

CHAPTER I

I. Nature of the Study

A. Statement of the Problem

The Hrangkhoh community is a distinctive ethnic group of tribal people who are scattered in the states of Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and in the south of Cachar as well as in the North Cachar Hills district of Assam. From linguistic, cultural and social points of view they are somewhat related to the Biata, Ranglong, Chorai, Sakachep, Mualsuam, Kaipeng and also the Hmars. Hrangkhohs have their particular traits of character and customs. Since Hrangkhoh people live in a vast and scattered manner in the different regions of North East India, no systematic study has yet been made by any competent writers, historians, or anthropologists to make a comprehensive account of their sociological structures, political and social behaviours. With their conversion to Christianity and especially with the formation of the Tangram Presbytery under the ecclesiastical administration of the Cachar Hill Tribes Synod, which is one of the constituent units of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of India, the Presbyterian group among the Hrangkhoh people become better organised in many ways, to look after their own well-being and to face the future with a sense of unity and mission. The constitution of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of India makes provision for formation of Presbyterian Youth Fellowship(PYF) and Presbyterian Women Fellowship(PWF) as important wings of the Church to encourage these two important groups in the church to fully participate in the life and ministry of the church right from the local church level to the Assembly level. This Presbyterian system of affiliation promotes affection, emotional integrity and sense of belonging to one another. The short form PWF will be used henceforth in the in the following passages for Prebyterian Women Fellowship.