

**A BRIEF SUMMARY ON THE ACTIVITIES  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY SHILLONG COLLEGE  
SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN THE YEAR 2006 TILL DATE**

**INTERACTIVE SESSIONS**

- In making the subject more applicable in understanding human societies the Department felt the need to create awareness and at the same time build interest among the students. Taking this as a background, a one-day programme was organized on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008, to highlight the importance and relevance of the subject. The programme featured a Popular Talk on “Understanding Sociology-Its Relevance to Society” in which Prof. A.K. Nongkynrih from the Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hill University was the Resource Person where he stressed on the importance of sociological terms or concepts and their usages in the study of social relationship or social interaction; and the application of sociological rules toward better understanding of human communities.



*Popular Talk on “Understanding Sociology - Its Relevance to Society” by Prof A.K Nongkynrih, on 31<sup>st</sup> July ,2008*

- The Department of Sociology, Shillong College was fortunate to have Prof.A.K. Nongkynrih from the Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hills University, as a Resource Person for the Interactive Session on 25th November, 2013 on the theme “Basic Sociological Concepts” who highlighted the significance of Sociology in society and attempted a sociological understanding on different aspects of social change.



*Interactive session with Prof. A. K. Nongkynrih, Department of Sociology, NEHU at Shillong College on the 3rd November 2013*

## GUEST LECTURE

- The Department of Sociology, Shillong College was fortunate to have Prof. L. S. Gassah, Former Head, Department of Political Science, NEHU and Currently Guest Professor, Department of Political Science, Synod College, PG as a Resource Person for the Special Lecture on the 13th of December, 2021 on the theme “Sixth Schedule and Role of District Council With Reference to North Eastern Region” who highlighted the significance of understanding traditional Institutions of tribal society in North Eastern Region and the adoption of the Sixth Schedule in the region. In his lecture he attempted to discuss the Constitutional Mandate under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitutions. Further a sociological understanding on the relationship of the Sixth Schedule with the traditional institutions and the role and function of the Autonomous District Council was highlighted.



***Guest Lecture Prof. L. S. Gassah, Former Head, Department of Political Science, NEHU theme “Sixth Schedule and Role of District Council With Reference to North Eastern Region”***

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- Since its inception the Department of Sociology, Shillong College had been growing not only in terms of enrolment but in terms of exposure, participation and service. Students were engaged different activities and Panel Discussion on Juvenile Delinquency on the 3rd November 2014 at the Conference Hall, Shillong College. The discussion highlighted on various issues.



*Panel Discussion on “Juvenile Delinquency” on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2014*

- The Panel discussion on “Higher Education in Post Pandemic World: Challenges in the New Normal”, organised by the Department of Political Science and Department of Sociology, Shillong College was held on 22th November, 2021. The function was graced by our Respected Principal Dr (Mrs.) E.Kharkongor, in the presence of our esteemed Panelists Prof S.M Sungoh,(who attended online) from the Department of Education, NEHU; And an eminent educationist of the state of Meghalaya; former member of NAAC Bangalore and member of Joint Review Mission for Teacher Education. Dr Jasmine Mary Lyngdoh, three decades experience in mental health consultation & therapy in Meghalaya, Member of the Expert Committee on Mental Health in Meghalaya.



***Panel discussion on “Higher Education in Post Pandemic World: Challenges in the New Normal”, organised by the Department of Political Science and Department of Sociology, Shillong College was held on 22th November, 2021***

## NATIONAL SEMINARS

- A Two Day National Seminar on “The Changing Dynamics of Tribal Society in India with Special Reference to North Eastern Region”, was organised by the Department of Sociology and Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Shillong College on 5th and 6th November, 2019. The function was graced by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K. Sangma as the Chief Guest while Shri Kyrmen Shylla, Minister of Social Welfare, was the Guest of Honour. Professor Virginius Xaxa, Former Professor Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi and Tata Institute of Social Sciences was the keynote speaker. The Inaugural programme was also graced by the presence of Dr Shah Md Tanvir Monsur, Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh..

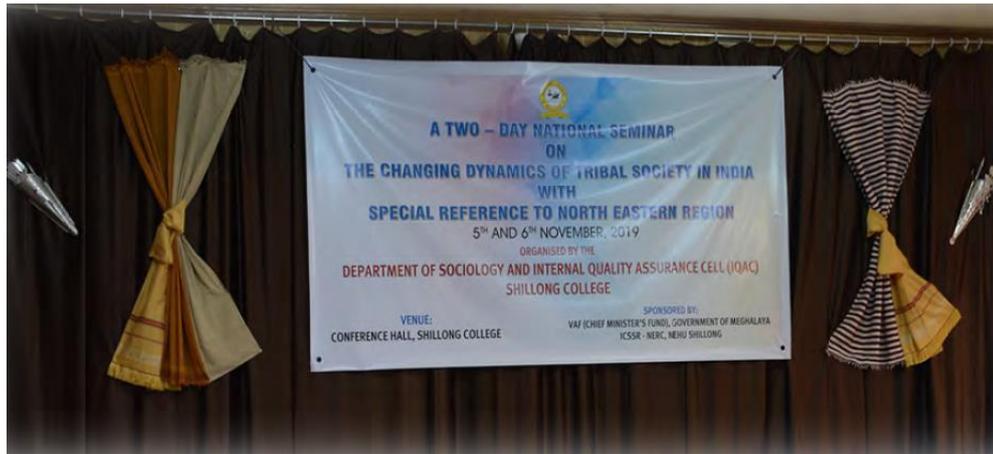
The Two-Day National Seminar on “The Changing Dynamics of Tribal Society in India with Special reference To the North Eastern Region” had five technical sessions arranged to provide a forum for all presentations, dealing with 5 sub-themes and these are:

1. Understanding the tribes in the North Eastern region
2. Tradition and Modernity: The Path in Between
3. Identity: Issues and Concern
4. Dialectics of Intra and Inter-Tribal Discourse
5. Tribal Government Policies

In the two day National Seminar, 31 papers were presented by participants from within the Northeast as well as other parts of the country. The presentations which were followed by active discussions and deliberations are of great significance which have led to varied suggestions towards understanding tribes and tribal population.

A summary of the proceedings of the different technical sessions illustrated the rich customs, traditions and indigenous knowledge of the North east tribes. Tribes believe that indigenous knowledge is a divine gift and therefore there is a need to preserve this knowledge. They also show how folklore, traditional practices and custom are an important part of cultural identity. However, tradition is not static or monolithic but should adapt itself to changing circumstances. Modernity is not anti-ethical to tradition. Modern societies form a close relationship with new realities and are subject to change therefore making way for heterogeneity, differentiation and inequalities of opportunities. Hence there exists a need to understand the empirical reality for realistic assessment of the problems of tribes in evolving a well-planned strategy for building up a platform par academic excellence is the need of the hour.

The Department of Sociology and IQAC, Shillong College had organised the Two-Day National Seminar with an intention to discuss, delve and debate on the various concerns that relate to The Changing Dynamics of tribal society in India with special reference to the North eastern region. The result of the deliberations during the two day seminar emphasized on the need to relook, rethink and co-ordinate in order to create awareness and inculcate scientific understanding for realistic assessment of the problem of tribes thereby helping in evolving a well-planned strategy.



*Two-Day National Seminar on “The Changing Dynamics of Tribal Society in India with Special Reference to the North Eastern Region”, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019*

## FIELD TRIPS

- On 3rd November 2009, a field trip to Smit Village was organized to witness “Ka Pomblang Syiem” commonly known as “Ka Shad Nongkrem”. In this festival the political structure of the Khasi is apparent in the rites and rituals performed by the Syiem(Chief) for his Hima(State), a dance which is also performed to the accompaniment of traditional instruments also reflect the political structures inherent in the religious ceremonies of the Khasi, one of the tribes of Meghalaya.
- The academic session 2015 was a hectic year as the college prepared for the 3rd Cycle NAAC Peer team re-accreditation. But the department had a team of dedicated teachers coupled with enthusiastic students. On the 17th of October 2015, the Department of Sociology organised a field trip to Nartiang Village, Jaintia Hills which was documented in the form of Photograph and videos. The main objective of the trip was to give the students firsthand experience to understand the richness of the culture of the Jaintias, a sub tribe of Meghalaya. Through this trip, the students were able to develop analytical skill on areas of social change and transformation in the society, which was evident in their presentation.



*The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students of the Sociology Department, Shillong College, Shillong at Nartiang Monolith Park on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015*

- On the 7th December 2017, the Department of Sociology organised a field trip to Dain Thlen, Sohra. For the of 4th and 6th Semester Honours students. The main objective of the trip was to give the students firsthand experience and understand the richness of the culture of the Khasi, tribe of Meghalaya. Further, through this trip, the students will be able to develop analytical skill on areas of indigeneous beliefs and folklore of the Khasi society. The Students gained knowledge through the entire trip and they were divided into groups and to give a presentation on their understanding about the myths and beliefs of the Khasi tribe. This entire field Trip was documented in the forms of Photographs. The department also felt the need to come up in the future with a documentary on the myths and beliefs of the Khasi. The department would like to place on record a deep sense of gratitude to our Principal Dr K. D Ramsiej for his unstinted support and guidance in all the activities of the Department.



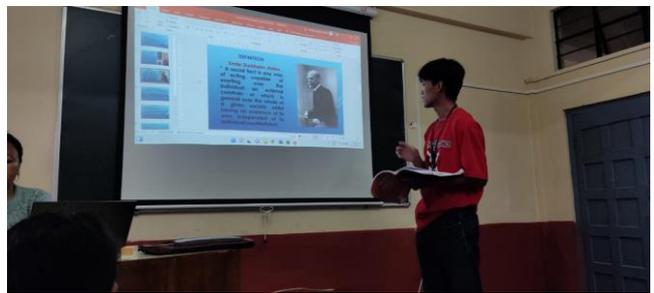
*4th And 6th Semester Sociology Honours Students At Dainthlen, Sohra  
On the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017*

- The Department of Sociology, Shillong College had organised a field Trip for the BA Honours students of 4th and 6th Semester on the 23rd May, 2022. The Field Trip was part of the Student Enrichment Activities as the Department felt the need to expose the students on the traditions and folklores of the Jaintia Tribes of Meghalaya. In the background of the forgoing analysis on safeguarding the cultural heritage of the country and the region, Sociology Department Shillong College had organised a Field Trip for the Honours students, to enhance and create awareness and reinforcing cultural integration and nation building thereby emphasising on harmony, cultural integration and creating linkages for nation building. Further, taking into account tribal cultures as autonomous knowledge system with their own epistemology, transmission, innovation, and power the knowledge and/or cognitive abilities that tribes possess should not be ignored. On the 23rd May, 2022 altogether 70 students from the 4th and 6th Semester Sociology Honours students along with Faculties from the Department, Dr. (Mrs.) S. Khyriemmujat Head, Department of Sociology, Dr. (Mrs.) D. R Diengdoh and Ms K. M A Kharsohtun accompanied the students.

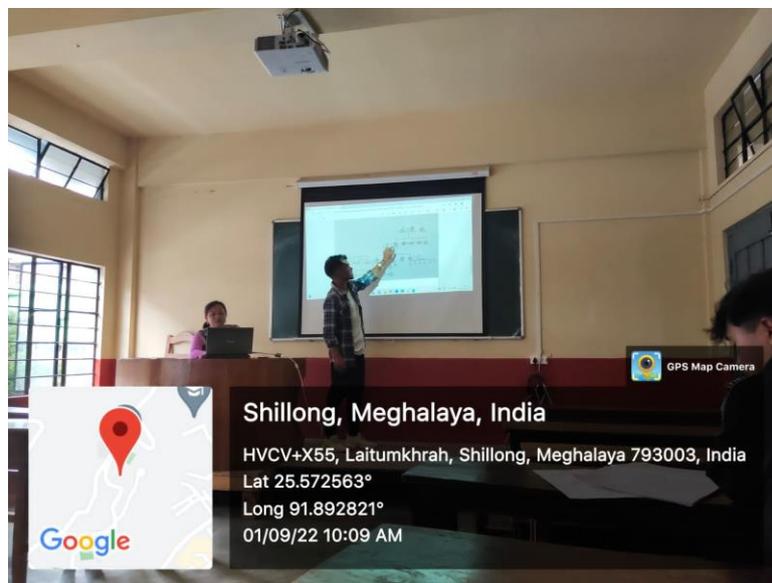


**Field Trip to Nartiang and Thadlaskein in Jaintia Hills organised by the Department of Sociology, Shillong College on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022.**

## STUDENT SEMINARS



### 4<sup>th</sup> Semester Sociology Honours Students Seminar





**5<sup>th</sup> Semester Sociology Honours Students Seminar**

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- A documentary “Where the Clouds Ends” was screened on 16th August, 2014 in the Conference Hall, Shillong College. The objective of the Screening the Documentary by the Department in collaboration with the film maker was to present the documentary in academia, where the students were made aware on issues that had become sensitive in contemporary Khasi Society. The documentary “Where the Clouds End” had focus and examined tribal identity as a fluid concept which defies man-made imagination, historical ideals, political definitions and geographic boundaries.



*Screening of Documentary Film “Where the Cloud Ends” in the College Conference on the 16th August 2014. Film maker of the Documentary Shri. Wanphrang Diengdoh at the Screening of the documentary in the Conference Hall, Shillong College*

- A part from academics, the department also encouraged participation in various parallel programs like singing and enactment of skits. For the Music Festival organized by Lady Keane College, Shillong, on the theme “Awaken Humanity” on the 24th September 2015, students of the department performed a song named “Come Together Now” that enthralled the audience with the message of coming together as one and spread the message of Hope and Joy.



*Inter College Music Festival at Lady Keane College, Shillong on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2015*

- An important event of the department was An Awareness programme on Adolescent Right:A Critical Agenda was held on 15th March 2016 in collaboration with NCC unit, Shillong College, sponsored by Human Rights Commission, New Delhi. The programme was attended by nearly 132 participants from colleges within and outside the state was highly participatory. The resource persons thoroughly dwelt on the various prospects of Human Rights focusing on Adolescence Rights where the students interacted during the technical.



***Awareness Programme on Adolescent Right: A Critical Agenda (Sponsored by NHRC, New Delhi),on the 15th March 2016.***



*Faculty of the Department of sociology Shillong College*