



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Statehood of Meghalaya

*The Department of Political Science and
Department of Sociology, Shillong College
is Organising
a*

PANEL DISCUSSION

on the Theme

**“HIGHER EDUCATION IN
POST PANDEMIC WORLD:
CHALLENGES IN THE NEW NORMAL”**

22nd November, 2021 | Shillong



CONCEPT PAPER

Two years into the pandemic and the world is still grappling to adapt to norms that now dictate and govern almost every aspect of our day-to-day activities. Pandemic has influenced every aspect of human life and education is no exception to that. For so many months now, the world has been adjusting to this sudden change. This disruption was partly managed by technology. New developments are also associated with new problems, challenges and opportunities. The pandemic has also increasingly made us realize the important role that technology plays in helping us achieve our daily requirements or work goals. In line with the National Education Policy 2020 and this pandemic, the education sector has seen its transition into the realm of digital education, where the internet plays a very crucial role in helping to fulfil the required academic goals. A large number of Webinars on the themes of National Education Policy 2020 was organised by various institutions. This digital era is one that has brought about a change in every field where every individual has to adapt for survival. This raises a pertinent question of how teaching and research have been impacted by the Pandemic.

This Panel Discussion attempts to pose some of the following questions for an in-depth deliberation on the role of technology, the market, the state and its impact in the educational system.

In this backdrop, the objectives of this Panel discussion are as follows:

- *To understand the impact of Covid on teaching, learning and service functions of higher education.*
- *To conceptualise the “New Normal” in post Covid scenario with respect to the role of technology and market.*
- *To analyse the role of the state in new normal in the light of past development in higher education.*



MODERATOR:-

Dr. Batskhem Myrboh,

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Synod College and Former MCTA General Secretary.



PANELLIST:-

Prof. S. M. Sungoh,

Department of Education, NEHU. An eminent educationist of the state of Meghalaya. A 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



Smt. Ibanylla Warjri,

Principal, Meghalaya Police Public School



Representative from Directorate of Higher & Technical Education, Government of Meghalaya.



Shillong College

Motto: Knowledge is immortal

Shillong College is situated on a hillock in the beautiful City of Shillong. It was established on 15th August, 1956 purely on public initiative. The initiative was from across the various sections of people in this capital city. It is run by the Shillong College Educational Society (Regn.No. No. E.16 (Rs) 5/of 2006/71 dated 23rd March, 2006 under Meghalaya Societies Registration Act).

The college is one of the premiere co-educational institutions in this part of the country and has been awarded Grade 'A' with a CGPA of 3.06 in 2016.

An over-whelming majority (more than 80%) of the student population are tribal. The rest hail from other states of the North Eastern Region, as well as other parts of the country. In recent times few international students have also been pursuing different courses in the college. The college runs Under-Graduate and Post Graduate Courses of study in different streams - Arts, Science, Commerce, Business Administration, Microbiology, and Computer Application and is affiliated to the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong. It is a registered member of India Colleges Forum (ICF) with Registration No. 15B-009 dated 31-03-2014. Being a Partner Institution of IGNOU, it has also successfully floated some Distance learning programmes.

In pursuance of its mission, and acknowledging the changes in the environment in particular the education sector, the Department of Political Science and Department of Sociology, will be organising a panel discussion on Higher Education in Post Pandemic World: Challenges in the New Normal.



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Chairperson:** Dr. (Mrs.) E. Kharkongkor,
Principal
- Conveners:** Smti V. R. Solomon,
Head Department of Political Science
Dr. (Mrs.) S. Khyriemmujaat,
Head Department of Sociology
- Joint Conveners:** Smti R. Pyngrope
Smti A. Marbaniang
Dr. (Mrs.) I. Mawkroh
Smti S. R. J. Khongwar
Smti K. M. A. Kharsohtun
Dr. (Mrs.) D. R. Diengdoh
- Members:** Shri K. D. Roy,
Vice Principal
Shri. B. Syiem,
Vice Principal, Professional Course
Dr. S. Sarma,
IQAC Co-ordinator

FOR REGISTRATION

Registration:

To register for the programme please go to the Link Below:

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Report of the PANEL DISCUSSION

On

HIGHER EDUCATION IN POST PANDEMIC WORLD:
CHALLENGES IN THE NEW NORMAL

22nd November, 2021 | Shillong

Organised By
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
SHILLONG COLLEGE

Conveners

1. Smt V R Solomon HOD, Department of Political Science,
2. Dr (Mrs.) S. Khyriemmujat, HOD, Department of Sociology, Shillong College.

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 hosted by Prof R. Pyngrope from the department of Political Science, Shillong College. Our Respected Principal Dr (Mrs.) E.Kharkongor, delivered a speech in the presence of our esteemed Panelists **Prof S.M Sungoh**,(who attended online) from the Department of Education, NEHU; 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**(who attended online), three decades experience in mental health consultation & therapy in Meghalaya, Member of the Expert Committee on Mental Health in Meghalaya, **Smt. Ibanylla Warjri**, Principal, Meghalaya Police Public School. **Govt Representative: Dr E.W Mawkhiew**: Deputy Director of Higher and Technical Education, Govt of Meghalaya; **Dr. Batskhem Myrboh**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Synod College and Former MCTA General Secretary as the moderator for the Panel Discussion.

The Panel discussion was conducted in a Blended mode and participants included students, teachers,



Assessed and Re-Accredited in 2016 by NAAC as "A" Grade with CGPA: 3.06/4

scholars, researchers, parents and all stakeholders.

The program commenced with the Welcome speech by Smt. V.R Solomon, HOD Political Science, Shillong College, followed by the introductory speech by Dr (Mrs.) S.Khyriemujat, HOD Sociology Department. In her speech she highted on the objectives of organising the discussion followed by introduction of the esteemed Panellists and moderator. Dr (Mrs.) E.Kharkongor felicitated the Panellists and moderator. Dr (Mrs.) E. Kharkongor, in her speech mentioned how technology played an overwhelmingly purposeful role during the stressful times and made itself most relevant. She highlighted that the education sector has seen its transition, where the internet played a crucial role in helping to fulfil the required academic goals. This raises a pertinent question of how teaching and research have been impacted by the Pandemic and solutions to adapting to the "New Normal".

During the Panel Discussion on the Theme: "Higher Education in the Post Pandemic world: Challenges in the New Normal" the esteemed Panellists, deliberated and debated on pertinent issues and challenges. Realising the fact that Covid 19 had enormously impacted all aspects of life- social, economic and livelihood activities, environmental, health and education, the Panellists delved at length to focus on how to adopt to the transition from the old normal which forced everyone to embrace the new normal. In the field of higher education, on the one hand Covid-19 had thrown gigantic challenges, on the other it has given us new opportunities. Deliberations on how Covid-19 forced an early push for the realisation of the visions and programmes intended to be embarked upon by the Country and our state as outlined in the National Education Policy 2020 and to an extent the Meghalaya State Education Policy 2018.

The Panel Discussion deliberated on the following points:

1. As teachers, how do we did find ourselves in the early phase of the pandemic in 2020 and how did we eventually adjust?
2. What are the challenges teachers faced while transacting online teachings?
3. What is the new normal?
4. As parent who had children pursuing higher education during the pandemic how they find



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- children react and adjust to the online teaching? Were teachers and institutions prepared to deliver effective online teaching? What online platforms the teachers were using for teaching and which one in your experience is the most appropriate?
5. Covid-19 has brought to the fore the distinction between the privileged few and the mass underprivileged in terms of access to technology? How deep and widespread this divide is and what are the factors that are responsible for this?
 6. How do we assess the system of examination during this pandemic in higher education in our state?
 7. There is a general tendency among people to question the quality of students who graduate during the pandemic and their employability. This may affect their psychology and self esteem now and in the future as well?
 8. The National Education Policy 2020 states, "It cannot be assumed that a good teacher in a traditional classroom will automatically be a good teacher in an online classroom", "Teachers require suitable training and development to be effective online educators". From the state government whether there has been any plan to facilitate capacity building for teachers to be effective online educators?
 9. In the NEP 2020, there has been a push for online/digital education and at the same time it acknowledges that the benefits of online education cannot be leveraged unless the digital divide is eliminated. Immediately after the adoption of the NEP, the Meghalaya Chief Minister stated that our state will be the first state to implement NEP 2020. How prepared the state government was to eliminate the digital divide and what are the strategies that the state government planned to adopt or has already adopted?
 10. What is the role of the University and the College authorities to make teachers effective online educators?
 11. Education is incomplete without the involvement of parents in higher education though in terms of degree it is less compared to school education. Role of parents in the online education at the college and university level during the pandemic and even thereafter?
 12. Do we support the push for online education adopted by our policy makers?

SHILLONG




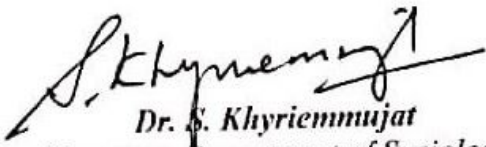
COLLEGE

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The function then concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Smt K. M. A Kharsohtun Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Shillong College.

The Department of Political Science and Sociology, Shillong College had organised this Panel Discussion with an intention to discuss, delve and debate on the various concerns that relate to Higher Education and how to respond and cope to the New Normal. The result of the deliberations emphasized on the need to relook, rethink and co-ordinate in order to create awareness and understanding for realistic assessment of the problems thereby helping in evolving a well-planned strategy.


Smt V.R Solomon
Convener, Department
of Political Science
Shillong College


Dr. S. Khyriemujat
Convener, Department of Sociology
Shillong College



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RESOURCE PERSONS:



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An eminent educationist of the
State of Meghalaya. A former
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of NEHU.



Dr. Jyoti Blyngdoh
Specialist in mental
health and therapy in
the field of the Expert
in mental health in
Meghalaya.



Smt. Ibanylla Warjri
Principal,
Meghalaya Police Public School.

Dr. E. K. Mawkhiew
Deputy Director, DHTE
Representative from Directorate of
Higher & Technical Education,
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The Department of Political Science and Department of Sociology, Shillong College Organise a Panel Discussion on the theme “Higher Education in Post Pandemic World: Challenges in the New Normal’ on 22nd of November, 2021