

Chapter-4

Research Setting

The State of Mizoram: A Glance

The origin of the Mizos, like those of many other tribes in the North Eastern India is shrouded in mystery. The generally accepted as part of a great Mongoloid wave of migration from China and later moved out to India to their present habitat.

It is possible that the Mizos came from Shinlung or Chhinlunsan located on the banks of the river Yalung in China. They first settled in the Shan State and moved on to Kabaw Valley to Khampat and then to the Chin Hills in the middle of the 16th century.

Mizoram is one of the Seven Sister States in North Eastern India. It shares land borders with the states of Tripura, Assam and Manipur and with the neighbouring country of Bangladesh and Chin state of Myanmar. Mizoram became the 23rd state of India on 20 February, 1987. Its population at the 2001 census stood at 888,573. Mizoram ranks second in India with a literary rate of 88.49%. 'Mizo' means 'man of the mountain'. Mizoram literally means land of the Mizo people.

Mizoram is located between 21°.58' N to 24°.35' N latitude and 92°.15' E to 93°.29' E longitude. It encompasses about 21,081 sq. km area. Population

density is 42 / km². Mizoram has a mild climate, not very warm in summer and not very cold in winter. During winter the temperature varies from 11°C to 21°C and in summer it varies between 20° C to 29° C. The entire area is under the regular influence of monsoons. It rains heavily from May to September and the average rainfall is 254 cm (100 ca) per annum.

There are 8 administrative districts in Mizoram, namely, Mamit, Kolasib, Aizawl, Champhai, Serchhip, Lunglei, Lawngtlai and Saiha, with 23 revenue sub-divisions and 26 rural development blocks. There are 817 villages (according to 2001 census) where 707 are inhabited and 110 are uninhabited.

Christianity is practiced by the majority of the population. The church is an important part of Mizo culture. Some 90.5% of the population (including all ethnic Mizos) is converted Christian. Hindus form a small minority in the state, and are non-Mizos from outside the state, with 3.6% of the population following that religion. Approximately 8.3% of the population follow Buddhism according to 2001 census and are also non-Mizos but are Chakma settlers of Arakan origin. Muslim also forms a small minority, with 1.1% of the population following the faith. These people are mainly from other states residing in Mizoram.

Table 4.1: Mizoram at a Glance: 2008

Sl. No.	Particulars	Unit	
1.	State Capital		Aizawl
2.	Geographical Area	Sq km	21081
3.	Geographical Location		
	(i) Longitude	degree	920.15' E to 930.29' E
	(ii) Latitude	degree	210.58' N to 240.35' N

Research Setting

4.	Length		
	(i) North to South	km	277
	(ii) East to West	km	121
5.	International Borders		
	(i) With Myanmar	km	404
	(ii) With Bangladesh	km	318
6.	Inter- State Borders	km	123
	(i) With Assam	km	66
	(ii) With Tripura	km	95
	(iii) With Manipur		
7.	Administrative set up	No.	
	(i) District	No.	8
	(ii) Autonomous District Council	No.	3
	(iii) Sub- Division	No.	23
	(iv) R.D. Block	No.	26
	(v) Total Villages(2001 census)	No.	817
	(a) Inhabited	No.	707
	(b) Uninhabited	No.	110
8.	As per 2001 Census		
A.	Population		
	(i) Persons	Nos.	888,573
	(ii) Male	Nos	459,109
	(iii) Female	Nos	429,464
	(iv) Rural	Nos	447,567
	(v) Urban	Nos.	441,006
B.	Decadal Population Growth (1991-2001)		
	Absolute	No	1,98,817
	Percentage	%	28.8
C.	Population Density	Per sq km	42
D.	Sex Ratio	Female per 1000 male	935
E.	Literacy		
	(i) Persons	Nos.	661,445

Research Setting

	(ii) Males	Nos.	3,50,105
	(iii) Females	Nos.	3,11,340
	(iv) Total percentage	%	88.8
G.	(i) Main Workers	Nos.	3,62,450
	(ii) Marginal Workers	Nos.	1,04,709
	(iii) Total Workers	Nos.	4,67,159
	(iv) Percentage of total population	%	52.57

Agriculture in Mizoram:

The Department of Agriculture plays a vital role in serving the citizens of an agriculture dominated state like Mizoram. The state economy is greatly dependant on its agriculture produce, with about 70% small farmers (who practice Jhum farming) and another 30% medium farmers who do proper cultivation. **Agriculture in Mizoram** is the primary sector of the state's economy. Although the rugged terrains are not very conducive to the cultivation of crops, the even distribution of rainfall that varies between 1900 mm and 3000 mm and the fertile temperate soil facilitates extensive jhum cultivation. A number of crops like paddy, beans, cucumber, maize, arum, sesame, mustard and cotton are grown by practicing jhum or shifting cultivation.

Paddy of course is the most important crop that is cultivated in the state of Mizoram. After the completion of the harvesting of paddy, the seeds of the other crops are inseminated in the ground. The sowing commences from the end of April, close to the occurrence of the full moon. The two types of paddy sown are the early paddy and principal paddy. The two crops are grown side by side in the same field. Although, the initial production of

early paddy is poor, it ripens quickly and is a means of subsistence till the lush golden crop of principal paddy is gleaned.

Besides agriculture, the cultivation of crops like sugarcane, cotton, tapioca, oilseeds, mustard, sesame, soybean and pulses like cowpea, French and rice beans also contribute towards the economy of Mizoram. Horticulture also adds substantially to the state's economy.

Agriculture in Mizoram is entirely dependent on the rainwater from the driving monsoon downpours. The unfavorable physical conditions do not facilitate irrigation. However, there are a couple of imminent irrigation projects that are coming up in Mat valley, Champhai and North Vanlaiphai.

CHAMPHAI: The Research Locale

Set in the beautiful state of Mizoram with its colourful tribal traditions, orchids and butterflies, Champhai boasts a fabulous view of the Myanmar hills. This frontier district has a special place in the history of the tiny north-eastern state and its people. It is said that the history of Mizo starts from Champhai and ends in Champhai. It is a fast developing venue on the Indo-Myanmar border.

Champhai is a bustling commercial town at the Indo-Myanmar border, in the beautiful state of Mizoram, 192 km from the capital Aizawl. Champhai offers a wonderful view of the Myanmar hills. A storehouse of ancient relics, monuments and memorials connected with legends and folklores, Champhai has a background of rich heritage. The small hamlets around the town are dotted with monuments and monoliths that depict success in war, valorous hunting personal distinctions and achievements. Champhai has a

salubrious climate and a number of tourist attractions. A picturesque spot here is the Champhai valley located towards the base of the town. A chain of green hills encircle luxuriant rice fields, which add to the beauty of this place.

Champhai is a border town in Mizoram state of India. It is the headquarters of Champhai district, one of the eight districts in the state. It is located on the Indo-Myanmar border and is situated in a strategically important location. Because of this it is the main business corridor for India and Myanmar in the state. It is a big hillock located near the cross point of 93° E longitude and 23° N latitude. It encompasses an area of 3185.83 km² with an altitude of 1678 m and the annual rainfall is 1814 ml per annum. Agriculture is the main occupation of which 65% of the population is engaged in this occupation. 30% of the population is Govt. employee and the rest 5% are engaged in private enterprise.

Demography of Champhai:

➤ Name of the Block Office	:	Champhai
➤ Number of Police Station	:	1
➤ Number of Village Council	:	1
➤ Population	:	21106
• Male	:	10432
• Female	:	10674
➤ Total Area	:	3185.83 Sq.Km
➤ ST	:	
➤ SC	:	
➤ Literacy Rate	:	90%
Financial Institutions		
➤ State Bank of India	:	1
➤ Rural Bank	:	1

Research Setting

➤ Apex Bank	:	1
Educational Facilities		
➤ Number of Primary School	:	11
➤ Number of Middle School	:	17
➤ Number of High School	:	14
➤ Number of Higher Secondary School	:	3
➤ Number of College	:	1
➤ Students enrolment (6 – 14 years)	:	1089
Health Facilities		
➤ Hospital	:	1
➤ Health Centre	:	3

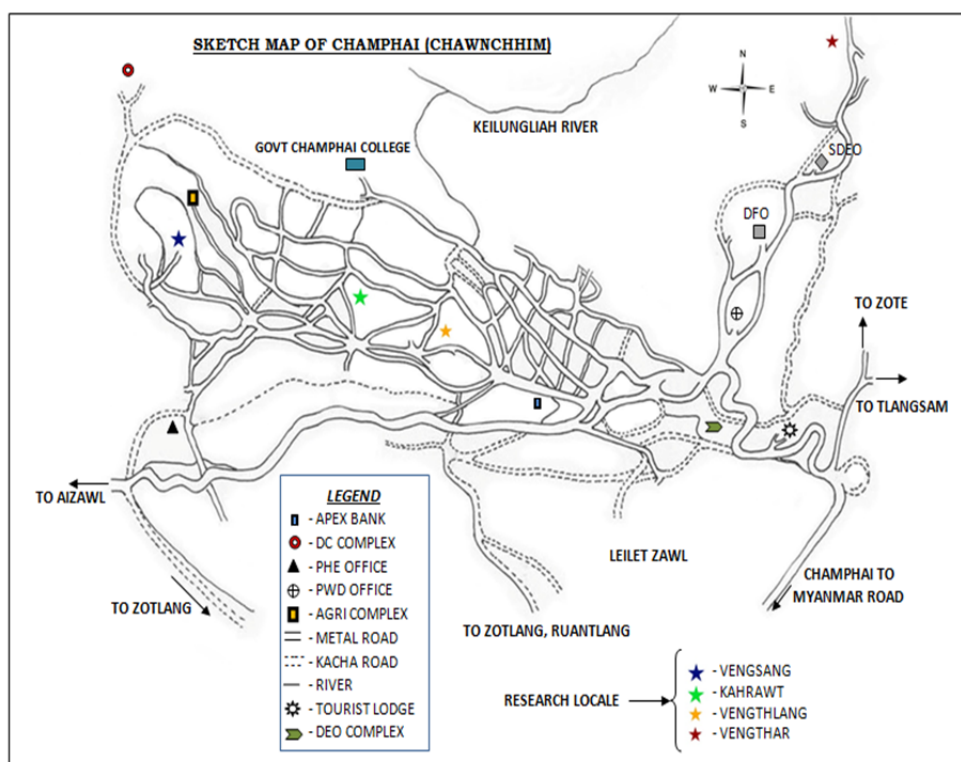


Fig. 4.2: Map of Champhai Town (Research Locale)

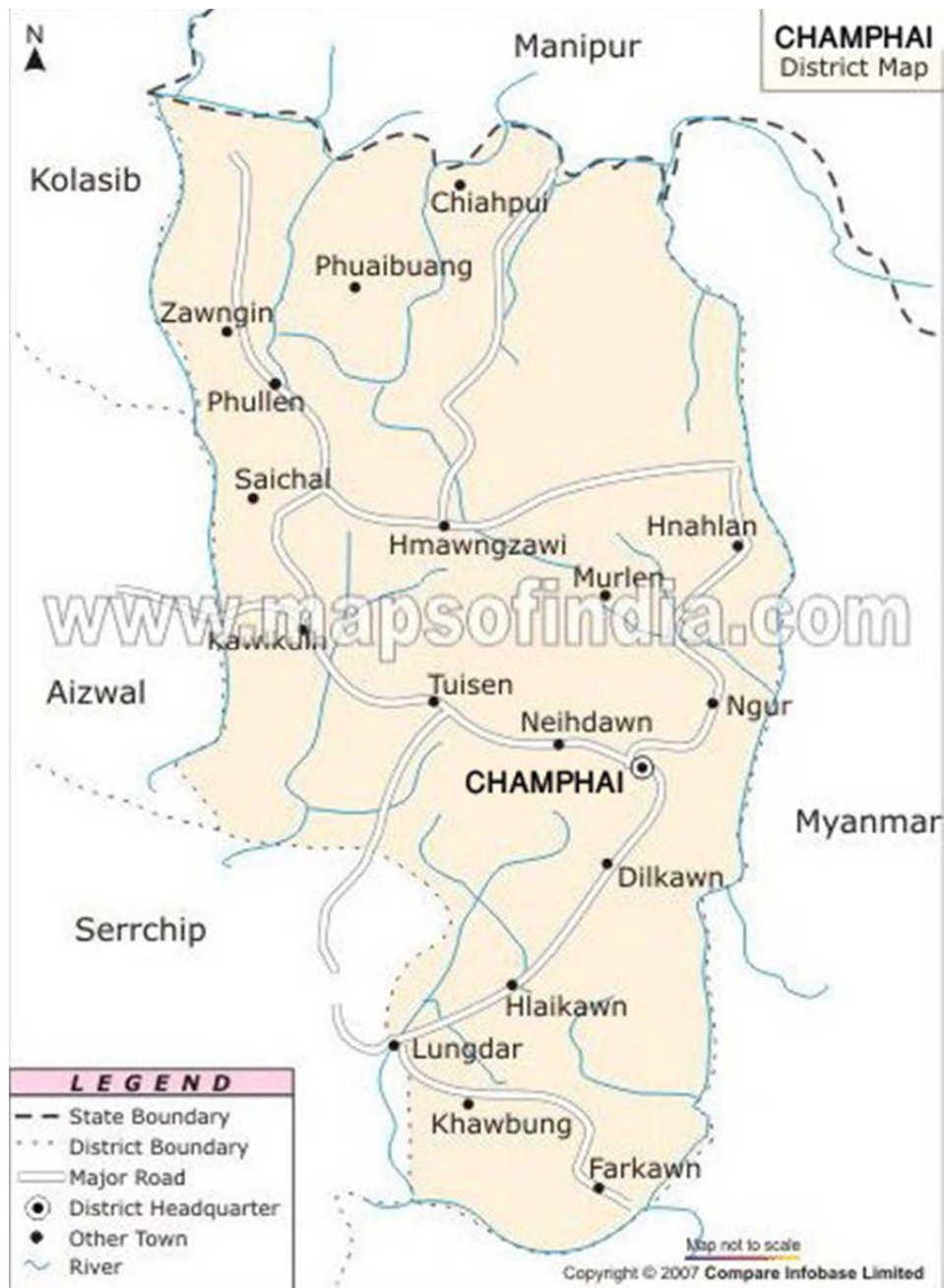


Fig.4.3: Map of Champhai District



Fig. 4.4: Map of Mizoram