Socio-Economic Development of Tribals in Mizoram State of North East India during 20th and 21st century

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1. Introduction:
The 20th Century was an eventful and epoch making century for the Mizo tribal groups. There was profound, significant change and development in their socioeconomic life during the 20th Century and right from 21st Century. The Mizos, known to be savage and cruel, had been transformed into one of the most dynamic and progressive tribal societies in the North-East India. During the first half of the 20th Century, British Power was firmly established while Christianity spread like a worldfire state. Modern education also began to take shape under missionary initiatives during this period after India’s Independence; Mizoram became the missionaries’ initiatives.

Mizoram has been experiencing more than 100 years of development right from 1901. The main aim of this paper is to analyse the trend and pattern of Socio-economic transformation during the 20th Century and first decade of 21st Century.

Let us analyse some of the major aspects of socio-economic development or transformation has taken place from 20th to 21st Century in Mizoram in the following points.

2. Mizo Socio-economic life under Colonial state:
The treaty of Yandaboo (1826) paved the way for British annexation in the Northeast India. Assam was annexed by the British in 1926 which spread their rule to Cachar, Manipur and Chittagong Hills Tract. Tea plantation was started in Assam including Cachar District. The Mizo often expand their areas, ultimately leading to their total subjugation by the British during the late 19th Century. The British annexed Mizoram in 1890 however formal proclamation was made only in 1895. Mizoram then divided in the North-East and South Hills District, was merged into one vested in the Governor of Assam, acting under his Excellency the Viceroy and the Governor General of India and the district executive administration being vested in the Superindent and his assistants and the Chiefs and the Headman of the villages.

The Scheduled District Act 1874 and the Assam Frontier Tract Regulation of 1880 were applied to administer the District. Under the authority given by these enactments, the act and rules being enforced in the rest of Assam were made inapplicable in the Lushai Hills. For administration of Justice, special rules were promulgated, while no special rules were made for Land administration except a few sections of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulations 1886, which were made inapplicable.

In 1919, Mizoram was made a backward tract under the Govt of India Act 1919 and later Excluded Areas under the Govt of India Act 1935. According to the provisions of the latter, the Governor was the sole administrative and legislative for the excluded areas, he was responsible for peace and good governance. The provision kept the Mizos out of the mainstream of national life; finding of the District came from the provincial budget. Resources were limited and no economic activities could be initiated in the District.

The Primary task of the British administrators were to settle disputes between the chiefs, preventing raids and breaches of the peace, they were also informed not to interfere with the internal administration of the village while the Chiefs were responsible for the behaviour of their people, the Superindent and his assistants were to uphold the authority of the Chiefs.

Control of inter-Chief feuds and introduction of land settlement for the Chiefs had far reaching consequences on the Mizo Socio-economic life. First, peace and security was attained also paving the way for unification and integrity of the various Mizo subgroups into a highly homogenous tribal group, by controlling Mizo Chiefs. The British authority also ensured peace and stability in the neighbouring Cachar and Syhlet District were tea plantation works were done by British planters. Earlier Mizo Chiefs often raided and looted tea gardens, killing tea workers causing severe hardship to tea, Industries. Secondly, Mizo society, due to the practice of shifting Cultivation, often migrate from one place to
another; however this migratory habit of Mizos had adverse effect on their economic condition, the administrative report 1895-1896 remarked.

Owing to the improvement of the Lushai as a result of their migratory habits and the impossibility of carrying about with them large stocks of grain, there is never a surplus share of rice in any village and failure of a single harvest break it up, the inhabitants dispersing to the villages of Chief more fortunately situated, quoted by Aniwesh Ray-2002.

Land settlement Ramri Lehkha has reduced significantly their semi-nomadic life style. The demarcation of Chief lands also engaged the Chiefs to preserve their lands; besides jhum land allocation, prevention of forest fire had become an important duty of the Chiefs.

Third, construction of road also increased social and economic mobility by 1935, bridle path fit for loaded ponies totalled 1248 km were considered during the 2nd World War. These roads were constructed by the Govt due to strategic commerce purpose and for increased interaction with one another.

3. **Jhum economy and the Challenge of development: The Colonies Legacy.**

From time immemorial, Mizo society revolves around the system of shifting cultivation/jhum. Till today as many as 60 percent of the total workers were engaged in shifting cultivation. The Jhum economy was basically based on barter system; Money played a small role in the economy. Villages were self-sufficient in rice production.Since, the economy produces very little surplus, be it cotton or other cash crops, the economic condition of the people was shaky and precarious.

Economy was based on little cash received from the Mission and Government establishments, AG McCall 1948 observed:

“The economic condition of the people is very poor and is based on agriculture resources only. What prosperity there is more artificial than real in that it relies on the continued receipts of cash from Govt Departments and personnel, aided by grants from the Missions for work in the hills, grants which owe their origin to Charitable minded supporters, chiefly in the Home Country”.

Due to limited development activities under British, the village economy was based on local resources including family labour.

“Money was naturally very rare, the village economy still being based on cattle and crops and the number of family members”.

The barter system was gradually being replaced by cash system. Money circulation within the District had increased following the opening of Aizawl market yard in 1910, the increase in the number of salary and wage earners under the District and Mission establishments afar Mizos return from France at the end of the First World War 1914—1918.

The District administration initiated agricultural development activities like wet rice cultivation (WRC) in Champhai and other plain areas, potato cultivation, rubber cultivation, demonstration farm complex at Chita(1909), terrace cultivation etching 1907, some Chiefs were taken to Nagaland to see for themselves the benefits of terrace cultivation.

The Reid House has special significance in the development history of Mizoram. McCall, seeing the weaving skill of the Mizo women and its prospect for national and international markets, established the Lushai Hills Cottage Industries in May, 1936. This venture aimed to explore commercial channels to sell Mizo products like rugs and table mats not only across India bit also exported even to London and America.

“The Policy recommended and being practised is the development of utility lines, characterised by the beauty that lies in this indigenous Lushai art of weaving. Rather than superimposed imported design let the Lushais be encouraged to develop indigenous designs in such shapes and fashion as will give opportunity for their self-expression while being readily and suitably adapted to meet market demands on a utility and not only a luxury basis and at prices in line with the world’s domestic markets”.(The Lushai Hills District Cover:pp-285)

The benefits expected from this venture are:

a. Improvement of material condition of the people by sale of their skill and use of their spare times;
b. Fostering a true pride, as opposed to boasting and conceit, in the progress of Lushai and the beauty, of Lushai art;

c. Encouragement of the art of sustained application and the fostering of public dislike of work badly done crooked lines, dirty handling, imitative and insincere production;

d. Improvement in character of the whole people and development of a pride and joy in industry rather than the sanction of mischievous talk and waste of good time;

e. Development of co-operative spirit among the homes of Lushai all working together for the common success etc.

In appreciation of the work done on this project, Sir Robert Reid, the Governor of Assam (1937-1942) provided fund for construction of warehousing facilities at Aizawl. That house is known by the name of the Robber Reid-the Reid House.

“Medical, Industrial, educational, agricultural and all uplift influences should be specially designed and directed to ensure, as far as possible, that the people will be able to absorb them as part and parcel of their own cultural system whereby they will come the easier to look upon such innovations as their very own and therefore, with constantly enlightening enthusiasm.”

The Lushai Hills Cottage industries could not take off as expected; however, there were some Mizos who have developed the spirit of enterprise and started their own enterprises as early as 1911-1912 despite adverse business environment. Business activities were not new to the Mizo community. They have already knew how market yards functioned like the Sonai Bazar, Chansil Bazar, Tipaimuk Bazar all operated by non-Mizo traders. By 1924 they were 60 Mizo shopkeepers at Aizawl, 13 at Sairang, 4 at Lunglei and 8 at Tlabung. These shopkeepers were the first generation Mizo entrepreneurs.

The Lushai Trading Company was started in 1940 with private initiatives. Like the Cottage Industries, this company became a dreamed enterprise not materialising the stated objectives. The company had one shop at Aizawl and on hotel at Silchar. However, the company collapsed within a few years. While McCall foresaw the future prosperity of Mizo depended on the production of goods where the Mizo’s comparative advantage lies weaving. He expected that with experience and training the venture could provide livelihood to a large number of people and sustainable development. Meanwhile, the new Mizo elites saw merchandise trading as the new opportunities; but due to inexperience and lack of managerial skill, the company had failed. The two great Mizo business enterprises on supported by the Govt and the other by enthusiastic entrepreneurs failed miserably, reflecting the nascent Mizo business enterprise spirit.

In the early twentieth Century, the Mizos had ‘two powerful contract ‘the British Govt and the Missionary enterprise the frontier aimed at securing peace, law and order, while the latter aimed at converting the Lushais from their animist Chiefs to those of the Christian religion. The British policy on education in the hill District was that it should be under Director of Public Instuctor. However, the District Govt delegated education to the missions. The combination of education and the spreading of the Holy Gospel made the Mission educational and Church Department important employers and education itself, passport to material distinction, early became ferry nearly synonymous with the need for Christianity, if not with Christianity itself.

It was claimed that the educational system under the Mission establishment created a privileged class among the Mizo society. McCall 1948 linked the growth of new Mizo elite to the growth of education and Christianity.

“Local educational practice soon gave rise to the belief that education and Christianity was the passport to salaried jobs a relief from the wearisome toil of cultivating a hard land.

The Christian converts, who were educated affluent and their children, also got facilities for further education. The Lushai privileged class came into existence. Being subjects to the Church, this new social class sought freedom from the domains of the Chiefs and the customary communal discipline-they were the articulate Lushais according to Animesh Ray. The demand for electoral politics in the mid-1920 was a new force generated in response to the new spirit of freedom and individualism among the first Mizo educated generation.

The Sixth Schedule to the Indian Constitution provided autonomous District Council to the Mizo people. The first District Council election was held on 4 April 1952 which was inaugurated on 25 April,
1952. Later, Village Councils was constituted. The inauguration of democratic institutions-District and Village Council had significant impact on their socio-economic life. Chieftainship was removed, the much hated impressed labour had been done way, land and forest resources were managed by the elected bodies. Nehru, who visited Mizoram in 1953, delivered a speech before the District Council members on April 4,1953. He identified the following development needs of the people: road, air transport, school and dispensaries, and water supplies. He also urged the people to consult experts from development to formulate realistic plan. Accordingly, the District Council started constructing road, schools and other physical infrastructure facilities like road, dispensaries etc.

In 1959, the Assam provincial Govt’s mishandling of a regional famine sparked anti-India sentiments within educated Mizo elite who felt that British colonialism in the region had merely given way to a new, Indian counterpart. The Mizo insurgency, launched in nearly 1966 by the armed, underground Mizo National Front (MNF), had adverse impact on Mizo socio-economic life. Village groupings, coupled with his insurgency movement, had inflicted heavy damage to the self-sufficient tribal economy, which was charting its own development part under democratic process.

First, education and health infrastructure were severely damaged and destroyed. For instance, the number of Primary Schools had decreased by nearly 30 per cent from 602 in 1960-61 to 425 in 1971-72.

Second, Jhum cultivation was severely disrupted the production of rice and crops were significantly reduced. Cash crops like ginger, chillies etc remained rotten in open yards as commercial activities could not be resumed. People lived under the shadow of fear and starvation death. Not only rice production fell down, but also the income of the people had been reduced drastically, accentuating the already poor economic condition of the people.

Third, road and medical facilities totally broke down in the rural areas. Food and medical supplies could not reach interior village. Many people faced near famine starvation death in the absence of road and medical supplies and dwindling jhum production of rice.

The village grouping, carried out during 1967-1970 which affected more than 80 per cent of the total population in 1971, aggravated the hardships faced by the people.

Prof. Nunthara 1989 noted the following adverse impacts:

a. Village grouping dislocated the jhum system-jhum cycle had been shortened due to concentrations of jhum farmers adversely affecting jhum productivity and ultimately gave rise to wide spread famine condition in all the grouping centres,
b. A homogeneous village community has transformed into a heterogeneous and differentiated rural community based on wealth and prestige;
c. Crimes increased tremendously in the grouping centre;
d. Flow of development fund into the grouping centres led to a greater emphasis on the value of cash money and widespread misappropriation of development funds at all levels of administration.

When Mizoram was given Union Territory in 1972, development works tremendously increased under Five Year Plan. During 1951 to 1971, the total flow of plan fund was a mere Rs.11 crores. The Fifth Five Year Plan could be regarded as the beginning of planning in the Mizoram.

The Mizoram Peace Accord 1986 and Statehood 1987 offered a new era of peace and development. The process of peace making and conflict resolution in Mizoram also represented a model where in democratic process and the participation of the church including civil society group could make a difference in the peace deal. Several policy initiatives and development schemes have been started by the Govt under State and central Govt which could be summarised as follows:

4. Under State Government:
   a. State Industrial Policy 1989
   c. Mizoram Intodelhna Project
   d. Various Centrally Sponsored scheme
   e. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes:
Twenty three departments operated 115 schemes with amount involving Rs.524 crores as on 2008-2009; the matching share varied between 100 funding from the sponsoring department and from 100 to 50(100:50)

f. **Under State Implementing Agencies:**

As on 2008-2009 as many as 112 schemes have been channelized through this route including Central agencies and private sector agencies. Schemes operate by State agencies-SSA, NRHM, PMGSY, NREGS, ICDS, NEGP, DRDA, Mid-day meal, CRSP, NACO, National Bamboo Mission, Assistance to state for Developing Export Infrastructure and allied activities (ASIDE), Control of shifting Cultivation.

g. **Economic Development during the first decade of 21st Century:**

a. **Occupational Structure of Mizoram:**

A significant shift has been taken place in occupational structure from 2001 to 2011. It is a positive sign of development. The percentage of people engaged in Primary Sector has been decreased from 90 to 68 per cent, the percentage of household industries has been increased from 0.80 to 1.11 and percentage of Agricultural laborers has increased from 3.29 to 4.46 percentages. And percentage of other workers has increased from 18.39 to 25.92.

b. **Sectoral Share in GSDP at Current and Constant Prices:**

Estimate of State Domestic Product is one of the most important single economic indicators to measure the overall economic development of the State. The transformation of the economy is quite apparent from the noticeable changes that have occurred in the sectoral composition of output. The average growth rate of GSDP during the Eleventh Five year Plan period is 7 percent. The sectoral analysis of Gross State Domestic Product reveals the trends of contribution of primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy.

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Mizoram has increased from Rs.15500 lakhs to Rs.426673 lakhs at current prices and to Rs.280891 lakhs at Constant prices from 2010 to 2011. The Growth Rate of GSDP has increased from 4.98 to 6.13 from 2010 to 2011.

The share of Agriculture and Allied Sectors contribution to GSDP has been decreasing steadily from 22.52 to 12.83 per cent at current prices and 14.32 per cent at constant prices from 2010 to 11.

The Share of Industrial sector contribution to GSDP has been increasing steadily from 16.13 to 18.64 per cent at current prices and 19.39 per cent at constant prices from 2001 to 11.

The contribution of Tertiary sector contribution to GSDP has also been increasing considerably from 61.35 to 68.54 per cent at current prices and 62.29 per cent at constant prices from 2010 to 2011 in Mizoram.

c. **Production Trend:**

Out of 21087 sq.km of Geographical area, forest covers 19240 sq km, which is about 91.27 percent of the State’s geographical area and the revenue received from this forest area only Rs.142.20 lakhs in 2009-2010. Inspite of the Growth of GSDP in Mizoram, Only 20 percent of the demand for rice could be met within the State and the remaining 80 percent lifted from outside the State. Altogether only 15 percent of cultivated area is being utilized for cultivation and the remaining 85 percent of land to be exploited for increasing the productivity. The rate of inflation from wholesale price index shows 26 per cent in 2011.

d. **Industrial Development:**

Mizoram is still described as ‘No industrial Zone ‘due to absence of large and medium scale industries. There are 7888 number of small scale industries registered and number employed were 3977 in 2009-2010.

e. **Employment Growth:**

Of course, the rate of growth of employment opportunities is far below the growth rate of population in Mizoram. That is, the growth rate of population has been 2.2 and the rate of employment opportunities may be less than 0.5 percent. The number of job seekers in the live Register in 2011 stood at 44957 and number of vacancies notified figured at 2006 during 2010-2011 and the number of applicants registered for self-employment assistance during 2010-2011 was 154. The number of employees working under the State Govt as on 2005 were 55665 out of which 48453 were regular
employees and 5421 were Muster Roll and 1791 were work charged. A total of 1, 06,706 persons were employed in all the 47730 enterprises in the State. Out of which 12.6 per cent are employed in agricultural enterprises and 87.4 per cent are in non-agricultural enterprises. Out of the Public Sector workers, 31.22 per cent were employed in rural areas and 68.78 per cent were employed in urban areas.

f. **Per Capita Income Trend:**
Per Capita Income patterns are powerful indicators of the poverty situations across regions. For this reason, it is worthwhile to take a close look at Per Capita Income statistics in Mizoram. Mizoram’s Per Capita Income has increased from Rs.16443 to Rs.50021 at Current Prices and at constant prices it has increased to Rs.34767 from 2001 to 2011.

g. **Per Capita Expenditure:**
The average monthly Per Capita Expenditure for rural areas has increased to Rs.778.35 and Rs.1200.51 for urban areas in 2010 according to NSS 61st Round.

h. **Access to Electricity:**
Out of 4500 MW, only 0.06 per cent of Hydro Electric potential has so far harnessed through small and Mini Hydro Projects. The State Power demand is 107 MW and the installed capacity is 40.47 MW only. Number of Electrified villages is 603 as on 2010 and 104 villages are yet to be covered under RGGVY (Rajive Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana) Scheme. The per capita consumption electricity for Mizoram is (173.04 kWh).

i. **Drinking Water faculty:**
Mizoram is still on its way to achieving the National Norm of Water Supply Level (70 lpcd (Litters Per Capita per Day) in urban water supply programme. Out of 22 Towns in Mizoram, 10 towns have been brought under fully covered Status below 70 lpcd and 3 towns are non-covered.

According to the National Rural Drinking water Programme (NRDWP) at present 468 habitations comes under fully covered status and 309 habitations comes under partially covered status upto March 2010.

j. **Road Development:**
The total of all types of roads in Mizoram upto December 2010 is 6349.60 Km approximately and the road density is 30.12 km/100 sq km which is still very low comparing to the National level of 96.57 km/100 sq km.About 143 villages are yet to be connected. Of the total number of vehicles in operation 53.39 percent are two wheelers, 36.94 percent are light motor vehicles and 4.37 percent are Truck and Lorries.

k. **Communication:**
Out of 400 Post offices in Mizoram, 341 is in rural areas and 59 in urban areas. There are 6, 08,166 (prepaid 550258 and Post Paid 57908) mobile phones connection, the number of Landline connection is 46989, the number of WLL (Wireless Local Loop) connection is 12364,705 villages are provided Village Public Telephane with WLL and 67 villages are poided VPT with DSPT (Direct Satellite Phone Terminal) and the internet technology has made us easy to get information, communication and education now in Mizoram.

l. **Banking facility:**
The number of Commercial Banks have increased from 91 to 114. The increased number of Regional Rural Banks are more than the increased number Nationalized, Co-operative and other Banks. The population served per Branch covers to around 8175 and the National average is 15000. The credit deposit ratio is 50.53 percent in 2010 and still low as compared to the national average of 75 percent.

m. **Population Growth:**
Change in the size of a population may bring about a change in the economic life of the people, which may further bring about a change in various other aspects of human like social, cultural and political. The swift and steady decline of both birth rate and death rate has led to tremendous social transformation.

The population has increased from 88573 to 1156393 and the total number of household has increased from176134 to 258985 from 2001 to 2011.

Though the total number of population has been increasing, the growth rate of population has been decreasing gradually. The growth rate has decreased from 28.82 to 22.78 percent in 2011. The rural
growth rate has decreased from 21.03 to 18.20 and Urban growth rate has decreased from 38.72 to 27.43 percent from 2001 to 2011.

The percentage of child growth rate of population in age group 0-6 years has decreased from 16.18 to 15.11 for Mizoram. The rural percentage growth rate of child population has decreased for all the Districts except Lawngtlai. The percentage growth rate of child population for urban areas has also shown increasing trend except for Champhai.

The sex ratio for Mizoram has increased from 935 to 975, urban sex ratio has increased from 948 to 1000 and rural sex ratio has increased from 923 to 950 from 2001 to 2011. The child sex ratio for 0-6 years has been increasing totally for all the districts of Mizoram except for Saiha District. The Child Sex Ratio in the State has increased from 964 to 971 in Census 2011. This increase is more pronounced in urban areas than in rural areas of the State, where the increase is by 7 points from 964 to 971 in Census 2011.

n. **Education:**

Education plays an important role in social change. While, on the one hand, it is responsible for handling down traditional, culture, knowledge and skills from one generation to another, on the other, and it acts as an agent of social change. New ideas and values are initiated by it and become the goals for the young generation to pursue and achieve.

Mizoram has achieved mass universalisation of education in primary and Middle level except in High School, Higher Secondary and Higher and Technical level. Literacy rate has increased from 88.80 to 93.72 percentages, for rural area it has increased from 84.93 to 88.35 percentages and for urban areas it has increased from 96.43 to 98.67 percentages from 2001 to 2011.

The number of Primary Schools has increased from 1377 to 1782, the number of Middle Schools has increased from 851 to 1313, the number of High Schools has increased from 370 to 521, the number of Higher Secondary Schools has increased from 33 to 95, the number of Colleges has increased to 26 (22 Colleges, 2 Teacher Training and 2 Polytechnic) and one Central University from 2001 to 2011. There is one College of Nursing and one Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Science in Mizoram.

The total number of enrolment for Primary has increased from 116226 to 156396; Middle has increased from 53130 to 66776, for High School has increased from 19879 to 48811, for Higher Secondary it has increased to 17049, for Colleges it has increased from 4421 to 17049 and for University it has increased from 500 to 2471 from 2001 to 2011 in Mizoram. The number of enrolment for boys has been higher than the girls for the same period in Primary, Middle, High School and Higher Secondary in Mizoram. The GSDP spent on education is also below National average.

The number of teachers for Primary School has increased to 8477, for high school it has increased to 3886, and for Higher Secondary School it has increased to 1224.

At present one teacher is considered to teach approximately 18 students at Primary School, 9 students at Middle School, 13 students at high School, 14 Students at Higher Secondary School and for College may be less than 5.

The GER for Primary was 108.22, for Middle was 105.89, for High School was 74.61 and for Higher Secondary 23.34 percent in 2009-2010. India aims to achieve 25 per cent GER to remain competitive in the globalised economy. Higher and technically educated people are very meagre in Mizoram. India with the enrolment ratio of around 10 to 11 per cent is still in elite education system and moving towards a mass higher education system.

o. **Poverty:**

As per the poverty estimates worked out by an expert group constituted by the Planning Commission, the poverty ratio in Mizoram region during 1993-94 was 45.01 per cent of population. It has declined to 20 per cent in 2010 as per NSSO’s round survey.

p. **Health facilities:**

Number of Govt Hospitals has increased to 12 with Bed strength of 1101, number of Primary Health Centres has increased to 57, and the number of Sub-Centres has increased to 327. There are 12 private Hospitals with a total bed strength of 828 in Mizoram.
Birth rate has decreased to 21.50, death rate has decreased to 5, infant mortality rate has decreased to 29, maternal mortality has also decreased 0.50 and Life expectancy has increased from 55 to 70.

q. Urbanisation:
The urban percentage share has increased from 49.63 to 51.51 and Rural percentage share has decreased from 50.37 to 48.49 from 2001 to 2011. Overall percentage share for urbanization is shown on the increasing trend and decreasing trend for rural percentage share for all the Districts of Mizoram from 2001 to 2011.

r. Cultural Transformation:
By cultural factors we refer mainly to ideas, knowledge, values, beliefs, inventions and exchange. Culture provides the base of inventions and discoveries.

Social systems are directly or indirectly the creations of cultural values. Any change in values or beliefs systems on the social group affects social institutions. To illustrate this, we can see that the rise of nuclear families has changed the family system in Mizoram in a significant manner. The joint family system has slowly disintegrated and this has altered relationships within the family. New social values and beliefs can also produce social change. Conflict between the old and new values is leading to the creation of a completely new value system.

s. Political Factors of Social Change:
Laws act as an instrument of socio-economic and political change in Mizo society. Since laws are backed by the state and have a coercive nature, individuals conform to them.

Public opinion is a stronger means of change. Laws alone cannot change traditions and belief systems. Laws still remain an effective means of bringing about socio-economic and political transformation in society.

Some of the customary laws need to be modified if necessary to speed up transformation in Mizoram.

t. Technology as a Factor of Social Change:
Technological progress has often triggered a long lasting change in society. Development and change in human societies has been linked with development and change in technology.

Technology changes society by changing our environment to which we, in turn, adapt. This change is usually in the material environment and the adjustment we make to these changes often modifies customs and social institutions.

In earlier times, technology was simple and societies were simple too. Traditional society was characterized by manual labour and family was the unit of production. Production was based on human and animal power and was for domestic consumption. There was neither a governing profit motive in economic transactions nor was whatever produced brought into market was.

In the beginning of 21st century, instead of being influenced and controlled by the environment, man tried to control it. Nowadays Importance of capital instead of labour as against the norm in simple societies, Rise of factories as units of production instead of family, Use of electricity and atomic power instead of energy produced by human and animal power, Use of machines in place of human and animal labour, Production is for exchange in the market and for profits and not just for domestic consumption, Development of outside markets instead of local market, Improved means of transport and communication and a currency based economy and Modern technology and manmade conditions have changed not only the system and quantity of production but also production relationships.

u. High human development and low economic development co-exist. The human development index, prepared by Planning Commission in 1991 ranked Mizoram at 7th position out of 32 states/UTs;

v. Mizoram has low infrastructure development index as compared with other states/UTs. According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy infrastructure Index (1992-93), Mizoram scored 63 points against national average of 100 points. The Eleventh Finance Commission Indies of Social and Economic Infrastructure accorded Mizoram 82 points against National average of 100;

w. Public expenditure is the main driving force of the state economy. Govt sector dominates the economy. The State’s fiscal source is highly inadequate and weak-heavily depended on central transfers-state’s own revenue contribute less than one-tenth of the total revenue receipts of the state;
Total Debt liability of the state increased significantly. Mizoram is now one of the highest indebted states in the country;

Significant share of earmarked funds in the scheme of plan financing in Mizoram; quality of plan expenditure is highly doubtful-high revenue expenditure 96.36%), uneven flow during the year, and expenditure rush during March. The flow of plan expenditure during 2008-09 was Rs.305 crore (27.56%) during the first half of the year; it was 72.44 per cent (Rs.803 crores) in the second half and during March 2009 it was 45.52 per cent (Rs.504 crores).

Conclusion:

From the above analysis it is obvious that the Socio-economic development or transformation is clearly visible.

Over the years, there has been increasing transformation of socio-economic condition of life style of the people’s in Mizoram. The increased transformation of modern socio-economic conditions of people’s in Mizoram drastically changed the lifestyle and initiated new possibilities into the society of both urban and rural tribes in Mizoram. These conditions have altered the relationship between men and women in their environment. The change of socio-economic conditions of households in Mizoram is an indicator of well being and future challenges to meet the minimum requirement of demand in day-to-day life to achieve a satisfactory standard of life. The role, function and relative importance of traditional socio-economic conditions of tribals have been challenged and redefined.

As modernization in every aspect of life increases, the demand for transformation of socio-economic conditions of people needs to speed up the development process in every sector. Generation of more and more income by an average household can be treated as one of the indicators of standard of life enjoyed by the people, which can be determined by the efficiency and effectiveness of the people to exploit the existing resources of both human and natural to support economic and human development. Changing socio-economic conditions attracts many services to be created that is widely recognized as an emerging ingredient underpinning economic development and improving the quality of life.

Experiences of many decades of development have shown that changing socio-economic condition and the intensity of life of its adoption can help alleviating poverty, improve health, and reduce drudgery and increase literacy etc.Where significant benefits of socio-economic transformation are improved returns on education, wage income, and improved production of home business etc.

Economic factors have influenced the quantity and direction of social change. Due to economic changes production moves out of households to factories, capital acquired a greater role in the production process, the occupational structure of the workforce changed from largely agrarian to an increasingly larger industrial workforce, people from all strata of society took to industrial activity, women move out of homes in large numbers and entered the workforce, barriers of religion, belief, etc crumbled as the demand for labour increased, urbanization took place at an accelerated pace, it triggered changes in other spheres like mass transport and communication too, thus radically altering the existing social structure.

Socio-economic transformation has affected a number of services such as income, expenditure, saving, consumption, age, family size, education, employment status, occupational structure, time factor, credit facilities, and land pattern etc.

However, Mizoram may be still lagging behind in many aspects when comparing to the other developed states in India and other countries. Let us hope that in the near future more and more development or transformation will take place in whichever lagging behind. As development need more and more attention, the demand for transformation in accepting and welcoming the unknown socio-economic conditions should increase.

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