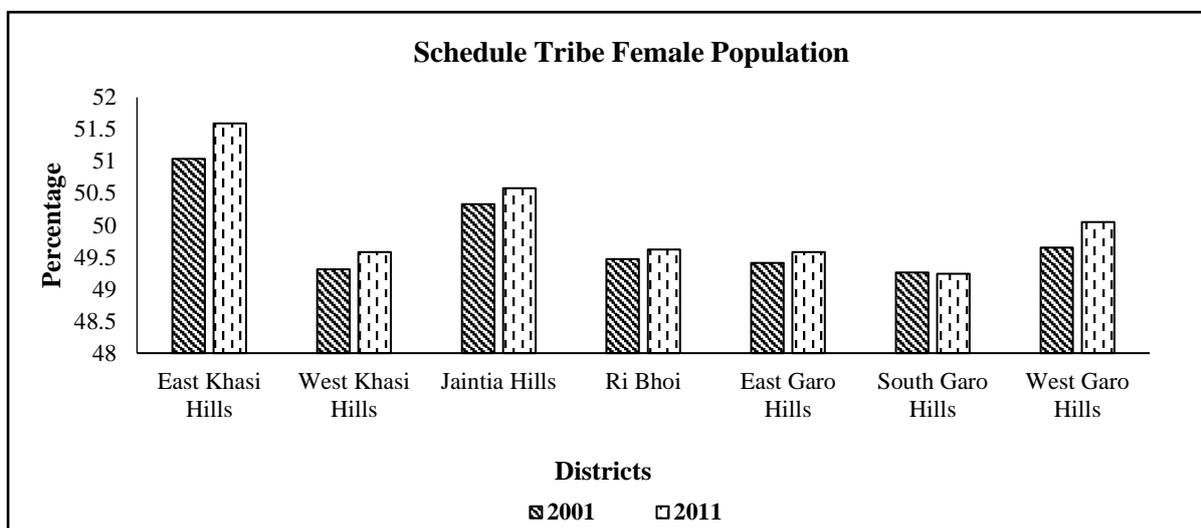
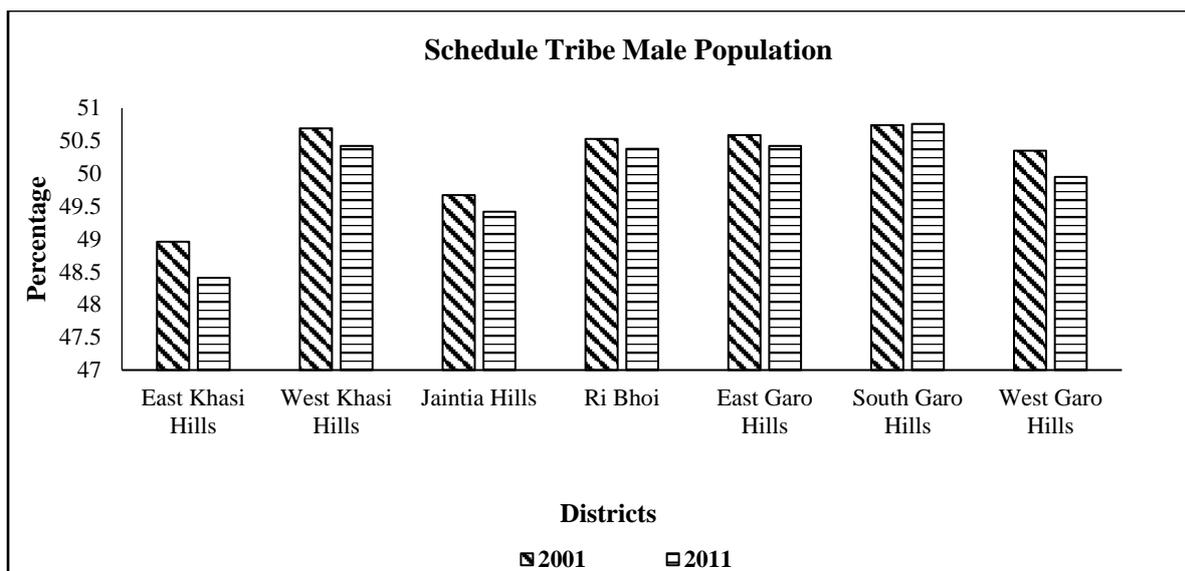
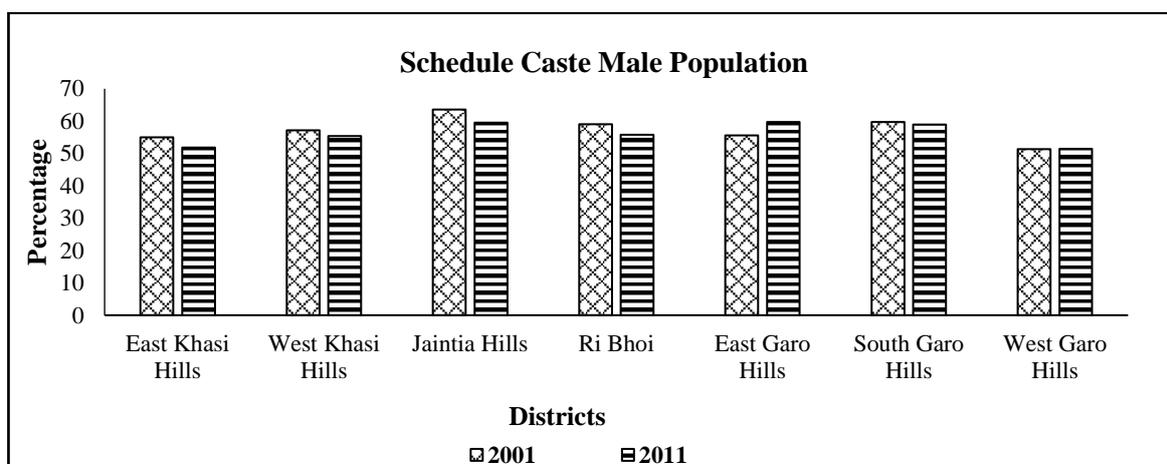


Figure: 4



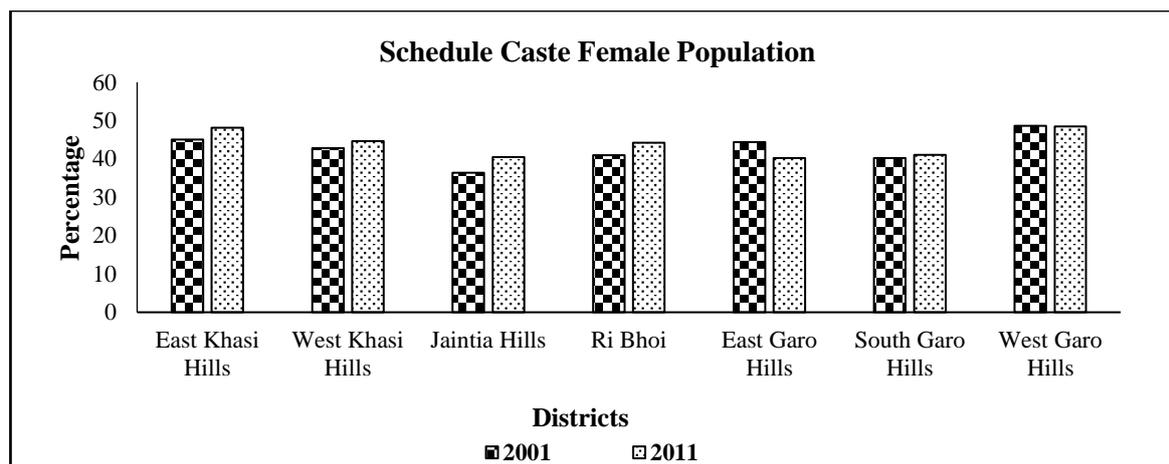
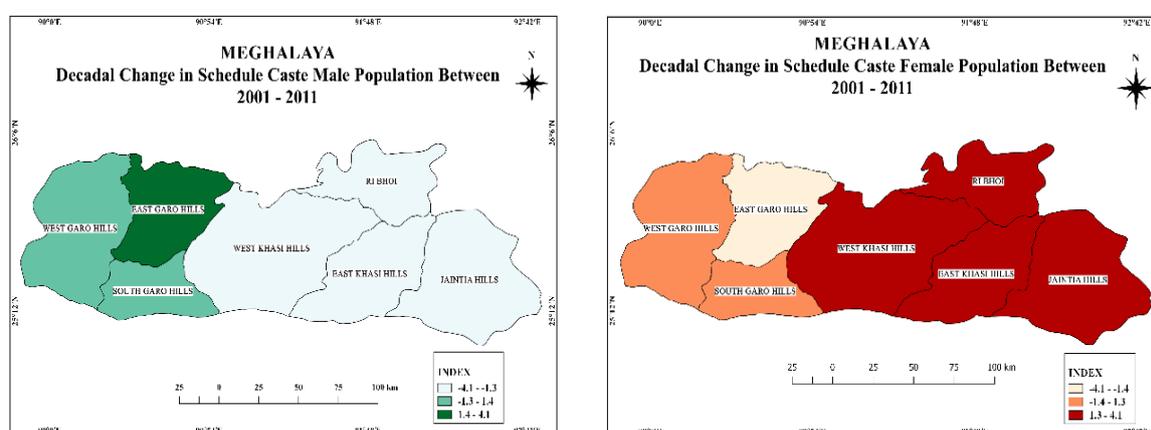


Figure: 5



Maps: 5

RELIGION-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION:

The table 3.12 displays the distribution of religious communities in Meghalaya and the increase in number between 2001 and 2011. Meghalaya is predominantly a Christian majority State, whereby there are 70.46% Christian population in 2001 and 74.83% in 2011. However, in 2001 the Hindu population, which was the second highest community made up 13.32% of the population. The remaining group percentage was quite low such as Muslims with 4.29% from the total population, Buddhist with 1.74%, Sikhs with 0.13%, Jains with 0.03% and other local or ethnic religious communities making up a total of 11.56% of the population.

Table 4: Religion-wise Distribution of Population in Meghalaya between 2001 and 2011

Religion	Religion-wise Differences in the Distribution of Population		
	2001	2011	Difference
Hindus	13.32	11.57	-1.75
Muslims	4.29	4.41	0.12
Christians	70.46	74.83	4.37
Sikhs	0.13	0.1	-0.03
Buddhist	1.76	0.33	-1.43
Jains	0.03	0.02	-0.01
Others	11.56	8.73	-2.83

Source: *Census of India, 2001 & 2011*

Through the decade only two religious communities witnessed an increase in number i.e., Christians increased by 4.37% and Muslims which increased by 0.12% from the previous numbers. The remaining religious communities saw a steady decline in population ranging to 1 to 3% decrease in their respective population. As per 2011 census of India, the districts with the highest Christian populations are West Khasi Hills i.e., 95.69%, South Garo Hills i.e., 98.43% and East Garo Hills with 91.13%. Others include Ri Bhoi 84.42%, Jaintia Hills with 68.74%, East Khasi Hills i.e., 65.79% and West Garo Hills i.e., 60.20%. Secondly, Hindu population decline through the decade and the districts with a Hindu population from the highest to the lowest include West Garo Hills with 19.11%, East Khasi Hills had 17.55%, Ri Bhoi 11.96%, East Garo Hills i.e., 5.43%, South Garo Hills had 4.94%, Jaintia Hills had 3.15% and the least in West Khasi Hills with 1.69 %.

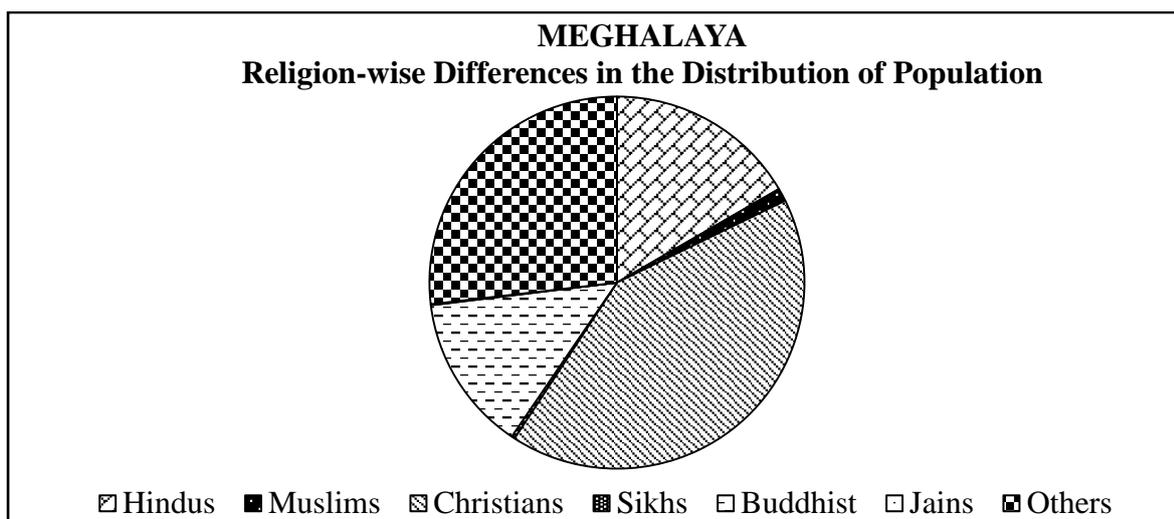
**Figure: 6**

Figure 6 show that the State of Meghalaya has a high Christian population. Through the decade, this population increased by five percent with population over seventy percent. Hindu and other religion such as Jaintia, Khasi, Niamshnong, Niamtre and Pnar have about ten to twenty percent of their population in the State. Muslims are low in number between ten to fifteen percent of the population. Other population such as Sikhs, Buddhist and Jains have populations below ten percent. An increase in population is seen only among the Christian communities where the other religious communities declined in number mainly due to migration.

EDUCATION SYSTEMS

The literacy rate in Meghalaya is relatively low within the country and the north-eastern states, with an increase form 62.56% in 2001 to 75.48% in 2011. Male literacy grew from 65.43% in 2001 to 75.95% in 2011 and female literacy from 72.89% to 59.61%. With an average number of 70%, the male literacy rate from the year 2001 to 2011 has recorded a highest increase in West Garo Hills with a decadal difference of 29.21% and South Garo Hills District with a decadal difference of 28.77%. The least increase in the number of male literates was seen in Jaintia Hills with only 6.05% decadal difference. In contrast, the female literacy rate saw a decline within the decade, where the highest decline was seen in West Garo Hills i.e., -5.04%, South Garo Hills i.e., -4.67% and East Garo Hills i.e., -4.19%. Jaintia Hills was the only district which recorded and increase of 3.4% within the decade.

Table 5: Decadal Literacy Differences between Male-Female and Rural-Urban Population in Percent between 2001 and 2011.

Districts	Decadal Literacy Differences Between 2001 - 2011			
	Male	Female	Rural	Urban
East Khasi Hills	10.46	-0.55	0.03	-0.03
West Khasi Hills	16.59	-1	1.94	-1.94
Jaintia Hills	6.05	3.45	3.55	-3.55
Ri Bhoi	16.09	-1.37	-3.72	3.72
East Garo Hills	24.67	-4.19	1.91	-1.91
South Garo Hills	28.77	-4.67	1.71	-1.71
West Garo Hills	29.21	-5.04	3.7	-3.7

Source: Census of India, 2001 & 2011

In table 5, the differences in the decadal growth of male-female and rural-urban literacy is shown. Literacy among the male population in all the districts was seen to have a positive growth within the decade. A good literacy rate among the male population indicates the improvements in the number of enrolments into primary-level schools and a decrease in the number of drop-outs from various levels of education. When analysed between 2001 and 2011 census data, it was observed that the highest positive growth of male literacy was recorded in West Garo Hills i.e., 29.21%, due to achievements in Primary education and because of the presence of the district headquarter Tura which is the rising educational hub in the western part of Meghalaya. However, the least positive growth was recorded in Jaintia Hills with only 6.05% mainly due to a higher number of male drop-outs in schools and a decrease in the overall male population in the eastern-most district of the State. In contrast female literacy recorded a negative growth of female population between 2001 and 2011, except in Jaintia Hills, which increase about 3.45% due to an increase in the number of female populations which further lead to an increase in the number of enrolments in primary-level and higher education. When analysed by area, the literacy rate in rural areas also saw a positive growth in six districts, with the highest in Jaintia Hills with a decadal difference of 3.55%. Ri Bhoi was the only district which recorded a negative growth of -3.72% but a positive growth of urban population, which reflect an achievement in the measures taken towards urbanization in the district. The literacy rate in the urban areas of West Garo Hills observed the highest negative decadal growth within the decade at -3.7%.

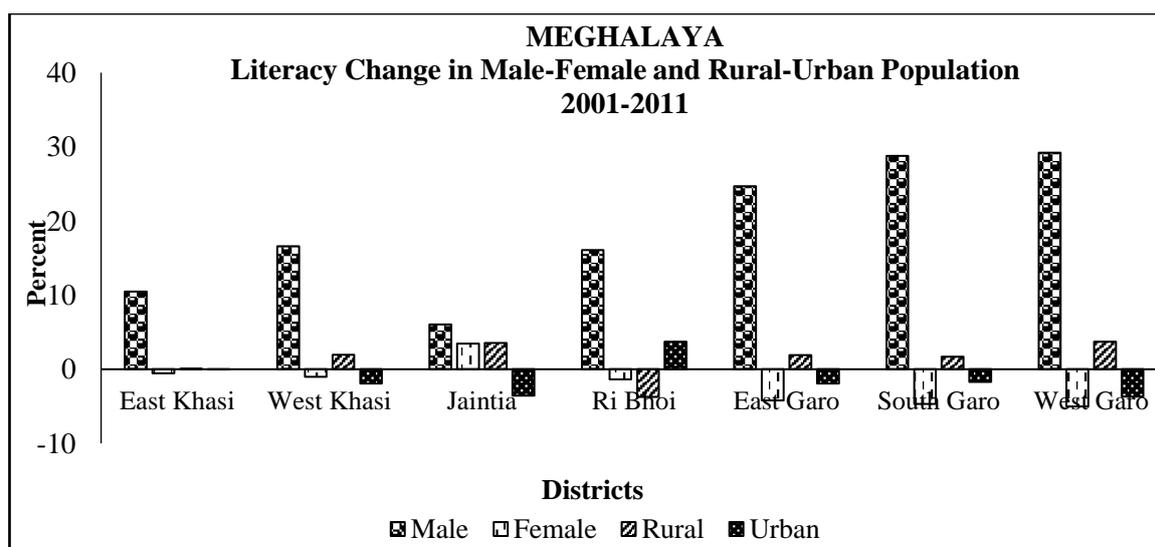
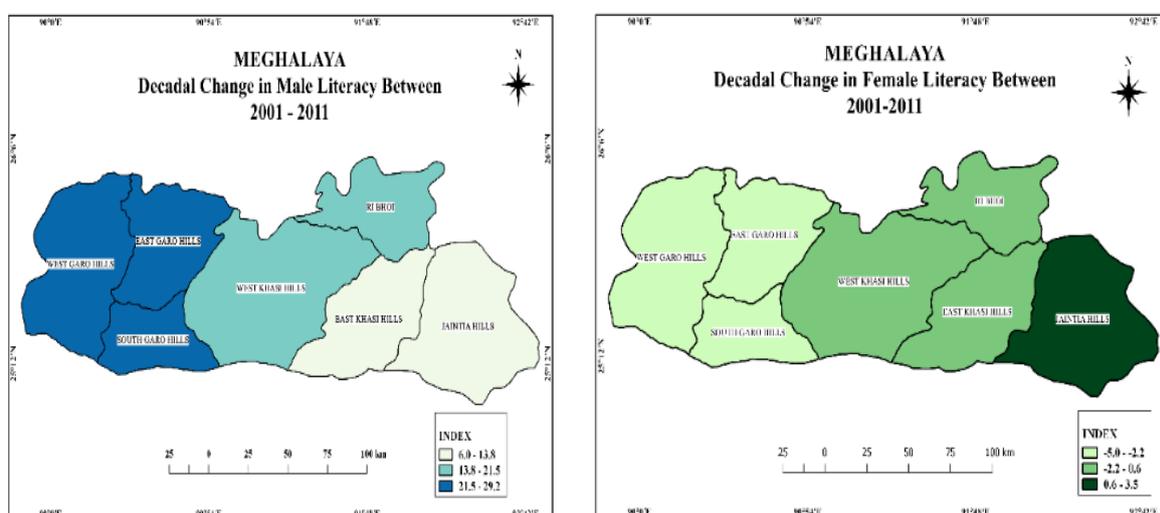
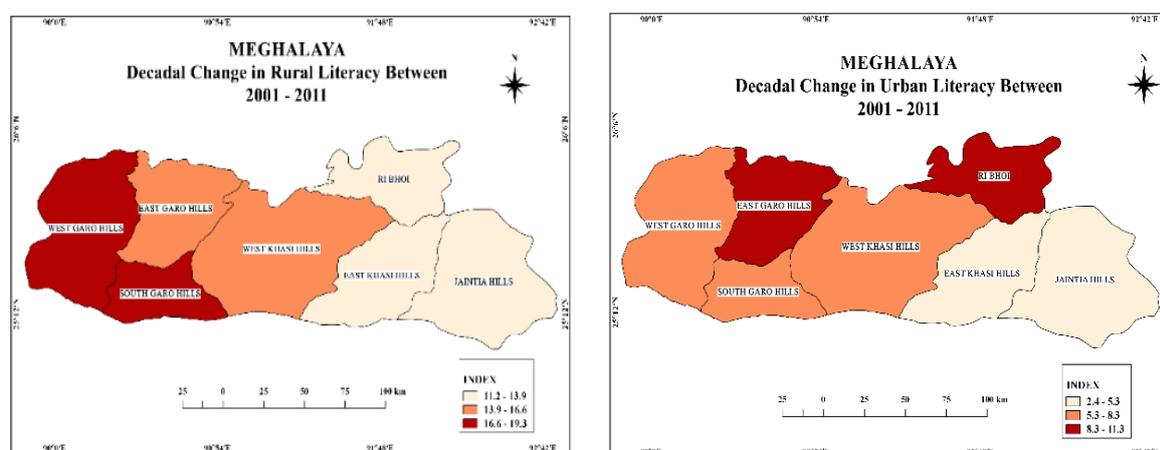


Figure: 7

Figure 7 represents the male, female, rural and urban literacy in the state of Meghalaya. Male literacy has increased within a decade at a higher rate compared to the female literate population and very little increased in rural and urban literacy had been recorded in the decade. The reason for a low literacy rate is poverty and lack of easy accessibility to schools since most of the population reside in rural areas. Further according to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), students in rural areas lack the ability to read, write and solve mathematical problems pertaining to the class they were in whereby students find it difficult to cope in higher education. Thus, rather than focusing on the number of enrolments, it is suggested to emphasise on the real learning that occurs.



Maps: 6



Maps: 7

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

According to Census of India, all individuals who are involved in an economically productive activity are considered as workers, who are further classified into *main workers* and *marginal workers*. The main working population includes workers who have been employed for a period of *six months or more*. The main workers here are categorised as cultivators, agricultural labourers, and workers in household industries which include cottage industries and other workers. Whereas, marginal workers are mostly the landless agricultural labourers with unfixed employment and irregular wage distribution in a growing population.

Table 6: District-Wise Distribution of Main, Marginal, Total and Non-Working Population in Meghalaya between 2001-2011

District	Decadal Differences			
	Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Total Workers	Non-Working Population
East Khasi Hills	1.9	-1.14	0.75	-0.75
West Khasi Hills	-1.79	0.78	-1.01	1.01
Jaintia Hills	-3.97	0.58	-3.4	3.4
Ri Bhoi	-1.84	-3.39	-5.25	5.25
East Garo Hills	-5.05	0	-5.03	5.03
South Garo Hills	-4.07	-6.03	-10.1	10.1
West Garo Hills	-2.17	1.72	-0.44	0.44

Source: *Census of India, 2001 & 2011*

They constitute people who are engaged in an economic activity for a period *less than six months*. The non-working population includes the group of population such as infants, children, young adults, pensioners and the disabled population who are not engaged in any of the main and marginal type of work.

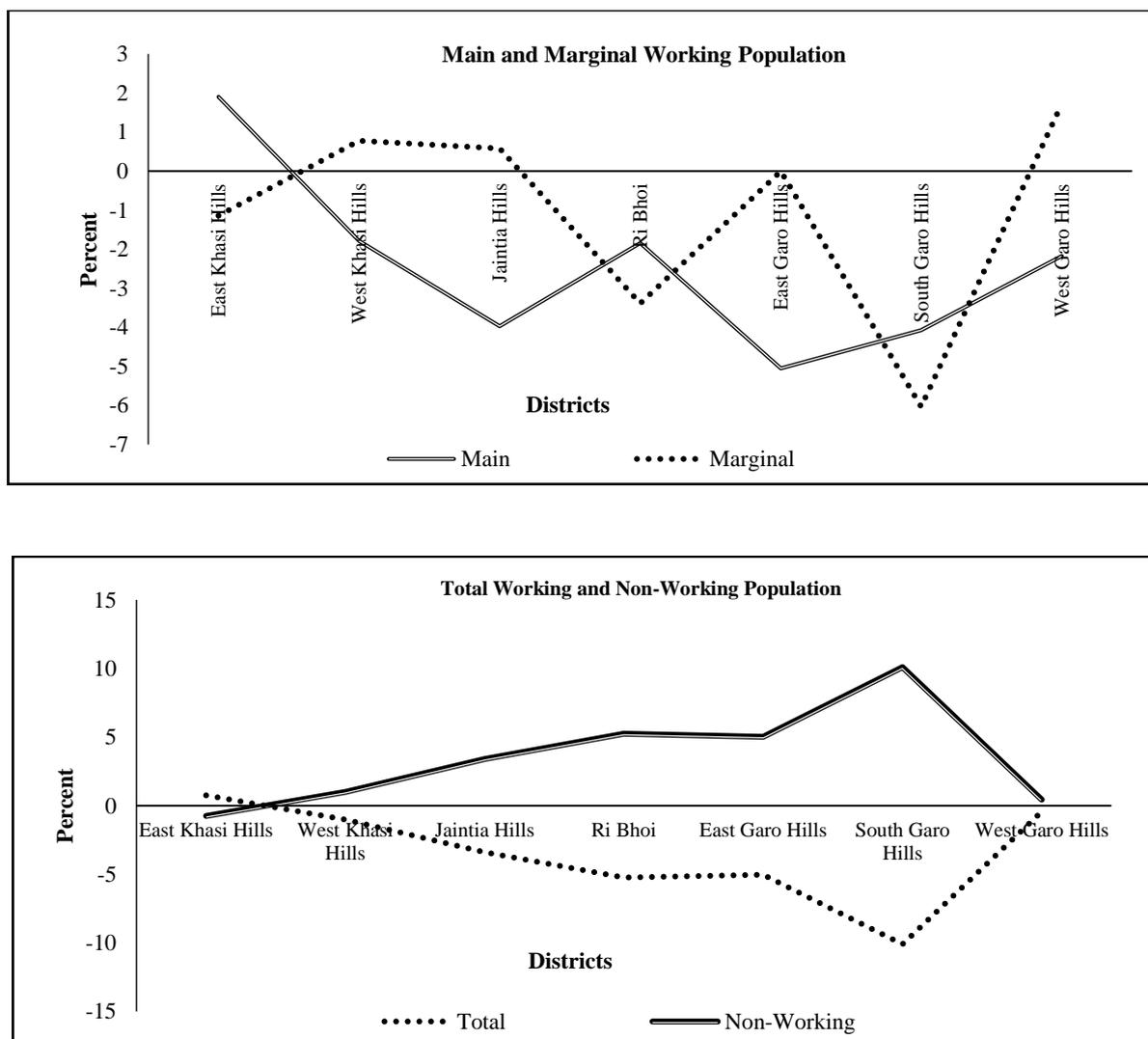


Figure 8

As a whole the total working population does not exceed 50 percent of the population and most of the districts recorded a decline except for East Khasi Hills i.e., 0.75% and the highest decadal decrease above 5% was recorded in Ri Bhoi i.e., -5.25% and East Garo Hills i.e., -5.03% (table 6). With better health-care facilities, high fertility rate and low mortality rate, the non-working population is increasing in all the districts except in East Khasi Hills i.e., -0.75%. The highest decadal increase was noted in South Garo Hills with over 10% increase (table 6). Figure 8, is a graphical representation of the distribution of main and marginal, total and non-working population from 2001 to 2011. East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills and West Garo Hills all had a decadal difference of not more than 5% in all four divisions, and, South Garo Hills had the highest growth comparatively ranging to 10%.

CONCLUSION

- When carefully analysed, one can conclude that the State of Meghalaya is predominantly a tribal dominated population where most of its inhabitants live in rural areas and, only about twenty percent lives in urban areas. Regardless of this fact, the population has seen to rapidly increase within the last decade.
- Migration had a major role to play in this regard, mainly illegal migration from the southern borders with Bangladesh, among other political, social and economic factors, which lead to over six lakhs increase in the last decade. Among the seven districts, East Khasi Hills had the highest number of population due to rapid urbanization which occurs only in the State's capital.
- Education without which development would be unfruitful is the most important means to enhance one's personal growth and further bring social, economic and political inclusion of those who are not a part of the mainstream population in the society in a broad sense.
- With the literacy rate of only seventy-five per cent in the whole State, an increase of only fourteen per cent was recorded in the State. In recent years, the number of educational institutions has been increasing but only in the primary level and no increase have been noticed in the university level or higher degree of education.
- The study reveals a decline in the economic participation in the agricultural sector which indicates an increase in the other two degrees of economies. Therefore, in a nutshell, improvements have been made to curb developmental issues that bring about changes in the social structure during the last decade.

SUGGESTIONS

Since the issue on development is a social trend in the State, numerous problems seem to curb the growth of Meghalaya. Henceforth, after analysing the social trend in the structure a few suggestions have been formulated.

- The state has a high female population which is an effective measure to bring about a positive change in the society. Therefore, they should be encouraged to participate in functional administrative bodies, with a just and equitable distribution of power which would curb the unjust crimes against any gender.

- Since the State's literacy rate is comparatively low when compared to other State's in the North Eastern Region (NER), achieving the goal education up to the age of 14 years could be attained through sufficient funds from the Centre and the State government.
- Another social evil that exist in the society is corruption, where the centre is not mindful of the funds they generate, in other words, funds released by the government are not monitored. Savings and funds are often hijacked by representatives in the administrative and operational level.
- Poor implementation of government schemes and policies seem to be the highlight for slow development in Meghalaya. More social development programmes like the MANREGA, 2005 should be implemented, to assist the domestic and marginal workers who reside in the State.
- Increasing land surveys in both the rural and urban areas would be beneficial in a state which has an undulating topography. Proper classification of productive and unproductive land, and their proneness to natural calamities should be recorded.

REFERENCES

- Banerjee, B. (1984), Changing cultural scenario and economic development of India, Geographical review of India, Vol. 46, No. 2, June 1984, pp. 5-16.
- Bhatia, H.L. (1979) Regional disparities and the finance Commissions, Regional disparities in India, New Delhi, pp. 67-79.
- Bhatia, V.K. and S.C. Rai. (2004), Evaluation of socio-economic development in small areas. ISAS New Delhi. Planning Commission government of India, New Delhi.
- Bose, A.N. (1966), Economic development and balanced regional growth, Indian Journal of Regional Science, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 37-52.
- Das, A. (1999), Social Economic development in India: A regional analysis. Development and society, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 313-345.
- Directorate of Economics & statistics. Meghalaya, pp.1-6
- Driers, H, Marx. (2011), The potential impact on property and socio-economic development resulting from road transport corridors in Africa: A Case study management and innovation for a sustainable build environment Amsterdam, the Netherlands. ISBN: 978905263958.

- Ganguli, B.N. (1975), Concept of equality, the Nineteenth century Debate, Indian institute of Advance study, Shimla, pp. 1-128.
- Mathur, O.P. (1973), The problems of inter-regional disparities (The Indian Background), Indian Journal of Regional Science, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 81-100.
- Mitra, A. (1965), level of regional development in Indian, Census of India, 1961, Vol. 1, Part 1(A).
- Nair, K.R.G. (1977), Regional disparities in industrial wages, Indian Journal of regional Science, pp. 207-215.
- Narain, P. et al. (1991), satirical evolution of development on socio-economic front, Journal of the Indian Society of agricultural statistics. Vol. 43, No. 3, pp. 329. ISSN 001963633.
- Nechemis, C. (1980), Regional differentiation of living standard in the RSFR. The issue of inequality, Soviet studies, Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 366-378. Nair, K.R.G. (1971), Inter-state income disparities in India, Indian Journal of regional science, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 46-56.
- Neogi, D. (2010), Disparity in socio-economic development and its implication on communal conflicts: A study of Indian's North-Eastern region. International Journal of Human and Social Sciences, Vol. 5, No. 5, pp. 303-310.
- Pieters, J. (2011), Essays on Socio-economic development in India. University of Groningen, The Netherlands, pp. 1-22, ISBN 978-90-367-5165-0/978-90-367-5164-3 (eBook).
- Smith, D. M. (1977), Human Geography: A welfare approach. Edward Arnold Ltd.
- Society for International Development. (1999), Rajasthan Chapter, "Human Development Report: Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- World Bank. (1994), World Development Report, Oxford University Press.
- <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/development.html#ixzz3XWHG0Mhb>.
- <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/demography.html#ixzz3XKrdjSP3>, 2015.
- <http://www.Censusindia.gov.in>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_India#/media/File:Northeast_india.png
- <https://www.mapsofworld.com/india/north-east-india-map.html>
- http://mra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/15728/1/Structural_Changes_in_Meghalay-Theory_and_Evidences.pdf

Badahun Mary Rymbai, Dr. Mahtab Alam

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/infrastructure> 22/04/2015

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/District-map-of-Meghalaya-state-showing-interstateborder-with-Assam-to-the-North-and_fig1_46392699

<https://www.traveldealsfinder.com/meghalaya-maps.html>