

REPORT ON

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

**THEME: CO-BUILDINGS NEW ECO-SOCIAL WORLD,
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**

DATE: 15 MARCH 2022

INTRODUCTION: World Social Work Day is observed every year on the third Tuesday in March. The day recognizes the hard work and diligence of social workers. On this day, a global organization of social workers advocates for social justice, human rights, and social development while promoting the best practices in social work. Social workers serve many roles in our communities. They assess their clients and community needs and challenges.

PROGRAM HELD AT THE COLLEGE AUDITORIUM, ST EDMUNDS COLLEGE:

On the 15th of March, 2022, on account of Social Work Day, the Social Work (UG) department of St Edmund's College, Shillong, organized a short program where two alumni came as guest speakers. One was Mr. Pius Ranee, the Executive Director of NESFAS and the other was Mr. Janak Preet, Senior Manager of NESFAS.

The Principal, Dr (Mr.) Sylvanus Lamare, the Secretary, Br Simon Coelho, the Dean, Dr (Mrs.) B. War Nongbri, Vice Principal, Mr. Monotosh Chakravarty, all the teachers and students of the Social Work (UG) department of St Edmund's College, Shillong, were present for the program.



Figure 1 the Two Alumni, the Staff Teachers, the Dean Dr. B. War Nongbri and Principal Dr. Sylvanus Lamare

Mrs. Iarisa Anette R. Dorphang, one of the teachers was the hostess for the program. By 10:27am, she started off with the welcome speech. She talked a bit about the theme of Social Work Day, 2022, which was "Co-building a new eco-social world, leaving no one behind".



Figure 2 Mrs. Iarisa Anette R. Dorphang

At 10:30am, two BSW students helped the Principal to facilitate the guest speakers with a bouquet each and then followed a prayer by the Dean, Dr (Mrs.) B. War Nongbri.



Figure 3 Dr (Mrs.) B. War Nongbri

After the prayer, Mrs. Iarisa Anette R. Dorphang invited Br Simon Coelho to say a few words. Brother firstly thanked the teachers for the initiative to conduct the program. He continued by motivating the students to pick up a leaf from the college campus, after the program and to keep the leaf in a book, as a reminder of committing oneself to the poor. He said that we must connect with the earth and the poor, and that social work is "more than just a profession".



Figure 4 Br Simon Coelho

Mrs. Iarisa Anette R. Dorphang thanked Br Simon Coelho and then invited Principal, Dr (Mr.) Sylvanus Lamare to also say a few words. The Principal greeted everyone and started speaking about the Khasi community. He said that the Khasis have always been helpful people. Being helpful is part and parcel of being a Khasi, but education has changed that. A lot of people hesitate to help if they do not benefit from it. They are not quick to help genuinely anymore. Hence to be a social worker, we must have it in our hearts to help people no matter what. Social Work is not just a profession, but a mission.



Figure 5 Dr (Mr.) Sylvanus Lamare

At 10:48am, Mrs. Iarisa Anette. R. Dorphang thanked the Principal for his speech and invited Mr. Pius Ranee, Executive Director of NESFAS to give his speech.



Figure 6 Mr. Pius Ranee

Mr. Pius Ranee was one of the first four young staff members of NESFAS when it was established in the year 2012. Before that, in the year 2011, he had his first interaction with other indigenous people when he visited Sweden. He has represented NESFAS in meetings in various countries of the world. It has been nearly a decade of global exposure, for him.

He plays a critical role in the agro-ecology learning circles, an innovation of NESFAS which promotes traditional knowledge and contemporary agro-ecology practices. He shared about his journey as a social worker. He encouraged the students by saying "start where your strength lies". When we do fieldwork, we must be clear with our objectives and use good strategy. Since he had always been interested in the environment, he was more inclined to Ecological Social Work. Which now, with this passion of his, he is a great asset to NESFAS and the society. He then spoke about a project that he has been doing with his friend and college, Mr. Janak Preet. The goal of the project was to educate people about the issue of global consistence and livelihood. They hope to reach 600 villages in Meghalaya and so far, they have reached 130 villages only. He said that we need to maintain the richness of our biodiversity because 80% biodiversity lies in indigenous people. Now he is also in a mission to work closely with the Village Councils and he is fighting for women to get a chance to be part of the Village Councils. Just as the theme says, "leaving no one behind", women have the right to participate in them.

At 11:02am, Mrs. Iarisa Anette R. Dorphang thanked Pius Ranee for his speech and then invited Mr. Janak Preet, Senior Manager of NESFAS, to give his speech.



Figure 7Mr. Janak Preet

Mr. Janak Preet, firstly greeted everyone and then talked about how when he was a student, he would always sit behind. It might have been because the front seats were already occupied, but that was where the crux of the theme lied. No one must be left behind and in the same way, we as social workers have to make sure that even though people are sitting behind, we must make sure that their voices are heard. They must be given a chance to participate. He then talked about his project with Mr. Pius Ranee. The theme of the project was also about not leaving anyone behind. He mentioned that the theme of this year's Social Work Day is very unique. It

had inspiration and was taken from something very important. The theme originated from the Sustainable Development Goals' 2013 agenda, which was to not leave anyone behind. It had seventeen goals and when NESFAS did their project, they tried to tackle some of these goals. One was energy, second was nutritional security and third was equitable livelihood. The beautiful part of this project was how to touch the three goals by looking at people and planet, together. Ecological Social Work teaches us that the well-being of the planet is equivalent to the well-being of human race. He also spoke about when he visited a few villages he saw that the people had a close relationship with the environment and he thinks that Social Work today is telling all of us that we need to focus in this direction. There are a lot of opportunities as long as we stuck to our principles, values and ethics. He ended his speech by congratulating all the students and teachers, and said that people say "there is no size that fits all" but he believes that Social Work is definitely one size that fits everybody.

At 11:09am, Mrs. Edanoella Kynta gave the vote of thanks and the program ended at 11:12am. The program was a success and helpful one, especially for the students.



Figure 8the Participants