

# Development of Education among the Tangkhul in Ukhrul (is an abstract of the presenter thesis entitle “Education of the Tribals in Manipur-development, practice and problems with special reference to Ukhrul District)

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## **Introduction:-**

Ukhrul is located at the east of Manipur state. It has an average elevation of 1662m (5452feet) above the sea level. It has wet summer and cold, dry winter. Ukhrul district is divided into two district recently as Ukhrul District and Kamjong District. But the present study will be limited till 1991. The Tangkhul Naga tribe inhabit the Ukhrul district.

The tribals of Manipur is broadly categorise into the Nagas and the Kuki-Chin tribes. The 31 tribes, of Manipur falls into these two major tribes of Manipur

Nagas

1. Ailmol

2. Anal

3. Angami

4. Chiru

5. Chothe

6. Koireng

7. Kairao

8. Maram/Thangal

9. Lamkang

10. Zeliang – Pumei – Rongmei – Rong – Kaccha Naga – Zemi – Liangmei

11. Kom

12. Tarao – Mayon

13. Mao – Paomei

14. Maring

15. Purum

16. Sema

Kukichin

1. Zou

2. Simte

3. Gangte

4. Any Mizo

5. Hmar

6. Thadou – Ralte

7. Paite

8. Vaiphei – Salhte

The Tangkhuls are one Naga tribes of Manipur. Though the majority of the people settle in Ukhrul district, they were scattered all over Manipur. The Tangkhuls were tall with large head and heavy stoiled feature, as a rule. Some of them were remarkably muscular marriage to father's sister's daughters were forbidden but marriage to mother's brother's daughter were encouraged. They were monogamous group of people. They were mongoloid group of people.

The eldest son inherited the father and got the lion's share of the family properties. They were enimist prior to their conversion to Christianity. They buried their bodies. The Tangkhul as all Naga tribes does mostly live on the top of the hill. As we all know today Nagas villages are at the top of the hill. Agriculture is their occupation. Rice is their stable food. They ate all types of meats. They produce food grains like maize, rice, millet and vegetables like cabbage, chilly etc.

Earlier their dress, like any other Naga tribes, cloths were very scanty. Women wore Meghela, woven by themselves with different colours and patterns. For the Tangkhuls Luirum is the popular traditional shawls of man, and Chonkhom is the popular traditional shawl for women. Beside this two shawls there were many other shawls both for men and women for different occasion.

### Objective:

The present study focus on the development of education among the Tangkhul Naga tribe.

The study will apply the research method tools like observation, historical method, interview and collection of information from education office. Limitation of the present study: It is cover till 1991.

In 1873 Brown R wrote a known as statistical account of the native state of Manipur and the hill territory under its rule". It studies comprehensively on various aspects of the state. It studied on the general distinction between the tribes of Nagas and Kukis.

M. Horam (1977) in his book social and cultural life of Nagas has given a clear-cut picture of the Tangkhul Naga tribes of Manipur.

Hemlata talsra (1989) in her book tribal education stress on the development of the tribals which numbered more than 500 crores tribals.

Lal Dena (1988) in his study "Christian Mission and colonialism" dealt with the missionary movement in both Manipur and Lushai hills.

Paonam Minakumari in her thesis entitle "The development of pre-primary education in Manipur with special reference to Imphal town" discovered the laws as in the co-ordination organisation and administration of the various agencies and organisation of the schools of the primary education.

In 1894 William Pettigrew sought permission from the Durbar for the establishment of one mission school at Imphal area. But his request was turn down since spreading of Christianity wan not like by the people (minute of Assam Missionary conference 5<sup>th</sup> session P.11-19 February 1899) he was permitted to establish one lower primary in the valley areas in the same year at Moirangkhom. However, he could not continue his work after six months of working at Imphal for most of the Manipuris had objected his teaching on Christianity. **So Man well the then political agent advice William Pettigrew to work in the hill at his own risk.** As such William Pettigrew went to Ukhrul on the east of Manipur which was inhabited by the Tangkhul Naga tribes (William Pettigrew Mission report and letters). Thus the development of education among the Tangkhuls start in 1896 with the establishment of one school in 1897 at Ukhrul by William Pettigrew in the beginning he did not received favourable response from the hill people too. The parents did not allow children to go to school only after persuasion and hard labour by William Pettigrew that twenty four students attended the schools. Several times villagers created troubles and problems. William Pettigrew was also threatened many a time both by the students and villagers. Thus for lack of awareness and ignorance the progress of education hampered and delayed.

The Tangkhul spoke different dialects for each different villages knowing this problem William Pettigrew mastered himself the Ukhrul dialects and made it a common language for the Tangkhuls. He prepared a Tangkhul premier and grammar with which all the Tangkhuls residing in Ukhrul and other villagers cold communicate each other through this dialects. Thus it become the Tangkhul language. This was one of the greatest contribution of William Pettigrew spread education along with

Christianity. The two goes hand in hand as Christian has to read the bible, without educating the people they could not be a faithful Christian without reading the bible. Thus two were spread at the same time like two side of the coins.

The school was later upgraded to upper primary school. At Hundung another school was established with an enrolment of fifteen students. There were ten schools with 38 teachers in different part of the hill areas upto 1905.

Slowly the Tangkhul people begin to be aware of the value of education and the demand for education increase. Thus the number of school increased tremendously in Ukhul. 1921 there were 21 schools including secondary school at UKhul and Kanpokpi. Ten of the 19 village schools where wholly supported by the association also supports 7 evangelist. The mission also support 9 village schools. The state of Manipur continues their annual grant in aid to the central school a sum of 1,884 rupees in a year. (My twenty five years 1897 1922 at Ukhul Mission School – William Pettigrew 1922).

In the hills three batches of villages were opened for every third or forth years until 1915 among the tribals. The political agent Shakespeare informed to all the villages that at least two boys were to be sent from each village where there were no schools from the neighbouring villages. This scheme carried for ten years of mission work (William Pettigrew's pamphlet twenty five years mission P.8) Those who had entered the middle for three years course could read and write getting though the 3-R's owing to the phonetic systems of spelling use in the school text-books. They were able to write in their own dialect and use it for their own purpose in their villages. The old student acted as a teacher in the school after three years completion. Thus a good number of people were educated in the Tangkhul area. They started spreading education and gospel to their native tribes in their neighboring villages. Thus some of the outstanding students of the school were Haolei, Leishisan, M.K. Porom Singh, Ruichumhao, Miksa, Kanrei, Tiba and Killong (A short history of the Manipur Baptist Christian Golden Jubilee 1948 Luikham T. Christian Association Publication Ukhul 1948 P.23).

The schools was inspected by the political agent, president of the durbar and sub-division officers, sometimes the head masters were utilised. Sometimes the head masters were utilised to inspect the schools in the hills. The government of Manipur also instructed the deputy inspectors to tour the schools in the hills at least 144 days for every years and stay there at least 36 days (administration report of the political agent in Manipur 1929 P.25)

Inspection and supervision was very effective in those days. It continued for some years. According to William Pettigrew some where in 1910 nine girls had been educated, four of them from village school to the north of Ukhul and three from Chingjaroi. Two of the above mention nine girls went to nowgon girls school.

To name few Tangkhul Naga girls who got higher education in 1936 was Pamleiphy Shaiza, she became the first MBBS among the Manipur tribal girls in 1977. Mrs. Sheningla Keishing of Tangkhul Nagaa who was a student of Mrs. Pettigrew was the first pastor despite the unfavourable attitude of women pastorship till date. (Women history Ningmasai Imphal 1968 P.1 and Raisingreang (News link Naga's Women's Union Manipur March 1996 P.1)

In 1931 there were two middle schools 40 primary schools in the hill areas, that's among the tribals of Manipur. From 1931 onwards no separate data of schools were found till 1991. In 1991 there were 1584 pre-primary schools, 230 middle school, 12 high schools, 4 higher secondary schools and 6 colleges in the hill areas of Manipur.

Year	Primary Schools	Middles School	High School	Higher Secondary School	College
1951	455	71	11	-	1
1961	1660	313	53	-	2
1971	2343	378	123	-	12
1981	2866	425	277	-	24
1991	3225	687	394	-	29

Source – 1. Education in Manipur towards a new education order report Pp 9.15.

2. Statistical Abstract of Manipur 1992 P.49

According to the source of Zonal Education Official report 1991 there were 96 primary schools, 52 high schools one higher secondary schools and one college and 34 aided primary school. These schools were under Zonal Education department.

Beside this under district council of education, there were 158 primary schools in 1991 the number of Schools does not change till 2011.

The literacy rate of Ukhrul is 81.4 P.C the rate of male is 85.5 P.C and that of female in 76.9 PC (demography Ukhrul district govt. of Manipur).

According to the latest update by the government administrative department Ukhrul the number of Primary school in Ukhrul district is 267, in this category most of the school were under education department government of Manipur. In the upper section the total number of schools is 67 of which 35 were under government and 32 upper primary schools were run by the private unaided by government of Manipur. The total number of high school is 78 of which 35 were run by the private, unaided by the government and the remaining 43 were under government education department 14 higher secondary schools are there in Ukhrul district of which only 4 higher secondary school were under government education dept. The remaining 10 higher secondary schools were run by privet unaided by the government of Manipur.

In conclusion we may say that though in the beginning a missionary from American Baptist Mission William Pettigrew struggle and start education with great difficulty spreading education along with Christianity. Later on it spread like a fire among the Tangkhuls in Ukhrul district of Manipur. Many schools has been established but there were still many villages without school in the extreme part of Ukhrul district. Altogether there are 426 schools in the Tangkhul areas.



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6. *Horam M* : Nagas old ways New Trands, Cosmo Publication, Delhi 1988
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8. *My twenty five years 1897 – 1922 at Ukhrul Mission School* : William Pettigrew 1922.

