Introduction

Chapter 1

The present scenario of education in Manipur poses nearly insurmountable challenges to educators, especially teachers, as also to the framers of the educational policy and educational administrators in the state. At the same time, it is also a matter of serious concern to civil society because of the prevailing situation. There is already the daunting task of continuous revision and updating of the syllabi and curricula in order to make them relevant to society and to deal with various social issues.

A questionnaire relating to the topic was prepared to interview teachers, students, and various civil society leaders involved in education in Manipur. Various other dimensions such as the study and review of curriculum and textbooks were initially included. But the review could not be completed as the persons involved needed more time and resources. It was felt that the review of curriculum and textbooks could be done at a later stage and a separate project is recommended. The reason was that the persons doing the review needed about six months to read and review the materials. However, some crucial and important notes were made. It was also decided to incorporate some articles and syllabus as annexures to this report. This can help the reader to understand some of the steps taken in Manipur at present. While including this material the main concern was to see whether the present educational system and teaching methods contribute to peace or reinforce conflicts.

Though an in-depth analysis of the textbooks and syllabus could not be done in the present study, the opinions of persons with experience with the present system were collected. The feedback and suggestions given by them were consulted.