

REFLECTION

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Quote on Values

Jennifer Crusie says “Values aren't buses... They're not supposed to get you anywhere. They're supposed to define who you are.”

Education can create a change in the world if one has value of life and also knows how to respect the other person's value and that defines who you are.

Awareness programme at Nongkrem Presbyterian Church to make people aware of Drug Abuse & Alcoholism

The student conducted an awareness programme at Nongkrem Presbyterian Church to make people aware of drug abuse & Alcoholism, in collaboration with the church youth wing on the 4th September, 2015.

The programme was started by mobilising the community people from 5:30 to 6:00 PM and they announced the people to come and attend the programme. The programme started at 6:30 PM which was opened by a welcome speech and a welcome song.

S.P. M. Kharkrang is the Chief Guest of this Programme. After the welcome speech and song, it was followed by a Choir and Presentation from the S.P. about substance abused like drugs and alcohol. After the presentation, it was followed by Martin Luther Christian University activities which are as follows:

1. Song
2. Role play
3. Testimony



Career Skills Workshop 2016

Date: 31st of March 2016-1st of April 201

The Career Skill Workshop for the outgoing students (BSW 6th and MSW 4th Semesters) of the Department of Social Work was held on the 31st of March 2016 to the 1st of April 2016 with the objectives of enabling students to choose a career that is in line with their skills and interests, providing guidance in discovering courses that will help them to attain their career interests and career potentials, bridging the transition from students to professionals and reinforcing skills for overall development in the field of career.

The programme started with the Measure of Guidance Impact (MGI) pre test for all the students at 1:00pm, which was followed by expectations from the students where most of them wanted to understand themselves in terms of Career & Opportunities in Social Work both work and further studies and to understand what next step to take after their studies.

The Self Understanding topic was taken by Ms. Ibasaralyne Thabah Synthiang which was followed by a session by Sir John Paul Kharmalki on Career Development and Market Trends followed by discussions.

The next day, i.e. 1st of April, the Programme started at 9:30pm on the topic Communication & Listening skills by Ms. Riyan Yimchunger followed by the Career Belief Inventory for the students. Then a topic on Career Belief was taken by Ms. Ibasaralyne Thabah Synthiang followed by Common Career session by Ms. Riyan Yimchunger.

The afternoon session started at 1:00 pm, with a session on Protocol taken by Sir John Paul Kharmalki. This was followed by Career Path where students had to participate in making charts relating to what they want to do next after their studies from MLCU. The programme concluded at with students presenting their Career Paths, discussions and feedback. The students also conducted the MGI post test and provided feedback. The concluding remark was given by Ms. Ibasaralyne Thabah Synthiang, the workshop ended at 3:40pm.

Number of Participants: 97 (51 BSW and 46 MSW)

Seminar on Education Issues in North East India

Organised by Department of Social Work, Martin Luther Christian University in collaboration with ASER Centre, New Delhi and CLEAR South Asia on June 18, 2015

The Department of Social Work, MLCU in collaboration with ASER Centre, New Delhi and CLEAR South Asia organized a seminar on the Education Issues in North East India on June 18, 2015 at the Meghalaya Bharat Scouts & Gudes Hall in Shillong which was inaugurated by the chief guest Shri Frederick R Kharkongor (IAS) Secretary, Education Department. Also, in present in the inaugural function was Shri Robert G Lyngdoh, the Vice-Chancellor of MLCU, Shri. Amit Kaushik, Practice Head, Education and Skill Development, IPE Global, faculty, students of the department of Social Work and other invitees.

Addressing the inaugural function, the chief guest Shri Kharkongor, spoke at length on the need of shifting the focus of the education system more towards the dreams and varied aspirations of the students. He further stated that the Education policy needs to be change and the mindset of the administrators which is willing to change the outcome but the process should also be changed.

After the inaugural function, the first session was a talk given by Shri. Amit Kaushik, Practice Head, Education and Skill Development, IPE Global. He spoke at length at how Education was given priorities after Independence at the Constituent Assembly (drafting of the Indian Constitution), but no action was taken on the matter. It was only in 1961/62 when the Indian government set up NCERT and NIEPA to look into the educational infrastructure, education planning etc. that the country started give due importance to education. He went on to informed that in 1986 the government introduced the National Policy on Education but till date no major changes have been made to the policy which is retrogressive considering that we are now in the 21st century with quite advance technology and knowhow.

“The introduction of NFE i.e non-formal education, though gave way to traditional ways to education but it also acted like a vehicle for the state governments to escape their duties to set up schools and give proper educational infrastructures to the people,” Kaushik added.

The last session of the seminar included a presentation by Pratham/ASER Centre on what does the experience of Pratham and ASER tell us?, by Suraj Kumar Pandey, State Head, Pratham and the MSW students of 2014 batch MLCU also shared experiences of using Pratham tools in the communities.

**Community Camp at Mawliehpoh Village, Mawsynram Block East
Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya in Collaboration with National
Service Scheme (NSS)**

Camps and excursions provide a lot of practical experience which are enriching. Almost all age groups of people enjoy the camps and excursion; it especially attracts the young generation. It enables those who are participating to develop skills and establish relationship with other members as well.

General objectives of camping: to use time fruitfully, learn to live outdoors, thereby improve health, develop skills and interests, acquire wholesome and desirable personality traits, develop spiritual and moral values, learn to live together and solve problems in a democratic manner.

Camp station: Mawliehpoh is a medium size village located in Mawsynram, near Trysad village of East Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya with total 62 families residing. The Mawliehpoh village has population of 307 of which 147 are males while 160 are females as per Population Census 2011. Mawliehpoh is under Mawsynram block and the nearest town is Mawsynram itself. There are three Schools in Mawliehpoh I.e., Mawliehpoh Church of God Lower Primary School, Mawliehpoh Upper Primary School and Mawliehpoh Lower Primary School. There are no public or private health facilities in the village. The only nearest health center is in Trysad sub-center, which is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a kilometer (approximately 15 minutes walking distance). There are no direct transportations. However, the village is accessible through gravel road connection, navigable to both two wheelers and four wheelers.

The Community camp was productive in terms of learning experience for the students. The objectives of the camp were achieved successfully. It was observed that the students were able to adjust and work as a team. The students were able to mobilize the people in the community to come forward whenever programmes were held. During one of the programmes on Cleanliness, the students divided into five groups and went to educate people at the household level since the people were not free to come to a common place and as a result the awareness programme was successful and there was successful and there was a positive response from the village.

Educational study tour BSW 5th and MSW 3rd Semester to Kolkata

Dated: 14 – 23 December, 2015

A study tour is an essential aspect of the experiential learning of Social Work Education. The department organizes study tours outside the state for the BSW and MSW final year students every year. Important institutional and organizational visits are organized. Their office procedures, methods, social services, social work practices and contribution to the society at large are studied. Besides institutional visits, students are generally exposed to other issues in urban areas such as increasing urban poverty, population, environmental issues and others.

Hence, inclusion of Study tour in our academic curriculum plays a crucial role providing an opportunity to students to execute and enhancing their skills, knowledge and competencies with self-development and actualization to be a professional in future. The medical sectors, NGO's and other field of practice which are selected should be such that the students should grasp the most significant things at every level of Practice. Proper supporting material should be provided for effective utility of this activity. With a varied knowledge about different organization and listen to eminent Personalities of so on sectors and gain as much knowledge of all the working fields should be inculcate in the structure of the educational tour as well as to develop Group living and team work which will lead them to any success which is necessary for the students throughout the life.

A Report on

A.S.E.R's Lakhon Mein Ek- Reading week (Phase-II)

After three days of training from the 10th to the 12th of February, 2016, the students of Masters of Social Work Department were sent to the field for one week, i.e., from the 15th till the 20th of February, 2016. The students were divided into 17 groups which comprises from 2-3 members in each group. The students were able to cover up to 34 villages- 3 in Jaintia Hills District, 9 in Ri-Bhoi District and 22 in East Khasi Hills District.

The students had to meet the Village Head man, representatives and local people to explain to them what the Reading Week is all about. After that, they had to gather the children from Class 3-8 and start with the Based Line Survey-testing and assessing. After this, the students had to divide the children into different groups depending on the number of children present in their respective villages. After dividing into groups, the students distributed two sheets of papers to the children in the different groups- one which involved individual work and the other group work. The students also had to do some activities which were taught by ASER. These activities are aligned with the Pratham way of teaching which is known as "Activity Based Learning". All these activities had to be done every day (Day 1 till Day 6) and on the last day, another testing and assessing or End Line Survey was done, in order to know if there had been any improvement in the Learning Levels of children in all those villages.

So far, there has been a positive feedback from the local people in the different villages, and in some villages, the ASER State Team is planning to look at further interventions and work hand in hand with the local people.

The ASER State Team in their message to the department would like to thank all the students who worked hard and make this Reading Week a success, and also the Teachers of Social Work Department, for giving ASER the opportunity to work together and help in improving the education status of the state here in Meghalaya.

By ASER Team Meghalaya

World Social Work Day 2016

Date: 15th of March 2016

Venue: Mawliehpoh Community, East Khasi Hills

The theme for this year's World Social Work day is "**Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples.**" Therefore, the Department of Social Work, MLCU stood in solidarity along with Social Workers all around the world.

The Department celebrated this event in a community called Mawliehpoh, in East Khasi Hills District with the objectives of contributing to the welfare of the people in the community through the activities being conducted and intervening on the identified problems based on the baseline survey conducted during the Community camp 2016.

Based on the above objectives the Programme started at 1:00 PM with the following activities:

- a) The BSW 2nd Class mobilized and educated children in the community on "Personal Hygiene" which is being assessed under the paper Working with Groups as part of experiential learning
- b) The BSW 4TH and MSW 2nd went to the households for post evaluation of the awareness programme on Cleanliness which was conducted at household level during their Community Camp as well as inviting the community people for the various activities, the students are being assessed under Community Camp activity, and a separate report of the evaluation is attached. This was followed by
- c) The BSW 6th students conducting a role play for parents based on Psychosocial Development Theory by Erik Erikson for enhancing parenting skills assessed under Counseling Paper.

All the activities were monitored by the Faculty of the Department.

Following these activities, at 3:00 pm the formal programme began with a prayer by Ms. Ibasaralyne Thabah Synthiang, followed by a welcome song from the students and welcome speech from the Head of Department, Ms. Marbabiang Syiemlieh and a short speech from the village Headman Mr.Rani. These items were then followed by the Bihu Dance, Jaintia Song, Naga Folk Song, Garo Dance, Mizo Bamboo Dance, Jaintia Harvesting Dance all performed by the students of BSW 4th and MSW 2nd Semester . There was also participation from the community were they presented two items one was Khasi Harvesting Dance and the other a traditional Khasi Dance, followed by a role play from the MSW 4th students on the "Importance of Education". The Programme was then concluded with the Presentation of the Report of the Survey to the Village Headman by Mr Patrick S.Dkhar followed by vote of thanks from Mr John Paul Kharmalki.

There was ample participation of the community people in Mawliehpoh that contributed to the success of the event. From the very start children were mobilized and took active participation during the "Personal Hygiene" activity, the concentration of few mothers while watching the role play on stages of development Erik Erikson showed there interest in learning something new.

Breast Self Awareness , May 2016

The Civil Hospital Shillong , conducted a one day Orientation Programme on Breast Self Awareness on the 13th May for the faculties and students of Allied Health Sciences Department and on the 15th for the faculties and students (MSW 2ND Semester)of Social Work Department at MLCU Hall, Main campus, Nongrah.

The objective of the training was to impart the students and teachers with sound knowledge of Breast Self Examination and the causes of breast cancer and its preventive aspects.

The resource person was Dr. Judita Syiemlieh and Miss. Dora Lyndem was the facilitator and two nurses assisted them.

Students and teachers were also given an opportunity to see the doctor and nurses for further examination.

The orientation was a success and it indeed was an eye opener to all the participants as we were imparted with knowledge and preventive aspects of breast cancer.

Consumer Awareness Programme

National Food Security Act, 2013 & Consumer Protection Act, 1986

Venue: MLCU, Campus (Training) & Mawryngkneng Community (Awareness Programme)

Date: May 9, 2016 (Training) and May 13, 2016 (Awareness Programme)

The programme was organized for two alternative days. On the 9th of May, 2016 there was a Training programme on the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 & Consumer Protection Act, 1986 for the people of Mawryngkneng village and for the BSW 2nd students of MLCU, Social Work Department. On the 13th May, 2016 an Awareness programme was conducted at Mawryngkneng village where the Inspector of Supply, East Khasi Hills Ms J. Kharshandi and Mr. S. Saha, delivered a speech on NFSA, 2013 and BSW 2nd students performed two role plays on NFSA, 2013 & on Consumer Protection Act, 1986 respectively.

