

They also believed that the transformation of spirit into insects or other things. Jonathan H. Thumra noted that "...at death the spirit is transformed into an insect such as butterfly, honey bee, grasshopper, etc."<sup>24</sup>

## E. ECONOMIC LIFE

### 1. Occupation:

Agriculture is the mainstay of the people. They practised shifting of jhum cultivation. The chief food crops are bu (rice), vaimim (maize), be (bean), etc. are mostly cultivated. They were accustomed to rearing domestic animals like mithun, buffaloes, goats, pigs, fowl, etc. Being a nomadic tribe their house pattern was temporary type where pigs are commonly kept underneath while fowl are kept in a verandah of their house. They are fond of hunting, fishing and trapping but head-hunting is unknown.

The Iranghol women are very expert in weaving, spinning as well as brewing zu (rice-beer). Embroidery is one of the most beautiful workmanship. Handloom apparatus are kept in each houses and used to make many kinds of designs engraving in their clothes which is called 'Puan am nei'. By and large, men have an interest in basket-making, pottery and so on. Since the western culture prevailed in North-East India, the young people have begun to lose interest in handicraft.

### 2. Food, drinks, and smoking:

Paddy rice is their staple food, earning by everybody for his/her livelihood. Meats like pork, chicken, etc are their favourite meat. In olden days, eating beef was unknown. B.M. Bordoloi and G.C. Sharmah Thakur wrote, "The

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<sup>24</sup> Jonathan H. Thumra, "The Primal Religious Tradition" in *Religious Traditions of India*, edited by P.S. Daniel, et al., Kottayam, 1988, p.73.