



WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2023

**THEME: 'RESPECTING DIVERSITY
THROUGH JOINT SOCIAL ACTION'**

**ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL WORK (UG&PG)
ST. EDMUND'S COLLEGE SHILLONG**

**DATE- 21ST MARCH, 2023
VENUE- ST. EDMUND'S COLLEGE
AUDITORIUM**

PANEL DISCUSSION ON “RESPECTING DIVERSITY THROUGH JOINT SOCIAL ACTION”

Date: 21st March 2023

Target Groups: Social Workers (Students & Faculty members)

INTRODUCTION

World Social Work Day is commemorated to celebrate and promote the contributions of individuals and communities working for the society. This year it was celebrated on 21st March, 2023, under the theme, “**Respecting Diversity Through Joint Social Action**”. In commemoration of this auspicious day, a Panel Discussion was organized by the Department of Social Work UG & PG, St. Edmund's College on 21st March 2023 at the college auditorium, featuring guest speakers from a variety of fields and organizations. This program was hosted by Mr. George Kerry Sunn, Field Work Coordinator, Department of Social Work, St. Edmund's College Shillong.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

1. To impart knowledge and insights on the theme of World Social Work Day 2023.
2. To recognize the importance of community social action with respect to rich diversity of our community.
3. To understand the social changes that occurs locally through community leadership in its diverse communities.



INAUGURAL FUNCTION

A program without seeking God's blessing is vain, therefore, Dr. B. War Nongbri, Dean of St. Edmund's College, Shillong invokes the program with a prayer. To address the gathering, Mrs. Audrey D.Dohling delivered a welcome speech acknowledging the guests and participants of the programme. A song was presented by Mr. Nathan D. Langstieh, MSW 4th



semester students, titled, "What a wonderful world", to remind the attendees of how beautiful a world we all live in. A speech was also given by Dr. B. War Nongbri, on behalf of the college management. She said, "we live in a beautiful world, but humans, themselves have made it imperfect to live in," so she urged everyone to try to contribute a thing or two towards the society so it becomes a better place to live in. We live in a diverse world where everyone is different from one another and nobody is alike so the Dean encouraged the students to respect "diversity" and offer a helping hand to a person in need.

FELICITATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS

In recognition of the panelists, the faculty members of St. Edmund's College's Department of Social Work felicitated them.

Dr. Bhogtoram Mawroh is a Senior Associate at North East Slow Food and Agro-Biodiversity Society (NESFAS), who is in charge of the Research and Knowledge Management Unit. He had his PhD in Geography. The area of his works are on agrobiodiversity, agro ecology, health and nutrition, food sovereignty along with promotion and revitalization of traditional farming practices like '*Jhum*' and highlighting the rich agrobiodiversity from the indigenous territories of North East India.





Ms. Mayfereen Ryntathieng is a social worker for more than a decade. Miss Mayfereen is the founder and heads Grassroots, an NGO with its main objective being to encourage, empower and enhance people's responsibility for societal change. She is also a documentary filmmaker and script writer. Some of her documentaries like

"Voice of the Voiceless", "Hear our Voices- A cry from the Himalayas" are note worthy productions. Ms. Mayfereen is well trained personnel on gender rights, human rights and Rights Based Approach community development, entrepreneur skill development, facilitating skills, communication skills and social auditing to name a few.

Ms. Rebina Subba is a lawyer by profession and a social activist. The founding member of "Shamakami - One who desires one's equal", is the only organization working on LGBTQIA+ issues in Shillong. She has been strongly working to aware people on sexuality and gender issues. Being a former member of the Meghalaya State Commission for Women, Ms. Subba has cut across the message to incorporate trans-activism into women activism



as trans-issues are women issues and feminists should support in protecting all people from both sex and gender discrimination. She has also authored a topic on Legal Rights on Transgender in "Theological Book on Human Sexuality" in India for theological readers, which mark in the year 2017, published by the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI). She also started the sensitization Training on Gender and Sexuality (the first of its kind) with stakeholders, schools, colleges and universities.



Dr. Marbabiang Syiemlieh is the Dean of School of Social Work and an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, Martin Luther Christian University. She is a trained facilitator on Gender, Reproductive Health and Life Skills Education and Research Methodology. Over the years, she has been engaging in different research

projects of the university and the state like research studies on status of Khasi women, teenage pregnancy and issues related to children. She completed her PhD in the year 2017 on single motherhood and over 14 years of teaching experiences.

PANEL DISCUSSION

At the very outset, Ms.Edaneolla Kynta introduced to the audience the distinguished panelist after which the program was handover to the moderator of the Panel Discussion Mrs. Iarisa A.R. Dorphang. To start with the panel discussion, she welcomed the panelists and addressed the theme, that is, “Respecting diversity through joint social action.” She mentioned that as social workers, we know



that we see and experience diversity in every corner that we go to. It is the utmost duty of social workers to protect, promote and respect the diversity, but simply having done that is not enough. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each individual to understand and support the ones in need of help and assistance by using change and act as a change agent. Thus, change is synonym to social work and social action is one of the methods of social work. Therefore, joint social action involves collective efforts of individuals, groups, communities, institutions,



economic, political policies and systems. She also stated that this year's theme recognizes the change that can happen locally through diversity and it provides an opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the impact and influence that those communities make that leads to social inclusive transformation. She posed a question to the panelists on whether

social workers can act in joint social action in different dynamics and whether is there a common ground where social workers can act jointly to bring about the needed change.

Dr. Bhogtoram Mawroh opened the panel discussion by introducing his area of work in an NGO sector and he has acquired and obtained experiences in dealing with communities and one important perspective in that field is that when it comes to indigenous food, not much is

being talked about agro-biodiversity. He mentioned that agro-biodiversity is one of his concerns and that type of diversity is being marginalized. He also discussed about natural farming and how the indigenous food system that is being practiced in Northeast, is missing and not being reflected in the guidelines of natural farming. He mentioned the two farming practices of farming in Meghalaya, the '*Jhum*' cultivation and the '*Bun*' cultivation. Therefore, the diversity that is being practiced in this area is not being acknowledged, he added. The voice of indigenous food system that has been practiced for many years is not being heard by the national guidelines. He suggested that as an educational institution, what they can do is advocacy. They can work with communities in strengthening and empowering them but that can only be done through advocacy. Advocacy can come from social workers and they would act as an agent of change and support such organization in terms of community mobilization and partnership.

The moderator thanked Dr. B. Mawroh for being forward his points and asked the next panelist to share her thoughts.

Ms. Mayfreen Ryntathiang discussed on indigenous people's rights and collectivism. She mentioned that the most challenging part of creating diversity, be it human, culture, religion, food or simply the diversity within the college premises. Her question to the student socialworkers was that whether we have that diversity and if yes, do we morally and



professionally respect that diversity? She also mentioned that she was more interested into internalizing what onessay from their thoughts and their hearts. Every time she looks at the word 'diversity', she questions herself whether she wants to carry with her the prejudices, misunderstanding about other culture into the imaginative morally perfect world of having that society where one respects diversity. She asked the audience to do the same. Internalizing one's thoughts can help one open to many perspectives and as indigenous people, one does not like being imposed into believing that in the name of diversity, one must speak one language, follow one religion. That is not diversity in her perspective. Social workers and young people are instigated to make a change and be the 'diverse' change agent and maker and being a social worker is a tiring job but it brings immense satisfaction to one self because it is challenging and makes him or her think beyond and outside the box. She

asked the audience to internalize that where they saw themselves as part of the diverse concept and change before they change the world.

The moderator thanked Ms. Mayfreen Ryntathiang for bringing forward to the students about collectivism and the importance of internalizing one's own thoughts.



The next panelist was Mrs. Rebina Subba and she discussed about the challenges of being a social worker in contemporary world. She highlighted that as social workers, one has to be diverse in adapting to all kinds of diverse situations, be it sex, caste, creed, religion, custom, tradition. She shared her personal experiences and challenges while working with the LGBTQI population in Meghalaya. She

further comments her experience that it was a real challenge in 2008 when they initially started the movement on this subject matter. She added that nobody wanted to speak about it openly and people did not want to come out and reveal themselves because of discrimination and stigmatization in the society. When the honorable High Court of Delhi in 2009 passed the judgment to scrap out Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, all the states over India celebrated except for few parts of Northeast India due to their believe, culture, tradition and religion and people do not accept and respect others for what they are and does not accept other's gender identity. She mentioned that is it a real challenge to work in the social work path. She further put a question to the audience to respect human as they are irrespective of their sex, gender. Where there is respect for human for what they are, there is respect in diversity.

The moderator thanked Mrs. Subba for her points and stated that it is important to accept and respect these diversities no matter what one's opinion may be.



The last panelist was Dr. Marbabiang Syiemlieh, she emphasized on the academic perspective where she discussed about the core principles of social work, individualization, acceptance and non-judgmental attitude. Social workers are molded by the core values of social work that is, social service, social justice, importance of human relationship, dignity and worth of a person and competence and thus, these serves as the guidelines and motivation for social workers in social work practices. She also mentioned that one of the methods of social work, that is, social action, has been highlighted in the theme and she wanted the students to ask themselves whether they have made an impact on individual and communities through social action. The first step to diversity is collaboration, networking and joint social action for a common cause. To conclude she asked the students to internalize and respect means and how can it be brought.

Question and Answer (Q&A) Session

At the end of the panel discussion, there was a question and answer session in which the participants discussed and clarified their doubts and methods. There were a number of questions posed by audience members to the panelists, thus the discussion has deliberately been enhanced and the objective of the session has been achieved.



The panel discussion was concluded by the closing remarks of each panelist. In her remarks, Ms. Ryntathiang encourages the students to be brave, authentic, and to have the audacity to make a difference in the world. Ms. Subba emphasized to the students that it is imperative that they start respecting one another for whom they are and that they change any judgmental mindset they may have. According to Mr. Mawroh, one needs to be able to recognize the different types of indigenous foods available while also respecting diversity. In addition, Dr. Syiemlieh encourages the students to take small steps to make a positive impact on the world and to make a pledge to respect diversity.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Rituparna Rajendra, Head of the Department of Social Work (PG).

ANNEXURE

Figure 1.
Program Brochure

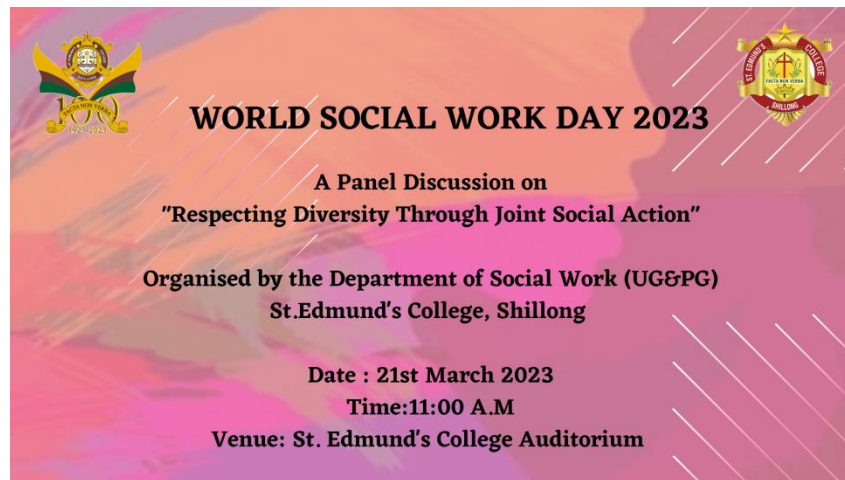


Figure 2.
List of Participants

Fig: 2.1

MSW 1ST SEMESTER		WORLD SOCIAL WAORK DAY, 21ST MARCH 2023
SL No	NAME	Signature
1	Airisha Rynthiang	
2	Monmayuri Hatibaruah	
3	Marsellis Pohlong	
4	Moon Borah	
5	Laiohpdang Mawlein	
6	Inimeriki Suja	
7	Kevin Pding	
8	Graceful Suting	
9	Pynshisha Shadap	
10	Beneranda Shadap	
11	Maphilin Kharthangmaw	
12	Ibalarisa Khongwir	
13	Wijonliu	
14	Likhumbila Sangtam	
15	Detisha Nongrang	
16	Javiya Ashraf	
17	Angelista Syiemlieh	
18	Kendonglener Lemtor	
19	Priyanka Phukon	

Fig: 2.3

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY, 2023		
ATTENDANCE SHEET		
Roll No.	BSW2nd SEM 2023	SIGNATURE
3	YAMAYA LAMARE	
4	LONOTISE I SANGTAM	
5	DERENCE OXMOND MARBOH	
6	AMANDA JONES LYNGDOH	
7	NATALIE NAMESHA K MARBANIAN	
8	WADANIMI DAKDUP T LONA	
9	BERACAH DONNA LAIDO	
10	JOHN DARI KUPAR MYRCHIANG	
11	EMIKI DABIANG SHADAP	
12	MAFICA DKHAR	
13	IBARISHA MAWTYLLUP	
14	UNISHA SOHBAH	
15	CONSENT MITRE PALE	
16	REBECCA LAMIN	
17	DASANLANGKI DIENGDOH	
18	AIMESHA ALVA MYLLEM UMLONG	
19	HAPHILAKHAMI MATONG	
20	ZAINI HAGIE PAKSAH	
21	SNIAWDAMI SATIN	
22	DAWANJINGMEN RYNTATHIANG	
23	MELWANKERLANG CHEN	
24	NATYBANG NONGBSAP	
25	NAFINIA MARWEIN	
26	KILETSING SONGTHIANG	
27	PRESILA KHONGTYNOKUT	
28	FERYVIA KHARONGOR	
29	DABARYME MAJAW	
30	MACDALYNE B KHARSANO	
31	VOOWONKA MULIAR	
32	PHILARISHA JAWPHINAW	
33	SHELLY NONGBSAP	
34	DANIELLA EZME THABAH	
35	BANAM ADOR MAJAW	
36	MATILDA SYIEMIEH	
37	LEO KYNSA VAPLARIH	
38	HIS MIGHTY CARE KHARMAWPHLANG	
39	IBANSARA SUKONG	

Fig: 2.2

MSW 4TH SEMESTER		WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY, 21ST MARCH 2023
SL No	NAME	NEHU EXAM NO SIGNATURE
1	Aditya Bahadur	
2	Amika Marwein	
3	Charemi Diengdoh	
4	Chongdeinieng Changsan	
5	Dakermika Sweety Shylla	
6	Daphiwanpli Shadap	
7	Darhuh Lyngdoh	
8	Deimayami suchiang	
9	Evanzara L. Marshillong	
10	Gracefulness Dkhar	
11	Ibansara Syiemlieh	
12	Iumiki Sayoo	
13	Khrawkpar Roywan	
14	Kunoli I Chishi	
15	Larisa Nonghyndah	
16	Lisidora Suiang	
17	Malcolm Manbha Nongsie	
18	Martin Michael Nongrum	
19	Meba Alia Marwein	
20	Medokhrienuo Seyie	
21	Mondayna Shadap	
22	Movin Rickson R	
23	Nathan Dondor Langsteh	
24	Norinda Khar	
25	Nosavinu Liu	
26	Priyanka Kangjam	
27	Pynhunlang Thongni	
28	Ribanlin Lyngdoh	
29	Richard W Susngi	
30	Shyamsa R marak	
31	Sonia Paslein	
32	Suiyidale	
33	Sukkyngai Syiem	
34	Tage Sumpi	
35	Thomson N Sangma	
36	Vingosanuo Khatso	
37	Wilfred Marwein	

Fig: 2.4

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY, 2023	
Roll No.	SIGNATURE
40	YAPAM MALUK
41	JAHDIEL M SANGMA
42	ELIZABETH RAMHMUNMAWII
43	IBANSUK NONGRUM
44	JENNIER LYNGDOH NONGLAIT
45	ILINSHA MARBANIAN
46	IA I BANRISHA LYNGDOH
47	DAINOCIA RANGTHALUH
48	DATHIRANG IKA MURUH
49	SUKKIDAWANKA MAWLONG
50	OLIVIA KHARBYNGAR
51	LAPYNSHAI RIPNAR
52	ISAWAEM SAJEM
53	CHUNGAMWON AT
54	SALAGRING D SANGMA
55	KHUNDRAKPA SURECHANDRA
56	PEARLY KHARBUDDAH
57	WANME CH MARAK
58	DEILANG SARI
59	WANKI SARI
60	PHIBANSARA NONGKHLAW
61	SYNSHAR KYRHAJ WARIJI
62	BANWANLANG MAWRIL
63	RIFKA PAIUI
64	PIYRQIAT PYNGROPE
65	LANYA SHITHUNGDA
66	MAVERICK STEVE NONGSIANG
67	STEFFLYNE NONGRUM
68	RIBANBIANG SUCHIANG
69	MAVRI REANG
70	CARLEN WAR
71	VICTOR JONATHAN PARIAT
72	EVERICHWELL L TRON
73	BAISHALI BARUAH
74	VERNADINE JYHWA
75	JOEL GRIFFIN PATHAW
76	HASHWA MEWAN MARBANIAN
77	HANRI ZIMIK
78	MEDOPHRENUO KHEZHIE
79	IVONNE VANLALVENPUJI

Fig: 2.5

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY, 2023		
ATTENDANCE SHEET		
Serial No.	BSW 4 th SEMESTER Name of Student	
1	Melbinstar L. Mawmai	
2	Abjini Garga	
3	Tanvi Farzeen	
4	Shrajat Sharma	
5	Neikesanu Chadi	
6	Bansahnam Kshiar	
7	Anna Manar	
8	Eukratis Soitun	
9	Jessica Lyngdoh Nongrang	
10	Ibalahun Marpna	
11	Lasandakiru Lyngdoh	
12	Balarlang Ryngkhlem	
13	Abigail Nongrum	
14	Insharai Iaphi Wankhar	
15	Evigina Nongbet	
16	Kitborlang Dkhar	
17	Anisha Daphi Kharshuing	
18	Barry Wankupar S. Wahlang	
19	Nimarsun Nongkhaw	
20	Gifty Grace Nandah Syiem	
21	Damangkysai Khongmalai	
22	Tanisha Rymbai	
23	Rebecca Kharlyngdoh	
24	Edikalsan Marwein	
25	Astha Barooah	
26	Iohlynti Malai	
27	Iolisha Suting	
28	Thirida Lynshing	
29	Nafisha Maingiang	
30	Phibakor Suting	
31	P. Waphira Sylvia Hadem	
32	Cordelia Mary Rajee	
33	Wancy Mary Sun	
35	Kennavin L. Mawlong	
36	Camilla Nongrum	
37	Jessica Maingiang	

Fig: 2.6

38	Phaimdeima Dhar	
39	Luckyia Evenica Kharlong	
41	Sanchita Sarmah	
42	Amiable Nongtinger	
43	Badakerlin Lyngdoh Nongbri	
44	Phibakordor War	
45	Shidalin Basaiawmoit	
46	Ibashisha Lakhmie	
47	Aiombaia Nengnong	
51	Kristina Shylla	
52	Darihunlang Nongsiang	
53	Jonathan Thabah	
54	Streamlet Wahlang	
55	Phibaaipura Behphat	
56	Jecinta Shabong	
57	Aitisha Nongrum	
58	Andrea Tasana K Marak	
59	Banteilang Dkhar	
61	Jenitful Marshiangbai	
62	Idanias Nongbri	
63	Olivia Grace Kharkrang	
65	Sharailin Pyngrope	
66	Fullmoonday Pariong	
67	Bashida Marbaniang	
68	Hamesha Surong	
69	Christine Bakordor Dkhar	
70	Deira Sympli	
71	Thiuchunliu Khangchian	
72	Juliana Mary Thabah	
73	Melisa Kharbyngar	
74	Deckstar Kharlyngdoh	
75	Gilanna Nongrum	
76	Elza Tiffany Lamare	
77	Camelia Wahlang	
78	Kmenlang Suja	
79	Iaikyntiew Kurbah	

Fig: 2.7

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2023		
ATTENDANCE SHEET		
Sl.No.	BSW 6 th SEMESTER NAME OF STUDENT	SIGNATURE
1	MURCHANA BORDOLOI	
2	IBADAHUN BLAH	
3	RYAN SING SYIEM	
4	CLARINDA BARSUK LYNDDEM	
5	SATHAN H KHARKONGOR	
6	SARALIN SUKHLAIN	
7	ZINGMI RUNGUNG	
8	MARY WANBOK SUCHIANG	
9	ALETHEA SALANDAKANI DIENGDOH	
10	POONAM RAY	
11	KEVIN SANJEEB CHRISTOPHER	
13	PHIDALUMLANG KHARKONGOR	
14	PHIDAMON KHAR MARBANIANG	
15	SHEBAREEN NONGRUM	
16	MERANSIEWDOI NONGKHLAW	
17	FELICITY NANGLEIN	
18	DAMERIUS KHARKONGOR	
19	CANDIDA LYNGWA RAPTHAP	
20	JOHN HAME DAPURA RABON	
21	MAVARIENE R KHARLYNGDOH	
22	EVALARINE MAWRIE	
23	BHARILANG KSHIAR	
24	EMIBA THABAH	
25	NIRAJAN GURUNG	
26	ESTHER B RYNIAH	
27	VIDYA R LYNGSKOR	
28	MEDONLEM RAPSANG	
29	SANWINI RYMBAI	
30	NILO SUTING	
31	KAMJILA	
32	PRINCE PRIYAM	
33	HABIBA KHANAM	
34	PHIBAWANRISA DEWKHAID	
35	NIANGSAWNGHING SAMTE	
36	KEVIN MARK K MYRTHONG	

Fig: 2.8

37	JILIUS TIEWMON	
38	ANGKI TAYENG	
39	DEEP KACHARI	
40	PHIBATRITI MARBANIANG	
41	AIDAMESHA WANKHAR	
42	BAGMITA BORAH	
43	ASHNA ANUWARA RAJKHOWA	
44	VIVIENNE BAIAHUNLANG WARJRI	
45	DERIMEKA KONGWANG	
46	JUMAN KALITA	

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