



WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2024

DATE: 19th MARCH 2024
**VENUE: SUBAKALAI LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL,
LAITSOHPLIAH**

INTRODUCTION

Every year, World Social Work Day is celebrated on the third Tuesday of March, and events are organized throughout the month of March. The day is an opportunity for social workers and others in the social service sector to celebrate their achievements as well as to raise awareness and support for the important role that social workers play in the lives of vulnerable families and communities. The day calls attention to the need for further planning, development and support to the profession and social service sector.

World Social Work Day was celebrated annually, recognizes the contributions of social workers and highlights the importance of social justice, human rights, and social development. This year's theme, "***Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change***" emphasizes the adoption of innovative, community-led approaches grounded in indigenous wisdom and harmonious coexistence with nature.

The spirit of community and social responsibility soared high as the students and staffs of Subakalai L.P School in Laitsohpliah Village, East Khasi Hills came alive to celebrate World Social Work Day on the 19th March, 2024. The event was organized by the Department of Social Work-PG (MSW) of St Edmunds College, Shillong, in collaboration with North East Slow Food & Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS), Shillong in Subakalai Lower Primary School, Laitsohpliah Village, with an aim to empower the local community with significant step striving towards fostering social transformation and inclusivity.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Programme was graced with the presence of the distinguished guests, including Headman Mr. Wan Marwein, Secretary of Laitsohpliah village Babu Nestar Kharmawphlang, Head Teacher of Subakalai L.P School, Mrs. R. Nongrum, Senior Associate of NESFAS, Mr. Janak Preet Singh, Mr. Shaiphar Dohling, Field Officer, NESFAS, Dr. Rituparna Rajendra, Head of Department, and



Faculty members of the Department of Social Work-PG (MSW), St Edmunds College, Shillong. The event was attended by the MSW students of St Edmund's College, School Children of Subakalai L.P School, Parents and Guardians, and the community people.

The program commenced with the felicitation of distinguished guests by Dr. Rituparna Rajendra, Head of the Department, Social Work-PG, St Edmunds College, Shillong, presenting College Souvenirs and bouquets of flowers as tokens of appreciation to the Secretary of Laitsohpliah Village, the Senior Associate of NESFAS, the Head Teacher of Subakalai Lower Primary School, Laitsohpliah Village and the Field Officer of NESFAS.

Following with the programme, Babu Nestar Kharmawphlang delivered a heartfelt welcome



speech, recognizing the indispensable contributions of social workers and extending gratitude to the Department of Social Work-PG for their dedication to commemorating World Social Work Day alongside the students. With impassioned fervor, he addressed the imperative for government intervention in matters concerning the health and dietary needs of children attending government schools.

Emphasizing the significance of ensuring that children receive the essential seven nutrients daily, he underscored the pivotal role of nutrition in nurturing their physical well-being and fostering overall health.

Mr. Janak Preet Singh, Senior Associate of NESFAS, Shillong, provided a comprehensive insight into NESFAS's mission and operational endeavors, placing particular emphasis on the organization's commitment to indigenous food systems. Gratefully acknowledging collaborative efforts, he highlighted NESFAS's School Meal Initiative, underscoring its role in promoting sustainable food systems and ensuring nutrition security. Furthermore, he unveiled NESFAS's innovative initiatives aimed at fostering a symbiotic relationship between the nutritious meals provided to children and local farmers. This strategic linkage not only enhances nutrition but also cultivates a vibrant synergy, facilitating systemic collaboration with the local community.



Following the speech, the atmosphere was enlivened by a captivating musical performance by the MSW students, captivating the audience with songs celebrating food and indigenous knowledge systems, integral components of indigenous ways of life. The crowd was entranced as the students' melodies echoed through the venue, conveying the rich cultural heritage

intertwined with sustenance and tradition. Additionally, a dynamic and captivating presentation by the Subakalai Lower Primary School children injected further vibrancy into the celebration, showcasing their talents and reinforcing the spirit of community and cultural exchange.

The event included an Observational Learning Activity, where MSW students visited the School Kitchen Garden Program, promoting sustainable gardening techniques and nutritional understanding among students. The highlight was the sharing of the Mid-Day Meal, fostering community and



cultural exchange. The MSW students were given an opportunity to learn and observed the School Garden Initiatives which provides the children with wholesome of local vegetables and wild edible to prepare and cook for Mid-Day Meal. The school launched the Kitchen School Garden program with an aim of providing supplements food groups (with minimum 5 food groups) to the Mid-Day Meal Program in the schools and providing a healthy and nutritious food for children. The Vegetables that are available in the School Kitchen Garden includes radish, turnip, lettuce, pumpkin, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, and beans could be found in the School Garden. Additionally, it included regional and local vegetables and wild edible such *Jali, Jatira, JhurThliem, and Jyllang, Jamyrdoh, Jaing*. The Students' good eating habits and nutritional understanding were encouraged by the School Garden by enhancing and adopting sustainable gardening techniques, such composting, water conservation, and organic farming methods. This helps to foster a feeling of environmental responsibility and learning to accept their responsibilities as environmental stewards and their comprehension of the value of protecting and conserving natural resources was encouraging among school students.



The significant highlight of the event was the sharing of the Mid-Day Meal with the guests in Sukbakalai Lower Primary School, Laitsohplich village which held significant importance as the sharing of meal demonstrated hospitality and fostered a sense of community within the school. The sharing of meal also provided an opportunity for cultural exchange where students from outside the state were able to experience local cuisine and customs, fostering understanding and appreciation for different cultures. The School, recognized for serving nutritious meals to students,



invited St. Edmund's college students to share the meal that also served as a form of celebration and recognition of achievements within the school community where the school promotes the importance of healthy eating habits. Guests, especially parents and community

members, can witness firsthand the efforts made by the school to provide nutritious meals to students. Overall, sharing a mid-day meal with the students and faculty of St. Edmund's College, community members in Subakalai L.P School goes beyond simply providing food; it is about fostering relationships, promoting understanding, and building a sense of belonging within the school community which coincided perfectly with this year's World Social Work Day theme: "Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change,"



The second session began with an opening remark by Mr. George Kerry Sunn, the Fieldwork Coordinator of the Department of Social Work-PG, St Edmund's College, Shillong. He conveyed his gratitude to the school for permitting the event to be held at their premises. He added by reflecting his fieldwork days in the village during his college days, that there had not been any developments and transformation in the region nine years ago, However in the present, he has since witnessed several improvements and changes that took place over time



and this year's World Social Work Day theme reflects the changes and transformations in the community whereby the community had adopted innovative sustainable methods and Community Led Initiatives has programmed the future they all want to see which is sustainable, innovative and ecological friendly. He said that the department's arrival at the school

had inspired a great deal of introspection, particularly in the School Kitchen Garden program with the intervention of NESFAS, the Mid-day Meal food program has significantly changed when compared to other schools in other locality, districts and the state. Further added, that the school meal program of the school which is supported by NESFAS has a great deal of

transformation and changes in the eating habits of the school children which create and nurture a healthy way of eating and enable the children to get nutritious and wholesome meal in the school which can foster growth and development in their physical and mental wellbeing of the children. Hence, he concluded that sharing a dining together with school children, parents, community people strengthen social cohesion and recognised the importance of human relationships which is build with a sense of we-feeling and belongingness under a platter of school meal program which has brought transformation and changes in the eating and dietary habits of the children with numerous advance improvements and nourishment.

The Head Teacher of Subakalai Lower Primary School, Ms. Rilang Nongrum, presented her remark by acknowledge and expressed her gratitude to the Faculty Members of the Department of Social work-PG, St. Edmund's College, Shillong and the MSW students for organising the event in their community which inspires them to learn and grow in this field of learning and sharing of expertise in the School Meal Program, an initiatives adopted by the school with the intervention of NESFAS, Shillong. She further expressed gratitude to Mr. Janak Preet Singh and NESFAS for contributing and supporting the midday meal program through the School Meal Initiatives.



Ms. Phibariti Marbaniang concluded the session with a vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all stakeholders. The day culminated with a visit to Dewlieh Village, where participants had the opportunity to witness the innovative Ropeway Gravity system in action, showcasing the community's ingenious approach to overcoming logistical challenges. This remarkable installation was conceived to facilitate the transportation of goods and materials to and from the village, effectively reducing costs and travel time for villagers. The impact of this initiative on the community

has been profound. Previously, the arduous task of ferrying food, goods, and materials would consume significant time and resources, often taking up to half an hour to an hour to traverse the distance between the village and the nearest road junction. However, with the implementation of the Ropeway Gravity system, this journey now takes mere minutes, with goods reaching the community in less than a minute and only five minutes to reach the main road junction. This remarkable efficiency has not only alleviated the burden on villagers but has also transformed the local economy by streamlining transportation and enhancing accessibility to essential resources.



Conclusion

World Social Work Day serves as a reminder of the invaluable services provided by social workers worldwide. It symbolizes a commitment to compassion, empathy, and social justice, as well as a shared dedication to addressing pressing social issues and uplifting marginalized communities. Let us celebrate the resilience and dedication of those who tirelessly advocate for the vulnerable, embodying the spirit of transformative change.



World Social Work Day 2024 in Laitsohpliah Village, East Khasi Hills

ANNEXURE 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



World Social Work Day 2024
 Organized by the Department of Social Work-PG
 St. Edmund's College, Shillong
 In collaboration with NESFAS, Shillong
 Date: 19th March 2024
 Venue: Laitsohpliah Village, East Khasi Hills

List of participants

Sl No	Name of the participants	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
1	Chiara Ribonitche Spreng	Student	7005491014	SR
2	Victor John Danson	"	7005200498	Victor
3	Daphnaya Skylla	Student	9366672973	Daphnaya
4	Pynsengainlangli Suting	"	8787323281	Pynsengainlangli
5	Donaliga Kurbah	"	7642818705	Donaliga
6	Kimberly Rytstels	"	7629916237	Kimberly
7	Enrichwell Tori	"	7630090317	Enrichwell
8	Rebecca Waripi	"	6033097108	Rebecca
9	Balekonda D. Parang	"	9362073304	B. Parang
10	Johanna Paktoring	Student	8777708730	Johanna
11	Nebel M. Suting	Student	6909947529	Nebel
12	Dehina Lyngdoh	"	9612180958	Dehina
13	Shakti Khayun	"	9863920952	Shakti
14	Sapthamaria Thangkiew	"	9612294660	Sapthamaria
15	Barsha Rani Sonowal	Student	7099451268	Barsha
16	Doreen Lege Wakhlang	Student	98622	Doreen

Scanned by TapScanner

Sl No	Name of the participants	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
17	Moumayee Halikuan	Student	7403955751	Moumayee
18	Iskandira Khongkh	Student	8784856570	Iskandira
19	Delisha Nongang	"	8415010783	Delisha
20	Graceful Suting	Student	6032044639	Graceful
21	Sumeriki Suta	"	6909512065	Sumeriki
22	Th. Wijanliu	"	7690896603	Th. Wijanliu
23	Mapulien K. Thangnaw	"	8974330466	Mapulien
24	Angelista Syiemlieh	"	9362762559	Angelista
25	Berenanda Soudap	"	7005811853	Berenanda
26	Jonisa Akhrif	"	381833397	Jonisa
27	Lekhumbila Sufam	"	9837034172	Lekhumbila
28	Priyanka Thakur	"	690165086	Priyanka
29	Kevin Pang	"	69099934	Kevin
30	Teachpbiang Wakhlang	"	9366076960	Teachpbiang
31	Davalin Lyngdoh	"	8700873004971	Davalin
32	Poonam Ray	"	6033096105	Poonam
33	Phibatruti Harboniang	"	8415702037	Phibatruti
34	Medanushisha Suna	"	9862274649	Medanushisha

Scanned by TapScanner

Sl No	Name of the participants	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
35	Banisha Dohling	House wife	8974438294	B. Dohling
36	Baiahurlang Dohling	House wife	6009636696	B. Dohling
37	Phamali Diengdoh	House wife		P. Diengdoh
38	Lanikon Shabong	House wife	7005237526	L. Shabong
39	Lanti Lyngdoh	House wife	8787421566	L. Lyngdoh
40	Jellina Dohling	House wife		Jellina
41	Aidanary Manuwin	House wife	9862058648	A. Manuwin
42	Felix Manuwin	Student		Felix
43	Emerald Shabong			Emerald
44	Shaphan Dohling	NESFAS	9366321917	Shaphan
45	Nestor K. Manuphly	Secretary Shy	8837085872	Nestor
46	Banwilang Shabong	Asst Teacher	7005113990	B. Shabong
47	Rilang Nongrum	Head Teacher	9366071112	Rilang
48	Banilin Siver	Cook	9366751161	B. Siver
49	Shampynshailang Nongrum	Cook	9366716762	S. Nongrum
50	Janae P. Siver	NESFAS	7012521066	Janae
51	Adinambin Dohla	NESFAS	6001381280	Adinambin
52	R. Mendes	"	9863273423	R. Mendes
53	George K. Sun	"	9862618386	George
54	Allanson Wakhlang	"	-	Allanson

Scanned by TapScanner

Sl No	Name of the participants	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
55	Kendonglene Lenter	Student	7005631195	Kendonglene
56	Kevin Pang	"	6909409934	Kevin
57	Richard Lyngdoh	"	9862256628	Richard
58	Phibatruti Harboniang	"	6009993737	Phibatruti
59	Marsellis Pahleng	"	7627917292	Marsellis
60	Siddhand Das	"	6901244567	Siddhand
61	Endonmi R. Manon	"	9366725389	Endonmi
62	Evantone Thangkiew	"	988022072	Evantone

Scanned by TapScanner

ANNEXURE 2

EVENT POSTER



WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2024



**THEME: "BUEN VIVIR: SHARED FUTURE FOR
TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE"**

**Organized by:
Department of Social Work-PG,
St Edmund's College, Shillong
In Collaboration with NESFAS, Shillong**

DATE: 19th MARCH 2024

VENUE: LAITSOHPLIAH, VILLAGE