

**ST. EDMUND'S COLLEGE  
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT**

**BRIEF HISTORY OF DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Geography started in September 1961, at the initiative of a dynamic personality, Late Rev. Bro. J. N. Foley, the then Principal of the College. At that time, it was a one man Department, headed by Prof. G. P. Bhakta, who gave his heart and soul towards development of the study of Geography in the College and in North East India. His dedication and hard work has greatly contributed to the study of Geography in the region as a whole.

In its infant stage, for reasons unknown, few students opted for Geography; but Prof Bhakta, was not let down by the experienced he faced. He explored all possibilities to attract students towards the subject. In the sixties Prof. Bhakta, used to send printed notes by post, during the winter vacation to the home of the students free of cost. With his effort and relentless labour, the seeds of destiny were sown. Prof. Bhakta was instrumental in opening the Department of Geography in other colleges too. He was also a major source of inspiration to many teachers teaching Geography in different colleges of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram. After a dedicated service of thirty seven years, Prof. Bhakta had to retire prematurely on health grounds. In him all the members of the department who had worked with him or studied under him found him to be a “friend, philosopher and guide”.

The 3 years Degree (Pass) course started with less than 10 students in 1964. Prof. J. P. Singh, joined the Department in 1966 and was a faculty member till August 1978. He joined the Regional College of Education in Bhopal in September 1978. In August 1974 Prof. P. R. Dutta an alumnus of the College joined the Department. Between September, 1978 and June 1984, three other lecturers joined the Department and all of them had a brief tenure in the College. Following the resignation of Prof. J. P. Singh, Prof. P. Konwar joined the Department in September 1978 and left in 1979. Prof. P. Dutta joined the Department in September 1979 and continued till June 1984 and left to join the Assam Civil Service. Prof. S. Kharkongor joined the Department in June 1982, but left to take another assignment as the Principal of the Shillong Commerce College. The number of students was steadily increasing and with more students opting for Geography, the pertinent need for opening Honours course was cleared in July 1984 with eight students. The Department needed to be strengthened and consequently Prof. K. C. Chakravarty joined in June 1985. Prof. S. Das joined in October 1986 and resigned in September 1989; following which Prof. O.M. Kharmawphlang, joined the faculty in November, 1989. Prof G. Bhakta retired in April 1998 and Prof M. J. Ford joined the Department in November 1998. Prof. G. L. Kharkongor joined the Department on April, 2000, while Prof. Sanjoy Choudhury joined the Department on a college post in the year 2007 and resigned in 2013. Prof. (Mrs.) Wanrihun Diengdoh joined the Department in June 2009 and Prof. Teddy Kharshandi joined the Department in 2013. At present the Head of Department is Prof. O. M. Kharmawphlang.

## DEPARTMENT PROFILE

### 1. Name of the Department: Geography Department

### 2. Year of Establishment: 1961

### 3. Faculty profile

Name	Qualification	Year of joining	Experience
Mr. Osmond M. Kharmawphlang, Head of Department	M.A/M.Phil	01.11.1989	24 years
Mr. Mark J. Ford	M.A/M.Phil	11.11.1998	15 years
Mr. Gideon L.Kharkongor	M.A/NET/M.Phil	01.04.2000	13 years
Ms. Wanrihun D. Diengdoh	M.A/NET	01.06.2009	4 years
Prof Teddy Kharshandi	M.A/NET	01.07.2013	4 months
Shri P.D. Marak	Laboratory Assistant	1.6.1983	30 years

Participation / contribution of teachers to the academic activities including teaching, consultancy and research

#### o ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

#### **Mr. Osmond M. Kharmawphlang**

1. Burning Environmental Issues: Risk to Biodiversity and Human Health with Special Reference to North East India held at St. Mary's College, Shillong held on 15th& 16th May 2013.
2. National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund's College, Shillong held on the 7th& 8th June 2013.
3. National Workshop on Changing Paradigm in College Education: Problems and Challenges, Department of Economics & IQAC, St.Edmund's College, October 29, 2011
4. National Seminar on Remote Sensing, ISRO & Department of Geography, NEHU,2012.

#### **Mr. Mark J. Ford**

1. Burning Environmental Issues: Risk to Biodiversity and Human Health with Special Reference to North East India held at St. Mary's College, Shillong held on 15th& 16th May 2013.
2. National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund's College, Shillong held on the 7th& 8th June 2013.

#### **Mr. Gideon L. Kharkongor**

##### **National:**

1. Land and Forest Interface seminar at Women's College, Shillong, 8-9th July 2009. Workshop on Negotiation Skill's, conducted by eN-Vision at St.Edmund's College, Shillong held on the 6th June 2013.
2. National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund's College, Shillong held on the 7th& 8th June 2013.
3. Burning Environmental Issues: Risk to Biodiversity and Human Health with Special Reference to North East India held at St. Mary's College, Shillong held on 15th& 16th May 2013.
4. Inter State Youth Exchange and Home Stay Programme, RGIYD, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, NSS, NER, Guwahati, 2012. Ground Water Management & Development organized by Central Ground Water Board, State Unit Office, Shillong under

the aegis of Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India on 24th January 2011.

5. Workshop on Familiarisation & Integration with North East, organised by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Shillong, April 7-9, 2011.
6. Workshop on Organisational Development, Toxics Link, New Delhi, April 23-29, 2011.
7. CMS VATAVARAN: Environment and Wildlife Travelling Film Festivals & Forum 2010 Programmes held on 28th August – 3rd September 2010.
8. National Workshop on Pathways Programme, St. Columba's School, New Delhi, November 18th – 21st, 2009.
9. 96th Indian Science Congress, NEHU, Shillong, January 3rd -7th 2009.

#### **Regional:**

10. Seminar/Conference/ Workshop/ Organization/ Training Programme Development of a source- book on indigenous practices of conservation in North East held at NERIE, NCERT, Shillong, conducted by NERIE, Shillong from 22nd -23rd June 2011.
11. Problems & Prospect of Environmental Education in the School of North East India & State of the Environment in Meghalaya: A few retrospections, conducted by NERIE, Shillong held on 7th – 9th February 2011.
12. Workshop on Indigenous Methods of Conservation and Practices in North East India, NERIE-NCERT, Shillong, June 22-23, 2011
13. North Eastern Regional Meeting on Dioxins and Furans held at Guwahati, Assam on 19th December 2012.
14. Regional Consultation on the Draft National Youth Policy at Conference Hall, ICSSR, NEHU Campus, Mawlai Umshing, organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India on 27th& 28th June 2012.
15. Workshop on Voluntary Blood Donation organized by Sikkim State AIDS Control Society with support from National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), New Delhi held on 7th& 8th June 2012.
16. Blood Donor Motivation & Recruitment organized by Meghalaya AIDS Control Society and Meghalaya State Blood Transfusion Council on 22nd May 2013.
17. Workshop on Art of Marking maps through ages conducted by the Institution of Surveyors & INCA at Survey of India Shillong on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010.
18. One Day Workshop on Map Making Techniques conducted by the Department of Geography St. Edmunds College, Shillong, September 13th 2010.
19. Land and Forest interface seminar at Women's College, Shillong, 8-9th July 2009.

#### **Paper Presentations:**

1. Land and Forest Rights in West Khasi Hills, Land and Forest Interface Seminar, Women's College, Shillong, 8-9th July 2009.
2. 'Land and Forest Rights in West Khasi Hills' at Land and Forest Interface Seminar at Women's College, Shillong, 8-9th July 2009.
3. National Service Scheme and Facta Non Verba, Edmundian, 2011

#### **Mrs Wanrihun Diengdoh**

- Burning Environmental Issues: Risk to Biodiversity and Human Health with Special Reference to North East India held at St. Mary's College, Shillong held on 15th& 16th May 2013.
- National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund's College, Shillong held on the 7th& 8th June 2013.
- "One day workshop on Map Making Technique" held on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 organised by the Department of Geography St. Edmund's College Shillong.
- Two- Day Workshop on "Faculty Development and Administration:" organized by Lady Keane College Shillong on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

- Participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Orientation Programme from 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012 to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 and obtained grade ‘A’ U.G.C.-Academic staff college – North Eastern Hill University.

**Mr. Teddy Kharshandi**

- Teaching Environmental Studies at Union Christian College from 2009-2011.
- National Seminar entitled Inclusive Development – Bridging the Gap, conducted by St. Edmund’s College, Shillong held on the 7th& 8th June 2013.

Collaboration with other departments/ institutions, at the State, national and International levels, and their outcome during the past two years

- Collaborated with North Eastern Council (NEC) and ICSSR and NeSAC for workshop on ‘Environmental Assessment through GIS’ on November, 6, 2007 at St.Edmund’s College, Shillong.
- One Day Seminar on Development of Geography: Celebrating Golden Jubilee of the Department of geography, St. Edmund’s College, 2012

Priority areas of Research and details of the ongoing projects, important and noteworthy publications of the faculty, during past two years

**GIDEON L KHARKONGOR:**

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**Mawlynrei: The Land of Plentiful Stones**, ESES Publications, Casa Pietatis, Golflinks, Shillong-793001, 2011.

- UGC Minor Project : “Determination of Shifting Cultivation and its impact on Landuse and Land Degradation in Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya”.Sanction No: F. 5-71/ 20010-11(MRP/NERO)/5118 & 5119 dated 14 March 2011

**Departmental Projects Undertaken:**

- 2009: Biodiversity and Land use: An Assessment on the Impact of Land Use on Biodiversity of Umtyrkhang-Umkseh-Umjahksew Watershed, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya.
- 2010: Spatial Distribution of Macro Invertebrates in Terrestrial Ecosystem of Nonglum Village, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya.
- 2010: Spatial Distribution of Macro Invertebrates in Aquatic Ecosystem of Nonglum Village, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya.
- 2011: Biotic Community in Agricultural Lowland. A Case of Umjathang Village,Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya.
- 2012: Land Capability Classification and Agricultural Landuse: A Case Study on the Sustainable Livelihood of Khlieh-Umstem-Sohliya-Mawshrut Village, Ri Bhoi Village, Meghalaya.
- 2013: Hill Area Cultivation: A case study of soil loss on the cultivated slopes of Khlieh Umstem village; Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya.

**STUDENTS’ PERFORMANCE IN DIVISION:**

YEARS	No Of Students	1 <sup>st</sup> Div	%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Div	%	Simple	%	Fail	%
2009	34	8	23.52	26	76.47	-	-	-	

<b>2010</b>	40	3	7.5	34	85	2	5	1	2.5
<b>2011</b>	48	7	15.65	36	75	2	4.16	-	-
<b>2012</b>	22	2	9.09	15	68.18	4	18.18	1	4.54
<b>2013</b>	43	2	4.65	31	72.09	4	9.30	2	4.65

**STUDENTS' SUCCESS RATE :**

<b>SI no.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Geography department</b>
<b>1</b>	2009	100
<b>2</b>	2010	97.5
<b>3</b>	2011	93.75
<b>4</b>	2012	95.45
<b>5</b>	2013	95.35

**UNIVERSITY RANK HOLDERS:**

2009	I <sup>st</sup> , II <sup>nd</sup> , IV <sup>th</sup> , V <sup>th</sup> , VI <sup>th</sup> , VII <sup>th</sup> , and X <sup>th</sup> position in Graduation.
2010	IV <sup>th</sup> & V <sup>th</sup> position in Graduation
2011	II <sup>nd</sup> , IV <sup>th</sup> , V <sup>th</sup> , VI <sup>th</sup> VIII <sup>th</sup> , IX <sup>th</sup> position in Graduation
2012	II <sup>nd</sup> and III <sup>rd</sup> position in Graduation
2013	IV <sup>th</sup> & VI <sup>th</sup> position in Graduation

- Plan of action of the department for the next five years
  - To prepare a geographical structure of St. Edmund's College.
  - To organize seminars on climate change with special reference to Shillong.
  - To upgrade the metrological centre in the College.
  - Setting up of G.I.S lab.
  - Setting up of soil and water testing laboratories.