

CULTURAL PROGRAM

RURAL CAMP 2023



ORGANIZED BY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK-PG

**VENUE: PAHAMMARDOLOI VILLAGE,
NONGPOH**

DATE: 9TH JUNE 2023

Introduction:

Cultural Program is a platform for inter cultural exchange of culture, traditions and belief by way of exhibiting the cultural identity and ethnicity of one own tribes or community. The cultural program offers a wide range of cultural performances which serves as platform for the people to showcase their culture and tradition in the form of folk music including traditional songs, traditional dance and the rich indigenous cuisines obtain from the native place.

The Department of Social Work-PG of St Edmund's College organized a Cultural Program in Pahammardoloi village on the 9th of June 2023 as part of the Rural Camp 2023 in the respective Village. This program was held in the Playground of the Pahammardoloi RCLP School with variety of cultural performances from the MSW 2nd and 4th semester and the community people. The Program was hosted by Ms.Graceful Suting, Mr. Kevin Pdang, Ms. Anjelista Syiemlieh and Mr. Marseillis Pohlong.

The Cultural Program was organized with an objective of understanding the rich culture and diversity of the community and the diversity of the students coming from various places sharing their own unique and rich culture and tradition respectively. Its purpose is to showcase the traditional attire and performances in the form of infotainment and entertainment in the community through various folk song and traditional dance of the different tribes and community in Northeast India.

About the Programme

At the very outset, the cultural program started with the invocation of prayer by Ms. Beneranda Shadap which was followed by the welcome address delivered by Ms. Javiya Ashraf both from MSW 2nd semester, respectively. Besides that, the MSW 2nd Semester students performed a welcome song with the theme song of the Rural Camp. The cultural program saw the active participation of the community people of Pahammardoloi village along with the MSW 2nd and 4th Semester students of the Department of



Social Work-PG St Edmund's College Shillong. The program was attended by hundreds of community members including elderly, women, men, youths and children of the village and nearby villages. During the cultural event, numerous of performances were featured including traditional dances of many ethnicities, including the Khasi, Jaintia, Garo, Naga, and Assamese communities. Additionally, local residents took part in the cultural event with their traditional folk music performances.

The program was graced with the presence of the headman and the Village Executive Committee in which an introductory speech from the community was given by the village's headman, Mr. Louis Syngkli. He stresses on the importance of organizing such program in the community which enhance their way of life and understanding the various social issues through awareness programme among the community people. He also appreciate the work and task carried out by the MSW 2nd semester of St Edmund's College for doing a wonderful program in their village which has benefit and gain lots of exposure by the community people.

The Cultural Program saw multiple traditional dances as well as a Traditional Fusion Dance which were performed by MSW students of St Edmund's College both 2nd and 4th semester respectively. The program witnessed the traditional dances of the Khasia, Jaintias, Garos, Nagas, and Assamese and these were performed at the cultural event with a purpose of showcasing the cultural identity of these respective communities. Following, a Khasi traditional group song and traditional Assamese group song were amongst the songs that were performed at the event.



As a mark of the diversity of the MSW students, a Traditional Dance were also performed which includes the cultural diversity of all the matrilineal tribes of Meghalaya including the Khasia, Jaintias and the Garos. The fusion dance symbolizes "Unity in Diveristy" as well as the students diversity of cultural backgrounds.



During the cultural program, there were music performances from the community which includes, folk song, traditional instrumental, traditional dance were also presented which



commonly practice till today in the community. The children and youths perform two traditional dances as part of a group dance performance. The community people including youths and elderly exhibits the community traditional dance at the occasion which is known as "Shad

Sajer". The purpose of the dance is to demonstrate to the residents of the village on how warriors

fought in a war which was exhibit in the form of a traditional dance with traditional attire and the traditional sword and armor. This program also witnessed, a local woman, Mrs. Kret Makri who gave a solo performance with an instrumental performance with the traditional instrument known as "Ka Mieng" whereby she performed eight different tunes with a soulful sound of it.

Apart from the cultural performances from the community an MSW 2nd semester, the program also saw the performances by the 4th semester student of Social work department (PG) St. Edmunds College which includes the Garo Dance, a solo folk song and a Skit. The Garo dance was performed with the representation of the joy of beating drums and Flute at which is commonly performed by the Garo Community at the huge festival called Asamang Wangala



Festival by wearing the traditional attire of the Garos with Lush Green Mountains and Unique culture. Besides that, there was a solo performance given by the MSW 4th semester student, Mr. Malcolm Nongsiej.

The MSW 4th semester students performed a role play on Peer Pressure and Substance Abuse. The Role Play portrayed on the consequences of peer pressure and substance abuse. The role play depicts a student who were influence by his friend to get involved in smoking drinking and drug abuse which later became an addiction that results a stressful situation in the family. Seeing the son indulging in all types of intoxicants the mother felled ill due to mental stress and psychological trauma which result in other physical illness in which she passed away because of high blood pressure. Eventually, after the incident he regret for what he had done and he understand the unconditional love of a mother and with the help of some friends, the student was introduced to a counselor for counseling to help him come out from the life he had lived before by choosing a way to a new life and new beginning. In addition, there was also a group song which was performed by the MSW 4th semester students.

During the Rural Camp, the MSW 2nd semester students conducted various recreational activities which was participated by the children of the community. Hence, prizes were given to the winners in various competitions during the Cultural Programme. In this cultural program ,the Department of Social Work-PG were honored to felicitate the distinguished guest and individuals who had help and assist the department to conduct various activities during the Rural Camp. Therefore, to mark the valuable contribution towards the cause, a Memento were given out to various individuals including the Headman of the Pahammordoloi village, Mr. Louis Syngkli), the Secretary of the village Mr. Singtonius Nongrum, the Headmistress of St. Mary Secondary School, Sr. Linda Manih and the Headmistress of LP school Pahammordoloi village, Mrs. Doris Nongkyum

Towards the end of the program a vote of thanks was proposed by the MSW 2nd semester student from St. Edmund's College, Ms. Ibalalisa Khongwir, whereby she thank and acknowledge all the important individuals who had been helping and resourceful for the entire Rural Camp of the MSW 2nd semester. She appreciate and acknowledged the key stakeholders of the village, the Resource Persons of all the programmes, the Head of the Schools, the faculties of the Department of Social Work-PG, St Edmund's College and the community people for their dedication and commitment towards the common cause.

