Khasi Department
St. Edmund College, Shillong

A Brief History

Khasi is the language spoken by the people residing in Meghalaya, Assam and Bangladesh. It belongs to the Austro-Asiatic family under the Monkhmer group. Today there are more than a million speakers of this language. Khasi, as a subject in St. Edmund’s College was started in the year 1950. The first Lecturer of the Department was Ondro Muney Dkhar who joined as a part time lecturer on the 1st February, 1950. He was lovingly known as Babu Ondromuney because prior to his joining the College he was a school teacher and had written the first Arithmetic Book in Khasi for Primary School students.

In 1960, the department was converted into a full pledge department with Frank M. Pugh as the Head of the Department who joined on 1st August, 1960. Mr. Pugh was a renowned scholar of literature and also an author of repute. He had written and translated several text books on Khasi literature, especially in the field of Literary Criticism, drama, novel and poetry. Frank M. Pugh, before joining the college, was a high school teacher and Assistant Headmaster of the Mawkhar Christian High School.

In the year 1963, Ms. Seralin Giri Tham, joined the Department and served the Department for about a year (from 1st August, 1963 to 31st July, 1964). According to her, she joined the Department on the request of Frank M. Pugh since it was in that year that Khasi as a Second Language was introduced in the College at the Intermediate level. She fondly recalled how Frank M. Pugh would read out to her mostly in the evening time in the College, and discussed some of his prepared notes on Khasi literary topics connected with the courses for students. Those, later on, were incorporated in the textbooks written by Pugh himself. She also reminiscence how students taking Khasi in the evening shift were more in number than those in the day shift.

After Ms. Tham left for a teaching assignment in the Department of Political Science in St. Mary’s College, Mr. Evanton M. Reade Syiem joined the Department in 1964. Before that, Mr. Reade Syiem or Babu Ban as he was popularly known to the student community, was a high school teacher of Mawkhar Christian High School under Frank M. Pugh. He was also taught at Mount Hermon School in Darjeeling and here in Shillong. Mr. E. M. Reade had also served the army in India and Burma (present day Myanmar) and the Far East during the World War II (1941-1946).
In 1966, F. M. Pugh retired and Mr. D. L. Warjri had joined the Department as a new teacher on the very day of Mr. Pugh’s retirement (1st March 1966). Mr. Warjri, lovingly known to the student as Babu Las, before joining the College, was serving as the Headmaster of Mynken High School in Bhoiryambong village of Ri Bhoi district. The duo, Babu Ban as the Head of the Department and Babu Las as the colleague ably run the Department up to the Degree Pass Course Level. Mr. Warjri, apart from being in social activities especially for the moral upliftment of the young people. He has been the Hony-Secretary of Shillong YMCA since 1974.

Mr. Reade retired on 31st October 1976 but was asked to continue till 1977 and in the same year Mr. Chesterfield Khongwir, joined the Department. Before joining the College, Mr. Khongwir, was a school teacher and headmaster of a High school. He is also a renowned cultural artiste. He is a musician, a composer and a performing artist recognized up to the National Level by the Sangeet Natak Academy, the Highest National Institute of music and dance in India. He represented the State of several Culture events both within the Country and abroad. He had written and published Khasi song books, presented seminars papers on Khasi Folk Music and several audio cassettes on Khasi songs. He had also served in the North Eastern Hill University as a visiting Fellow in the Centre of Cultural and Literary Studies. His research work and contribution in the field of folk music has been widely published and publicized in the University occasional papers.

With the Introduction of a Second language at the Degree level, the physical work load of the Department had increased. It was in 1988 that another member was added to the Department and he is Mr. Heman Roy Bareh, who belonged to the First Batch of students obtaining Master Degree in the Discipline of Khasi Literature from NEHU. He has also completed his M. Phil degree from the same University. Bareh has published a book which is a part of his dissertation on **F.M. Pugh: A Study of Plot and Character** in 1983. Bareh's published dissertation had thrown more light on Pugh’s work relating to the study of Khasi drama. With him joining the Department, the teaching of Khasi fiction and dramatic techniques has become more meaningful. He became the Head of the Department after the retirement of Mr. C. Khongwir on 30th November, 2008. It was a great lost to the Department for the untimely demise of Mr. Bareh on the 15th July, 2015 while in service.

The Honours course in Khasi was introduced in the year 1992. The work load had increased again, so another teacher was appointed and he joined on 1st June, 1993. This was Mr. Sylvanus Lamare and he had been in the Department on an adhoc basis since 1992. Lamare was also a Guest Lecturer in the Department of Khasi, NEHU from July 1992 till December 1997. He is an outstanding scholar of the Khasi language with specialization in the field of socio-linguistics. He had numerous books to his credits and one is a text book for the Degree course in Elective Khasi and others as references for students in general. He is the first member of the Department to obtain
the Doctoral Degree from NEHU. He has participated and presented papers in many National and International seminars and workshops. He also contributed articles on language, culture and criticism to magazines and research journals. He was a member of the Sahitya Akademi from 2003 to 2007. He is a member of the National Curriculum of the Focus Group on the teaching of Indian Languages and a member of other reputed organization both Government and non-Governmental. Dr. Sylvanus Lamare has also contributed greatly towards translation from Khasi into Hindi. He has also done a study of Khasi dialects and an indepth study on Khasi folk traditions. He is a consultant of many National agencies for their programmes in North East India such as National Book Trust, India; Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi; Central Institute of Hindi, Agra; Central Institute of Indian Languages; Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Meghalaya and many other agencies. Another turn of events took place in 2011, Dr. Sylvanus Lamare was appointed as the Principal of the College from 1st June 2011. It was a proud moment for the Khasi Department.

After the retirement of Mr. D.L. Wajri another teacher was appointed and it was Mr. Bobby S. Basan, who was a student of the first batch of Khasi Degree Honours of the college. He joined the Department on 1st September 1997. He was actively involved in the activities of the College particularly in the games of soccer where he took active part in training the college team. In 2015, he took over the headship of the Department after the sudden demise of Mr. Bareh.

On December 2008, Mr. Chosterfield Khongwir retired and Mr. Wanpli Kharwanlang was appointed as lecturer. He was also a student of the college who obtained the 6th position in the Honours Khasi in 2005. In 2011, he has completed his M. Phil and at present he is pursuing his Ph.D.

Ms. Meris M. Sohsten also joined on 1st July, 2008 till 31st May 2010 as a part time teacher to handle the work load of the department particularly for the classes XI and XII.

Ms. Rosa M. Mawlong joined in College post on 1st June 2010 to ease the workload of the Department. On the 1st June, 2011, Ms. Rosa M. Mawlong joined in the leave vacancy of Dr. Sylvanus Lamare. In 2012, she has completed her Ph.D

On the 1st June 2011 Ms. Parlinsha Pyngrope joined in the College post.

*The present staff of the Khasi Department, St. Edmund’s College are Mr. Bobby S. Basan (Head of the Department), Mr. Wanpli Kharwanlang, Dr. Rosa M. Mawlong and Ms. Parlinsha Pyngrope.*

1. Faculty profile-adequacy and competency of faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Year of joining</th>
<th>Experience</th>
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3. **Student profile** – Entry level competencies, socio-economic status, language proficiency etc.,

   - **Entry level competencies:**
     The students who joined to study Khasi Honours are under three categories:
     (i) Those who really want to study the subject at the Honours level and have performed well in the Elective Khasi at class XII.
     (ii) Those who have the required overall percentage (50%) but did not have marks to join for Honours in other subjects.
     (iii) Those who have the required marks only in Elective Khasi at class XII and are placed in the second division. Hence, the task for the teachers is challenging and it calls for a lot of efforts particularly in the first year.
     (iv) In 2015, the University has introduced the Semester System

   - **Socio-economic status:**
     Most of the students who study Khasi Honours are from a rural background and often they come from a middle class or weak socio-economic background. This is noticed particularly at the time of payment of College fee and is also expressed and reflected in the form they filled for mentoring.

   - **Language proficiency:**
     Since they opt for Khasi Honours the real test is for Khasi language and they are found to be good at the subject. However, they suffer greatly in the General subjects because of the low English language proficiency. This is solved by (L) Prof. Heman Roy Bareh, Dr. Rosa Mystica Mawlong and assisted by other faculty in the department by giving them training in writing the English language.
4. Changes made in the Course or Programmes during the past two years and contributing of the faculty to those changes

○ The curriculum was revised in 2009.
For UG First Semester we are following the revise syllabus of 2015 while for Degree Second year and Degree Third year we are following the syllabus of 2009.

5. Trends in the success and dropout rates of students during the past two years

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of appeared</th>
<th>1\textsuperscript{st} Div.</th>
<th>2\textsuperscript{nd} Div.</th>
<th>Simple Pass</th>
<th>Fail</th>
<th>Pass%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>86.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>77.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>90.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>76.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>89.66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

○ Drop out rate of students 2014 - Nil

Position holders in the University Examination:

2010: 1\textsuperscript{st} Position Bariland Lyngdoh Mawphlang
2011: 1\textsuperscript{st} Position Ibaphyrnai Kurbah
       6\textsuperscript{th} Position Lily Mary Nongtdu
2012: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Position Lahundashisha Kharshïïng,
       4\textsuperscript{th} Position H. Bankerlang Thabah
2013: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Position Badahunlang Lyngkhoi
2014: 8\textsuperscript{th} Position Maximum Sohshang
2015: 8\textsuperscript{th} Position Naphibet Nongrum

6. Learning resources of the departments-library, computers, laboratories and other resources

○ Library-Yes
○ Computer-1
○ Internet-Yes (Broadband)

7. Modern teaching methods practiced and use of ICT in teaching-learning
o OHP-1 and is regularly used in classroom teaching
o LCD- Regular use of the LCD facility that is being provided in the Audiovisual rooms and auditorium

8. Participation of teachers in the academic and personal counseling of students
   o Mentoring
   o Personal counselling

9. Details of faculty development programmed and teachers who have been benefited during 2010-2014.

   o Refresher Course:
     • Mr. Wanpli Kharwanlang attended the Refresher Course, conducted by the Khasi Dept., NEHU 7th-27th November 2012.
     • Mr. Ronald Peel Kharshiing attended the Refresher Course, conducted by the Khasi Dept., NEHU 7th-27th November 2012.

   Staff Development Programme:
     • Seminar on “Students teacher relationship, Behavioral Pattern, Counseling and Career Guidance”, Part II organized by the college, Bro. K. Ward on 28th & 29th May 2009
     • Seminar on “Developing Intellectual Capital Skills for the Learning Economy” organized by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong from 31st January – 2nd February 2011
     • Workshop on “Changing Paradigm in College Education – Problems and Challenges” organized by the Meghalaya Economic Association in collaboration with IQAC St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 29th October, 2011
     • Programme on “The Edmund Rice Capacity Building” organized by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on 10th and 11th February 2012

10. Participation / Contribution of teachers to the academic activities

   Seminars and Workshops attended by (Late) Mr. H. R. Bareh (From 2010-2014):

   2. Workshop on “Ka Jingïadonkti lang ka Imlang ha ka ban Pynneh Pynsah ia ka Spah Mariang khamtam kaba ñadei bad ka Jingstad Ai Dawai Tynrai jong u Khasi” organized by the Department of Botany, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on 3rd December, 2011
3. Seminar on “Myths, Folktales and Legends in Khasi Literature” organized by the Khasi Department and IQAC, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 14th June, 2014

4. Programme on “National Writers’ Meet” sponsored by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, NEEPCO, Ltd. Shillong, AIPC, Meghalaya and St. Edmund’s College, Shillong from 27th – 28th November, 2014

Seminars and Workshops attended by Mr. B. S. Basan:

1. Workshop “National Translation Training Programme” (English to Khasi) conducted by IGNOU Institute for Vocational Education & Training, (IIVET) Shillong & School of Translation Studies (SOTS) IGNOU, New Delhi from 27.09.10 to 29.09.10


3. Seminar on “Ka Jingroi Jingsan jong ka Ktien Khasi ka Kyntiew ia ka Kyrdan jong ka Jaitbynriew ha khmat ka Pyrthei” organized by the Khasi Authors’ Society on the 13th August, 2011

4. Appointed as a judge in the “Drama Competition” organized by the Directorate of Arts & Culture on the 27th October, 2011

5. Workshop on “Changing Paradigm in College Education – Problems and Challenges” organized by the Meghalaya Economic Association in collaboration with IQAC St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 29th October, 2011

6. Workshop on “Ka Jingïadonkti lang ka Imlang ka Sahlang ha ka ban Pynneh Pynsah ia ka Spah Mariang khamtam kaba ëadei bad ka Jingstad Ai Dawai Tynrai jong u Khasi” organized by the Department of Botany, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on 3rd December, 2011.


10. Seminar on “U Khasi: Ka Jinglong Kawei” organized by the Department of Khasi, Synod College, Shillong on the 10th June, 2014

11. Seminar on “Myths, Folktales and Legends in Khasi Literature” organized by the Khasi Department and IQAC, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 14th June, 2014.

14. Member of the BUGS, Moderation Board, Paper Setter, Paper Examiner, Scrutinizer, NEHU, Shillong
15. President of SKR (SEC unit from 2014 till date). Member of MCTA, SEC unit

Seminars and Workshops attended by Mr. W. Kharwanlang:

1. Seminar on “Ka Kolshor Khasi: Ka Iktiar u Shynrang bad ka Bhah ka Kynthei Khasi” organized by the Department of Khasi, Synod College on the 30th July, 2010
2. Workshop “National Translation Training Programme” (English to Khasi) conducted by IGNOU Institute for Vocational Education & Training, (IVET) Shillong & School of Translation Studies (SOTS) IGNOU, New Delhi from 27.09.10 to 29.09.10
3. Seminar on “Ka Hok Longtrai halor ka Saiñpyrkhat” (Intellectual Property Rights) organized by the Department of Khasi and Commerce, St. Anthony’s College, Shillong College on the 28th & 29th October, 2010
5. Seminar on “Ka Jingroi Jingsan jong ka Ktien Khasi ka Kyntiew ia ka Kyrdan jong ka Jaitbynriew ha khmat ka Pyrthei” organized by the Khasi Authors’ Society on the 13th August, 2011
6. Workshop on “Changing Paradigm in College Education – Problems and Challenges” organized by the Meghalaya Economic Association in collaboration with IQAC St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 29th October, 2011
7. Workshop on “Ka Jingiadonkti lang ka Imlang ka Sahlang ha ka ban Pynneh Pynsah ia ka Spah Mariang khamtam kaba iadei bad ka Jingstad Ai Dawai Tynrai jong u Khasi” organized by the Department of Botany, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on 3rd December, 2011
8. Programme on “Face to Face with the Khasi Authors” organized by the Department of Khasi, Lady Keane College, Shillong on the 18th October, 2012
9. Participated in UGC-Refresher Course from 7th November, 2012 to 27th November, 2012 organised by the Department of Khasi, NEHU Shillong
10. Participated in the 21st Orientation Programme from 4th February, 2013 to 3rd March, 2013 organised by the UGC- Sponsored Orientation Programme, NEHU Shillong

12. Seminar on “Constructing Identity in Tribal Literature and Languages of India” organized by the Department of Khasi, NEHU Shillong in collaboration with the Tribal Literary Forum of India (TLFI) Shillong held from 26th – 28th March 2014

13. Seminar on “U Khasi: Ka Jinglong Kawei” organized by the Department of Khasi, Synod College, Shillong on the 10th June, 2014

14. Resource Person in the Seminar on “Myths, Folktales and Legends in Khasi Literature” organized by the Khasi Department and IQAC, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 14th June, 2014

15. Memorial Lecture on “U Victor G. Bareh” organized by the Department of Khasi, St. Anthony’s College, Shillong on 9th August, 2014


17. Seminar on “Ki Snap ka Parom Mutdur” (Aspects of Khasi Novel) organized by Department of Khasi, NEHU Shillong on 29th September, 2014

18. Seminar on “Towards Standardizing Khasi for Computational Purposes” organized by the Department of Khasi and Department of Computer Science, St. Anthony’s College, Shillong from 28th – 29th October, 2014

19. Seminar on “Translation in Khasi Literature” organized by the Department of Khasi, Shillong College on the 5th November, 2014

20. Programme on “National Writers’ Meet” sponsored by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, NEEPCO, Ltd. Shillong, AIPC, Meghalaya and St. Edmund’s College, Shillong from 27th – 28th November, 2014

Seminars and Workshops attended by Dr. Miss R. M. Mawlong:


2. Workshop on “Effective Presentation through Microsoft Power Point” organised by the Department of Computer Science, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 10th and 11th February, 2011

3. Seminar on “Ka Jingroi Jingsan jong ka Ktien Khasi ka Kyntiew ìa ka Kyrdan jong ka Jaitbynriew ha khmat ka Pyrthei” organized by the Khasi Authors’ Society on the 13th August, 2011

4. Workshop on “Changing Paradigm in College Education – Problems and Challenges” organized by the Meghalaya Economic Association in collaboration with IQAC St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 29th October, 2011
5. Participated in the 18th Orientation Programme from 23rd February, 2012 to 21st March, 2012 organised by the UGC- Sponsored Orientation Programme, NEHU Shillong

6. Seminar on “U Khasi: Ka Jinglong Kawei” organized by the Department of Khasi, Synod College, Shillong on the 10th June, 2014

7. Resource Person in the Seminar on “Myths, Folktales and Legends in Khasi Literature” organized by the Khasi Department and IQAC, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 14th June, 2014

8. Seminar on “Ka Jingpynkylla Ktien (Translation) bad ki Lad Pathai Khubor.” Organized by the Department of Khasi, Sankardev College, Shillong on 4th July, 2014

9. Participated in the “Faculty Development Programme (FDP)” organised by the All India Association for Christian Higher Education, Barapani, Shillong from 21st August to 23rd August 2014

10. Seminar on “Towards Standardizing Khasi for Computational Purposes” organized by the Department of Khasi and Department of Computer Science, St. Anthony’s College, Shillong from 28th – 29th October, 2014

11. Programme on “National Writers’ Meet” sponsored by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, NEEPCO, Ltd. Shillong, AIPC, Meghalaya and St. Edmund’s College, Shillong from 27th – 28th November, 2014

Seminars and Workshops attended by Ms. P. Pyngrope:

1. Seminar on “Ka Jingroi Jingsan jong ka Ktien Khasi ka Kyntiew ia ka Kyrdan jong ka Jaitbynriew ha khmat ka Pyrthei” organized by the Khasi Authors’ Society on the 13th August, 2011

2. Participation during the College Month activities (16th August – 16th September), 2011

3. Workshop on “Changing Paradigm in College Education – Problems and Challenges” organized by the Meghalaya Economic Association in collaboration with IQAC St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 29th October, 2011

4. Workshop on “Ka Jingiandonkty lang ka Imlang ka Sahlang ha ka ban Pynneh Pynsah ia ka Spah Mariang khamtam kaba iadei bad ka Jingstad Ai Dawai Tynrai jong u Khasi” organized by the Department of Botany, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on 3rd December, 2011

5. Programme on “The Edmund Rice Capacity Building” organized by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on 10th and 11th February 2012


8. Attended the Fr. Joseph Bachiarello Memorial Inter-College Debate Competition on “Ki Spah Mariang ka Thymmei ka Ùh ka Kot” organized by the Department of Khasi, St. Anthony’s College, Shillong, on 7th August, 2013
9. Seminar on “Myths, Folktales and Legends in Khasi Literature” organized by the Khasi Department and IQAC, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong on the 14th June, 2014

Seminars and Workshops attended by Mr. R. P. Kharshiing

Programmes organized by the Department

On the 28th July, 2012, the Khasi Department organised a Programme on “Ka Lekshor halor ka Phawar Khasi” (Lecture on Khasi Folk-songs). The Programme was attended by the teachers, students of St. Edmund’s College, Shillong. The fund was raised through contribution from the teachers, students and college. The Chief Guest was Prof. Chosterfield Khongwir, Former Head Khasi Department, SEC; while the Guest of Honour was Dr. Sylvanus Lamare, Principal, SEC. The lecture on the theme was delivered by Prof. S. S. Majaw. The teachers, students were benefitted by this programme.

On the 16th July, 2013, the Khasi Department organised a Programme on “Ka Jingkren halor U Tirot Singh” (A Popular Talk on U Tirot Singh). The Programme was attended by the teachers and students from different colleges in Shillong. The Programme was raised through contribution from the teachers, students and college. The lectures on the theme were delivered by Dr. Sylvanus Lamare, Principal St Edmund’s College and Dr. Mrs. Sukjai Swer, Head of Khasi Department, Sankar Dev College, Shillong.
On the 14\textsuperscript{th} June, 2014, the Khasi Department and Internal Quality Assurance Cell, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong organized the Seminar on “Ki Khana-tang, Khana-parom bad ki Khana-pateng” (Myths, Folktales and Legends). The seminar was attended by all prominent Khasi writers and personalities; Khasi teachers and students from different colleges in Shillong. The Seminar was funded by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi through the North Eastern Centre for Oral Literature, Agartala. The teachers from different colleges also delivered lecture and presented papers.

The department also conducted annual study tour program to the Third Year students. This study tour has greatly benefitted the students in gaining first hand information about some of the historical places located in the state and has also bring them closer to mother nature especially, to those places which are deeply associated with Folktales and Culture of the Khasis. In these five years, i.e. from 2010 to 2014, the department had conducted study tour programs to Kyllang Rock, Mawlynnong Village, Symper Peak, Nongkhlaw Village and Sohra respectively.