

2021

# Field Study at Mawjriong Village



Department of Social Work-PG  
St. Edmund's College, Shillong

## Contents

Introduction .....	2
Programme Schedule .....	3
Activities Conducted .....	4
1. Ice Breaking Session .....	4
2. Community Mobilization .....	5
3. Focused Group Discussion with Parents .....	6
4. Focused Group Discussion with Teachers .....	7
5. Football Friendly Match .....	8
Link to the Football Friendly Match Video: .....	9
6. Session on Thematic Analysis .....	9
7. Book Bank Campaign .....	10
7.1 Book Distribution at Laitkroh Presbyterian High School .....	10
7.2 Book Distribution at St. Peter's Lower Primary School .....	10
8. Survey on the children of Mawjrong Village .....	11
9. Data Entry and Analysis using PSPP .....	12
10. Documentation .....	12
Conclusion .....	13
List of Students and Faculty .....	14

## Introduction

Mawjrong village is located in Khatarshnong Laitkroh Tehsil of East Khasi Hills District in Meghalaya, India. It is situated 6 km away from sub-district headquarter Khatarshnong Laitkroh and 5 km away from district headquarter Shillong. Mawjrong is a dorbar which falls under the constituency of Sohra. The area of the village is under the Elaka Laitkroh with an agricultural area which falls under Mawkdok.

As part of the Concurrent Fieldwork for the MSW 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester students, the Department of Social Work-PG, St. Edmund's College, Shillong, conducted a small study on the **“Impact of COVID 19 on the school-going students of Mawjrong Village”** with the following objectives:

1. To understand the impact of COVID-19 on the students and teachers of Mawjrong Village.
2. To assess the psychosocial problems of school-going students during COVID-19 pandemic.
3. To assess the challenges of the parents to adjust, and provide the support needed for their children's educational requirement during the pandemic.

The populations for the study were the school going students, parents of school going children, and teachers in Mawjrong Village.

In this regard, the Department of Social Work-PG, St. Edmund's College took permission from the Headman of Mawjrong Village, Mr Lamphrang Diengdoh on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to conduct the study in his village on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The study was conducted by the MSW 3<sup>rd</sup> semester students, guided by the 3 faculty members of the Department. All the students and faculty stayed at the house run by the Christian Brothers on all the 4 days at Mawjrong Village.



### Programme Schedule

Date	Activities	Remarks
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021	Ice Breaking Session	To build rapport among the students and formulate the group agreement to ensure the programmes run effectively.
	Community Mobilization	To mobilize for the football friendly match, focused group discussion and respondents for the interview.
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Focused Discussion with Parents	28 parents attended the FGD and discussed on the challenges that they faced in order to adjust, and provide the support needed for their children's educational requirement during the pandemic.
	Focused Discussion with Teachers	8 teachers from Mawjrong Village attended the FGD to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the normal school system and the teaching-learning of the teachers.
	Football Friendly Match	To build rapport with the children of Mawjrong Village, a Football Friendly Match was organised.
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021	Community Mobilization	Dr. Rituparnar Rajendra and Ms. Hazel Wahlang arranged a session with the Principal of St. Peter's HS School for the data collection on the 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021.
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Thematic Analysis Session	Ms. Ainamlin Dkhar organized a session on Thematic Analysis to capacitate the students with analytical skills for qualitative data which was collected through the Focused Group Discussions.
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Book Bank Campaign	Books Campaign was carried out on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of December 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>850 plus books and a DIY Bamboo book Shelf were handed over to St. Peter's Lower Primary School.</li> <li>500 plus books were handed over to Laitkroh Presbyterian Secondary School.</li> </ul>
	Data collection from school going students	100 children between the ages of 10-18 years were selected as the respondents for this study. The data was collected on the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021.
	Data Entry and Analysis Session using PSPP	Ms. Hazel Wahlang organized a session on Data Entry and Analysis by using PSPP to enhance the research aptitude skills of the students: data entry and analyse of the quantitative data.
11 <sup>th</sup> Decemb er 2021	Documentation	All the students started with their data entry and analysis by using Thematic Analysis and PSPP software.

## Activities Conducted

### 1. Ice Breaking Session

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021, the student social workers had an ice breaking session before starting with their main activities. An ice breaker is a game or activity that is used to introduce people to each other so that they feel more relaxed together and get to know each other better.

One of the student social workers conducted the session. She came up with two activities for the group. In the first activity, they were asked to form two circles, inner circle and an outer circle. Students in the inner circle had to make sure they had a partner from the outer circle. Each pair has to know each other's full names, where they are from and what they like about Shillong. Keeping this in mind, they had to sing a song as a group and then switch partners. Each time they do this, they had to remember the other person's full name and so on. The team leader will then randomly pick any person and ask about their partner's information.



Ice-Breaking Session

In the second activity, the student social workers simply introduced themselves one by one. After the Ice Breaking Sessions the group was divided into three sub groups, and were asked to list out 10 rules that each member has to follow during the whole 4 days of fieldwork. After each group listed the 10 rules, they came up with a Group Agreement that will enhance their effective performance. All the students then put in their signature as a sign of agreement to work as a team and respect one another.



Photo Session after the Ice Breaking and Group Agreement Session

## 2. Community Mobilization

Community mobilization is the process of engaging communities to identify community priorities, resources, needs and solutions in such a way as to promote representative participation, good governance, accountability and peaceful change.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021, the student social workers separated into groups and went to different lanes around the community to mobilize. They went door to door to inform people in the community to attend the focus group discussion the next day: for parents at 8:00 am and for teachers and students starting from 10:00 am. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, the student social workers walked around the village at 8:00 am to mobilize the parents to attend the FGD in the village community hall.



Community Mobilization at Mawjrung Village

On the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Dr. Rituparnar Rajendra and Ms. Hazel Wahlang went for a transect walk to understand the village better and also had a meeting with the Principal of St. Peter's Higher Secondary School to schedule a time for the data collection on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The Principal after understanding the purpose of the study, schedule the time at 11:00 -11:30 AM for the students.



Team at St. Peter's Higher Secondary School

### 3. Focused Group Discussion with Parents

The Focus Group Discussion was conducted on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in the village community hall whereby the students of social work along with the teachers facilitated the group discussion for the parents. A welcome address was delivered by Ma'am Hazel Wahlang, Fieldwork Coordinator. She highlighted on the universal impact of the pandemic with respect to education of the students and the society as a whole. The students of MSW 3rd semester, St. Edmund's College, introduced themselves to the parents gathered at the programme.



Welcoming the FGD participants

Talking about the covid pandemic, parents put forward their grievances regarding the educational system and its difficulties. They unanimously felt that the students are not getting the best of education since classes are taken in the online mode and all their study materials are provided via Whatsapp as opposed to earlier times (pre-COVID 19). Furthermore, parents have raised a vital issue regarding their inability to purchase smart phones and not familiar with the technology. They had to take out time from their busy daily work schedule to follow up their children's learning. In their views they found that their children are finding it difficult to concentrate on their studies and most of the learning was just a formality to complete the assignment allotted to them. From the students' point of view, online classes are just a way for them to be able to get a chance to write their exams in their respective institutions while following SOPs lay out by the health department. Most of the students complain of the unreliable internet connection while they are attending their online classes.



When investigated and discussed further between the researching students and the parents with regards to their children, they found out that a majority of children are addicted to mobile games and watching TV which had further led to a decline in their academic progress. Older children, however, have realised the reason of being educated and the need of higher education. An elderly man pointed out that the present scenario is more different ever since the arrival of COVID-19 which has led to a change in the way of life and society as a whole. He suggested that the government has to plan ways and methods so that everyone can get access to education since there has been a high percentage of school drop outs especially from the poor sections of the society. The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks by one of the students.

#### 4. Focused Group Discussion with Teachers

The student social workers conducted the FGD with teachers on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. 8 teachers from Mawjrong Village attended the Focused Group Discussion and the student social workers facilitated the discussion according to the questionnaire prepared by them.



According to the teachers, they find online teaching very difficult since most of the student's family cannot afford smartphones. Their assignments are done by their parents or elder siblings. Some of them even dropped out because they got tired of studying online and they



cannot catch up with what they had studied. Some dropped out because they did not get the phone to attend classes online.

Teachers find it hard to balance household activities and looking after their children's studies. During Covid-19 they did not take classes, and then later they started having classes and sharing notes on the WhatsApp. Those who did not have WhatsApp were asked to come to school and collect their notes.

Network is a major problem for them. Some students who really want to study had to go to their friend's place to ask for a phone/mobile so that they can get the notes.



Photo Session of the FGD participants and facilitators

### 5. Football Friendly Match

A Football Friendly Match was organized by the MSW 3<sup>rd</sup> semester students on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. The main objective of organizing this football match was to build rapport with the children of the village. There were two students who took charge of the football match. These children participants came from Mawjriong, Dympep and Laitkroh Villages.



Football Friendly Match

Before starting the match, the student social workers divided the children into four teams in two categories i.e., two teams from the junior category (U-12) and two teams from the senior category (Age 13-15). There were two matches where the first match of the junior category

was played between Mawjriong and Dympep villages and the second match was played between Mawjriong and Laitkroh villages. The match lasted 20 minutes with a short break after 10 minutes. The Mawjriong JR came out victorious after the penalty shootout. The second match kicked-off at around 11:15 am, where one of the villagers volunteered to be the referee for the match played between Mawjriong (SR) vs Laitkroh. Mawjoring Senior defeated the Laitkroh by 6-1 goals respectively. The games concluded with light refreshments. Interview was carried out after the refreshments.



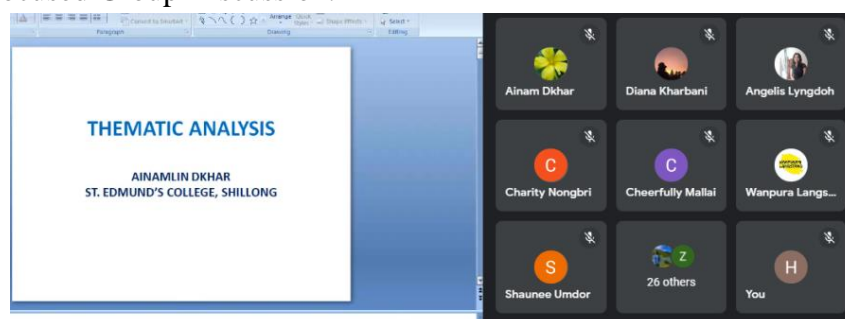
**Link to the Football Friendly Match Video:**

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CXDvZcsIB\\_0/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CXDvZcsIB_0/)

## 6. Session on Thematic Analysis

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, a session on Thematic Analysis was conducted for the MSW 3<sup>rd</sup> semester students and by Ms. Ainamlin Dkhar, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work-PG, St. Edmund's College. The session was conducted via Google Meeting (Link: <http://meet.google.com/eyg-fjsp-scc>).

She highlighted that Thematic analysis is a method of analysis qualitative data. It is usually applied to a set of texts, such as interview transcripts where they can examine the data to identify common themes-topics, ideas and patterns of meaning that come up repeatedly. She also said that this approach is good when one tries to find out about people's views, opinions, knowledge, experiences or values from a set of qualitative data for example, interview transcripts, Focused Group Discussion.



This session proved to be significant as 2 Focussed Group Discussions (for the parents and teachers) were carried out at Mawjriong Village.

## 7. Book Bank Campaign

The student social workers who were part of the book bank committee, organised a pile of books to set up a community library for the children in Mawjrong village. The student social workers and teachers largely contributed children's books in the Book Bank Campaign.



Book donated by well-wishers

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, the book bank committee sorted out the books into different categories- Academic books comprising of English textbooks, Science, Mathematics, Khasi, General Knowledge, Value Education and Health Education; and non-academic books comprising of stories books, comics and magazines.

### 7.1 Book Distribution at Laitkroh Presbyterian High School

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the MSW 3<sup>rd</sup> students distributed **500 plus books** given by well-wishers to the Laitkroh Presbyterian High School.



Book Distribution at Laitkroh Presbyterian Secondary School

To reach the place, they had to walk from Mawjrong Village to Laitkroh Village on foot because the no vehicle was allowed to go to the village due to the road construction. Yet the students gathered all their energy and passion to go to the school and deliver the books to the Headmistress and teachers. They also gave four packets of sweets for the children.

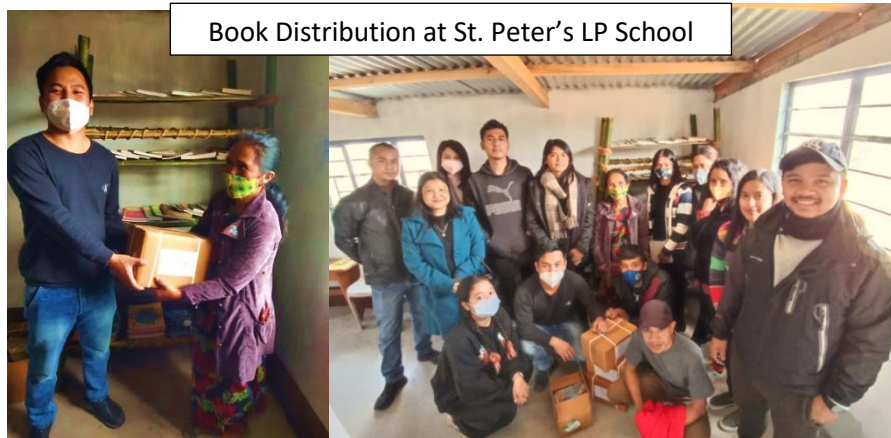
### 7.2 Book Distribution at St. Peter's Lower Primary School

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, the students had arranged with the local community few bamboos to make a Bamboo Book Shelf for St. Peter Lower Primary School. A few students spend their morning hours to make it by themselves. This showed the love and passion they have to give back to the community in any way that they can.



DIY Bamboo Book Shelf making by MSW students

After making the Bamboo Book Shelf, the students went and distributed **850 plus books** to the school. The books were kept at the staff room and were received by the teacher of the school.



Book Distribution at St. Peter's LP School

### 8. Survey on the children of Mawjrang Village

On the 4th December 2021, the MSW 3rd Semester students interviewed the children in Mawjrang village right after the football match. The interview session started from 12:30 - 1:00 pm. The students divided the work and did it individually so it would save time. From the interview, it has been found that most of the children are of the age 10-14 years.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the faculty members had arranged with the Principal of St. Peter's Higher Secondary School to collect the data for the study from the High School students. They were given one period to collect the data and 26 MSW students with faculty members and each student have to monitor and assist each bench if the students have any clarification.



Data Collection on the 4th of December 2021



Data Collection on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021

**All together 100 respondents were selected randomly for the study.**

### 9. Data Entry and Analysis using PSPP

A session was conducted on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester students on Data Entry and Analysis using PSPP statistical analysis software. The session was taken by Ms. Hazel Berret Wahlang, Field Work Coordinator, Department of Social Work-PG, St. Edmund's College.



Session on Data Entry and Analysis using PSPP

The session dealt on the data entry and the analysis of the quantitative questions form the questionnaire used for the school going students of Mawjriong Village.

#### **About PSPP:**

GNU PSPP is a program for statistical analysis of sampled data. It is a free as in freedom replacement for the proprietary program SPSS, and appears very similar to it with a few exceptions. PSPP is a stable and reliable application. It can perform descriptive statistics, T-tests, anova, linear and logistic regression, measures of association, cluster analysis, reliability and factor analysis, non-parametric tests and more. Its backend is designed to perform its analyses as fast as possible, regardless of the size of the input data. You can use PSPP with its graphical interface or the more traditional syntax commands. (<https://www.gnu.org/software/pspp/>)

### 10. Documentation

The students gathered and worked on the documentation in the evening on December 10, 2021. The students were divided into four teams to do the data entry and the analysis. Two teams worked on the thematic analysis of the Focused Group Discussion on Parents and Teachers, while the other team worked on data entry of the data collected from students and one team worked on the literature review related to COVID 19 and education.



The students have to still continue with the data analysis, write the findings and interpretation. But even in the short time, the students were able to learn data entry and data analysis. The students showed dedication and commitment that they completed 7 days' work in a couple of days.

### Conclusion

The fieldwork at Mawjrong Village was successfully completed because of the support of all the community stakeholders from the Headman, Anganwadi Worker, ASHA, Teachers, Parents and Children. Their contributions had made this journey worthwhile. Their active participation in all the activities conducted by the Department of Social Work-PG, St. Edmund's College, shows the good relations between the people of Mawjrong Village and the Christian Brothers.

The support given by the Management of St. Edmund's College to the Department has played a vital role in encouraging the students and faculty to work passionately with the community people. The students as well as the faculty got a chance to work for social transformation while also studying the experience of the parents, teachers and students with regard to schooling amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

## List of Students and Faculty

<b>Name of Students</b>	
1.	Ahsan Sabry
2.	Bryan Nongrum
3.	Chyrhitdiam Khonglah
4.	F.Vanlalhriatzuala
5.	Jonathan K Rynghang
6.	Paogouhao Haolai
7.	Philemon Lamare
8.	Wanpurami Langstang
9.	Wanpynhunlang Nongpluh
10.	Aibahunki Suchiang
11.	Angela Rani Marak
12.	Angelis Lyngdoh
13.	Ankita Sharma
14.	Birial Pala
15.	Carine Malngiang
16.	Charity Nongbri
17.	Cheerfully mallai
18.	Christie M Kharmyndai
19.	Daphishisha Kharsyntiew
20.	Diana kharbani
21.	Eliani Hlychho
22.	Emidaka Passah
23.	Ibakmen M Suting
24.	Ibamonlin kharmudai
25.	Kikidaiamon khardewsaw
26.	Little stream lyngkhoi
27.	Lizana Mery Tyngkan
28.	Lubai Rymbai
29.	Mynriedki Passah
30.	Patience Dkhar
31.	Phibalabet M Blah
32.	Philumlin Kharnaio
33.	Rikyntilang Lyngdoh
34.	Ritahun Rongrin
35.	Sanaphisha L R Tariang
36.	Shaunee Umdor
37.	Shimtilin Malngiang
38.	Sildora Dohling
39.	Watirenla Walling
<b>Name of Faculty Members</b>	
1	Ms. Hazel Berret Wahlang
2	Ms. Ainamlin Dkhar
3	Mr. Martius Rynjah