

### **Activities of Department:**

- (i) National Seminar on Applied Ethics on the theme “Issues in Contemporary Society, Rights, Duties and Sustainability in Search of Harmony”- 14<sup>th</sup>& 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2016**

### **A Report:**

Two Days National Seminar was organized by the Department of Philosophy, Shillong College on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Professor Mrinal Miri an eminent philosopher and a member of Rajya Sabha graced the occasion as a chief guest and also delivered the keynote address.

Many participants from different parts of India attended the seminar. A threadbare discussion took place about the principles for moral behaviour and apply them to real world scenario. This seminar attempted to answer the question of how people should act in specific situations. How applied ethics is relevant in today’s society? Applied Ethics is a growing interdisciplinary field dealing with ethical problems in different areas of society. It includes for instance social and political ethics, medical ethics, bioethics, environmental ethics, and it also relates to different forms of professional ethics.

Dr. K.D.Ramsiej, the principal of the College also address the gathering and gave a short speech.

The programme ended with lots of pertinent questions raised by the teachers as well as students.

Dr. B.P. Tripathi, Convener of the seminar pronounced the vote of thanks.



**(ii) S. C. Dutta Memorial Talk on Dharma and World Peace – 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**

**A Report -**

A talk on "DHARMA AND WORLD PEACE" was organised by the Philosophy Department of Shillong college on 20 th July 2017. Dr. J. Biswas Head Department of Philosophy Shillong College welcome everyone to this talk.

Prof . Xavier Mao the Head department of Philosophy North Eastern Hill University attended the talk as Resource person.

He said that today , with so much agony caused by violent conflict , war and bloodshed, the world badly needs peace and harmony . This is a great challenge for religious and spiritual leaders. He said one should not honour only one's own religion and condemn other religions

One should honour other religion for various reasons . By doing so one helps one's own religion to grow and also renders service to the religions of others.

He had cited an example of Emperor Ashoka who represents a glorious tradition of tolerant co-existence and peaceful synthesis. He also mentioned that we need to protect the environment to stop polluting it. It will prevent us from understanding mental pollutants such as ignorance, cruelty or greed. Removing such pollutants will promote peace among human beings, as well as a balanced healthy relationship between human society and its natural environment.

He said Non-violence is the key to a definition of peace and harmony. We have to adopt non-violence and refusing to countenance violence or killing. He said peace should be the first principle of 'Universal religion'.

Dr K.D. Ramsej the Principal of the college also address the gathering and gave a short speech.

Teachers and students from other colleges also attended the talk . The programme was ended with lots of pertinent questions raised by the teachers as well as students .

Dr. B.P. Tripathi pronounced the vote of thanks.





### **(iii) A Talk on Khasi Religion – 15<sup>th</sup> December,2021**

#### **A Report -**

The Philosophy Department, Shillong College, Shillong organized a talk on “Khasi Religion” on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 as part of the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statehood of Meghalaya.

Dr. S.S. Khongkham, Principal of SngapSyiem College, Mawkyrwata attended the Talk as the resource person. He highlighted on the concept of God (U Blei) in Khasi religion that the Khasi believes in one God.

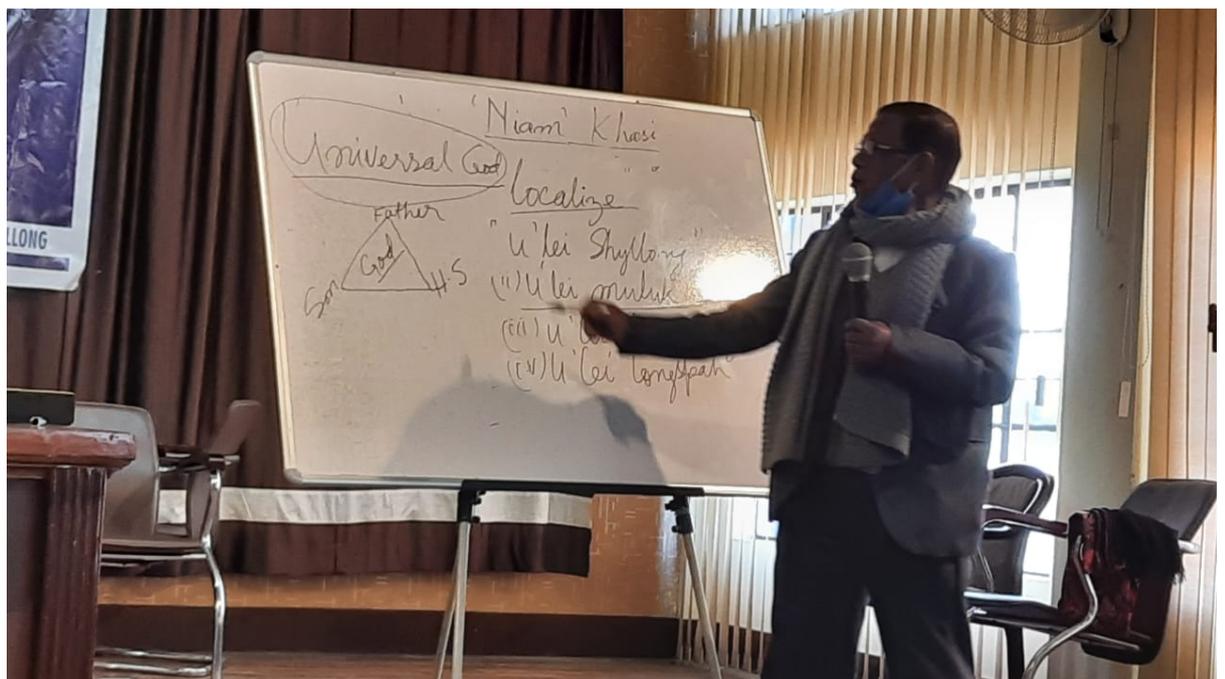
He said that even though the Khasi attributed “U” or “Ka” (he/she) to God, such as “Ka ‘lei synshar” and “UNongbuhNongthaw” (Planner/ Creator), “UNongsengNongpynlong (the Giver or Dispenser of life), etc. yet the Khasi believes that God is beyond gender because he is the Almighty God. And all the above names of God refer to one God only.

Dr. S.S, Khongkham also said that the Khasi also local;ised or contextualise the name of God such as U ‘lei Shyllong, U ‘lei Umtong (God of water), U ‘lei Longspah (God of wealth). In spite of the various names given to God (U Blei). Yet these are only localized names, in reality He is a universal God and these names refer to one God only.

Dr. S.S. Khongkliam pointed out another fact about the Khasi that they believe that God is present everywhere. He is both immanent and transcendent to the world and He is also a self-existent God.

Another fact that Dr. S.S. Khongkliam emphasized was that the Khasi did not have Scripts or alphabets in the early days before 1841 when Thomas Jones came to Sohra and introduced the Khasi alphabet in Roman Scripts. Before this, the Khasi passed on their records through the words of mouth. So, the history of the Khasi religion was passed orally from one generation to another.

Dr. (Mrs) E.Kharkongor. Principal of Shillong College, in her address talked about the importance of understanding Khasi religion so that the people will understand its facets, which is the basis of the Khasi culture and beliefs.



#### **(iv) Field Trips/ Study Tour**

##### **To Syntung – 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

On 8th December, 2017, 30 students with 2 lecturers went for a trip to Syntung, EastKhasi Hills, Meghalaya to visit the newly open tourist spot. We started from college at 8 a.m. and arrived there at 10.00 a.m.

The objectives of the trip was to get to know the uniqueness of the place and this helped the students to refresh their minds and understand the valuable treasure in nature surrounded by beautiful hills and taken care by the villagers nearby.

The conduciveness of the environment of the place helped us learn more to preserve and beautify the nature and not to destroy it, as life itself depends on nature.

The travelling expenses was sponsored by the college, the students cooked their own food at the spot at their own expenses.

Our trip ended about 3.00 p.m. it can be concluded that the trip was successful. We learned something new and were benefitted for us.



### **To Umkhakoi, Mawlyngbna – 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019**

On 10th April, 2019, 25 students with two lecturers went for a trip to Umkhakoi, Mawlyngbna, Mawsynram West Khasi Hills District Meghalaya with an aim to visit the well known beautiful place endowed in nature.

We started from the college at 7:00 a.m. and arrive there at 11:00 a.m.. The students carried their own food but the travelling expenses was beared by the college.

The objective of the trip was to get to know the place which attracted the tourist even from abroad to witness the uniqueness and tranquility of nature. We benefitted from the trip and learned that behind the physical and material world there is one mighty hand which prevails and this directed our mind to the Divine Designer. We also learned the importance of preserving the beauty of nature which is not manmade but God made.



### **To South West Khasi Hills – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2022, the Department of Philosophy, Shillong College organized a one-day Study Tour to South west Khasi Hills. and visited three beautiful places, that is, Mawranglang Village where a well-kept view point overlooking the Wah Rilang River is situated, Mawkyrduk (Mawlangwir) where the great collection of monoliths are present and

lastly, the famous Hot Spring at Jakrem. Thirty-nine students of VIth Semester and all the Four teachers took part in this tour.

The team left from Shillong College at 8 AM and reached Mawranglang Viewpoint at 11.30 AM. From the Viewpoint, we could see a spectacular view of the Rilang River and the unduling hills surrounding it. Wah Rilang is 7.3kms away from Mawkyrwat market, situated on Mawkyrwat to Nongstoin Road. After spending time here for about one hour, we had our lunch and continued our journey to visit the monoliths at Mawkyrduk (Mawlangwir) to witness the rich culture and tradition of the indigenous tribe of the Khasi people in Meghalaya. Because of heavy rain we hurriedly moved to Jakrem and visited the hot sulphur spring where people believed that it has medical properties. This Hot Spring is surrounded by beautiful hills and we were amazed at the continuous gushing up of hot water from those hills. This place attracts many tourists from the state and outside because of its rare natural possession and natural scenic beauty.

After this, we had light refreshment and left Jakrem at 4.30 PM. and reached college at around 7.30PM.

The Study Tour trip was wonderful and meaningful with a learning experience. The students gained good knowledge about Khasi culture through the heritage site and also about the richness of nature and the need of preserving such unique beautiful natural gifts. The exquisitely beautiful nature reminds us that this earth is so amazing and we as humankind has a role to play in order to preserve it as we know that we cannot exist without it

Monoliths at Nonglang,  
Southwest Khasi Hills



 GPS Map Camera



**Nonglang, Meghalaya, India**

Nongnah-Ranikor Rd, Nonglang, Meghalaya

793114, India

Lat 25.356785°

Long 91.431232°

30/04/22 02:49 PM

A Tour to Southwest Khasi Hills



A viewpoint of Rilang river, Mawranglang,  
Southwest Khasi Hills

