



Manipuri Settlements in the Hojai District of Assam

Rakesh Singha
Department of History
Assam University

Abstract :- It is an effort to learn more about the Manipuris' history of settlement and migration in this area. Their current composite identity is directly linked to their history of settlement. The study employed both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources were gathered through field study in Hojai district and its surrounding areas. Questionnaires were distributed and interviews were conducted with the local laity and dignitaries. The information, thus, collected were corroborated with the secondary sources collected from numerous published articles and books. Thus, a comprehensive account of the Manipuri history was formulated. The district of Hojai shall be the only area covered by the article. Hojai district is a district in Assam in India lies between $92^{\circ} 51' 59''$ E. long. and $26^{\circ} 0' 24''$ N. lat. Actually this district was a part of Nagaon district and it was newly formed on 15 August 2015 and became a separate district holding the three tehsils of Nagaon district, namely Hojai, Doboka and , Lanka. This district is situated in the southeastern part of the Nagaon district and surrounded by Mikir hills which at present known as Karbi Anglong District in the East, West, South and North-East part. The major river of this district is Kapili and Jamuna which act as an important resource for their livelihood. The total area of Hojai district is $1,686 \text{ km}^2$ with a total population of 931,218 according to the census report of 2011.

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I. Introduction

People migrate when they relocate from one location to another in quest of better opportunities and a higher quality of life. Push factors and pull factors are the primary causes of migration. Push factors are the motivations behind someone's decision to relocate. Their own experiences living in one place provide them a compelling reason to depart from that area at a specific moment. Frequently, push factors are viewed as adverse events like unemployment, droughts, flooding, conflict, etc. Pull factors, on the other hand, are the anticipations that draw people to a new location. They are typically viewed as positive things, such as improved prospects, a higher standard of living, etc. These two factors are the key subjects of this particular issue, and they are linked to one another. Movement comes in a variety of forms, including emigration, immigration, domestic migration, international migration, and rural-urban migration, among others. But in this section, we'll talk about and emphasize immigration more. Generally speaking, it is accepted and demonstrated that the people of Manipur moved and resided in the Barak valley about the 18th century before gradually beginning to move toward the Nagaon district, including Hojai, Lanka, etc. Nagaon district was actually split off to become Hojai district.

The Dimasa tribe is the source of the word "Hojai." Hojai, often spelled Hojaisa, refers to the priestly caste of the Dimasas, as well as the region they resided. The Meitei (Manipuri) community, which has a population of 1.31% according to the 2011 census data, is one of many tribes, including the Dimasas, that still inhabit the area in sizable numbers.

Origin of the Manipuris

There aren't many facts about the Manipuri's ancestry that can be studied or understood in terms of their ethnic development. Since the Manipuris' skin tone and physical characteristics are so close to those of the mongoloid race, some contemporary researchers have claimed that they are members of the Mongoloid 'Tai' race, which appears to be literally accurate. The Manipuri(Meitei) Community, according to T.C. Hodsun, is made up of the phrases "Mei" and "Tei," which literally translate to "distinct man." The Manipuri Royal Chronicle, or Cheitharol Kumbaba, claims that Nongda Lairal Pakhangba's rule in 33 A.D. marked the beginning of the Manipuri community's ascent. It was said that pakhangba could assume the forms

of many animals thanks to his supernatural ability. He is regarded as the Manipuri (Meitei) community's lord. As a result, the Manipuri people believed that they were Pakhangba's offspring.

The Manipuri Puran, Puiroithun Khunthukpa, which was composed in the third century, claims that the Manipuris are derived from the Aryans. According to the Puiroithun Khunthukpa account, the Manipuri people were able to save themselves in the hills during the first century's severe flooding of the state of Manipur. There were not enough qualified candidates for the position of king among the various groups once the flood subsided.

Then-chief of the Ningthowja group from the Ongum group, Pakhongba, and Puiroithun from the Khabanganba group were the two candidates put forth by their respective tribes to take the head. In that battle to ascend to the throne, Pakhongba won. But most experts concur that the Manipuris are ancestors of the Mongoloid race. . (M.S Khan 2008)

The Manipuris or Meitheis are recognized as belonging to the Mongoloid race due to physical traits like hair color, body type, skull shape, etc. Vadra claims that they are descended from the Kuki-China group of the Tibet-Brahma branch of the Mongoloid race. The vast majority of scholars concur with this justification, according to Sheram (1996). The Manipuris, however, have also assimilated other characteristics from Aryans and other races. (Sheram, 1996).

As a result, many people believe that the Manipuri culture is a fusion of three different cultures, including Aryan, Mongolian, and Manipuri (Sheram, 1996). As Mathew argues, the threads that make up Manipuri culture are gathered from a variety of historical periods and other, both ancient and current, cultures. They were all woven together to create a single, rich, and colorful Manipuri (Singh, 1962).

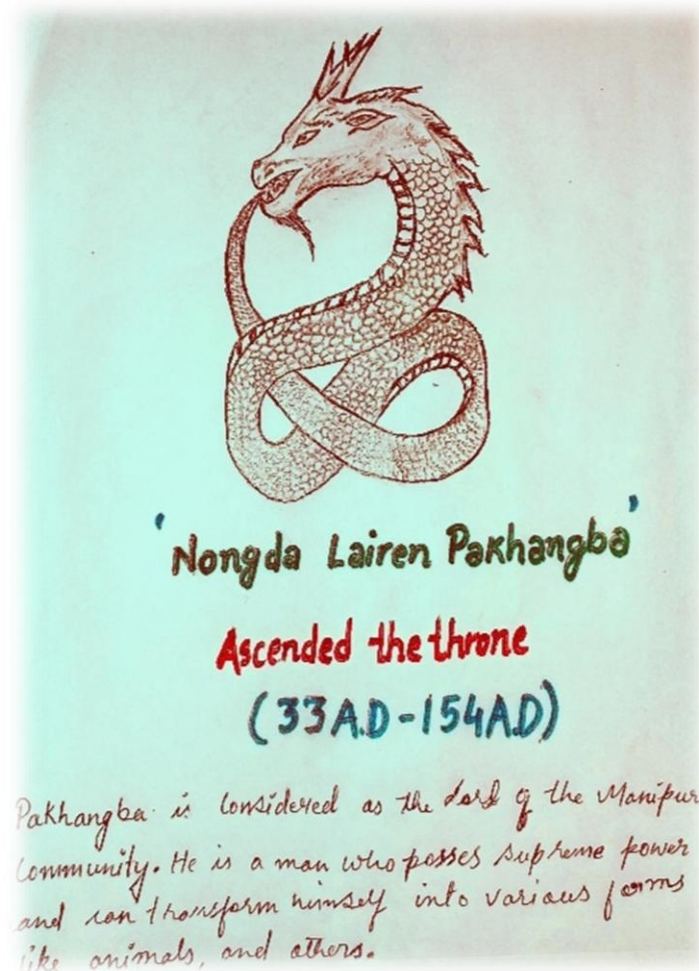


Figure 1. Recreation of Pakhangba (source: Rakesh Singha)

It is believed that the Manipuri (Meitei) Community are the children of 'Nongda Lairen Pakhangba'. During his rule he introduced the Yek Salai system which is still followed today. The term 'Yek' is derived from the word 'Yekpa' which means paint, and it is amalgamated with seven different colours. Whereas 'Salai' is derived from the word 'Sandokpa' which means spreading in terms of population.

There are seven Yek Salai in the Manipuri community and they are Mangang, Luwang, Khuman, Angom, Moirang, Khaba Nganba, Sarang Leisangthem etc.

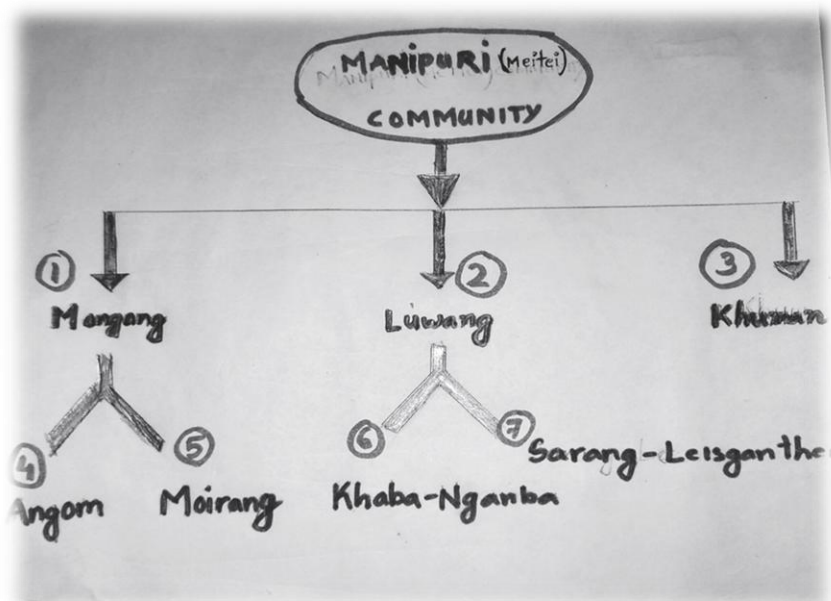


Figure 2. Manipuri Clan Distribution (source: Rakesh Singha)

Besides, this seven Salai has their own swords which display their respective clans.



Figure 3. Swords of seven Yek/Salais (source: Rakesh Singha)

First Stage of Migration

The migration of Manipuris to the Barak valley and the Hojai district occurred between the 18th and early 19th centuries, according to well-established records and geographic locations. The majority of these migrants were Manipuri descendants who moved to various parts of northeast India and established themselves in accordance with their beliefs. It is well known that during the Burmese conquest of Manipur (1819–1826), this people's main exodus started. As a result of Manipur's fertile valley, the Burmese have long had the desire to occupy the region. Burma has repeatedly attempted to annex Manipur, as demonstrated by the evidence. However, under the reign of Maharaja Marjit Singh, it was the year 1819 when the massive Burmese forces invaded Manipur. Chaos and unhappiness spread throughout the state of Manipur as a result of this invasion. As a result, this time in Manipur's history is referred to as "Chahi Taret Khuntakpa" or "Seven Years Devastation" and is regarded as a gloomy period.'(S. Bebita Devi 2011).

Following this destruction, a sizable population of Manipur residents moved to the valley of Barak and settled there with their Princess. In addition, because it is crucial to understand the migration in phases, a later illustration of Manipuris migrating to the hojai district will be provided. The migration of the Barak Valley is therefore addressed first and foremost. The three Manipuri princesses—Chowrajit, Marjit, and Gambhir Singh—measured out or distributed cachar among themselves according to who was the most powerful in Manipur. The eldest of the three princesses, Prince Chowrajit, ruled over the eastern portion of Tillain Hill and established himself in Dugripar. Marjit, the princess of Manipur's second brother, ruled Hailakandi from Jaribond, and Gambhir Singh, the third brother, ruled over the western portion of Tillain Hill and established himself in Gumrah. In light of this, it may be seen that Cachar initially seemed to be a long Manipur. (S. Bebita Devi 2011)

Second Stage of Migration

The Second Stage of Migration in the Hojai District and the Manipuri Migration in the Barak Valley are both intimately related to the Seven Years Devastation. People from the Barak Valley began to move sporadically in this direction after a few years. The lack of economic stability and the scarcity of agricultural land was the pull force that caused this exodus. They therefore looked for better living conditions in order to survive. (Naorem Sanajaoba 2005)

II. Literature Review

K. Ebungohal(2006) in his article *Assam gi Brahmputra Tampakta Meiteisingna Khundaraba* mention about the migration of the Manipuris from Manipur via Barak valley and Hojai district which lies on the Brahmputra valley. The Seven Years Devastation which occurred in the Manipur valley had tremendously changed the scenario of Manipur which resulted in the trend of migration from Manipur to the valley of Barak as well as Brahmputra valley. It also depicts about the settlements of the Manipuris with a large number of population including the first settlers of the villages respectively.

D.r Karam Ibungohal in his book *Meeteigi Nat Amasung Puwarigi Wareng Khara* mention about the migration of the Manipuris in the Hojai district. He gave his main focus on the process of migration of the Manipuri community who started their journey from Manipur via Barak to the valley of Brahmputra. He also depicts about the villages which was established during the pre and post independence period and acquired their position.

S. Bebita Devi (2011) in his book *Manipuris in Barak Valley* remark about the 'Seven Years Devatation' known as Chahi Taret Khuntakpa.'which occurred due to the invasion of Burmese in the year 1819. Besides,this she also highlights about the kings of Manipur who once holded their position in the Barak valley by distributing three district i.e Cachar, Hailakandai and Karimganj district etc.

Naorem Sanajaoba (2005) in his book, *Manipur Past and Present: The Ordeals and Heritage of a Civilization, Vol-IV, Pan-Manipuris In Asia and Autochthones*,depicts about the

III. Objectives

The study includes the following objectives:

- To understand the Origin of the Manipuris
- To trace the Migration of the Manipuris from Manipur to Barak Valley and Hojai
- To examine the formation of villages during pre and post independence period
- To find out the number of Manipuri villages which still exist today in the Hojai district..

Manipuri migration in the district of Hojai

As In the history of humanity, migration has occurred frequently. Migration comes in many forms, but it primarily refers to the movement of individuals from one location to another. like emigration, immigration, and other forms of internal and exterior mobility, etc. Regarding the outcome of migration, it is evident that during various periods of time, there was a process of change in natural activities, including political, social, and cultural developments, which each had a bearing on the process of migration. In a similar vein, the background of the history of Manipuri migration in the district of Hojai had extensive causes and situations that drove them to move in this specific place.

As a result, the focus of this chapter is mostly on the occasions and conditions that prompted the Manipuri population to move to the Hojai district. Most significantly, if we get a peek of the Manipuri community's movement in this specific area, we can identify a number of factors that contributed to their migration. Political, economic, or other factors could be at play. It is important to learn about Manipur's past in order to have a better understanding of this exodus.

First and foremost, the widely held belief is that these were the genuine Manipur migrants who were said to have left during the "Seven Years Devastation" and earlier. A Statistical Account of Assam, Census of India, 1872, according to W.W. Hunter, it was mentioned in his narrative that a few Manipuris made Assam their permanent home in the Nowgong district during the reign of the Ahom Dynasty. They had lived there separately by establishing their own villages. time. Additionally, the marriage of the Ahom ruler Raja Rajeswar Singh and the princess of Manipur Kuranganayani, a descendant of Jai Singh, is clearly documented in the Buranjis of Assam. The Ahom ruler and the Manipuri king were said to have had cordial relations while the Ahom ruled Assam. In addition, there were marriage ties between the two kingdoms at that time. This means that it is obvious that there has always been good ties between the two states. (N.Sanjaoba 2005)

Moving on, the Manipuri people in Assam primarily migrated to the Hojai area and Barak valley. The Manipuri people initially settled in the Barak Valley, but over time, because of a shortage of arable land and the volatility of the economy, they were forced to transfer and establish themselves in this area (Hojai). (N.Sanjaoba 2005)

This settlement can be divided into two stages

Migration to Hojai: First Stage

The Barak Valley's natives (Manipuri community) began to slowly move into the district of Hojai in the middle of the 19th century after the construction of a railway line connecting the Barak Valley and the Brahmaputra Valley. According to a report, Thongkratabam Gaurachand Sharma and Rajkumar Sanajaoba once traveled to Jamunamukh in the year 1902 from Jaribond, a village located in the Barak Valley. At the time, there was a shortage of agricultural land, which caused hardships for the locals. (N.Sanjaoba 2005)

In response to this, Rajkumar Sanajaoba and Gaurachand Sharma traveled to the Jamunamukh region. They eventually came back to this location and made it their permanent home in the year 1907. A significant portion of the Manipuri community from the Barak valley gradually relocated to this area. The area was entirely covered in forest after they arrived in this region, i.e. Hojai. As a matter of fact, if we look at Manipuri society, we will see that this people tends to like to settle down close to the riverbank. The explanation for this is because rivers serve as resources for people, including for transportation, fishing, and agricultural purposes. They also constantly work to keep their surroundings clean since they care a great deal about their health and hygiene. (N.Sanjaoba 2005)

Regarding the aforementioned claim, these group of people established permanent settlements close to the banks of the rivers Jamuna and Kapili by creating their own villages. Villages started to appear in this area more frequently over time, gradually increasing in number. After a couple of years, numerous communities grew. As a result, the Manipuri people asked the chief commissioner of Shillong to approve land for these migrants from the Barak valley in a memorandum that was written by Gaurachand Sharma and Rajkumar Sanajaoba on their behalf. (N.Sanjaoba 2005)

Initially, they had met King Churachand of Manipur and requested a new village at Hojai before their trip to Shillong. In this regard, King Churachand extended support and cooperation in the formation of Manipuri village in the area of Jugijan with all of his heart. Under the direction of Rajkumar Sanajaoba, a group of people consisting of 12 members from each house founded Rajbari Village in the year 1927. (N.Sanjaoba 2005)

List of Manipuri villages and their settlements in different parts of Hojai District

1. **Jugijan Rajbari** :- This village was established nearly in the year 1927 and it was believed to be the first village i.e established by Gaurachand Sharma and Rajkumar Sanajaoba. There are 162 houses with the total population of 980 (Ibunghol 2016).
2. **Radha Nagar Gocherra** :- In the year 1932 a person called Paonam Indramani from Cachar visited this region and established a newly village in 1940. In this village there are 26 houses with the total population of 150.
3. **Jugijan Bazar** :- In the year 1979, Irom Naba and Thongatabam Nandakishore Sharma first established this village with total number of 5 houses. At present the total population of this village is 35.
4. **Sibpur** :- In the year 1928 few person from Cachar Krishnapur namely Namairakpam Thambou, Sagothabam Thambaljaou, Moirang Lakhan, Moirangthem Manu and Naorem Krishnamani established this village with a total number of 76 houses with the total population of 350.
5. **Shantipur** :- In the year 1989 Ngangom Barchan d from Krishnapur Cachar district and Machanupa Bulu, Yengkhom Gaurachand had established this village which comprises of 32 houses with total population of 120.
6. **Bishnupur** :- This village was established in the year 1930 and this village comprises of 145houses with the total population of 950.
7. **East Bishnupur** :- This village was inaugurated around 1959-60 by Ngathem kaboklei, Seram Shashimohan, Khaidem Bulu, Nongthombam Hari, Naorem Bira singh also assisted in establishing this village. There are total 30 housers with the total population of 175.
8. **Mainapathar**:- This village is situated near the Hojai town and it was established in the year 1941 by Aheibam Tombabu, Mutum Kalachand, Lairenbam Chandra Mohan who hailed from the Cachar district and settled here.
9. **Dhani Nagar** :- This village is situated around 2km away from Hojai town and it was believed that it was inaugurated by the people who hailed from Cachar and Manipur. However, there is no available records for the establishment of this village. There is total 60 number of houses with the total population of 300 (Ebunghol 2016).
10. **Amtala** :- Initially in the year 1930 this village was inaugurate by the few members who turned out from Cachar district and settled down in this region. It is said that in the year 1952 Maharaj Bodhachandra from Manipur visited Amtala and set his foot in this place. So, the resident of this village considered is visit to be a precious one. There are total 100 number of houses with total population of 900 respectively.
11. **Kalinagar** :- In the year 1929 Touremjam Gaurachand, Moirangthem Luka Singh and Laurembam Chandra from Cachar district had set their foot in a place called 'Jugijan' Rajbari and resided there for a while, and made a establishment of this village. There are total 187 number of houses with total population of 900.
12. **Vidyanagar** :- In the year 1928 a few people from Cachar visited this place and resided for a certain period of time. Further, they had made the establishment of this village in the year 1932. There are total 70 number of houses with the total population of 350.
13. **Udaipur** :- In the year 1930 from Cachar district namely Seram Kunjeshwar, Seram Nadia from Tuko at present Ramnagar and Konsam Kamdev said to be established this village. There are total 140 number of houses with the total population of 650.
14. **Gochara** :- This village was established in the year 1935 and the people who assisted in order to set up this village namely Thangjam Lairen , Naorem Krishna etc.. There are total 110 number of houses with the total population of 750.

15. **Gobinpur** :- This village was established in the year 1929 and the people who helped out to raise this village namely Huirangbam Daya , Laishram Baba and Mutum Babu etc..There are total 60 number of houses with total population of 350 respectively.
16. **Dariya Basti** :-First and foremost this village was established in the year 1936 by Salam Nandababu, Salam Khelu, Konsam Amar and others. At present there are total 50 number of houses with the total population of 300.
17. **Gaurnagar** :- This village was situated near the Hojai town and it was established around 1939 by Lairenjam Pramanand, Thongatabam Mohan Sharma and Taourem Tonjao etc. As per records there are total 150 number of houses with the total population of 1005 respectively.
18. **South Udaipur** :- This village was established in the year 1936 by Maisnam Sagar. This Manipuri village is 4km away from Hojai town. At present there are total 75 number of houses with the total population of 350.
19. **Moinapur** :- This village was established in the year 1938 and the name of the first settlers of this village was Karam Lafoi, Yengkhom Gaur. It was said that that before this village comprises of maximum population but after a period of time they shifted to another village. At present there are only few number of houses i.e 4 with the total population of 32.
20. **Kathaltali** :- This village was first established in the year 1944 by some of the Manipuri people. Due to occurrence of some incident in this village it was disrupted badly and disappeared for a while. After some period of time, the karbi tribe which belongs to Karbianglong district refused to settle down the Manipuri people because they declare that this region passes across from their district. Subsequently, in the year 1947 with the assistance of government just after one year i.e in the year 1948 there was a foundation of this village. Here are the name of the people who initiated in the formation of this village namely Thangjam Anganton, Chongtham Ganga, Takhellambam Ibunghal, Laifrakpam Chandra, Laifrakpam Tamphajao who came from Cachar district. At present there are total 75 number of houses eith the total population of 900.
21. **Biding** :- This village was established in the year 1966 by the people who came from Cachar district namely Mutum Musinbabu, Mutum Babaton, Keisham Lalit and others. At present there are total 16 number of houses with the total population of 108.
22. **Thambalhaubi** :- This Village is situated around 3km away from Hojai town and established in the year 1946. The name of the settlers who settle first in this village are Koizam Phulo, Naorem Kamal, Naorem Ibocha, Naorem Babaton, Koizam Ahanjao and others. At present there are total 30 number of houses with the total population of 200.
23. **Kalakhun** :- It was said that Huiрем Kala and Laishram Tomal from Sribar Cachar district had first made their settlement in this village. Moreover, after some period of time few settlers from Cachar district Kaptanpur, Laiskhun, Malugram, and also from Jaribond Hailakandi district came and settled in this village. This village was established around 1931 and it was cited that the name of this village is named after Huiрем Kala which later came to be known as Kalakhun. At present there are total 48 number of houses with the total population of 300.
24. **Rampur** :- Around 1939-40 a few settlers from Hailakandi district Madaripar set their foot in this village and made their settlement. At present there are total90 number of houses with the total population of 470.
25. **Golaghatiya** :- It is said that Moirang Mayum Tonjao and Abiranchingban migrated along with their family From Cachar district and took their settlement. This village was established in the year 1929. At present there are total 25 number of houses with the total population of 115.
26. **Komorakata** :- It is a small Manipuri village situated near the Hojai town.Thokchom Lakshin along with their family members shifted from Udaipur and established this village in the year 1969. At present there are only few number of houses with the total population of 18.
27. **Haritila** :- It is informed that Wangkhemayum Hari Singha from Borbil Cachar district migrated along with their family and established this village around 1969. At present there are only few number of houses with the total population of 31.

- 28. MoinaPathar Gochara** :- This Manipuri village is situated around 5km away from Hojai town and it was established in the year 1984. It is cited that the first settler of this village was Yumnam Padma and Yumnam Rajbihari respectively. At present there are only 58 number of houses with the total population of 300.
- 29. Tongia (Shalbagan)** :- This village was first established in the year 1953 by Mohammad Ismai, Mohammad Rahmat Ullah, Abdul, Ramizuddin, Moniruddin and others. It is said they are the migrants of Baskandi Cachar district who came along with their family and settle down in this village. At present there are total 165 number of houses. Actually this village comprises of two communities i.e Manipuri Muslim and Manipuri(Meitei) with the total population of 385 (Manipuri Muslim) and 390 (Manipuri Meitei).
- 30. Nandapur** :- In the year 1929 Koizam Nanda and many others from Cachar district had set their foot in this place. As a matter of fact it was believed that the village N andapur was named after Koizam Nanda. As a result this village came to be known as Nandapur. There are total 220 number of houses with the total population of 1450.

Migration to Hojai: Second Stage

Regarding the second stages of migration in various areas of the Hojai district, it is made evident in the aforementioned remark how these Manipuri people began their migration from Kangleipak Manipur to the Barak valley and stretched their settlement towards Hojai. Since there isn't enough land in this area and the population is growing quickly, locals have been considering expanding their village. Because of this, they gradually began to expand their settlement in the direction of Lanka Revenue Circle. First and foremost, they constructed a number of villages, including Baluhandar, Kashipur, Dablang, and others, during 1933–1934 as they started to settle down. (K. Ibungohal 2016)

List of the Manipuri Villages and their Settlements under Lanka Revenue Circle

- 1. Rajbari** :- Around 1945 a few people from Lupabari Cachar district and Jaribond Hailakandi district migrated to this region and took their settlement permanently. The names of the people who first established this village were Nongthombam Munnam, Chongtham Joy and Senjam Irana etc. It is to be seen that this Village has a same name compared to that of Jugijan Rajbari. It was cited that the name Jugijan Rajbari was designated after the name of Rajkumar Sanajaoba. Whereas in respects of Lanka Rajbari there is no clear evidence or record available that how this name was termed and came to be known as Rajbari during that time. At present there are total 50 number of houses with the total population of 225.
- 2. PondroGaon** :- This village was established in the Post-independence period i.e 1955 by Henam Modan, Gauramani, Radhamohan, Krishna Anand, Maibam Khema etc. It is said that they are the migrants of Tripura Dharmanagar. At present there are total 18 number of houses with the total population of 78.
- 3. Lachit Nagar** :- It has been observed that in this village most of the migrants were from Manipur, Bangladesh (Sylhet). The names of the people who established this village were Thongam Radha (Manipur), Lourem Kunjabihari (Itakhola) and Yumkhaibam Tombi Singh and Khomdram Basanta (Bangladesh) etc. This village was also established in the Post-independence period i.e in the year 1970. At present there are total 32 number of houses with the total population of 180.
- 4. Lankeswari** :- At present Lankeswari is a temple situated near the Lanka town. But regarding its establishment it can be trace out that in the year 1965 (Post-independence period) this village was established by Phuritsabam Rajen who first settle down in this place. At present there are total 08 number of houses with the total population of 55.
- 5. Paonaleikai** :- This village was established in the year 1975 by Drona Singh and Thoraijam Binod. This village is 1km away from Lanka town and at present there are total 10 number of houses with the total population of 35.
- 6. Kashipur (Haigrupokpi)** :- It is situated 4 km away from Lanka town. It is said that the name 'Haigrupokpi' has been placed by taking the name of a fruit called 'Gooseberry'. As huge quantity of Haigrupokpi were found abundantly in this particular place. So, from this the village was known as Haigrupokpi. It was cited that most of the people were the migrants of Cachar district and those names were Lautombam Rama, Khaidem

Radhakantoh, Mainam Gouramani and Hidangmayum Yogeshwar Sharma, Nabakishore Sharma were the first to settle down in this village and it was established in the year 1936. At present there are total 65 number of houses with a total population of 435.

7. **Salamkhun (Nayonpur)** :- Actually, the term Salamkhun is derived from their own Sagei which is known as clans and Khun means village. So, it is said that this clans posses a large area of land at that time and later on they named this village as Salamkhun. This village was established in the year 1934 by Salam Babudhon, Salam Thebung, Koizam Chaouyaima, Oinam Anu and Thokchom Samuni. At present there are total 55 number of houses with the total population of 250.

8. **Panchali no.1** :- The first Manipuri settlers of this village were Rajkumar Pakanna from Rongpur Cachar district and Soibam Hazari, Soibam Tombi etc. which had established this village in the year 1936. At present there are total 25 number of houses with the total population of 135.

9. **Panchali** :- This village is situated around 1km away from Lanka town. The first settlers of this village were Khuirem Bora, Nongthombam kunongjao, Laishram Babachand and Laishram Ningthon and this village was established in the year 1935. At present there are total 35 number of houses with the total population of 220.

10. **Itakhola** :- It is said that earlier there was a brick (Ita) factory in this place so by following this name later it came to be known as Itakhola. This village was established in the year 1938 by the people who were the migrants of Cachar district and they were Wahengbam Joychandra, Louriyambam Kalajao, and others were considered as the first settlers of this village. At present there are total 36 number of houses with the total population of 310.

11. **Baluhandar** :- This village is situated around 4km away from Lanka town. Regarding the establishment of this village it can be trace out that this village was inaugurated in the year 1933 by the migrants of Cachar district and they were Thangjam Birhari, Thangjam Kala, Asem Rammo, Asem Dhananjoy and Moirang Lakshan who settle down in this village. At present there are total 116 number of houses with the total population of 1120.

12. **Jamuhandar** :- In the year 1929 a few people from Lamagram Cachar district and Tripura has settle down in this village. The names of the first settler of this village were Khundom Moina, Khoirom Naran, Khoirom Nagen, Khoirom Biren, Keisham Dhawaj and Loutakbam Mitrang. It is said that before there was a large number of houses in this village. But gradually people shifted and migrated towards different places. So at present there are total 10 number of houses with the total population of 70.

13. **Thoirenkhun** - This village is mostly inhabited by the Naorem clan and the name of the first settlers of this village were Naorem Thoiren, Naorem Gulamjat, Naorem Dhan Singh, Naorem Chowdhary etc . By taking the name of Naorem Thoiren the name of the village came to be known as Thoirenkhun and it was established in the year 1936. At present there are total 130 number of houses with the total population of 780.

14. **Dablong** :- This village is situated around 5km away from Lanka town. The people of this village were the migrants of Cachar district and the name of the first settlers of this village were Sakpam Bir Singh, Pukhrambam Kunja and it was established in the year 1938. At present there are total 110 number of houses with the total population of 615.

15. **Tentuli** :- This village has another name known by the Manipuri community i.e Unung Leikai, but his actual name is Tentuli. It is situated around 6km away from Lanka town and was established in the year 1937. The first settlers of this village were Harokcham Gandhar Singh, Laishram Tonjao, Kala Singh and puritshabam Tombabu respectively. At present there are total 30 number of houses with the total population of 202.

16. **1 No. Pipal Pukhuri** :- This village is considered as the diverse village because most of the migrants were from Cachar, Bangladesh, Tripura and Manipur. It is said that Sarangthem Hera Singh was the first settler of this village and inaugurated this village in the year 1943. At present there are total 195 number of houses with the total population of 1102.

17. **Kakitongia No.3** :- In the year 1968 this village was first established by Naorem Angou and gradually there was a increase of Manipuri houses in this village. At present there are total 37 number of houses with the total population of 180.

18. **Kaki No. 1** :- The names of the first settler of this village were Keisham Budhan, Sorokhaibam Babu and Abujam Deben. Perhaps this village was established in the year 1973. At present there are total 12 number of houses with the total population of 50.
19. **Madhupur** :- It is informed that the settlement of the manipuris in the village of Madhupur was started around 1973 by Yumnam Gira, L. Radha and Huirem Jogendra respectively. At present there are total 20 number of houses with the total population of 95.
20. **Khing-khing** :- It is a small Manipuri village situated near the lanka town and was established in the year 1940 by Wahengbam Shajaou and Jaribond Laitonjam Thambaljaio, Laishram Ebenjaio and Chongtham Jam Singh were considered as the first settler of this village. At present there are total 30 number of houses with the total population of 150.
21. **Hawaipur** :- It is said that most of the migrants of this village were from Cachar district and Karimganj. The names of the first settler of this village were Thokchom Kodom, Sapam Babuhun, Nitai from Badarpor and Thokchom Ibocha from Cachar as well as many others from Nagaon district had settled down in this village thus, It was established in the year 1967. At present there are total 40 number of houses with the total population of 330.
22. **Lunding Town** :- The settlement of the Manipuris in the Lunding town was started by one of the Government employee of a railway department whose name was Laitonjam Nilmoni in the year 1973. At present there are total 13 number of houses with the total population of 50.
23. **Haldi Ati** :- This village is situated 25km away from hojai district and it was established in the year 1967. It is stated that Tathelambam Binod from Manipur and Nobo Kumar from Cachar were the first to settle down in this village. At present there are total 4 number houses with the total population of 20.
24. **Kathiatali** :- In the year 1948 a Manipuri guy visited this village along with Romni Devi as a weaver and settled down permanently. After a while the population of Manipuri community increased. At present there are total 08 number of houses with the total population of 80.

List of the Manipuri villages in the Hojai district established during the Pre-Independence period

SLNo.	Name of the village	Year
1.	Jugijan Rajbari	1927
2.	Radhanagar Gochara	1939
3.	Sibpur	1937
4.	Bishnupur	1930
5.	Moinapathar	1941
6.	Dhaninagar	1929
7.	Amtala	1930
8.	Kalinagar	1929
9.	Vidyanagar	1927
10.	Nandapur	1929
11.	Udaipur	1930
12.	Gobindpur	1929
13.	Dariya Basti	1936
14.	Gournagar	1937
15.	Moinapur	1938
16.	Kathaltali	1944
17.	Udaipur Gochara	1935
18.	Kalakhun	1931
19.	Rampur	1940

Source: Ebungohal 2006, pp. 18-20)

List of the Manipuri Villages in the Hojai District Established During the Post-Independence Period

Sl.No.	Name of the village	Year
1.	Tongia	1953
2.	Moinapathar Gochara	1984
3.	Komarakata	1969
4.	Haritila	1969
5.	Biding	1966
6.	East Bishnupur	1960
7.	Shantipur	1989
8.	Jugijan Bazar	1979

(Source: Ebungohal 2006)

List of the Manipuri villages under Lanka Revenue Circle Established during the Pre-Independence period

SL.No.	Name of the village	Year
1.	Dablong	1936
2.	Rajbari	1945
3.	Salamkhun	1934
4.	Panchali No.1	1936
5.	Kashipur	1936
6.	Itakhola	1938
7.	Bulahandar	1933
8.	Thoirenkhun	1936
9.	Jamuhandar	1929
10.	Tentuli	1937
11.	1 No. Pipal pukhuri	1943
12.	Khing-Khing	1940
13.	Panchali	1935

(Source: Ebungohal 2006)

List of the Manipuri villages under Lanka Revenue Circle established during the Post-independence period

SL.No.	Name of the village	Year
1.	Hawaipur	1967
2.	Kaki No.1	1973
3.	Madhupur	1973
4.	Lumding Town	1973
5.	Haldiati	1967
6.	Kathiatali	1948
7.	Paonaleikai	1975
8.	Lachitnagar	1970
9.	Lankeswari	1965
10.	PondhroGaon	1955
11.	Kaki Tongia No.3	1968

(Source: Ebungohal 2006)

STRUCTURE AND DESIGN OF MANIPURI HOUSE

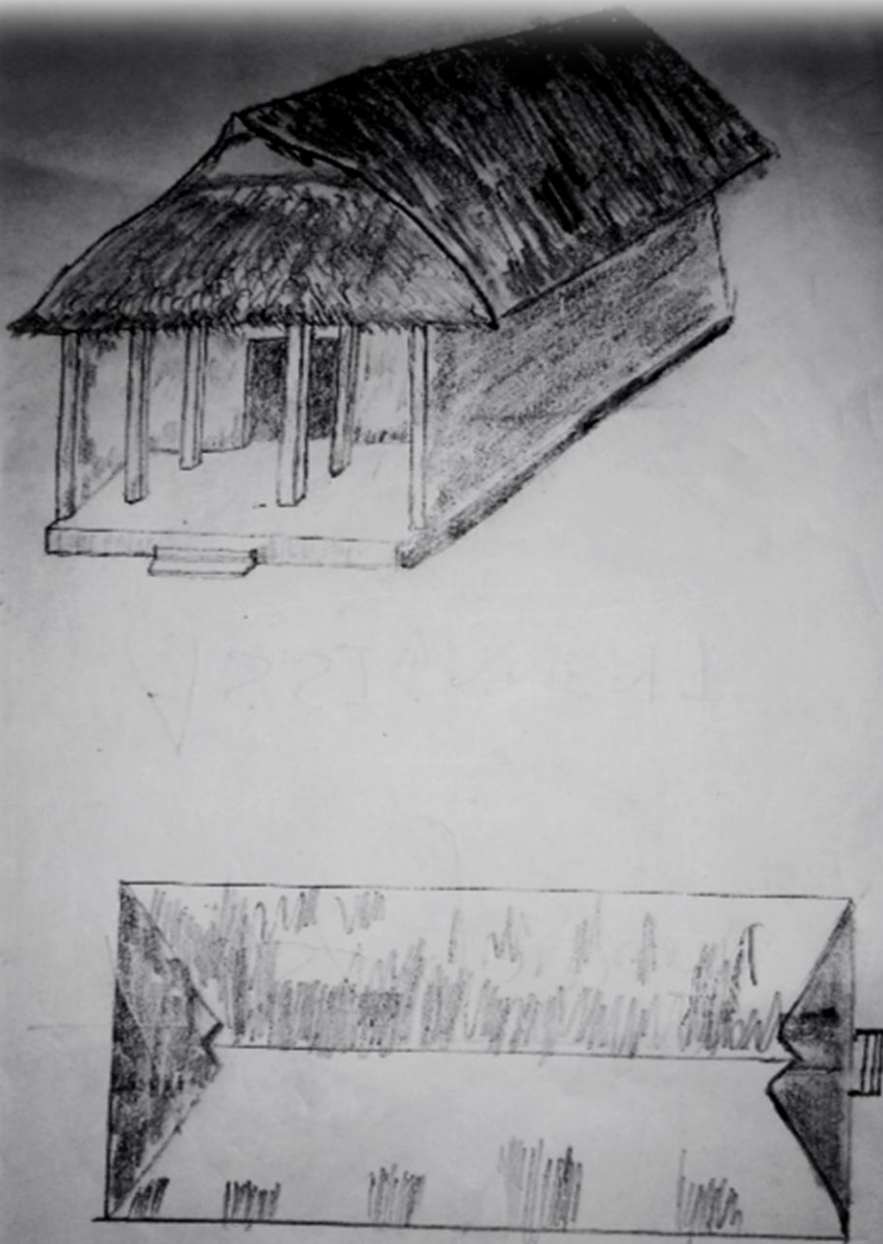


Figure 4. Structure of the Manipuri House (source: Rakesh Singha)

HOUSE PLAN OF MANIPURI COMMUNITY

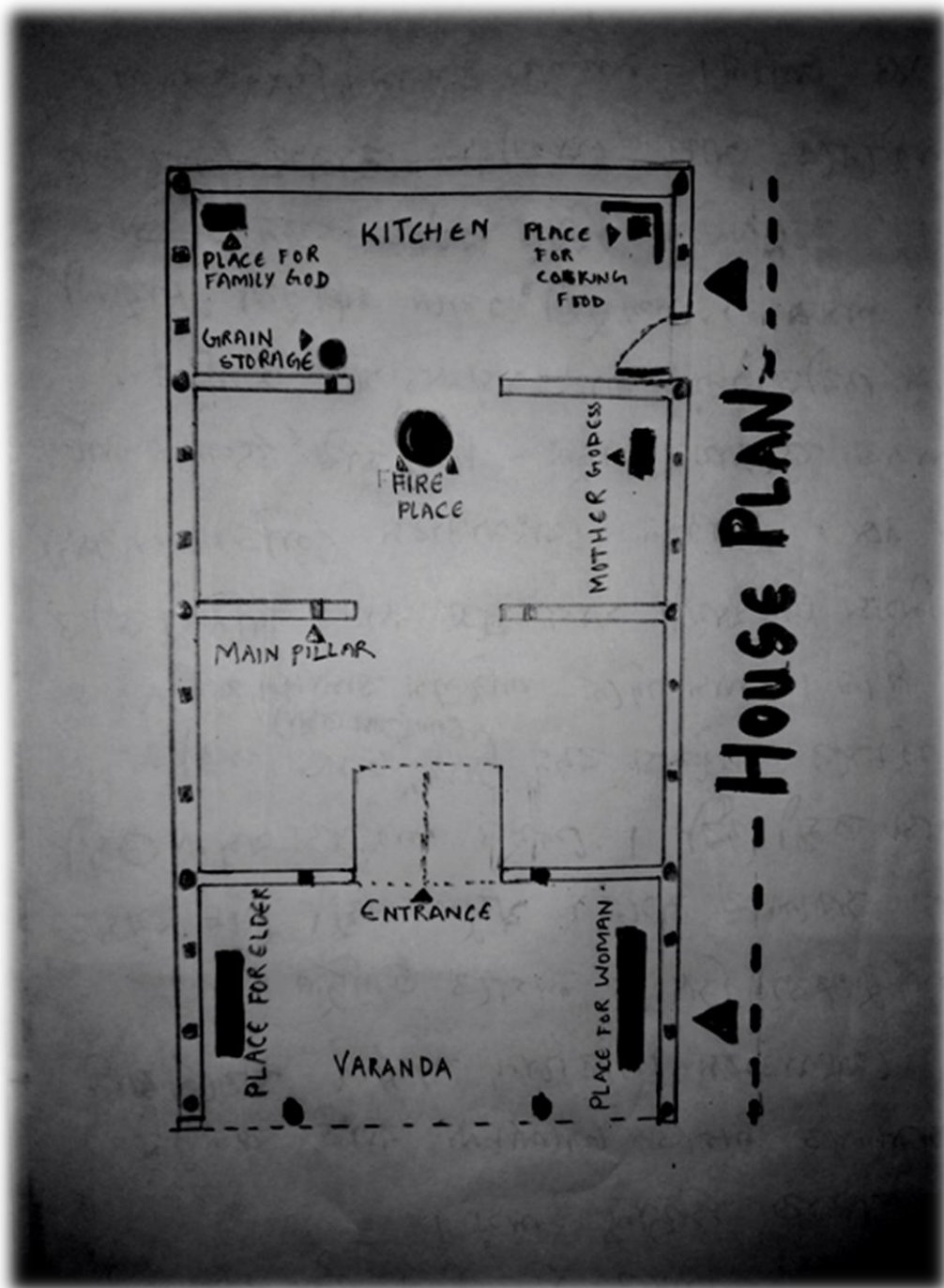


Figure 5. House Plan of Meitei community (source: Rakesh Singha)

IV. Conclusion

The study on the Migration and settlement of the Manipuris in the district of Hojai required hardwork and dedication in order to find the available records and scrutinize the reasons and causes of migration and settlement of the Manipuris in the district of Hojai respectively.

In the preceding first settlement history of Manipuri community it highlights about the types of migration the factors behind the migration of the Manipuri's in the Barak valley. And also the geographical position of Hojai including the origin and the ethnicity of the Manipuri's. Moreover, it depicts the stages of migration that how the Manipuri from Manipur migrated towards Barak valley and resided in the Hojai district permanently.

However list of villages which were established during the pre and post independence period in the Hojai district is displayed along with the house plan and the structure of the Manipuri house. Ultimately, the above mentioned statement are the reasons for the settlements of the Manipuri community which still exist today.

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