

## **CHAPTER-II**

### **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The roles of improving notwithstanding the pattern of population distribution in the world continue to reflect the influence of a variety of physical determinants, although the degree of control being exercised by physical factors may be on the decline. The factors like altitude, slope drainage and sub-soil water table have been affecting population distribution clearly at local level. The South District has hilly terrain and sever climate which adversely affect the distribution of population. The distribution of population in the district is uneven. In the district, most striking evidence of the influence of landform upon population in the distribution at the micro level has been observed between mountain and river valleys.

The 2001 census reveals that the distribution of population is very uneven in the South District of Sikkim. It is also observed that there is a relationship between population and area of the blocks. Most of the revenue blocks in Namchi Sub-division have smaller area in comparison to the Ravongla Sub-division. But Namchi has accommodated 66.42 percent of the total population of the district. On the other hand, Ravongla Sub-division has accommodated only 33.58 percent of the population of the district. Ravongla Sub-division is situated in the northern part of the district which experiences moist weather, which is very harmful for health. Out of the 44 inhabited revenue blocks of the sub-division, some are located near the river valleys of Tista and Rangit Rivers and lower hills. These blocks are favourable for settlements to flourish as they have fertile agricultural land, irrigation facility, warm climate and easy transportation facility.

On the other hand, Namchi Sub-division is more densely populated than Ravongla. The sub-division has 91 inhabited blocks. Comparing to other parts of the sub-division, central portion is highly elevated and has low concentration of settlements. Thus, most of the settlements are located in the river valleys and on gentle slopes near Rangit, Great Rangit and Tista River. One distinct trend of distribution of settlements is observed that the settlements are dense if one moves southward and along the main drainage channel. As these river valleys provide good cultivation field readily availability of irrigational facilities, low degree of slopes and elevation as well as equitable climate, attract the people to settle here. The discussion

reveals that different physiographic and climatic factors are responsible for uneven distribution of population in the South District.

## 2.1 DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

In the South District, a revenue block is the lowest administrative unit. The revenue block comprises of several hamlets, which is owes to the hilly character of physiographic condition. The size and area of the individual block in the district varies from one place to another place due to nature of accessibility. In the northern part of the district, revenue blocks are generally medium in sizes but concentration of population is low. Whereas in the southern part of the district, the revenue blocks are small and agglomerated but distribution of population is comparatively higher.

Table 2.1 Classification of Revenue Blocks in terms of Area. South District 2001

Area of Revenue Blocks (km <sup>2</sup> )	Category	No. of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks (%)	Share of Population (%)
<1	Very Small	11	7.10	6.6
1-2	Small	37	26.80	24.92
2-3	Medium	36	25.70	26.80
3-4	Large	28	20.20	19.79
>4	Very Large	28	20.20	21.89
Total			100.00	100.00

\*Source: Census of Sikkim Provisional.2001

According to 2001 Census, it is observed that only 7.10 percent of the revenue blocks (Table 2.1) are very small (<1km<sup>2</sup>). These blocks are namely, Melli, Paleytam, Donok, Gangchung, Rashayap. Jorethang etc are in Namchi Sub-division and Mangbrue, New Sada, Ravangla etc are in Ravongla Sub-division. Out of these blocks Melli which is one of the smallest blocks accommodate largest population (2476 persons per km ) and Ralong Monastery has population of (12 persons). The second category of size (1- 2km<sup>2</sup>) occupies 26.80 percent of the total revenue blocks. Some of the important blocks which fall in the category are, Chumlok, Pajer, Chemchey, Gumpa Gurpishey, Tanak, Aifaltar etc in Namchi Sub-division. There are only two blocks which fall in this category in Ravongla Sub-division. This category altogether accommodates 24.92 percent of the total population of the South District, Salghari has the largest population (6,399 persons) concentration, and Chemchey has the smallest. In the third category of medium size i.e. (2 -3km<sup>2</sup>), there are 36 revenue blocks

occupying 25 percent of the total revenue blocks. Altogether these blocks accommodate 34,850 persons or 26.80 percent of the total revenue blocks of the district. The large category (3-4 km<sup>2</sup>) size of the revenue blocks constitutes only 20.20 percent of the total revenue blocks of the district. These revenue blocks accommodate 26,041 persons or 19.79 percent of the total population of the district and are located in the central and northern parts of the district. The very large size (> 4km<sup>2</sup>) has 25 percent of the total revenue blocks. These categories of blocks have 21.89 percent of the total population of the district. The facts reveal that, most of the very small and small size blocks are located in the southern part of Namchi Sub-division. The medium size has equal distribution in the two sub-divisions, whereas most of the larger size blocks are found in Ravongla Sub-division. In Namchi sub-division, it is found that the relation between the size of total population and revenue blocks is proportionate, neither the population distribution is disproportionately larger nor the individual revenue blocks occupy large area. It is sheer, bigger number of revenue blocks that account for the higher proportion of the population residing in Namchi. Out of the total revenue blocks, those which have the population of more than two thousand persons according to 2001 census are namely, Salghari, Bomtar, Singithang, Melli and Namphing in Namchi Sub-division and Barfung and Ravongla Sub-division. All these blocks occupy only 4.28 percent of the total area of the district but occupy around 17 percent of the total population of the district. The blocks which have population (1000 - 2000) persons have more than 18 percent of the total area of the district accommodating 36 percent of the total population of the district. The blocks which have the population between (1000-2000) persons has more than 18 percent of the total area of the district and these areas accommodate around 36 percent of the total population of the district. The blocks which have the population between (1000-2000) persons are as, Mamley, Kamrang, Jorethang, Namphok, etc. The remaining 60 percent of the blocks have the population (< 1000 persons) occupying 31.68 percent of the total area of the district.

The general characteristic of the distribution pattern of the population in the South district is that most of the populated blocks are situated where the suitable conditions exist. Good transport network attracts the population to concentrate at a particular place, which leads to the concentration of dwelling near the road side. The emergence of rural marketing centres also acts as a pull factor for the population to concentrate near the market place. The district and sub-divisional head quarters have

higher concentration of population due to the availability of urban amenities. Besides, establishment of educational institution also attracts the population to settle nearby. In the district low populated blocks are situated near the forested tracts which are devoid of road net work, higher altitude and steep slope. The drier belt in the southern parts of the district has the characteristic of low concentration of population.

## 2.2. RURAL -URBAN POPULATION

Rural-urban population composition is also a very important demographic study in an area because it has a direct bearing to socio-economic and cultural advancement. According to 2001 Census, the South District has only 3 percent of the urban population, while it was 2.61 percent in 1991. In comparison to district percentage Namchi Sub-division has little higher rate having 4.5 percent and Ravongla Sub-division has no urban population at all as it is entirely rural population. The district has two notified towns as Namchi and Jorethang, both of which are located within the Namchi sub-division. Both the towns are developed by virtue being the district headquarters in the case of Namchi, where as Jorethang is for being a trade centre and located as nodal transport centre for both south and west districts. Due to lack of potentialities these towns are not developing fast and their influence in their periphery is very limited. These constraints consistently reduce the pull factor of these towns.

### 2.2.1 Changes of Rural - Urban Population: (1971-2001)

Total 2.2 Changes of Rural - Urban Composition, South District. (1971-2001)

Year	Rural in (%)	Changes in (%)	Urban in (%)	Changes in (%)
1971	97.70		2.29	
1981	92.93	-5.53	7.59	+ 69.82
1991	97.39	-0.32	2.67	+ 16.59
2001	96.98	-0.73	3.39	+ 48.03

\* Sources: Census of Sikkim, 1971, 1991 & 2001.

The change of rural and urban population in the district has different degree. The urban population have an increasing trend in the South District of Sikkim, (Table 2.2.). The urban population is increasing from the year 1971 to 1981, the increased was almost 70 percent and again in the period of 1981 to 1991 it had increasing trend having 17% even though the increased is lesser in comparison to the previous decade. Again in the period 1991 to 2001 the increased was more than 48 percent.

The trend in the rural population is decreasing. Almost all the census years the rural population is more than 90 percent. But the decreasing trend of the rural population is less in comparison to the urban population. It was 5.53% decreased in the period of (1971-81), 0.32% in (1981-91) and 0.73% in (1991-2001). Nevertheless the percentage of changes is less in the rural population. This trend reveals the entire rural character of population in South District.

The slow pace of urbanization in the South District is due to the lack of facilities, like industry, trade and commerce, transport and communication and over all hilly topography.

### **2.3 COMPOSITION OF POPULATION**

Composition of population is a vast field comprising ethnic characteristics, races, tribes, language, literacy, religions, education, age sex, economically active population etc and many more trails. The study of population composition helps in understanding the socio-economic and demographic structure of population.

On the basis of ecology, linguistic and origin, the population of the district are distinguished as Aryan, Aryo- Mongolian and Mogolian, (Bista 1980). All the main ethnic of the district viz, Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha and Sherpa fall in the mentioned three categories of races. Besides, people from plains usually called Kanya, Madishey, (Marwaris, Biharis and Bengalis) are also found but their number is less comparing to the four main communities. According to 2001 Census, Nepali community consists of 70 percent of the district. They are scattered all throughout the district. The second community Bhutias constitute around 10 percent of the population of the district and they are mostly found in the Ravongla sub-division. The Lepchas also constitute same percentage like Bhutias but they are mostly found in Namchi Sub- division. Sherpas on the other hand constitutes only 4 percent of the total population of the district and they are concentrated only in few pockets like Parbng , Jaubari and Damthang. Other communities account around 6 percent of the population of the district. They are mostly concentrated where the rural trade centre or market centres exist. The largest community Nepali has been divided into various communities. They include, Bahuns (Bhrahmins), Chettri (Khetriyas), Pradhan (Newars), Rai, Gurung, Tamang, Limboo, Sunwar. Mukhiya, Mahji, Manger, Thapa, Dami, Kami, Bhujel, Sarki, Thakuri, Thami, Yakha etc. The Bahuns are again divided into twelve gotras, Pradhans are also known as Newar. They have their own language

and they are sub-divided into six clans. They follow exogamy, Rais are known as Kirats or Jamdars. Rais are divided into clans and sub-clans. They have their own language and script which belongs to Tibeto-Burman family, Gurung has been divided into two main groups as i) four clans ii) sixteen clans. Tamangs now days come under the scheduled tribe along with Bhutia, Lepchas, Sherpa and Limboo. They are divided into twenty six clans. Tamangs have their own language and script which also belongs to Tibeto-Burman family and they follow endogamous. The Limboo are also known S Subbas, they also have their own language and script which belongs to same family with Tamangs. Limboos are divided into clans, they follow exogamous and patrilineal. The Mukhiyas are lesser in number; they also have their own Language and script called Koicha. They are divided into three sub-groups as i) Barathares ii) Dasthares and iii) Terek, Mahji has small population mostly concentrated in Mahjigoan near Jorethang, they belong to scheduled caste community and have own language. Other communities like Damai, Kami are lesser in number and their distribution is insignificant.

The second largest group Bhutia community is divided into two groups as i) Tondu-rus-Shi and ii) Bed-ten- Chechu. The first group again has sub clans and second has eight sub-groups. These sub-groups are differentiated socially and territorially. The first group is superior to the second group.

Lepchas are minority group, even historically the entire state is belong to them. They are mostly settled in high attitude regions. Lepchas have their own language and script. Sherpas are also divided into two groups as i) Sherpas ii) Yukpas. They follow exogamy.

### **2.3.1 Sex Ratio**

Sex ratio is one of the basic demographic characteristics of population. It indicates number of female per thousand male; usually it is also considered as an indicator of dependency ratio. The study of sex ratio is very important because it has direct bearing to various planning and other analysis of other demographic characteristics such as natality, mortality, migration, marital status, economic characteristics etc. The relationship of sexes affects the social and economic relationship within the community.

## Sex Ratio. South District

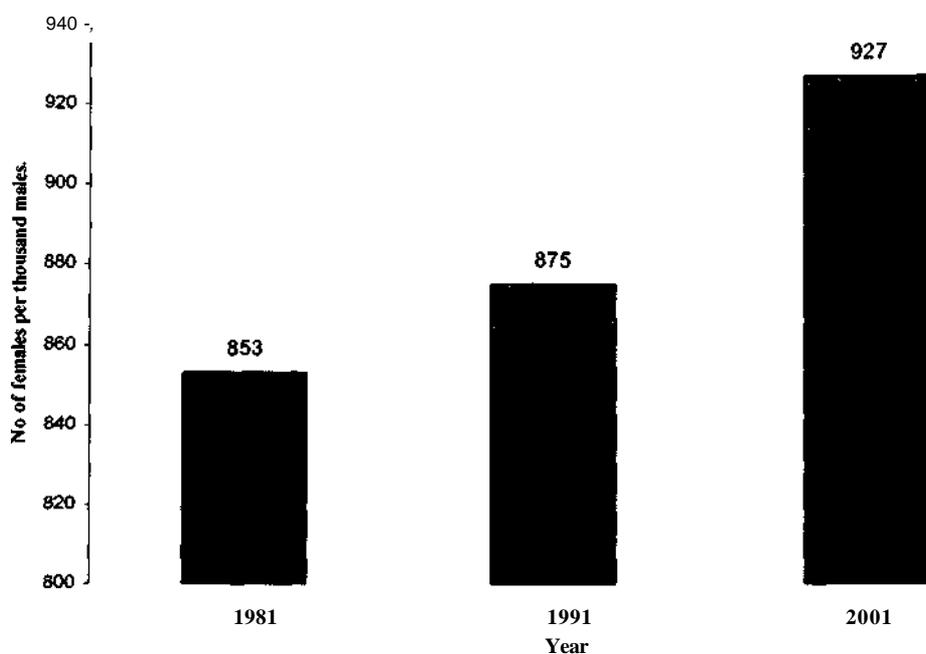


fig2.a ,

The sex ratio in the district is increasing for the last three decades. (fig2.a) it is 853 in 1981, 875 in 1991 and 927 in 2001. The picture is different in the revenue blocks.

Table 2.3 Sex Ratio, South District.2001

Sex Ratio	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks (%)
<800	Low	07	4.84
801 - 900	Medium	40	27.58
901 - 1000	High	77	53.10
>1000	Very High	21	14.48
Total		145	100.00

Source: Census 2001, Sikkim.

According to 2001 Census (Table 2.3) out of the total blocks the low (< 800) category sex ratio has occupied only 3.45 percent in five blocks. Of which three blocks are Damthang, Singtam and Tingrithang in Namchi Sub- division and Kewzing and Hingdam in Ravongla sub-division. Medium category (801 - 900) constitutes around 27 percent of the total revenue blocks and is found twenty two blocks in Namchi sub-divisions and sixteen in Ravongla sub- division (fig2.1). The important blocks which fall in this category are Pajer, Kamrang, Denchung, Assangthang, Rong, Pancha Gharey, Turuk, Thangsing etc. There are more than 55% revenue blocks in the high category sex ratio (901 - 1000). Of these 80 revenue blocks forty five blocks are

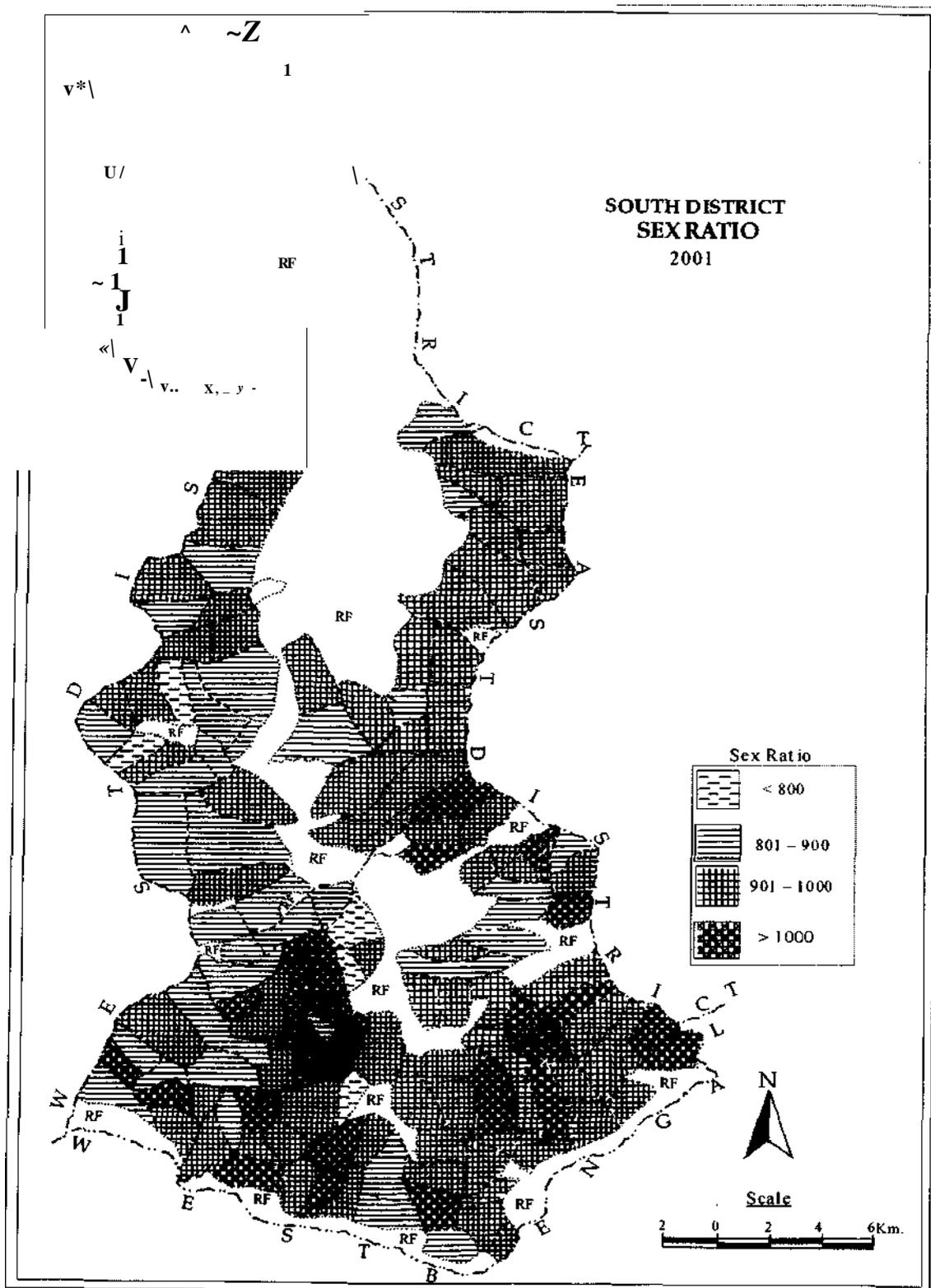


Fig2.1

found in Namchi sub-division and 35 blocks are in Ravongla sub-division. In the very high category sex ratio (1001 - 1100), there are twenty two revenue blocks constituting around 15% of the total revenue blocks. All the revenue blocks in this category are in the Namchi sub - divisions. Some of the important revenue blocks in this category are

Mamley, Tinzer, Chisopani, Dharagoan, Mikhola, Bikmat, Paleytam, Nagi, Tokal, Gangchung, Doring, Tsalumthang, Mamring etc.

The distribution pattern of sex ratio in the district is that there is low sex ratio in the district headquarter where as the urban area exit and medium and high sex ratio are found in rural and remote areas.(fig 2.2)

### 2.3.1a Decadal Changes of Sex ratio: (1991-2001)

Table 2.4 Decadal Change of Sex Ratio South District (1991 to 2001)

Sex ratio	Increased		Decreased	
Changes (%)	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks (%)	No of Revenue blocks	Revenue Blocks (%)
<50	39	28.88	27	20.00
51-100	27	20.00	12	8.88
101-150	10	7.40	5	3.70
151-200	9	6.66	0	0.00
>200	5	3.70	1	0.74
Total	90	66.60	44	33.40

\* Source: Census of Sikkim 1991 &2001.

The decadal changes of sex ratio of population of the district is represented by (Table 2.4) revealing another picture. Out of the total revenue blocks, there are 90 revenue bocks or more than 66 % of the total revenue blocks which have registered in creased in the sex ratio. Of these 39 revenue blocks or around 29% are under the category of (<50 %) changes. Another 20% of the total revenue blocks, fall in the increased category of (51 -100), of which 17 blocks are in Namchi Sub-division and another 10 revenue blocks are in the Ravongla Sub-division.. In the increased category of (101 -150) altogether ten blocks are in both the sub-divisions and occupies more than 7% of the total population of the district. Around 7 percent of the total revenue blocks are in the category of (151 -200) change. Of which nine are in the Namchi Sub-division. Only one block is in Ravongla Sub-division i.e. Pepthang. In the high increased category (>200), there are 6 revenue blocks constituting around 4percent of the total revenue blocks.

In the decadal decreased there are 44 revenue blocks occupying 33.40% of the total revenue blocks. Out of these revenue blocks around 20 percent are in the category of (<50%). Of which 14 revenue blocks are in the Namchi Sub-division and 13 revenue blocks are in the Ravongla Sub-division. More than 8 % of the total revenue blocks are in the category (51-100%) changes. These blocks are mostly found in Namchi Sub-division. The decreased (100 -150%) constitutes around 4% of the

total revenue blocks and are mostly found in Ravongla Sub-division. In the category of (150-200%) decreased there is not a single revenue blocks. About 1 percent of the total revenue blocks have decreased sex ratio of (150-200). One of the interesting facts is that there are no changes of sex ratio in the Nalam -Kolbong block.

The facts indicate the following points that there is a disparity amongst the sexes. The blocks which have low sex ratio are tends to concentrated in the northern parts of the district and low participation of woman folk in the income earning. This low sex ratio is mainly cause by lack of social mobilisation especially for the female child as well as the higher female mortality rate. The low sex ratio is also indicates lack of health care facility especially the pre and post natal care in the far lung areas of the district. The over all picture of the district's sex ratio is that of male dominance. Lower sex ratio cause different problems like socio-economic imbalance. This arouses the need of proper planning for achieving balance sex ratio in the district.

### 2.3.1b Sex Ratio (0 -6) ages

Table 2.5. Sex Ratio (0-6) years, South District 2001.

Sex ratio (0-6) years	Category	No of Revenue . Blocks	Revenue Blocks (%)
<900	Very low	42	31.11
901 - 1000	Low	34	25.18
1001-1100	Medium	29	21.48
1101-1200	High	16	11.85
> 1201	Very High	14	10.37
Total		135	100.00

\*Source: Census of Sikkim.2001.

The sex ratio for (0-6) years gives another picture in the district. Table 2.5 represent the districts sex ratio for (0-6) years. In the category of very low (< 900) sex ratio, there are 42 blocks having 31.11% of the total revenue blocks. The low (901-1000) sex ratio (0-6 years) constitutes more than 25 % of the total revenue blocks or 34 revenue blocks of the district. Out of these, 18 revenue blocks are in the Namchi Sub-division and 16 blocks are in Ravongla Sub-division. The medium sex ratio (1001 -1100) constitutes 22.22% of the total revenue blocks. Most of these revenue blocks are located near the sub-divisional headquarters. The high (1101-1200) sex ratio is around 12% only. The very high (>1200) sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 occupys around 10% of the total revenue blocks.

It is interesting to note that, in the age group of 0-6 years, very low and low sex ratio groups altogether constitute about 56.85% of the total revenue blocks. This higher concentration percentage in the two categories is may be due to low literacy in the remote areas, where the gender discrimination still prevails, and prejudice of male child as assets to rural folk. The remaining three category i.e. medium, high and very high altogether share only 43.15% of the total revenue blocks and are mostly located near the district headquarters, where the gender discrimination is insignificant with higher literacy rate as well as more free society leads to higher sex ratio. In order to change the scenario more policy and planning like incentive for female child when she stay unmarried up to 25 years of age will get monetary incentives with free education facility will certainly encourage the growth sex ratio.

### 2.3.1c Decadal Changes of Sex ratio (0-6) years, 1991-2001

Table 2.6 Decadal Changes of Sex Ratio (0-6) years, South District. (1991-2001)

Sex ratio in (%)	Increased		Decreased	
	No of revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks (%)	No of revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks (%)
<15	35	25.92	35	29.92
15-25	14	10.67	08	5.93
25-35	05	3.70	08	5.93
35-45	03	2.40	04	2.98
>45	22	16.30	01	0.80
Total	79	58.99	56	41.56

\* Source: Census of Sikkim, 1991&2001

The study of decadal changes in sex ratio (0-6) years is very significant from the economic point of view as this will replace the reproductive age group as well as the working population in near future. Out of the total revenue blocks, 5 revenue blocks has recorded more than 100 percent growth. Around 59% of the revenue blocks, has registered growth rate, where as 41% of the revenue blocks recorded decreased in the sex ratio (0-6) years (Table 2.6). The lowest growth rate is recorded in the Sokpey revenue block. Only a single revenue block i.e. Bui does not changes in sex ratio (0-6) years. The highest decreased in percentage is found in the revenue blocks of Chemchey, Turuk, and Aifaltar. The large percentage of increased trend indicates further growth in the reproductive age group in near future in the district.

### 2.3.2 Scheduled Caste Population.

The South District has small segment of the scheduled caste population to total population scheduled caste population includes, Damai, Majhi, Lohar, sonar and Sarki. According to 2001 Census the scheduled caste constitute 4.76% of the total population of the district. The composition of scheduled caste in both sub-divisions is different. The Namchi Sub- division has higher percentage of Scheduled caste being 5.51% and the Ravongla Sub-division has lower percentage having only 3.26%. The decadal growth of scheduled caste population is 99% in 1981-1991 and 150 in 1991-2001. Again, the decadal growth of scheduled caste population of both the sexes is also different. In the male scheduled caste population, it was 103% in 1981-1991 and it becomes 150 in 1991-2001. In the female scheduled caste population change it was 98% in 1981-1991 but it rise to 149% in 1991-2001. But in absolute number the male scheduled caste population has decreased during 1981-1991 were 71 persons, where as in the case of female it is increased from 2039 of 1981 to 2007 in 1991 increasing 38 persons. In 1991-2001 both the male and female scheduled caste population were increased

Table 2.7 Scheduled Caste Population, South District 2001

Schedule Caste (%)	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks (%)
<2	Very Low	28	20.24
2 - 3	Low	09	6.60
3 - 4	Medium	13	9.60
4 - 5	High	09	6.60
>5	Very High	44	34.00
Nil		32	22.96
Total		135	100.00

•Source: Census Sikkim, 2001, Population provisional.

The distribution of scheduled caste population within the district is very uneven (fig2.2). According to 2001 Census there were 32 revenue blocks which do not have any scheduled caste population: this account around 23% of the total revenue blocks. There are 44 revenue blocks in the district which have a high (>5%) scheduled caste population to their respective blocks population. This category constitutes 34 percent of the total revenue blocks. Out of these, 33 revenue blocks are in Namchi Sub- division and eleven blocks are in Ravongla sub-division. Nearly 7% of the revenue blocks have high (4 - 5) scheduled caste population. Of which, Namchi Sub-

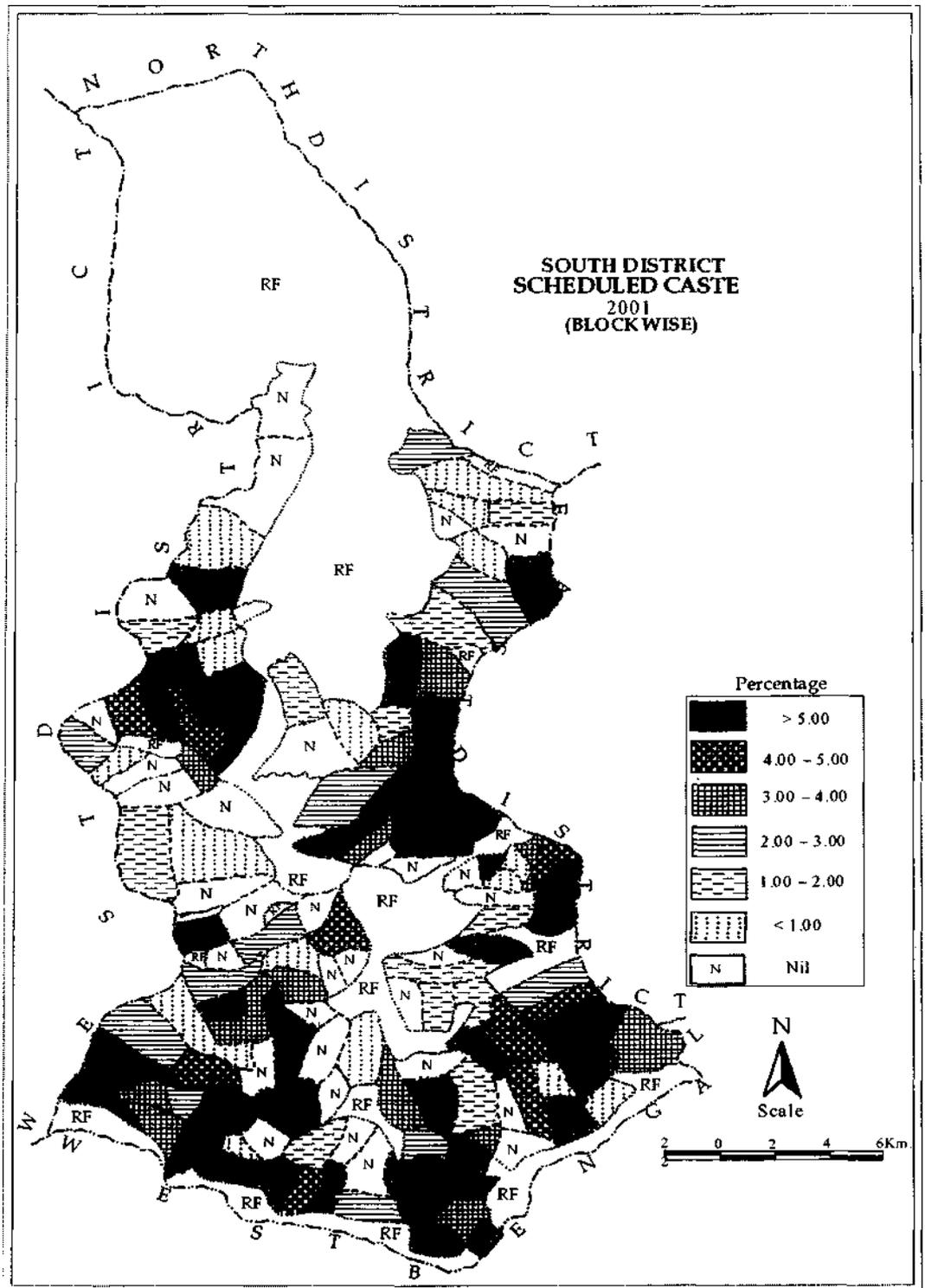


Fig2.2

division has eight blocks and one block is in the Ravongla sub- division. More than 9% of the revenue blocks have the scheduled caste population in between (3-4 %) to their respective blocks population. Another 6.6% of the revenue blocks are in the category of low (2-3) scheduled caste pfpopulation. The category of very low (< 2%)

occupies more than 20% of the total revenue blocks of the district. As a whole the highest percentage of scheduled caste population is found in the Pamphok having 29.30% and the lowest is in the Chuba having 0.14%. Both these blocks are in the Namchi sub- division. This reveals that there is relationship between the distribution of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, in these blocks where the high concentration of scheduled caste population has low concentration of scheduled tribe population and vice-versa.

The concentration index of scheduled caste population of South District also co- relates the same characteristic with scheduled caste distribution. The Pamphok has the highest concentration index having concentration index of 6 and Chuba has the lowest concentration having only 0.02. The over all characteristics of the scheduled caste population in the district is that Namchi Sub-division has more scheduled caste population than Ravongla Sub-division.

### 2.3.2a Decadal Changes of Schedule Caste (1991-2001)

Table 2.8 Changes of Scheduled Caste Population South District, (1991-2001)

Change in (%)	Increased		Decreased	
	No. of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %	No. of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<15	09	7.00	08	6.00
15-25	08	6.00	07	5.18
25-35	04	2.96	04	2.96
35-45	05	3.75	05	3.75
>45	05	12.11	35	26.93
Total	41	31.82	59	43.77
No Changes	02	1.48	00	00.00
Nil	30	22.43	00	00.00

•Sources: Census of Sikkim, 1991, 2001

The decadal change of scheduled caste population in the South District has a unique character (Table2.8). Out of the total revenue blocks 2 revenue blocks has no change Dorop and Shyampani. Another 30 revenue blocks did not have any scheduled caste population which accounts 22.43 percent of the total revenue blocks. All these blocks have the higher percentage of scheduled tribe population. Out the remaining revenue blocks, 59 revenue blocks or almost 44% has recorded increase in schedule caste population. Highest increase is found in the revenue blocks of Karek, Pabong, Burul, Likship, Gumpa gurpishy, Yangang and Tokdey etc. Another 41 revenue blocks or around 32% has recorded decrease in the scheduled tribe population. Of

these blocks highest decreased is recorded in the revenue blocks of Tinzer, Manpur, Bikmat, Ralong, Tinkitam and Lingi etc.

Another interesting fact of the decadal changes in scheduled caste population in the South District is that, out of the total revenue blocks, 5 had no scheduled caste in 2001, those had scheduled caste population in 1991 Census, 4 revenue blocks those had no any schedule caste population in 1991 Census, but recorded schedule caste population in 2001. This intra decadal shifting of schedule caste population is due to inter block migration of population as initiated by the forces of wanting to live in those areas where the socio-cultural affinities are exists and another factor is inter block labour migration. It can be rightly concluded that the scheduled caste population in the South District is increasing slowly.

### **2.3.3 Scheduled Tribe Population**

According to 2001 Census, the South District has 15.57 percent scheduled tribe population. Out of these, Namchi Sub-division has 11.79 percent and 23.05 percent is in Ravongla Sub-division. This indicates that the distribution of scheduled tribe population is marked different from scheduled caste. The concentration of scheduled tribe population is more in Ravongla Sub-division than Namchi Sub-division and in the case of scheduled caste; the concentration is more in Namchi sub-division than Ravongla Sub-division. An appraisal of the distribution pattern of the tribal communities shows that, their spatial distribution is characterised by a striking tendency of clustering and concentration in pockets, which have suffered from isolation and are situated in those areas where environmental setting is by and large not suitable for settled agriculture. Ravongla Sub-division has the physical condition of isolation, rugged topography and severe climate which attract the tribal population; and another factor is that the sub-division has higher concentration of scheduled tribe population which lack in infrastructural development in comparison to Namchi Sub-division. The general distribution pattern of scheduled tribe population in the district is that, western part of Ravongla and northern part of Namchi Sub-division have higher concentration, where the southern part of Namchi and eastern part of Ravongla have lesser concentration of scheduled tribe population.

Table 2.9 Scheduled Tribe Population South District, Sikkim. 2001.

Scheduled Tribe in (%)	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<10	Extremely low	50	37.05
10-20	Very low	29	21.48
20-30	Low	19	14.07
30-40	Medium	09	6.66
40-50	High	06	4.44
>50	Very high	08	5.92
Nil		14	10.37
Total			100.00

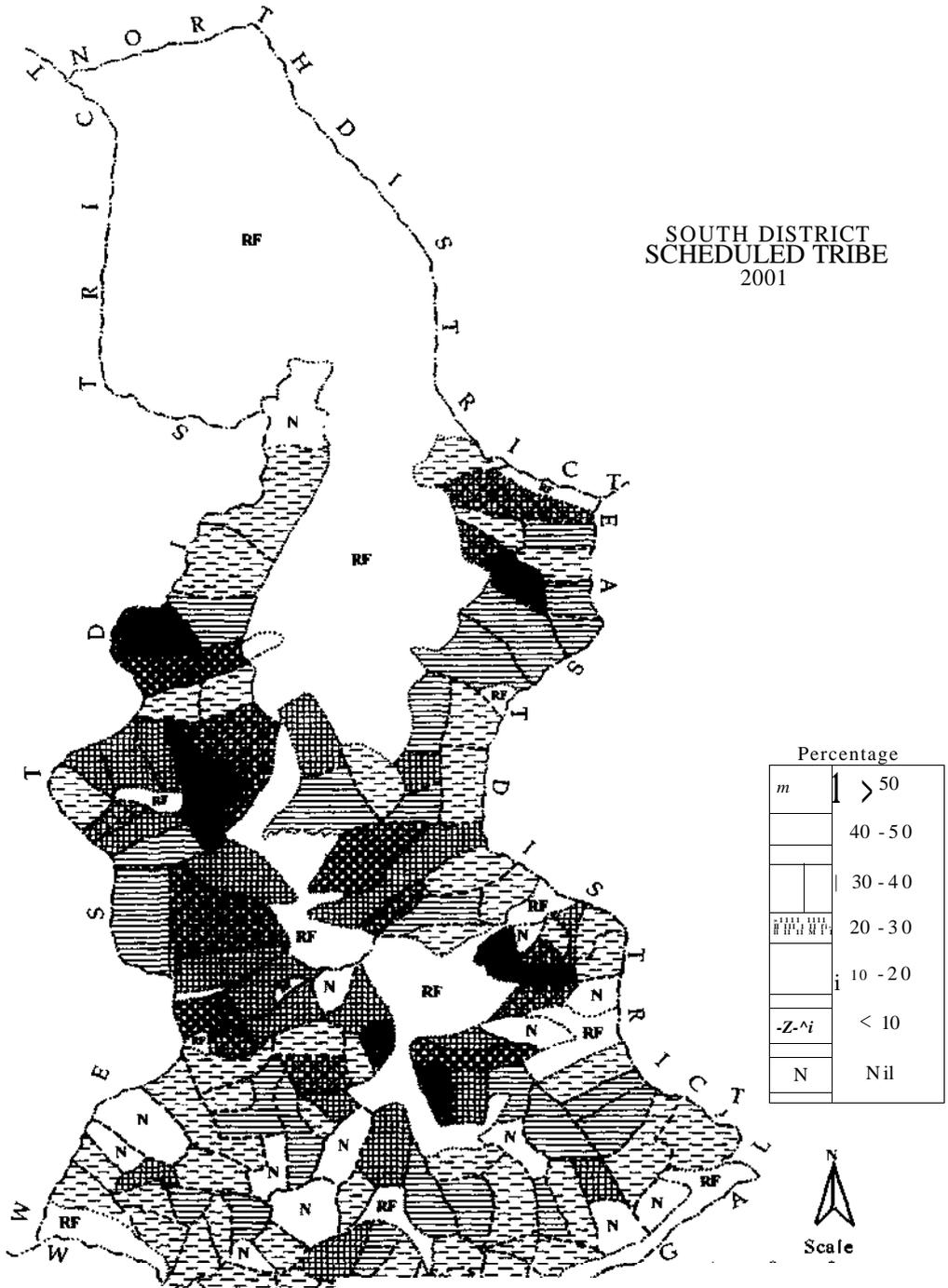
\* Source: Census of Sikkim. 2001.

Ravongla Sub-division has the physical condition of isolation, rugged topography and severe climate which attract the tribal population; and another factor is that the sub-division has higher concentration of scheduled tribe population which lack in infrastructural development in comparison to Namchi Sub-division. The general distribution pattern of scheduled tribe population in the district is that, western part of Ravongla and northern part of Namchi Sub-division have higher concentration, where the southern part of Namchi and eastern part of Ravongla have lesser concentration of scheduled tribe population.

The scheduled tribe population in the district for the last three decades i.e. 1981, 1991, and 2001 show the fluctuating trend. In 1981 the scheduled tribe constituted 17.51 percent but becomes 12.15 percent in 1991 decreasing almost 5.36 percent. Again it increased in 2001 it becomes 15.57 percent increasing 3.42 percent.

The distribution pattern of scheduled tribe population is also uneven (fig2.3). According to 2001 Census (Table2.9), more than 10 percent of the revenue blocks has no scheduled tribe population of which Ravongla Sub-division has only a single revenue block i.e. Sada and Namchi Sub-division has the remaining revenue blocks in this category. Around 37 percent of the blocks are in the category of extremely low (<10). These revenue blocks are located in northern and eastern part of Ravongla sub-division and western southern and eastern part of Namchi-Sub-division. About 22 percent of the revenue blocks are in the very low category (10-20%) of scheduled tribe population. These blocks are located in eastern and southern part of Ravongla sub-division and northern, north eastern part of Namchi Sub-division. Nearly 14 percent of the revenue blocks are in low (20-30%) scheduled tribe population. These

SOUTH DISTRICT  
SCHEDULED TRIBE  
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Fig 2.3

revenue blocks are mostly concentrated in the southern and northern parts of both the sub-division. Almost 7 percent of the revenue blocks have medium (30-40%). Of which, 5 blocks are in Namchi Sub-division and remaining are in Ravongla Sub-division. More than 4 percent of the total revenue blocks are found in the high category (40-50%) of scheduled tribe concentration. About 6 percent of the revenue blocks have very high (> 50%) scheduled tribe population.

### 2.3.3a Decadal Changes of Scheduled Tribe Population: (1991 -2001).

The decadal changes of scheduled tribe population in the South District have a unique character. Out of the total revenue blocks 83 revenue blocks or 61.27% has registered positive increased in scheduled tribe population from 1991 to 2001 and another 34 revenue blocks or 25.43% has recorded decreased in scheduled tribe population. Besides there are 18 revenue blocks or 13.33% of the total revenue blocks which does not change during this period. (Table2.10)

Table 2.10 Decadal Changes of Scheduled Tribe Population, South District. (1991-2001)

Changes in (%)	Increased		Decreased	
	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %	No of revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<15	17	12.59	13	9.63
15 - 25	13	9.62	02	1.48
25 - 35	11	8.14	04	2.96
35 - 45	10	7.40	05	3.70
>45	32	23.70	10	7.40
	83	61.27	34	25.43
Nil	18	13.33		

\* Source: Census of Sikkim. 1991 & 2001

The increase is highest in the very high (> 45%) category, having 32 revenue blocks (23.70%). The highest percentage of decrease is found in the category of very low (< 15%) having only 13 revenue blocks ((9.63%). There are also another 8 revenue blocks which have scheduled tribe population in 1991 but has no scheduled tribe in 2001. Besides, 3 revenue blocks registered scheduled tribe populated areas, which did not record any scheduled tribe in 1991 Census. This absolute change of scheduled tribe population is due to inter-block migration and has the some factor for shifting of population with the case of scheduled caste migration. Nevertheless the scheduled tribe population has an increasing trend in South District.

The study of scheduled tribe population distribution suffers from serious abnormalities in the South District because the Government has recently included

Tamang and Limboo communities in the scheduled tribe list. Their actual figure is not available as these communities were earlier enumerated as general Nepali community. Nevertheless, the district has an inverse relationship in the distribution of scheduled tribe and scheduled caste population (fig2.3). The map depicts that, in the Namchi Sub-division the distribution of scheduled tribe population is dispersed concentrating only in few pockets. Where as Ravongla Sub-division scheduled tribe concentration is very high and uniform in most of the blocks.

## 2.4 LITERACY

Literacy is one of the important characteristics of population; improvement in the literacy rate is an important index of social and cultural advancement as well as economic transformation that any area /block undergo. The acceleration of literacy transformation could provide the area/ region much needed break through in its socio-economic development.

Table 2.11 General Literacy Rate, South Distinct. 2001

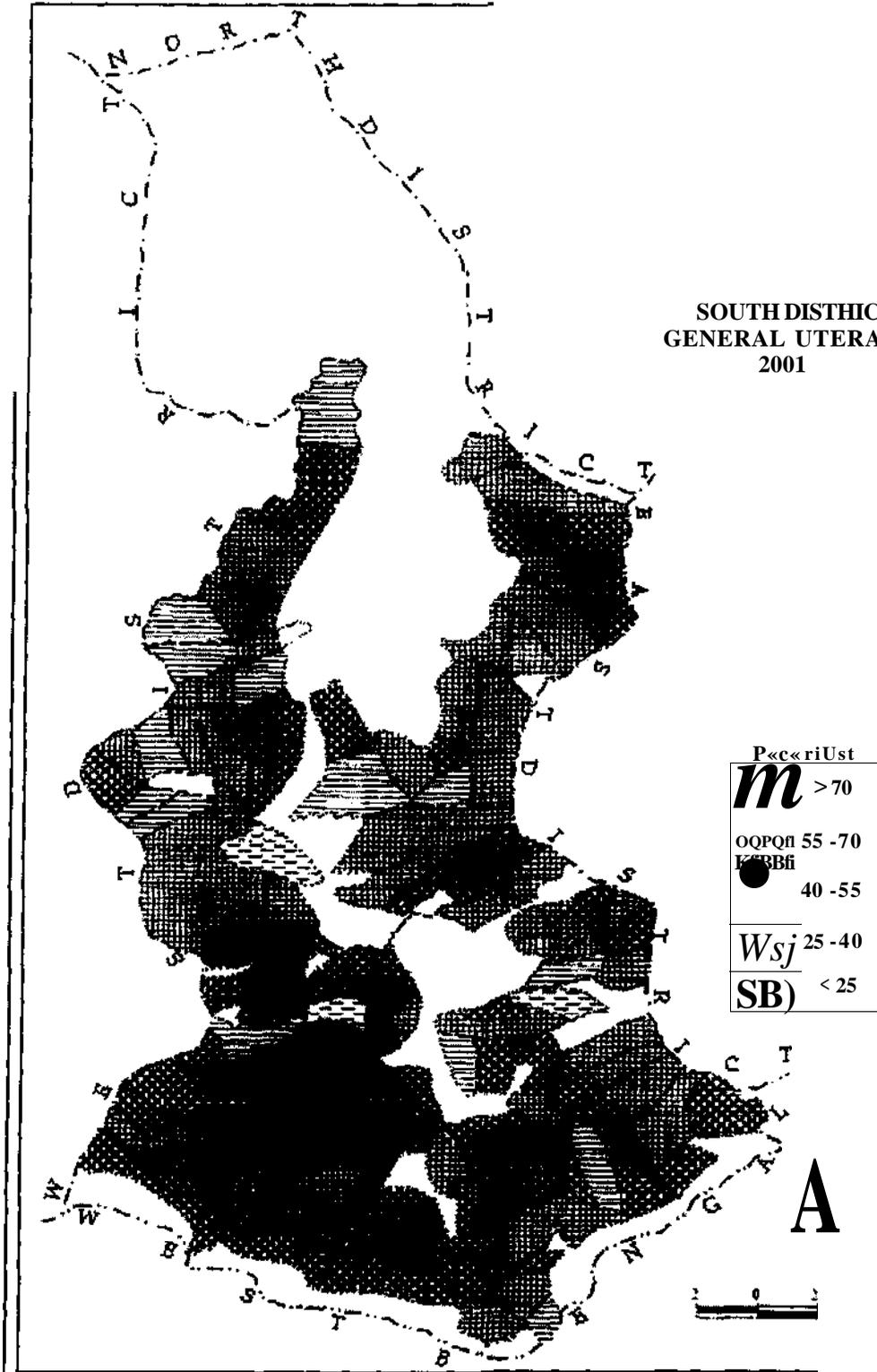
Percentage	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<30	Very low	03	2.14
30-45	Low	07	5.00
45-60	Medium	40	28.57
60-75	High	63	45.00
>75	Very high	27	19.28
Total			100.00

\*Source: Census of Sikkim, 2001.

According to 2001 Census (fig 2.4) and Table 2.12 shows that more than 2 percent of the revenue blocks have very low literacy rate (<30%) in the South District. The low category (30 -45%) of literacy rate constitute 5percent of the total revenue blocks, then 28 percent of the revenue blocks have medium literacy rate (45 -60%). The high category (60 - 75%) of literacy rate occupies 45 percent of the revenue blocks of which 44 blocks are in the Namchi Sub-division and Ravongla Sub-division has 19 revenue blocks. Around 20 percent of the revenue blocks have very high rate (>75%) literacy rate.

The general characteristics of literacy rate in the district is that, southern part of the district i.e. Namchi Sub-division has higher rate of literacy than the Ravongla Sub-division as more number of blocks in the higher literacy rate are found in the Namchi Sub-division. Medium and low literacy are mostly observed in Ravongla

**SOUTH DISTRICT  
GENERAL UTILITY  
2001**



FlgTT

Sub-division. Nevertheless the literacy rate in the district is increasing. The highest literacy rate is found in Tinzer revenue block (86.1%) and lowest is found in the revenue of Burul (17%). The male literacy is highest in Omchu block (92%) and highest literacy rate is in Gumpa Gurpishey (77%). But much emphasis has to be given for more literacy rate increased especially in the northern part of the district i.e. Ravongla Sub-division, where the un-conducive conditions have been discourages the increase in literacy.

#### 2.4.1 Decadal Change of Literacy: (1981-2001);

Table 2.12 Decadal Changes of Literacy. South District.(1991-2001)

Year	Literacy in (%)	Decadal Changes	Male	Decadal Changes	Female	Decadal Changes
1981	34.19		41.63		18.87	
1991	46.18	35.06	51.03	22.57	34.36	80.02
2001	56.72	22.82	62.25	21.98	50.12	45.68

\*Source: Census of Sikkim. 1981, 1991 &2001.

Literacy rate in the South District has increased. Table 2.11 shows that there has been considerable improvement in literacy rate since 1981. It was 34.19 percent in 1981 which reached to 46.18 in 1991 and again it rose to 56.72 percent in 2001. The decadal changes of the literacy rate are 35.06 percent in 1981- 1991 and 22.72 percent in 1991-2001. The decadal change is different both the decades as it was more in the first decade and little lower in the next decades. The growth of literacy rate for both the sexes is also different. In the case of males it was 41.63 percent in 1981 and rose to 51.03 percent in 1991 and still increasing up to 62.25 percent in 2001. The growth of literacy rate in the male sex is gradual, where as in the case of females it is almost double in 1991 from 1981 ascending from 18.87 percent to 34.36 percent in 2001. The decadal changes of literacy rate for both males and females are also different. In the case of males it was rose to 22.57 percent during 1981 to 1991 and 21.98 percent during 1991 to 2001. But in the case of females it was 80.02 percent and 45.68 percent during 1981 to 1991 and 1991 to 2001 respectively. The general trend of literacy rate in the district is increasing and for both sexes it has a different trend. Female literacy rate is increasing more than male literacy rate.

## 2.5 DENSITY OF POPULATION

The density of population is one of the important determinants of man land ratio. In other words, it is the indicator of how much of pressure has been given upon the natural resources by man in a particular area. The picture of density of population in the South District is increasing means that the pressure on the natural resources of the district is also increasing due to various factors.

### SOUTH DISTRICT DENSITY OF POPULATION



Fig 2.b

The (fig2.b) reveals that the density of population in the South District is increasing as 44, 57 and 76 persons per km<sup>2</sup> in 1981, 1991 and 2001 respectively. The density of population is high in most of the revenue blocks and increasing decades after decades. Within the district northern portion of Ravongla Sub-division and north-eastern portion of Namchi Sub-division has lower density of population and southern parts of both the Sub-division have higher density of population.

### 2.5.1 Density of Population: 2001

Table 2.13 Density of Population, South District, Sikkim 2001

Persons per km <sup>2</sup>	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
< 100	Extremely low	15	10.25
100-200	Very low	40	27.45
200 - 300	Low	38	26.21
300-400	Medium	21	14.70
400 - 500	High	13	8.98
>500	Very high	18	12.41
Total		145	100.00

Source: Census of Sikkim, 2001

According to 2001 Census, in the South District, density of population varies from fewer than 100 persons per km<sup>2</sup> to more than 2000 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The extremely low and very high density of density of population is also not much. (fig2.5). Table 2.12 reveals that around 10 percent of the revenue blocks have extremely low (<100 persons per km<sup>2</sup>) of population. All of these revenue blocks are located in remote areas and are not easily accessible. They have been isolated by forested tracts or main drainage channel. Very low density of population (100- 200 persons per km<sup>2</sup>) occupies around 27 percent of the revenue blocks of the district. More than 26 percent of the revenue blocks have low (200 - 300 persons per km ) density of population. In Namchi Sub-division, the blocks which fall in this category are mostly found in the north eastern and north western parts and in Ravongla Sub-division they are located in the north eastern and south eastern parts. Around 15 percent of the revenue blocks have the density of population between (300 - 400 persons per km<sup>2</sup>). Most these blocks are located in the lower hills (600 - 1880mt), easily accessible and in the dry belt of the district. The high (400 - 500 persons per km ) density of population constitutes around 9 percent of the revenue blocks of the district. All of these revenue blocks are located in the lower hills altitude (< 600mt). In these revenue blocks, high density of road net work also helps the higher concentration of population. Almost 14 percent of the revenue blocks are in the very high (>500 persons per km<sup>2</sup>) density of population. Out of these 4 revenue blocks i.e. Gumpa gupishey, Bomtar, Singithang, Salghari, have high density of population due to nearness of district headquarters and Melli is being a smaller area and as well as it is the gate way of South District to the nearest metro city Sillguri. Most of the rural agricultural products like ginger, broom, cardamom are exported though Melli bazaar

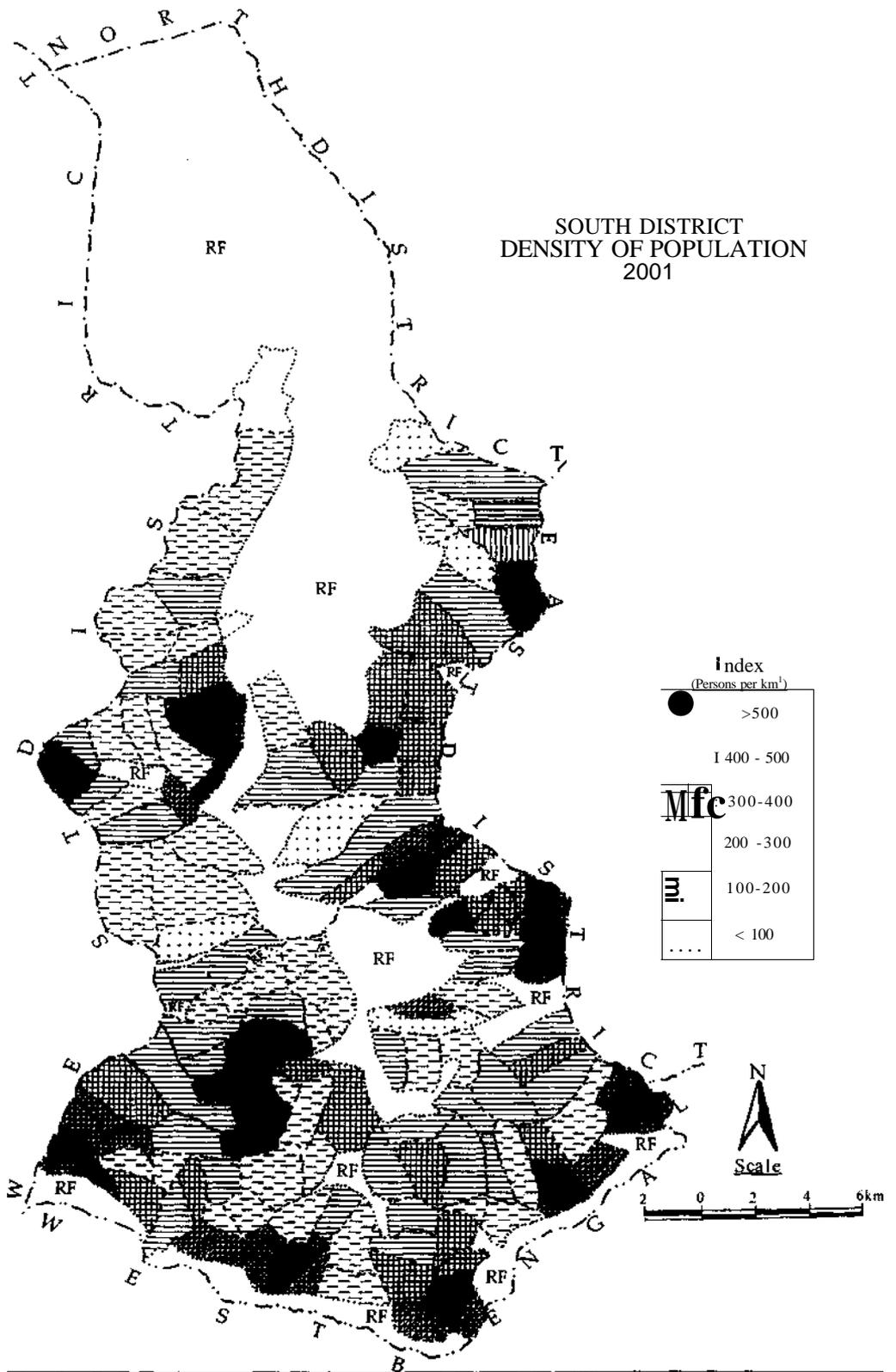


Fig 2.5

and location of two important factory of beer also help high concentration of population. Another block i.e. Mamring which is also has very high density of population is due to its emergence as industrial growth centre as location of factory like food packaging, mining and establishment of high security ink manufacturing. In South District transports and communications plays a vital role for the distribution of population. The low density of population in the district is accompanied by low accessibility and vice -versa.

## 2.6 POPULATION GROWTH

The study of human resources is very important for socio-economic and cultural development of a society. Man is the main movers and sacker of any society. The growth of population is adversely affected by the utilization of the natural resource and degree of exploitation. The basic components of natural population growth are mortality, fertility and migration.

Table 2.14 Decadal Growth of Population, South District 1981-1991 & 1991 -2001.

Change in (%)	Category	1981- 1991		1991 -2001		Changes 1981-1991 to 1991-2001
		No.of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %	No.of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %	
<10	Very low	7	5.18	12	8.88	71.42
10-20	Low	19	14.07	26	19.25	36.81
20-30	Medium	28	20.74	35	25.23	21.64
30-40	High	23	17.04	23	17.04	00.00
>40	Very high	50	37.04	33	24.44	-34.01
Negative Growth		8	5.92	6	4.44	-25.00
Total		135	100.00	135	100.00	

\* Source: (Census of Sikkim, 1981, 1991 & 2001)

### 2.6.1 Decadal Changes of Population: (1981 -1991)

The decadal growth rate of population in South District of Sikkim is high during the last three decades. During 1971 -1981, the changes of population were 42.85 percent, 29.78 percent in 1981-1991 and again 33.38 percent in 1991 -2001. The decadal growth of urban population is highest in 1991-2001 being 53.60 percent.

The growth rate of population for the last two decades is very different. Table 2.13 shows that there are 7 revenue blocks, which occupy 5.18 of the total revenue blocks, where the decadal change of population is very low (<10 %) in 1981- 1991.

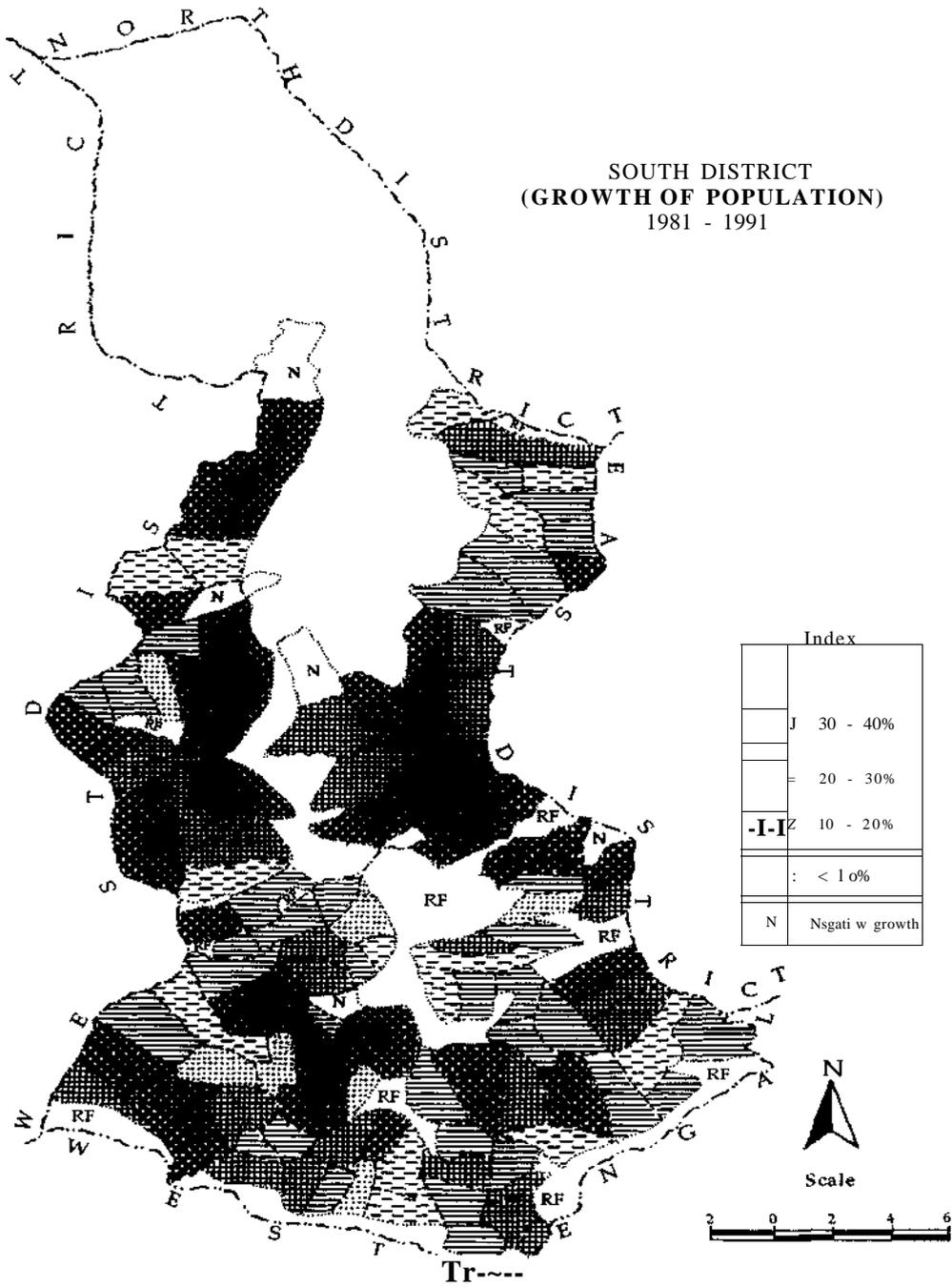


Fig 2.6

There are another 19 revenue blocks which recorded the low decadal growth of population (10 -20%) constituting 14.07 percent of total revenue blocks. Most of these revenue blocks are located in the western and central parts of Namchi Sub-division (fig.2.6) and western parts of Ravongla Sub-division. More than 20 percent of the revenue blocks have the decadal changes of medium (20 -30 %). Out of these, Namchi Sub-division has 23 revenue blocks and 5 revenue blocks are in Ravongla

Sub-division. Around 17 percent of revenue blocks are under the category of high (30-40%) decadal growth. The very high decadal growth (> 40%) has occupied more than 37 percent of revenue blocks. Besides, in the entire district there are 8 revenue blocks which have recorded negative decadal population growth in 1981-1991, constituting around 6 percent of the revenue blocks, these blocks are Rabikhola, rayong, Tokal, Sada, Ralong, and Rabong. During the decade, the highest growth rate of population is recorded in Shalghari in Namchi Sub-division and Barfung in Ravongla Sub-division. Both of these cases are due to inter- state migration.

### **2.6.1a Decadal Changes of Population: (1991-2001)**

The decadal growth population in this period (1991-2001) differs from the previous period (1981-1991). About 9 percent of the revenue blocks has recorded very low (< 10%) decadal growth. In the category of low (10 -20%) decadal growth in this period constitutes 19 percent of total revenue blocks. More than 25 percent of the revenue blocks are found in medium (20 -30%) decadal growth. These blocks are located in western, south western parts of Namchi Sub-division. The very high (> 40%) decadal growth has around 25 percent of the revenue blocks, Most of these revenue blocks have very high growth due to high rate of rural to rural and rural to urban migration in the case of Gumpa Gurpishey, Bomtar, Singithang, and development of educational institution as well as increased in road connectivity. In the case of Likship the construction of hydro-electricity plant by NHPC leads to high immigration of labours. In this period, there are 6 revenue blocks which has recorded negative growth rate; they are Turuk, Passi, Tinkitam, Ben, and Namphrik in both the sub-division, (fig.2.7)

This shows the rural to urban migration have an increasing trend in the district. The trend is more significant in the coming years as the pull factors of immerging town in the district is increasing, due to the development of towns and most of the infrastructure facilities are concentrated in the small town. The factors cause a vacuum in the rural areas especially in the labour sector, where most of the revenue blocks have facing the problems of acute labour shortage during the cultivating seasons.

**SOUTH DISTRICT  
(GROWTH OF POPULATION)  
1991-2001**

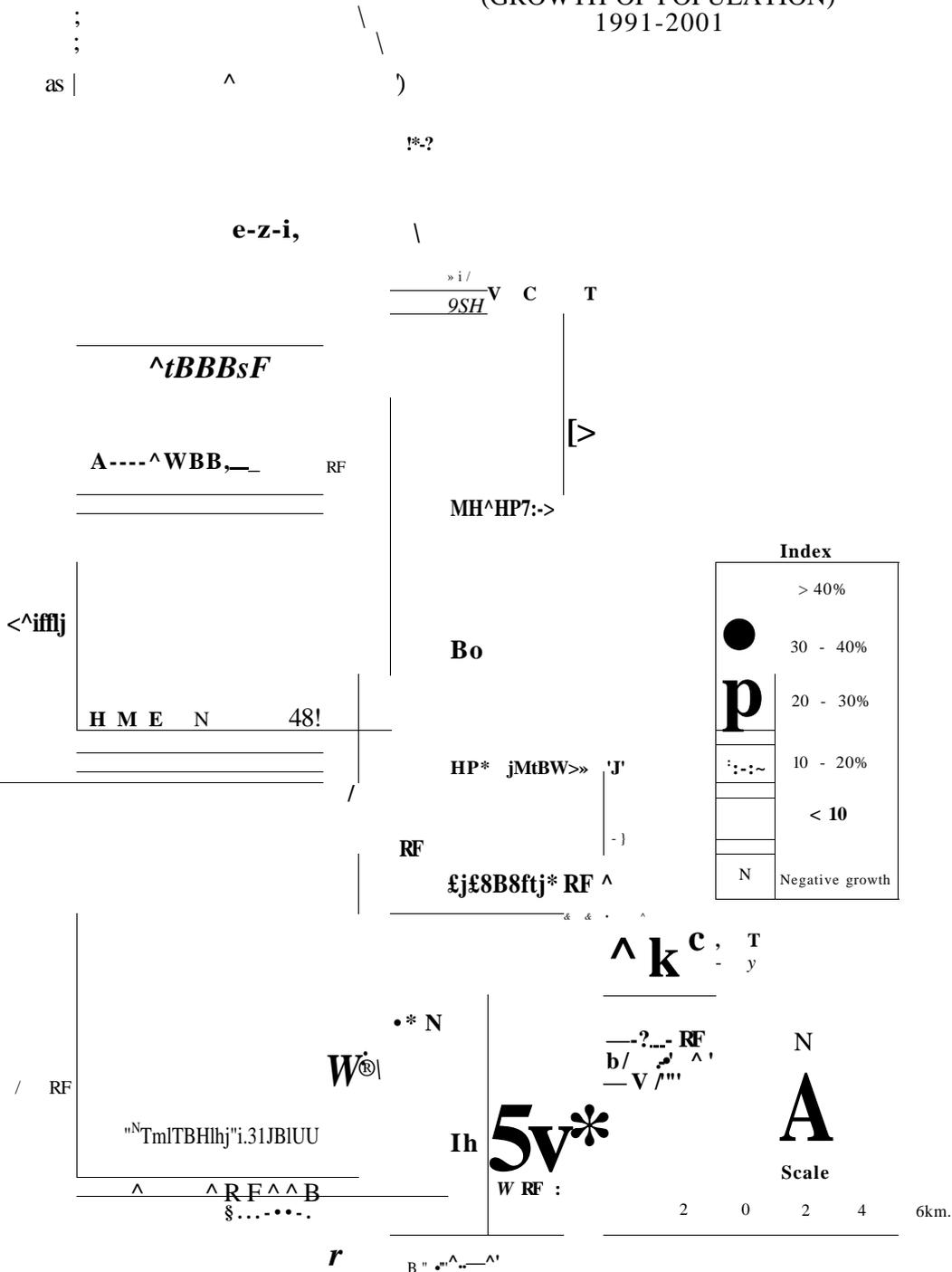


Fig 2.7

### 2.6.3 Changes of Population :( 1981-1991 to 1991-2001)

The comparison of the two decadal growth of population has revealed the following facts :-

- i). All the revenue blocks which have recorded negative growth during (1981-91) have changed to positive growth in (1991-2001)
- ii) In the very high category decadal growth rate of population in (1981 -1991), all the revenue blocks except three blocks have recorded negative growth in (1991-2001). These three blocks are Tern (51.02%), Deythang(52.19%) and Likship (54.97%) in 1981-1991, becoming (57.65%),(57.57%) and (20.70%) in 1991-2001. The changes percentage value of these three revenue blocks are (6.63%), (26.65%) and (152.03%) respectively.
- iii) Around 57 percent of the total revenue blocks which recorded positive decadal growth during 1981-1991 have witness negative growth of population in 1991-2001. The highest change in negative growth is recorded in Singithang block. It was (81%) during 1981- 1991 and (38.84%) in 1991-2001. Another revenue blocks which shows high negative growth is Barfung in Ravongla Sub-division having (87.52%) in 1981-1991 and (35%) in 1991-2001. Besides, these two other revenue blocks which have recorded negative growth but in low percentage are. Tinzer, Gom, Sumbuk.Suntalry etc.
- iv). More than 47 percent of revenue blocks have changed from positive to positive during 19981-1991 to 1991-2001. The highest positive to positive population growth during the period is recorded in Likship revenue block. Besides, Pajer, Gumpa Gurpishey, Kopchey ralong etc are some of the revenue blocks which also recorded positive to positive growth of population. The positive to positive growth of population is due to various factors exist in the district, like development of power glass factory at Bomtar, Hydro-power in Likship, carpet weaving in Barfung, Establishment of power glass factory in Bomtar, construction of industrial training centre at Shalghari, establishment of high security and copper mining at Manning initiate inter block migration. Besides emergence of rural market centre as well as tourist centre in some of the blocks.

## 2.7 WORKING POPULATION

The economically active population is known as working population. The study of working population is of immense significance for planning and development. Among the major factors responsible for low percentages of working force are high birth rate and consequent large portion of children below 15 years of age, prejudice against the female education, mobility, and employment. The composition of working population again varies with sex, residence and age. The disparity among participation of male and female are quite significant in the district.

Table 2.15 Working Population Revenue Blocks, South District, Sikkim 2001

Percentage	Category	No of revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<40	Very low	15	10.34
40 - 50	Low	18	12.41
50 - 60	Medium	58	40.00
60 - 70	High	38	26.21
>70	Very high	16	11.04
Total		145	100.00

\*Source: Census of Sikkim. 2001

According to 2001 Census, there are 10.34 percent of the revenue blocks which fall in very low category (< 40%) of working population. More than 13 percent of the revenue blocks have low (40 - 50%) working population, (fig. 2.8). Another 40 percent of the revenue blocks are under the category of medium (50 -60 %) working population. Out of these, Namchi-Sub-division has 38 revenue blocks and 20 revenue blocks are in Ravongla Sub-division. The high working population concentration (60-70%) ha occupied 26.21 percent of the total revenue blocks. Of these, 28 revenue blocks are found in Namchi Sub-division and 11 revenue blocks are in the Ravongla Sub-division. The very high participation of population in economically gainful activity has occupied 11.04 percent of the total revenue blocks of the district.

The over all picture of working population or participation ratio in the South District is that, Namchi Sub-division has high concentration of revenue blocks of high participation rate. The economic diversifications and comparatively high rate of urbanisation leads to high opportunities in Namchi Sub-division than the Ravongla Sub-division.

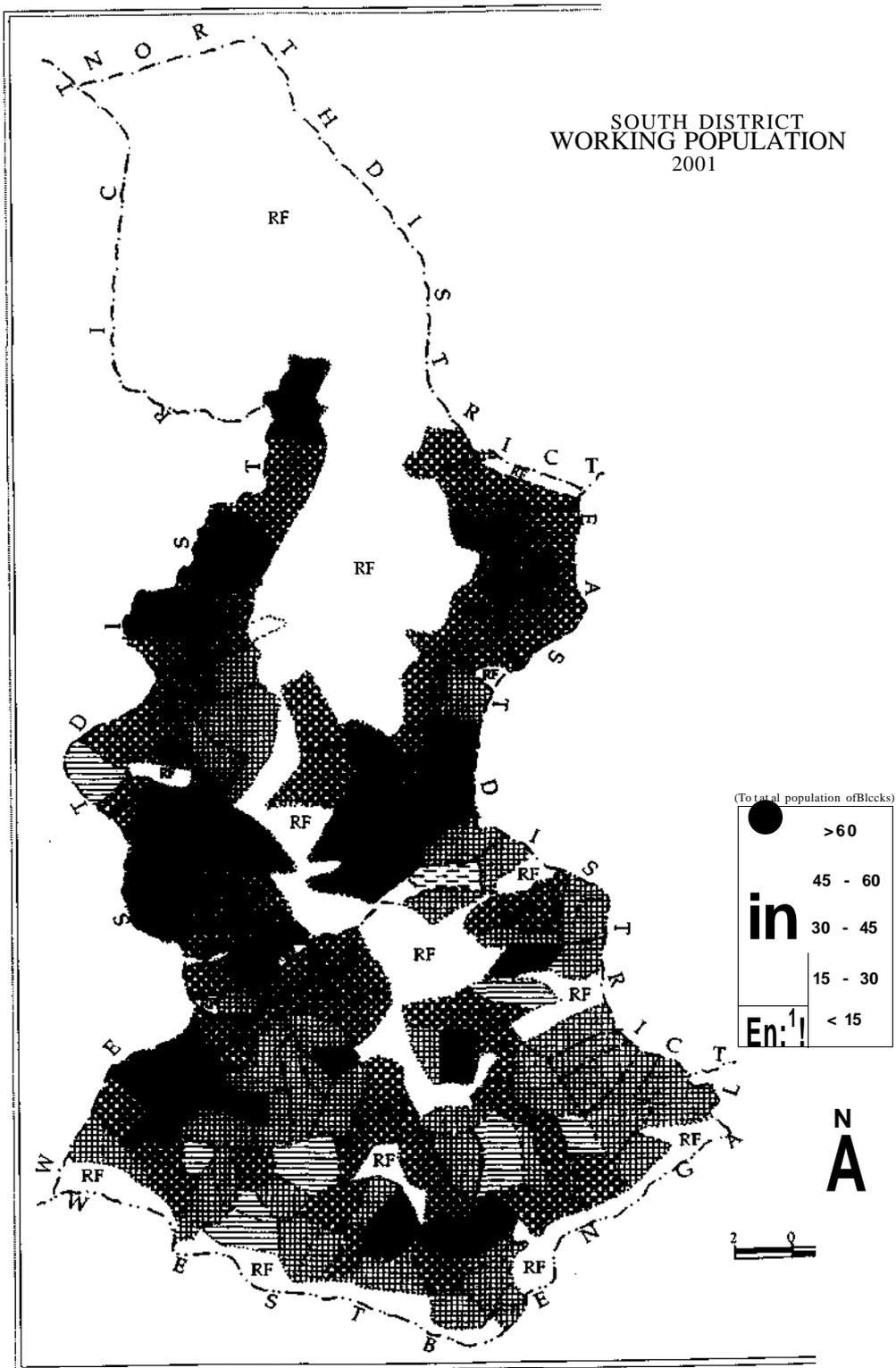


Fig 2.8

### 2.7.1 Decadal Change of Working Population: (1981-2001)

The decadal change of working population in the South District shows a fluctuating trend (Table 2.15), both yearly and as well as sex wise.



population for both the sub-division are 34.40% and 18.58 percent for Namchi and Ravongla Sub-division respectively.

Table 216. Decadal Change of Working Population, South District Sikkim (1981-2001)

Year	Total Changes	Changes in(%)	Male	Change in (%)	Female	Changes in (%)
1981	47.79	—	30.98	—	16.37	—
1991	42.12	-11.86	26.66	-13.94	15.46	-5.55
2001	52.98	+25.78	30.56	+14.62	22.42	+45.05

\* Source: Census of Sikkim. 1981,1991 & 2001

The sex difference in the working population is also observed in the district (fig.2.9) .In the case of males, it was 30.98% in 1981 and become 26.56%in 1991 decreasing almost 13.94 percent. In the same period, the females working population change was from 16.37% in 1981 to 15.46% in 1991 decreasing only 5.55%. In the decade of 1991 to 2001, male working population becomes 30.56% increasing around 23% from the previous decade. In the same period, the percentage of female working population is 45 percent increasing 22.22% from the previous decade.

The working population for both sexes has increasing trend in the district. Due to rapid expansion of educational facility and the communication, the change is very rapid in the case of female than male.

## 2.8 DEPENDENCY RATIO: 2001

It is very relevant to study about the dependency ratio while discussing the working population, because it is also another economic indicator and both are inter-related and interdependent.

Table 2.17 Dependency Ratio, South District. Sikkim 2001

Percentage	Category	No of Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<20	Low	2	1.48
20-35	Medium	29	21.48
35-50	High	76	56.29
>50	Very high	28	20.74
Total		135	100.00

\*Source: Census of Sikkim. 2001.

The revenue block wise dependency ratio is represented by Table 2.16. It reveals that there are only 2 blocks which fall in the low (<20%) category, occupying only more than 1 percent of the total revenue blocks. The medium category (20- 35%) dependency ratio has 21 percent of the blocks. Of these, Namchi Sub-division has 21 revenue blocks and Ravongla Sub-division has 8 blocks, (fig.2.10). the high dependency ratio (35-50%) has constituted more than 56 percent of the total revenue

SOUTH DISTRICT  
DEPENDENCY RATIO  
2001

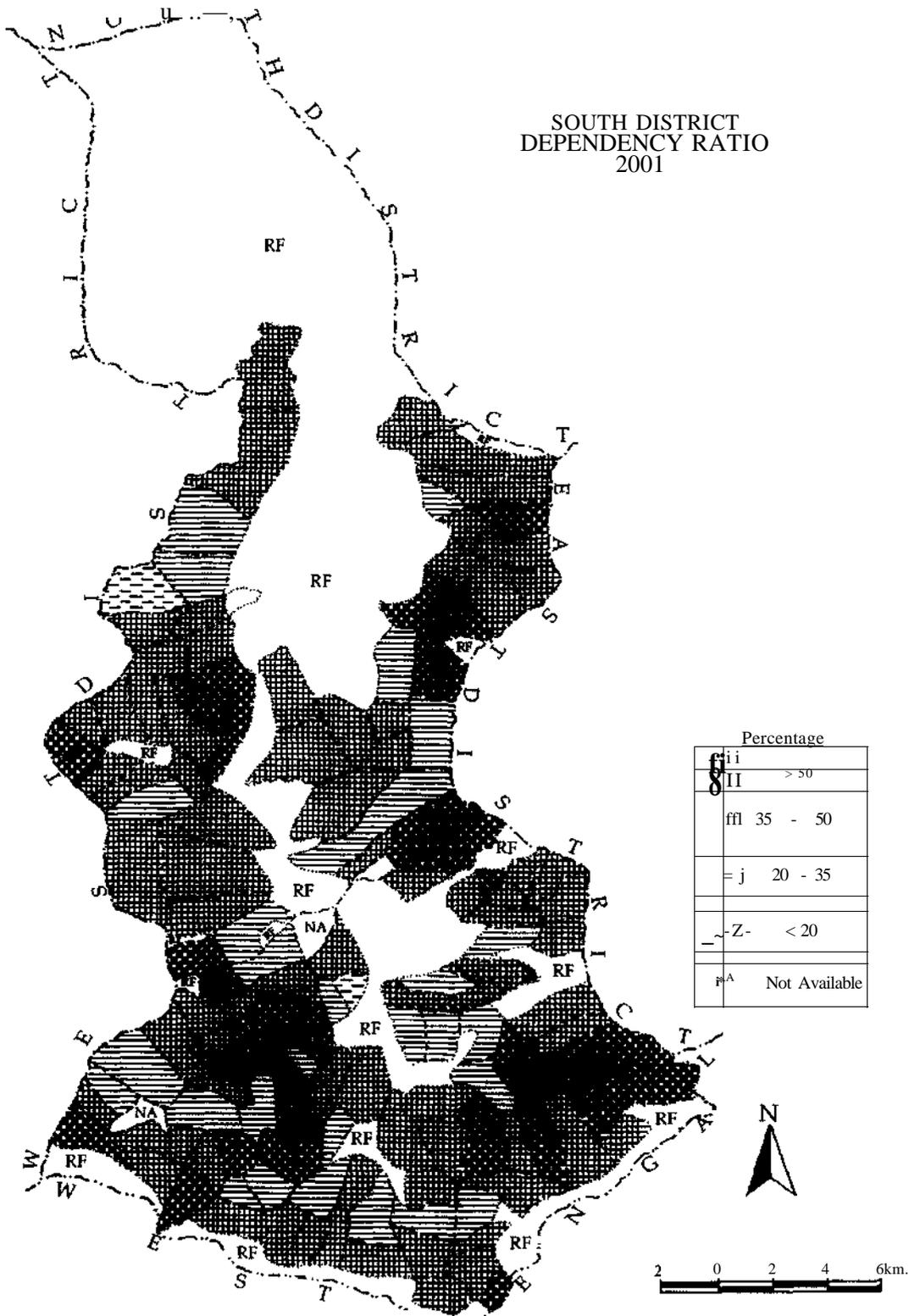


Fig 2.10

blocks. Out of these, Namchi Sub-division has 49 revenue blocks and Ravongla Sub-division has 27 revenue blocks. More than 20 percent of the revenue blocks are found in the very high category (> 50%). The dependency ratio in the district is very high because, the high and very high category together occupied more than 70 percent of the total dependency ratio.

### 2.8.1 Changes of Dependency Ratio: (1981-2001)

The decadal change of dependency ratio in South District shows ups and down for the last three decades (Table 2.17). In the year 1981, it was 49.66 percent to total districts population and it increased to 57.60 percent in 1991. The decadal change is (+15.98%). But the next decade change is negative as the total percentage in 2001 is 47% decreasing (-18.40%) in this period 1991-2001.

Table 2.18 Decadal Change of Dependency Ratio South District Sikkim.(1991-2001)

Year	Dependency Ratio.	Decadal change	Male	Changes	Female	Changes.
1981	49.66		22.63		27.03	
1991	57.60	+ 15.98	25.78	+13.97	31.82	+17.72
2001	47.00	- 18.40	30.55	+18.50	22.42	-29.54

•Source: Census of Sikkim 1981, 1991&2001

The dependency ratio for both males and females are also not similar. In the case of males it is decreasing continuously from 1981 to 2001 as the percentage was 22.63 percent in 1981, 25.78% in 1991 and 30.55% in 2001. The decadal change for male dependency, during 1981- 1991 is (+13.97) and (+18.50) in 1991-2001. Where as in the case of female, the trend is fluctuating as it was 27.03% in 1981, 31.82% in 1991 and 22.42% in 2001. The decadal changes during 1981-1991 was (+13.97) and (+18.50) in 1991-2001.

The over all scenario of dependency ratio in the district is that, those blocks where the literacy is very high, the dependency rate is also very high. Another important fact is that in those blocks where the female literacy rate is low the dependency rate is also low. It also true that the blocks which are located near by the sub-divisional headquarters the dependency ratio is high.

## 2.9 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

The occupational structure is also an important indicator of economic development. The South Districts occupational structure is mainly dominated by primary sector like other rural and remote areas of the county. The occupational

structure of the district is composed of primary, (cultivators, agricultural labours) secondary, (household industry) and tertiary workers (business, transport and communication and other white colour job). Table 2.18 represents the occupational structure of South District for the last two decades. The primary sectors of occupation occupied 73.81%, 75.70% and 74.51% 1981, 1991 and 2001 respectively. These indicate that the composition of primary occupation to the total population is fluctuating trend. And still more than 70 percent of the total population of district is depend on primary occupation.

**Table 2.19 Occupational Structure (South District) .2001**

Year	Primary			Secondary			Tertiary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1981	42.83	30.98	73.81	0.73	0.08	0.81	17.80	3.42	21.22
1991	42.70	33.00	75.70	0.53	0.03	0.54	17.10	6.66	23.76
2001	42.07	32.44	74.51	0.60	0.27	0.87	18.60	5.40	24.00

\* Source: Census of Sikkim. 1981, 1991 & 2001

The secondary occupation in the district has occupies negligible portion. This is may be due to lack of income generation opportunities and losing importance of traditional cottage industry. The composition in this sector for 1981, 1991 and 2001 were 0.81%, 0.54 and 0.87 respectively. But the tertiary sector of occupation occupies a sizable portion of working population. These were 21.22% in 1981 and 23.76 % in 1991 and again 24% in 2001. This is the only sector of occupation which has a steady increasing trend in the district.

The male and female participations in all the three types of occupation are also different. In all the sectors of economy male participation is more than the female percentage. Male participation in primary sector is decreasing from 42.83% in 1981 to 42.70% in 1991 further decreasing to 42.07% in 2001. Where as in the case in the case of female participation in this sector is fluctuating, from 30.90% in 1981 and increased to 32.85% in 1991 and again further increased to 33.62% in 2001. The third category of occupational structure both the participation rate of male and female is less than 1% in all the census years. The male participation in this sector for the last three consecutive decades i.e, 1981, 1991 and 2001 are 0.73 %, 0.51% and 0.60% respectively. But, the female participation rate shows different trend, it was 0.07 %, 0.03 % and 0.27% in 1981, 1991 and 2001 respectively. The participation in the tertiary sector of occupation for both male and female is more significant, because in this sector male have 17.08% in 1981, 17.13 % in 1991 and 18.60 in 2001. The

females occupied 4.14% in 1981, 6.33% in 1991 and 5.40% in 2001. An increased by female in this sector is significant in comparison to male percentage.

The facts and figure reveal that in all the three sectors of occupation male dominance is still observed in the district, except a sizable presence of females in the primary sector. This disparity is due to various factors, like less female literacy, social obligation of females to work outside or far away from home etc. In order to increase the female participation some women oriented policies like encourage girls education, establishment of women self help group, mass mobilisation for changing attitude for social obligation against the women and revival and encourage of traditional cottage industry, and training and support for small scale industry, like handloom and handicraft, tailoring and embroidery are to be encourage.

### 2.9.1 Primary Occupation (Cultivators)

Table 2.20 Percentage of Cultivators.(South District.2001)

Percentage	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<50	Very low	21	14.58
50-65	Low	10	6.94
65-80	Medium	30	20.83
80-95	High	62	42.38
>95	Very high	22	15.27
Total		145	100.00

\* Source: Census of Sikkim.2001

According to 2001 Census, Cultivators have large composition for most of the revenue blocks (fig.2.11). Around 15 percent of the revenue blocks are under the very low (<50%) cultivators category. Most these revenue blocks are located near the district headquarters. More than 6 percent of the revenue blocks have low (50 -65%) cultivators. Around 23 percent of the total revenue blocks have medium (65-80%) cultivators. The high cultivators (80 -95%) consists more than 42 percent of the total revenue blocks. Out of these 42 revenue blocks are in the Namchi Sub-division and another 21 revenue blocks in Ravongla Sub-division. The very high (>95%) category of cultivators have more than 15 percent of the total revenue blocks. (Table2.19)

The distribution of cultivators in the district has a unique trend that, the percentage that the percentage of cultivators is increased in places away from the sub-divisional headquarters. Most the very high concentration blocks of cultivators are located in the Ravongla Sub-division, which is comparatively remote and less develop in comparison with Namchi-Sub-division.



district. The highest male cultivators are found in Pamphok (98%) and the lowest is in Melli (2%).

## 2.9.2 Primary Occupation (Agricultural Labours)

Table 2.21 Percentage of Agricultural Labours (South District 2001)

Percentage	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Block %
< 1	Very low	33	22.80
1 - 2	Low	19	13.10
2 - 3	Medium	7	4.83
3 - 4	High	15	10.83
> 4	Very high	41	28.30
Nil		30	20.78
Total		145	100.00

- Source: Census of Sikkim. 2001.

The agricultural labourers had constituted a negligible portion in the working population of the South District (Table 2.21). There are more than 20 percent of the total revenue blocks where there is no agricultural labour. Out of these 18 revenue blocks are in the Namchi Sub-division and another 12 revenue blocks are in Ravongla Sub-division.. Another 20 percent of the total revenue blocks have very low (<1%) of agricultural labourers to their working population, of which 19 revenue blocks are in the Namchi Sub-division and 10 revenue blocks are in Ravongla Sub-division. In the category Suntaley revenue block has the lowest (0.01%). The second category of low (1-2%) agricultural labourers constitutes 23 percent of the revenue blocks of the district. Out of these Namchi-Sub-division has 13 revenue blocks and Ravongla Sub-division has 5 revenue blocks. The medium (2-3%) category of agricultural labours occupies 4.83 percent of the total revenue blocks. In the high agricultural labours category (3 -4%), there are 11 percent of the total revenue blocks. Another 28 percent are under the category of very high (>4%) agricultural labours.

The male and female composition percentage in agricultural labourers has also varied. There are 44 revenue blocks all together where the female agricultural labourers have out numbered the male. Deythang in Namchi Sub-division has the highest having 49.5 percent. And there are 45 revenue blocks where there is no female agricultural labour. Besides there is another 28 revenue blocks where there is no male agricultural labours.

### 2.9.3 Decadal Changes of Primary Occupation (1991 -2001)

Table 2.22 Decadal Changes of Primary Occupation, South District (1991-2001)

Changes in (%)	Increased		Decreased	
	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %	No of revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<20	20	15.00	15	11.11
20-30	10	7.41	7	5.00
30-40	11	8.20	4	3.06
40-50	09	6.70	5	3.70
>50	47	34.82	5	3.70
Total	99	72.53	36	27.47

\* Source: Census of Sikkim, 1991 & 2001.

Decadal Changes of primary occupation in South District is represented by the Table 2.22. It shows the general increased trend as the percentage of increase (72.53%) is more than decrease (27.47%). This figure reveals that still most of the working population of the district is constituted by the primary occupation i.e. (cultivators, and agricultural labours. It means that the main economy of the district is depends on agriculture. The highest increased in primary occupation is recorded 9 revenue blocks and lowest is found in 6 revenue blocks. The highest decreased is in the revenue blocks of Sorok, Kopchey, Paleytam, Kanamtek, etc. The lowest decreased is found in the revenue blocks of Singithang, Lingi, and Namphrik.

The trend shows unique characteristics that, those revenue blocks which are located near the peripheral areas of the town and district headquarters have recorded the low increased in primary occupation and the revenue blocks which are located far away from the towns and district headquarters have recorded high percentage of increase in primary occupation and vice-versa. Primary Occupation has the highest increased percentage among the occupational structure. This suggested two facts, one that there is need for strong policy and planning for development of agriculture and allied activities to strengthen the main economy of the district and two lack of opportunity leads to low diversification of occupational structure in the district.

### 2.9.4 Secondary Occupation (House hold industry)

The secondary economic activity (house hold industry) has also negligible portion to the total working population of the district. Table 2.23 reveals the variation of all the categories. Around 36 percent of the revenue blocks do not have any workers engaged in house hold industry and more than 26 percent of the revenue blocks are in the very low (< 0.5%) category. Of these revenue blocks, 24 are in the

Namchi Sub-division and 14 are in the Ravongla Sub-division. Another 13 percent of the total revenue blocks are in the category of low (0.5 -1.00 %) participation in house hold industry. Out of these 13 blocks are in Namchi Sub-division and 6 blocks are in the Ravongla Sub-division.

Table 2.23 Percentage of House Hole Industry (South District.2001)

Percentage	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<0.5	Very low	38	26.22
0.5-1.00	Low	19	13.10
1.00-1.50	Medium	09	6.21
1.50-2.00	High	04	2.76
>2.00	Very high	23	15.86
Nil		52	35.86
Total		145	100.00

\* Source: Census of Sikkim 2001.

The moderate category (1.00-1.50%) constitutes more than 6 percent of the revenue blocks. High (1.5 - 2.0%) and very high (>2.0%) category of house hold industry constitutes 2.76% and 15.86% of the revenue blocks of the South District respectively. Some of the important revenue blocks which fall in the very high category are Sorok, Manpur, saleumbung, Tangi etc. Most of these revenue blocks are found in Namchi Sub-division. One of the important facts of very high house hold industry is that, in these revenue blocks still traditional industry like carpet weaving, goldsmith, ironsmith are exist.

Like other sectors of economy, in the secondary occupation, the male and female participation ratio is also different in the district. There are 22 revenue blocks or more than 16 percent of, where the female percentage has out number the male. Another 71 revenue blocks or almost 50% of total revenue blocks in which the female participation in this sector of economy is nil. Again 37 percent of the revenue blocks have no male participation in the house hold industry. The picture of house hold industry in the district is very grime. The economy support by this sector in the district is very low.

#### **2.9.4a Decadal change of Secondary Occupation (1991- 2001)**

Table 2.24 represents the decadal changes of secondary (house hold industry) workers. It shows discouraging sign as the percentage of decrease has almost 39 percent in comparison to increase which has around 37 percent.

Table 2.24 Decadal Change of Secondary Occupation, South District (1991-2001)

Change in (%)	Increased		Decreased	
	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<50	7	5.60	9	7.00
50-60	1	0.74	3	2.22
60-70	4	2.96	9	7.00
70-80	2	1.56	5	4.20
>80	35	26.93	25	18.52
Total	49	37.74	51	38.26
Nil	24	17.72		
No Changes	7	5.60		

\* Source: Census of Sikkim 1991& 2001.

Another discouraging point is that number of revenue where not a single secondary worker is recorded is 24 or 18 % of the total revenue blocks. This trend indicates less importance or small scale, cottage and other type of house hold industries as well as lake of policies in the district. Besides another important fact is that, the number of revenue blocks where the secondary workers were recorded in 1991 Census, but not have a single secondary worker in 2001 is 18 revenue blocks. The highest increase of secondary worker is recorded in the revenue blocks of Chemchey, Maniram, Tangji, Karek etc. The highest decrease is recorded in the revenue blocks of Tingmo, Ramabong, Barfung, Bhakhim etc. the last two blocks is very important because traditionally carpet weaving industry is flourish, but these decreasing trend certainly effect further development of the industry.

The scenario of secondary occupation in South District is very pathetic as the number of persons in the traditionally secondary occupation dominated is decreasing.

### 2.9.5 Tertiary Occupation (Other workers)

The tertiary sector includes the construction, carpentry, trade and commerce, transport and communication, and storage. This sector of occupation occupies a sizable percentage of working population of the district. (Table2.25). There are more than 46 percent of the revenue blocks which are in the category of very low (< 10%) of tertiary worker in the South District. More than 24 percent of the total revenue blocks are in the low category (10-20%) of tertiary sector.

Out of which 26 percent of the revenue blocks are in the Namchi Sub-division and remaining 7 revenue blocks are in the Ravongla Sub-division. Around 12 percent

of the revenue blocks are in the moderate category (20 -30%) of tertiary workers to the total working population of blocks.

Table 2.25 Percentage of Tertiary Occupation, South District (2001)

Percentage	Category	No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<10	Very low	68	46.93
10-20	Low	35	24.56
20-30	Medium	17	11.27
30-40	High	05	3.45
>40	Very High	20	13.79
Total		145	100.00

\*Source: census of Sikkim.2001

About 3 percent of the revenue blocks fall in the category of high (30-40 %) workers composition to total revenue blocks. Some of the important blocks are Gom, Tokal, Hingdam etc. Almost 14 percent of the revenue blocks are in the category of very high (>40 %) concentration of other workers.

In this category of occupation the precipitation is dominated by male sex. Highest participation in this sector by female is found in Melli revenue block having 87.30% and lowest is in Nujameng with 0.60%. High male participation is found in Melli (94.2%) and lowest is in the revenue block of Rabitar (1.0%). Besides Babong, and Pamphok revenue block does not have any male participation in this sector of economy.

### 2.9.5a Decadal Change of Tertiary Workers (1991-2001).

The decadal change of tertiary workers in the South District is represented by table 2.26 and shows an encouraging trend. As the number of tertiary workers increase in 103 revenue blocks occupying 77.05 percent of the total revenue blocks. The revenue blocks which has recorded decreased in the tertiary is only 22.21 percent. The highest (> 80%) increase is found in 38 blocks of Wak, Pajer, Sorok etc.

Table 2.26 Decadal Change of Tertiary Workers, South District (1991-2001)

Change in (%)	Increased		Change in (%)	Decreased	
	No of revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocvks %		No of Revenue Blocks	Revenue Blocks %
<50	20	14.81	<10	4	2.96
50-60	11	8.15	10-20	8	5.92
60-70	16	11.85	20-30	5	3.70
70-80	19	14.07	30-40	3	2.22
>80	38	28.15	>40	10	7.40
Total	104	77.05		30	22.21
No charge	1	0.74			

\* Source: Census of Sikkim 1991&2001.

One of the important factors for the high increase in tertiary workers is due to the emergence of rural market centres as locally known as hat, which leads to expansion of trade and commerce in rural areas and infra- structural development of rural tourist centres. The highest decrease in tertiary sector is found in the revenue blocks of Bhakhim, Pabong and Rayong. Only a single revenue block do not have any in tertiary workers i.e. Mangzing. The over all scenario of the tertiary workers in south District is positive, but still more plan has to be work out for further development of this sector of economy, because this sector is the second largest economy next to the primary sector.

## **CONCLUSION**

The occupational structure shows that the economy of South District is entirely rural nature as in all the revenue blocks the percentage of primary (cultivator) sector of economy is very high. Another feature of primary occupation is dominance of females. The Agricultural labourers and House hold industry support lesser population and participation in this sector by female is very negligible. This leads to low income generation. There is no much diversification of economy in the district. The third sector of economy i.e. tertiary has sizable population but it is also rural nature, most of the tertiary worker is concentrated by public employment. The district needs agro-base industrial development policies for more diversification in occupational structure for more sound economic development. Lack of proper planning and policies leads the declining of even the carpet weaving industry which is one of the traditional cottage industries of the district. Some of the important fields where the economy can be diversified are horticulture, floriculture, cultivation of herbal medicinal plant, wood carving and rural tourism. Besides, strengthening of agricultural sector of economy is very urgent.

Another feature is that the South District is the second mostly densely populated district in Sikkim. The growth rate is also very high but growth rate between the sexes is also different, females have higher than males. The population pressure or man land ratio is very high only next to east district. The economy is entirely rural in character as the participation rate is very high in primary occupation like cultivation, agricultural labourers, and lumbering and forestry among the working population. Female participation in agricultural and allied activities is also high. The other sectors of economy like tertiary house hold industry have low participation.

Lack of diversification in other leads t high dependency rate. The dependency ratio is second highest among the four district of the state. The distribution of population is uneven as some blocks have higher concentration of population as exemplified in the blocks like Bomtar, Singithang, Likship, and Barfung. Some of the blocks where the population pressure is very negligible as the physical conditions discourage the high concentration of population. This leads to regional imbalance in development among the blocks. Besides, those blocks with high population pressure are facing the problem of deforestation, landslide, soil erosion and acute shortage of dinking water. There arise the question of positive planning and policies, like diversification of job, encouragement of scientific methods of cultivation and water harvesting etc. Otherwise the district will become the over- crowded hilly town like Kalimpong and Darjeeling which have been facing the environmental problems. The problem of rural migration is also manifested as severe problem. This problem leads to the analysis and utilization of one of the important resources of the district i.e. land resources and it exploitation by main economic sector agriculture which will be delineated in the next chapters.