

## **“Kickstart of Internship Program on Disability”**



**Organised by:**

**State Resource Centre on Disability Affairs**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Venue: SRDCA, Conference Hall, Civil Hospital Shillong**

## Introduction

On the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the Department of Social Work-PG St Edmund's College Shillong attended the 'Kickstart of Internship Program on Disability' organised by State Resource Centre on Disability Affairs in Civil Hospital Shillong. In this program, Mr Allanson Wahlang, Lecturer of the Department of Social Work-PG St Edmund's College and Mr George Kerry Sunn, Field Coordinator of the Department of Social Work-PG St Edmund's College Shillong and two MSW 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester students, Mr Nathan D Langstieh and Ms Ribanlin Lyngdoh, represented the department in the program. The program was graced with the presence of Dr N.P. Laloo, the Project Director & State Coordinator, State Resource Centre on Disability Affairs Civil Hospital Shillong, as the Chief Guest.



Dr W Sutnga, State Programme Officer, State Resource Centre on Disability Affairs, Civil Hospital Shillong was called to the program as the guest of honour. The program witnessed the presence of Faculties and students from different institutions in Shillong namely St Edmund's College Shillong, Women's College and School of Social Work, Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong.

## About the Program

At the very outset of the program, Mr Dylan Syiem, Planning Officer cum Nodal Officer, UDID



welcomed the participants and the guests who took their time out to attend the program. A Keynote address was then delivered by the Dr W Sutnga, State Programme Officer, State Resource Centre on Disability Affairs. This was followed by a speech from Mr Daniel Kharkongor, Lecturer, Department of Social Work-UG St Edmund's College

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from Social Work Department, Women's College, Department of Social Work-PG St Edmund's College and School of Social Work, Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong. Dr N.P. Laloo, the Project Director & State Coordinator, State Resource Centre on Disability Affairs highlighted the SRCDA's vision of having such a synergetic collaboration with aspiring social workers to aid in the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the State. With that he officially launched the Internship Program on Disability.

In the program, a power point presentation was presented by Ms Larisuk Raplang, Disability Rehabilitation Expert, SRCDA on the Internship Programme Framework. Afterwards, two of our graduated students, Ms Mynriedki Passah and Ms Lubai Rymbai were presented with the experience certificates for completion their Internship program with the office of SRDCA in Shillong and Jowai.

During the program, Mr George Kerry Sunn, presented a speech on behalf of the Department of Social Work -PG, St. Edmund's College whereby he shared and highlighted a few important points on the internship program. He reflected on the wonderful and meaningful relationship shared by the dept and the office of the DRCDA through our Block Placement program, where two of the MSW students did their internship in the office DRCDA Shillong and Jowai to learn and experience in the field of Disability. Their learning and experiences that they have encountered through this esteemed organization where they were able to interact with people with disability in the community and participate actively in sensitizing the community people on the concept of Disability have in a way broadened not only the perspective of the students who were engaged with the organization but also added to the profile of the department in their continuous effort to reach out to the socially excluded communities in the state of Meghalaya. The students, through their sharing have categorically mentioned about their



enriching experiences where they were taught the Indian sign language by the staff of the office which is a great learning opportunity them in this field of practice.

Mr. George also mentioned that through this Internship Program on Disability that is being initiated by the organization, many students and internees will get an opportunity to learn and grow personally and professionally and build their career in the field of disability. He also envisaged that similar internship programs offered by various governmental agencies and NGOs will create lots of opportunity for the interns in the future to gain employability skills and also animate a platform where interns learn to be sensitive to other human beings and create inclusivity wherever they are placed later in life. Thus, it gives the department an immense pleasure to see the wonderful program objectively arranged to encourage the students and interns so that they will have the opportunity to learn and gain lots of insights and knowledge and broaden their perspective in the field of disability through their work and performance. He ended the speech with a hope that they will continue to work together through this internship program and more collaborations in the future.

After that the two graduated MSW students, Ms Mynriedki Passah and Ms Lubai Rymbai shared their learning and experiences during the Block Placement they have had in the office of District Resource Centre on Disability Affairs in Shillong and Jowai. They shared their memorable and enriching experiences through various programs which they were involved during their one Block Placement with the District Resource Centre on Disability Affairs.

Towards the end of the program, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the office of SRDCA and School of Social Work, Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong to further their cause in the field of disability.