



A Study On Demographical Situation Of Aimol Tribe In Manipur

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Abstracts

The Aimol, a Scheduled Tribe of Manipur, is a numerically small community with a population of 3,902 as per the 2011 Census. This paper examines key demographic indicators of the Aimol tribe using secondary data from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses.

The objectives are to analyse the decadal growth rate, sex ratio, child sex ratio, literacy rate, and workforce participation rate. Results show a decadal growth rate of 2.12 per cent, compared with the Manipur ST average of 21.8 per cent, indicating demographic stagnation. Sex ratio stands at 976, and child sex ratio at 943. The literacy rate is 71.2 per cent, with a gender gap of 17.6 per cent. Workforce participation rate is 41.3 per cent, with 68.2 per cent of workers engaged as cultivators. The study highlights slow growth, gender disparity in education, and agrarian dependence. Targeted interventions under the Tribal Sub-Plan are suggested for female literacy and skill diversification. The findings provide baseline data for policy and future research on micro-tribes.

Keywords: Aimol Tribe, Demography, Census 2011, Sex Ratio, Literacy, Manipur, Scheduled

Introduction:

Northeast India is home to over 200 Scheduled Tribes with diverse demographic characteristics. Manipur has 34 recognised STs, constituting 40.9 per cent of the state's population, as per the Census 2011. While major tribes are well documented, micro-tribes remain data-deficient. The Aimol are a Scheduled Tribe notified under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. Ethnologue 2024 classifies the Aimol language as endangered, with 3,900 speakers. They are concentrated in the Tengnoupal (earlier Chandel), Churachandpur, and Senapati districts of Manipur. Existing literature on Aimol is largely ethnographic. Singh 1998 provides a cultural profile, but demographic data is limited to 2001. The post-2001 demographic transition of the Aimol remains unexamined. Census 2011 provides disaggregated ST data in A-11 and ST-14 tables, enabling micro-level analysis. Understanding the demographic profile of small tribes is crucial for allocating Tribal Sub-Plan resources and implementing NEP 2020. Hence, the present study examines the demographic profile of the Aimol tribe using the 2011 Census.

The study fills the research gap on micro-tribes and provides an empirical baseline for policymakers.

Objectives

To analyse the decadal growth rate of the Aimol population during 2001-2011.

To examine the sex ratio and child sex ratio of the Aimol tribe.

To assess the literacy rate and the gender gap in literacy.

To study the workforce participation rate and occupational structure.

Methodology

The study is based on secondary data from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses of India. Data sources include Primary Census Abstract ST-14 for Manipur and Table A-11 on individual Scheduled Tribes. The variables selected are total population, sex ratio, child sex ratio (0-6 years), literacy rate, and workforce participation rate. Decadal growth rate calculated using the formula: $[(P_{2011}-P_{2001})/P_{2001}]*100$.

Descriptive statistics and percentages were used for analysis. A comparative analysis was conducted with the Manipur ST average to identify disparities. Data tabulated and analysed using MS Excel.

The study is descriptive and quantitative in nature. Limitations include the non-availability of post-2011 data, as Census 2021 is delayed.

Results and Discussion

4.1 Population Size and Decadal Growth

Table 1: Population and Decadal Growth Rate of the Aimol Tribe 2001-2011

Year	Total Population	Males	Females	Decadal Growth%
2001	3,821	1936	1885	
2011	3,902	1,975	1,927	2.21

Source: *Census of India 2001, 2011, Table A-11, Manipur*

The Aimol population increased from 3,821 in 2001 to 3,902 in 2011, registering a decadal growth rate of 2.12 per cent.

This is significantly lower than the Manipur ST average growth of 21.8 per cent during the same period. Slow growth indicates possibilities of low fertility, out-migration to urban areas, or under-enumeration. The share of Aimol in Manipur's total ST population is 0.13 per cent, confirming its micro-tribe status.

4.2 Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio.

Table 2 shows the sex ratio and literacy indicators.

Table 2: Sex Ratio and Literacy Rate of the Aimol Tribe 2011

Indicator	Aimol	Manipur ST Avg	Gap
Sex Ratio	976	1002	-26
Child Sex Ratio 0-6	943	939	+4
Literacy Total	71.2%	73.2%	-2.0%
Literacy Male	80.1%	81.2%	-1.1%
Literacy Female	62.5%	65.3%	-2.8%
Gender Gap in Literacy	17.6%	15.9%	+1.7%

Source: Census of India 2011, PCA ST-14, Manipur.

The sex ratio among Aimol is 976 females per 1000 males, lower than the Manipur ST average of 1002 females per 1000 males. Child sex ratio is 943, marginally better than the state ST average of 939. Total literacy rate is 71.2 per cent, 2 percentage points below the ST average. Male literacy is 80.1 per cent while female literacy is 62.5 per cent, resulting in a gender gap of 17.6 per cent. The gap is 1.7 points higher than the ST average, indicating greater educational disadvantage for Aimol women.

Workforce Participation and Occupation

Table 3 presents workforce characteristics.

Table 3: Workforce Participation Rate of the Aimol Tribe 2011

Category	Persons	% to Total Population	% to total workers
Total workers	1,612	41.3	100.0
Main workers	1,128	38.9	70.0
Marginal Workers	484	12.4	30.0
Cultivators	1,099	28.2	68.2
Agricultural labourers	161	4.1	10.0
Household Industry	32	0.8	2.0
Other workers	320	8.2	19.8

Source: Census of India 2011, PCA ST-14, Manipur

Workforce participation rate of Aimol is 41.3 per cent, lower than the Manipur ST average of 47.7 per cent. Main workers constitute 70 per cent of the total workforce, while marginal workers constitute 30 per cent. The occupational distribution shows an overwhelming dependence on agriculture, with 68.2 per cent of workers as cultivators and 10 per cent as agricultural labourers. Only 19.8 per cent of workers are in other sectors, indicating low diversification. Household industry participation is negligible at 2 per cent.

The data confirms the agrarian character of the Aimol economy with limited non-farm employment.

Conclusion.

The study reveals that the Aimol tribe has a population growth rate of 2.12 per cent, a sex ratio of 976, and a literacy rate of 71.2 per cent. Key demographic concerns include a wide gender gap of 17.6 per cent in literacy and low workforce participation of 41.3 per cent. Heavy dependence on cultivation, at 68.2 per cent, indicates a lack of occupational diversification.

Policy implications include: 1) Establishing residential schools for Aimol girls under NEP 2020 to bridge the gender gap; 2) Skill development programmes for youth under Van Dhan Yojana to promote non-farm employment; and 3) Earmarking specific funds under the Tribal Sub-Plan for Aimol villages in Tengnoupal (earlier Chandel) districts, Churachandpur, and Senapati.

The study provides baseline data for monitoring SDG targets on education and gender equality. Future research should examine the causes of slow growth through a primary survey and compare findings with the 2021 Census, when available.

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