

DEPARTMENT
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
B.Sc. FIRST SEMESTER
FIELD TRIP
TO
EVERLIVING MUSEUM
ON THE
25th SEPTEMBER 2019



The Department of Environmental Science, Shillong College, organised an educational fieldtrip for the first semester students to Everliving Museum, Mawshabuit, on the 25th of September 2019. This fieldtrip was conducted for the partial fulfilment of the curriculum for B.Sc. 1st Semester with Honours in Environmental Science. A total of 24 students accompanied by 5 teachers participated in the fieldtrip. The Everliving Museum was chosen as the preferred destination for the trip as it presented itself as a place which provided information about subject matters closely related to the syllabus.

The privately owned Everliving Museum is located about 9 kilometres from Shillong city in a village called Mawshabuit. It has two main sections which boast an impressive personal collection of the proprietor whose name is Mr. Kyntiewbor War. One of the wings is the ethnographic section which displayed different objects which were used by the Khasi, Jaintia and Garo tribes of the state of Meghalaya. Apart from items of great cultural significance, this wing also housed a huge collection of coins, currencies, replicas and antiques from within the country and across the globe as well. The other section is the rock museum where different types of rocks, minerals and precious gemstones were exhibited.

Upon reaching the Museum, the 1st semester students were greeted by Mr. Kyntiewdor War who led them to the first section of the Museum. It was here that Mr. War described to the students on how his interest in nature, culture and rocks inspired him to build up his collection since the age of ten. He brought to light his river expedition on the Kynshi River along with other members and encouraged the students to pursue their interest with vigour. He meticulously explained to the students about the different objects, weapons, attire and handicrafts that were displayed along with their significance. He also imparted valuable knowledge on the close relationship of nature and the people of the state and the importance of conservational practices. After spending their time soaking in the information that was deliberated the students moved on to the next section. It was in the rock section of the museum that the students got the opportunity to visualise a number of rock types, minerals and fossils that they had learnt about in class. This section housed numerous items that had been collected from Meghalaya, other states of India as well as different countries of the world. Some of the impressive collections included Topaz or blue quartz, Ruby, crystals, Amethyst, crystallised iron ore, fossils, amber, amongst others. The Everliving Museum is setup in a beautiful garden which had hundreds of different orchids, ferns, fruit trees and plants which are closely related to the folklore and culture of the Khasi people like the Tiew doh maw lai phew na ar jingmut (a stone-kissing flower with 28 minds) and Tiew Ja Nailar, which indicates the autumn season. The students also got the opportunity to see the endemic *Nepenthes khasiana* or pitcher plant apart from the aforementioned plants.

The fieldtrip was immensely successful in increasing the repository of knowledge of the students and also broaden their information of the ethno biological importance of nature. It also improved their understanding about the metamorphism, formation and types of rocks, minerals and fossils. On behalf of the Department of Environmental Science, Shillong College, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Principal, Sir M. Dey, for granting us the permission and support for the fieldtrip. We especially like to express our profound

gratitude to Mr. Kyntiewbor War for sharing with the students his valuable collection and information.

