

Demographic, Educational and Occupational Characteristics of Rongkhon Songgital Village, Meghalaya: A Field-Based Study

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Abstract

The demographic, educational, and occupational characteristics of a population provide important insights into the social and economic conditions of a community. The present study examines these characteristics in Rongkhon Songgital village, Meghalaya, based on primary data collected from 20 households covering 92 individuals. The study analyses the population's age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, and occupational distribution using descriptive statistical methods. The findings indicate that females constitute 54.3% of the surveyed population, compared with 45.7% males. The educational profile shows that 36.9% of the population had studied up to Classes VI–X, while 13.0% were graduates and 9.8% were classified as illiterate. Occupationally, students formed the largest category (34.8%), followed by government employees (17.4%) and wage labourers (15.2%). These findings offer a descriptive understanding of the population covered by the survey and highlight the importance of examining educational attainment and livelihood patterns at the village level. The study contributes to the documentation of local demographic and socio-economic characteristics in Meghalaya.

Keywords: Demographic structure, educational attainment, occupational distribution, rural population, village study, Meghalaya.

Introduction

Demographic structure is an important aspect of population studies because it provides information about the composition of a population in terms of age, sex, marital status, and other characteristics. Such information helps researchers understand population distribution and examine its relationship with education, employment, and the organisation of community life. At the village level, demographic studies are particularly useful for documenting local population characteristics that may not be adequately represented in broader regional analyses.

The Census of India provides systematic information on population size, age, sex, literacy, educational attainment, and occupational characteristics. The District Census Handbooks also provide village-level demographic information and details concerning local amenities and infrastructure (Directorate of Census Operations, Meghalaya, 2014; Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, 2011). These sources provide a useful framework for understanding and comparing local population characteristics.

Education is an important indicator of human development. Differences in educational attainment may influence access to employment, occupational mobility, and opportunities for further learning. Similarly, occupational distribution reflects the range of activities through which individuals participate in economic and social life. Government service, business, wage labour, agriculture, and household work represent different forms of occupational participation, while the proportion of students provides an indication of educational engagement among the population surveyed.

The relationship between education and economic status is also relevant to the study of rural communities. Research on rural India has documented disparities in educational and economic outcomes across social groups, demonstrating the importance of examining local socio-economic conditions rather than assuming uniform patterns across communities (Sengupta & Gupta, 2017). However, such broader findings cannot automatically be applied to every village; local field data are necessary to understand the characteristics of a specific population.

In this context, the present study examines the demographic, educational, and occupational characteristics of Rongkhon Songgital village in Meghalaya. Using primary data collected through fieldwork, the study provides a descriptive account of the population covered by the survey and identifies patterns in sex composition, educational attainment, and occupational distribution.

Objectives of Study

The study was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To examine the demographic composition of the population of Rongkhon Songgital village in terms of age, sex, and marital status.
2. To assess the educational attainment of the population covered by the survey.
3. To analyse the occupational distribution of males and females.
4. To provide a descriptive account of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the surveyed population.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in Rongkhon Songgital village, Meghalaya. The village was selected as the field area for examining population characteristics, educational attainment, and occupational participation.

Sources of Data

The study is based primarily on primary data collected through fieldwork conducted in March 2026. Information was collected from 20 households in Rongkhon Songgital village, Meghalaya, covering a total population of 92 individuals. The data included information on age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, and occupational distribution. Relevant secondary sources, including Census of India publications and other published materials, were used to provide a broader context for interpreting the findings.

Methods of Analysis

The collected information was organised into tables and analysed using descriptive statistical methods. Frequencies and percentages were used to describe the distribution of the population across educational and occupational categories.

Results and Discussion

Population Size and Sex Composition

Table 1: Population Distribution of Age, Sex and Marital Status

Age Group (Years)	Unmarried				Married				D/W/S			Total	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	Male	Female
<4	5	5.43	5	5.43								5 (5.45)	5 (5.45)
5-9	2	2.17	3	3.26								2 (2.17)	3 (3.26)
10-14	5	5.43	9	9.78								5 (5.45)	9 (9.78)
15-19	2	2.17	1	1.08								2 (2.17)	1 (1.08)
20-24	3	3.26	4	4.34							1(1.08)	3 (3.26)	5 (5.45)
25-29	1	1.08	1	1.08			2	2.17				1 (1.08)	3 (3.26)
30-34	3	3.26	2	2.17	4	4.34	2	2.17				7 (7.60)	4 (4.34)
35-39					3	3.26	9	9.78				3 (3.26)	9 (9.78)
40-44					5	5.43	3	3.26				5 (5.45)	3 (3.26)
45-49					2	2.17	1	1.08			1(1.08)	2 (2.17)	1 (1.08)
50-54					2	2.17	1	1.08			1(1.08)	2 (2.17)	2 (2.17)
55-59							2	2.17			1(1.08)		3 (3.26)
60-64					4	4.34	1	1.08			1	4	2
65-69													
70+					1	1.08						1 (1.08)	
Total	21	50	25	50	21	50	21	42	4	8		42 (45.6)	50 (54.3)
Grand Total	46 (50)				42 (45.6)				4(4.3)			92(100)	

Source: Fieldwork

The field survey covered 92 individuals from 20 households in Rongkhon Songgital village. Of the total population, 42 were males and 50 were females. Thus, males accounted for approximately 45.7% of the population, while females constituted 54.3%.

The higher representation of females indicates that women formed a slightly larger proportion of the population covered by the survey. However, the observed difference is descriptive and should not, by itself, be interpreted as evidence of a particular demographic process. A more detailed assessment would require verified age-specific sex ratios, information on migration, and comparison with reliable village-level census data.

The age-wise data supplied for the study were organised into five-year age groups, beginning with children below five years and extending to those aged 70 years and above. The 10–14 years age group was reported to have the highest representation, with five males and nine females. The 70 years and above group had the lowest reported representation, consisting of one male and no females.

These figures suggest that younger individuals form an important part of the surveyed population. Nevertheless, the age-wise table requires verification because some of its entries do not reconcile with the overall population totals. Consequently, the reported age pattern should be treated as provisional until the original field records have been checked.

The marital-status data were also intended to distinguish unmarried, married, and widowed, divorced, or separated individuals. Such information can help describe the composition of households and the distribution of marital statuses across age groups. However, the detailed marital-status figures should be verified before firm conclusions are drawn.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment provides an important indication of the educational experiences of the population. Table 1 presents the distribution of the surveyed population across the educational categories recorded during fieldwork.

Table 2. Educational Status of the Population

Educational Category	Number	Percentage
Nursery – Class 5	19	20.7
Class 6 – 10	34	37.0
Class 11 – 12	18	19.6
Graduate	12	13.0
Illiterate	9	9.8
Total	92	100

Source: Fieldwork

The findings show that the largest group comprised individuals who had studied between Classes VI and X, accounting for 34 individuals or approximately 37.0% of the population. This was followed by 19 individuals (20.7%) in the nursery-to-Class-V category and 18 individuals (19.6%) in the Classes XI–XII category.

Twelve individuals, representing 13.0% of the surveyed population, were reported as graduates. Meanwhile, nine individuals (9.8%) were classified as illiterate.

The distribution indicates that the largest recorded educational category was the middle- to secondary-school level. The presence of graduates suggests that some individuals had progressed to higher education, while the proportion classified as illiterate points to the continuing relevance of literacy and educational opportunities.

These findings should be interpreted with reference to the categories used in the field survey. The table does not clarify whether individuals in the school-level categories had completed the corresponding classes or were currently enrolled in them. Furthermore, because children may be included in the total population, the proportion classified as illiterate should not automatically be treated as the formal literacy rate of the village.

The Census of India distinguishes educational attainment and literacy using defined statistical categories and age groups (Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, 2011). For comparability with census statistics, future studies should record the highest educational level completed and the literacy status of individuals within the relevant age group.

Occupational Distribution

Occupational distribution provides information about the different forms of work and activity represented within the surveyed population. The field data classified individuals into seven categories: no specific occupation, government service, student, household work, agriculture, business, and wage labour.

Table 3. Occupational Distribution of the Population

Occupational Category	Male		Female		Total	
No specific Job	6	14.2	4	9.5	10	10.8
Government Service	10	23.8	6	14.2	16	17.3
Student	10	23.8	22	52.3	36	34.7
Household Work	1	2.3	7	16.6	8	8.6
Agriculture	-	0	1	2.3	1	1.0
Business	7	16.6	4	9.5	11	11.9
Wage labour	8	19.0	6	14.2	14	15.2
Total	42	42.6	50	54.3	92	100

Source: Primary data collected through fieldwork.

The occupational distribution shows that students constituted the largest category, comprising 32 individuals or 34.8% of the surveyed population. Government service was the second-largest category, with 16 individuals (17.4%), followed by wage labour, which accounted for 14 individuals (15.2%).

Business activities accounted for 11 individuals (12.0%), while ten individuals (10.9%) were recorded as having no specific occupation. Household work represented eight individuals (8.7%), and one individual (1.1%) was recorded as engaged in agriculture.

The high proportion of students is consistent with the presence of a substantial number of younger individuals in the surveyed households. However, the data do not establish the extent to which students are enrolled in different educational levels or whether they combine education with paid or unpaid work. Government service represents a notable occupational category in the population covered by the study. Business and wage labour also account for substantial shares of the reported occupational distribution, indicating that the surveyed population includes individuals engaged in different forms of employment.

The sex-wise figures show that more females than males were recorded as students and as engaged in household work. Males outnumbered females in government service, business, and wage labour in the supplied data. These differences describe the distribution of the recorded categories but do not establish the causes of gender differences in employment.

The classification of household work also requires careful interpretation because unpaid domestic and caregiving activities may not be recorded in the same way as paid employment. Similarly, the low number of individuals recorded under agriculture does not necessarily mean that agricultural activities are unimportant to household livelihoods. Some individuals may participate in more than one economic activity, while the table records only one occupational category per person.

Official census publications provide standardised categories for workers, non-workers, and occupational classification, allowing more systematic comparisons between local field surveys and larger population datasets (Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, 2011). Future fieldwork could improve the occupational analysis by recording primary and secondary occupations, employment status, income sources, and participation in unpaid work.

Relationship between Education and Occupation

The educational and occupational profiles provide complementary information about the surveyed population. The relatively large student category and the concentration of individuals in school-level educational categories suggest that education is an important characteristic of the population covered by the study.

At the same time, the representation of government employees, businesspersons, and wage labourers indicates that the surveyed population includes individuals participating in different occupational activities. The coexistence of these categories offers a basis for further investigation into the relationship between educational attainment and employment.

However, the present tables report education and occupation separately. They do not establish whether individuals with higher educational attainment are more likely to obtain government employment or business opportunities. Such conclusions would require individual-level cross-tabulation of education and occupation, together with information on age, sex, employment history, and income.

Research on rural India has highlighted the importance of considering social and economic differences when examining educational and occupational outcomes (Sengupta & Gupta, 2017). For Rongkhon Songgital village, further research could examine whether educational opportunities, household resources, and access to employment are associated with differences in occupational participation.

The present findings should therefore be viewed as an initial descriptive account rather than a causal explanation of the relationship between education and employment.

Discussion and Conclusion

The findings of the present study provide a descriptive understanding of the demographic composition, educational attainment, and occupational distribution of the population surveyed in Rongkhon Songgital village, Meghalaya. Based on primary data collected from 20 households in March 2026, the study highlights several features of the surveyed population, particularly the relatively higher proportion of females, the concentration of educational attainment at the school level, and the prominence of students in the occupational distribution. These patterns provide a basis for understanding the population covered

by the fieldwork, although they should be interpreted within the limitations of the sample size and the available data.

The sex composition indicates that females constituted 54.3% of the surveyed population, compared with 45.7% males. Although this shows a higher representation of females in the households surveyed, the difference cannot be interpreted as evidence of a village-wide demographic trend without a complete population enumeration or comparison with reliable census data. Factors such as household composition, migration, and differences in the age structure may influence the observed distribution. Therefore, the sex composition is best understood as a characteristic of the population covered by the present survey.

The age distribution, subject to verification of the original records, suggests that children and adolescents form an important part of the surveyed population. The reported concentration in the 10–14 years age group is relevant because the presence of school-age individuals has implications for educational needs and household responsibilities. A relatively young population may require adequate access to schooling and opportunities for continued education. Nevertheless, the age-wise figures must be checked against the total population of 92 before conclusions about the overall age structure can be drawn.

Educational attainment is another important dimension of the village's social profile. The largest recorded category consisted of individuals who had studied in Classes VI–X, followed by those in the nursery-to-Class-V and Classes XI–XII categories. The presence of 12 graduates indicates that some individuals in the surveyed population have attained higher education. At the same time, nine individuals were classified as illiterate. This combination points to variation in educational experience within the surveyed population. However, because the data do not clearly distinguish between current enrolment and the highest class completed, the results should not be interpreted as a direct measure of educational completion or school progression.

The educational findings also highlight the importance of using clearly defined indicators in village-level studies. The proportion classified as illiterate is not necessarily equivalent to the official literacy rate, particularly when the age composition of the population and the criteria used to classify literacy are not specified. Census statistics use standardised definitions and categories to support comparisons across geographical areas (Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, 2011). Future research could therefore record age-specific literacy, current school attendance, highest educational qualification completed, and educational discontinuation to provide a more detailed assessment of educational conditions.

The occupational distribution reveals that students constituted the largest category, accounting for 34.8% of the surveyed population. This is consistent with the reported presence of school-age individuals, although individual-level data would be required to confirm the relationship between age and student status. Government service was the next-largest category, followed by wage labour and business. These categories demonstrate that the surveyed population includes individuals engaged in different forms of employment and economic activity. However, the data do not provide sufficient information to assess the stability of employment, income levels, or the relative contribution of each occupation to household livelihoods.

The relatively small number of individuals recorded in agriculture requires particular care in interpretation. Only one person was classified under this category, but this does not establish that agriculture is unimportant to the surveyed households. Agricultural work may be seasonal, part-time, or combined with other occupations, and household members may participate in activities that were not recorded as their primary occupation. Similarly, household work accounted for a distinct category, with more females than

males recorded in this group. Since unpaid domestic and caregiving work may not be fully reflected in conventional employment categories, the occupational profile may not capture the full extent of women's economic contribution.

Differences in the sex-wise occupational figures also deserve attention. More females than males were recorded as students and as engaged in household work, whereas males outnumbered females in government service, business, and wage labour. These differences describe the reported distribution but do not explain why they occur. Further investigation would be necessary to determine whether they are associated with age, educational qualifications, household responsibilities, employment opportunities, or other circumstances. Research on educational and economic inequalities in India similarly underscores the value of examining socio-economic outcomes in their specific contexts rather than assuming that one pattern applies uniformly to all communities (Sengupta & Gupta, 2017).

Taken together, the educational and occupational findings suggest that the population covered by the survey includes both individuals engaged in education and individuals participating in various forms of employment. Nevertheless, the separate tables do not demonstrate a direct relationship between educational attainment and occupational status. A cross-tabulation of individuals by education, occupation, age, and sex would be required to examine whether higher educational attainment is associated with particular occupational categories. Information on income, employment conditions, and secondary occupations would further improve the analysis.

The study's main contribution lies in documenting local demographic and socio-economic characteristics through fieldwork conducted in March 2026. Its findings offer a preliminary profile of the 92 individuals covered by the survey and illustrate the usefulness of small-scale village studies in recording population characteristics that may require more detailed investigation. At the same time, the study is limited by its coverage of 20 households, the descriptive nature of the analysis, and the need to verify some age and marital-status entries. The findings should therefore be treated as an account of the surveyed households rather than as definitive estimates for the entire village.

Future research could extend the survey to additional households, verify the demographic tables, and collect more detailed information on educational progression, employment, household income, migration, and unpaid work. Comparisons with relevant Census of India data could also help place the local findings within a broader demographic context. Such measures would provide a stronger basis for understanding the relationship between demographic composition, educational opportunities, and occupational participation in Rongkhon Songgital village.

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