



CommunicationsDesk

By now, there are simultaneous developments within the project and more upbeat development than not so. Result oriented activities are on and capacity building by the group consultants have continued. Field visits have drawn project staff members closer to the ground realities. The budget sessions at the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly and the financial year rushes have allowed group consultants breathing space to plan and strategise.

The participation of the project through British Council's involvement at the Policy Analysis of the Look East Policy has helped position the project among government leaders who matter at the policy level. The training for the district community mobilisers to be better communicators has helped everyone to sing from the same song sheet, ultimately, enabling field people to operate on a safer mode- as they reach out to the people by communicating more purposefully.

NGO has put in more effort to go deeper into the roots of the communities and reaching another level of relating with the people. More input from the beneficiaries was made possible (formally and informally) and those thoughts have been recorded and translated into the project's next moves. There has been more baseline work and assessment done and more visits to the schools in the Garo hills.

ADB's Representative, Mr. V. Harsha Annamraju had visited the project office and the field. Mr. Harsha had had a chance to interact with concerned PIU staff members and group consultants during the days he was here.

With a few loose ends to tie, it is just fair to say that the project is gaining realistic speed keeping the social development interest in focus.

Policy Analysis

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SHCDM contributes to Policy Analysis and Recommendations

NE India – SE Asia Education & Skill Development Conclave: Empowerment for Inclusive Growth



Photo bv: Nateisha Decruz – Youna. British Council

Indian Chambers of Commerce (ICC), Guwahati Chapter organised a two day South East Asia Conclave 'NE India – SE Asia Education & Skill Development Conclave: Empowerment for Inclusive Growth' from February 26 - 28, 2015 at Hotel Pinewood, Shillong, Meghalaya. The British Council in India was invited for the panel discussion and special address on the 2nd day of the conclave on the topic '**Innovative Policy Framework to Integrate the Common Requirements of South East Asian Countries through Technology and Educators Guidance and Making a common Hub for Employment Generation to improve the Quality of Life**'.

Mr. Shantanay Chatterjee, Development Effectiveness Specialist working with the British Council Technical Assistance Team of Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya (SHCDM) delivered the special address sharing platform with eminent panelists representing senior officials from the Government of India and before the audience representing distinguished delegates from South East Asian countries and students from various management schools.

Mr. Chatterjee's delivery highlighted on linking the need for social and economic development parameters with current trends in industrial growth, labour market expansion and skills development scope available in NE India and SE Asia. He drew upon the recent economic and skills development policies in India and the further need for market driven policies towards strengthening investment plans and quality assurance mechanism in skills education to ensure that employability skills among the youth of NE meets local, regional and global demand for skilled workforce and eventually addresses poverty and social and economic development needs. He referred to the SHCDM project as an attempt of similar nature focusing on growth.



PIU-1 Capacity Building Education Workshop

Input by Pat McLaughlin. Photo by Darelle Cliff



An 'Education Capacity Building Workshop', as part of a comprehensive programme for providing support to the PIUs, was conducted for core PIU I staff.

The workshop was held on the 13th March 2015 in the conference hall, the Directorate of Employment and Craftsman Training. The workshop was attended in by four PIU-I members. The two hour session aimed at orienting the participants on the education component of the project with initial focus on the teacher needs as determined by the British Council needs audit and the resulting implications for the proposed teacher training intervention.

Discussions centred on the approach, methodology, content and mode of operations of the teacher training intercessions and to help the PIU-I team become familiar with key, current, activities, the REOI, ToRs and RFP as well as evaluation criteria for assessing the bid for potential teacher training providers, a draft REOI was perused.

From discussions throughout the session, the PIU-I team members were seen to be enthusiastic about, and have high expectation of the SHCD project and were excited about their respective role in it. All agreed that, to function efficiently in their work as PIU-I members, they needed a deep understanding of their individual and collective roles. The core PIU-I members agreed to hold regular monthly meetings in the DSEL office set aside for Education activities of the project in order to learn and develop their roles as well as to hone their skills for the enrichment of the project. The team would also attend workshops on monitoring and evaluation, finance, procurement, gender and social safeguards.

OPINION

In the last week of February, fifty school children from Pynursla area were gathered to learn from the makers of indigenous musical instruments. It was a workshop that went beyond the technique of playing the musical instruments but ventures into the scientific craftsmanship of making them, the crafting of a kind. Term this 'a classic case of skilling and culture combined', so it may well be. Should the trend of skilling our youth derive inspiration from such initiatives? Why not.

So how did this introduction to such culturally related skills go? 'The workshop on Crafting of Traditional Instruments and Method of playing Technique' is an event organised by the Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Meghalaya. DAC partnered with the master crafters including U Borsingh Malngiang, a crafter from Wahkhen-Nongblai village who brought with him fifteen years of experience from the trade.

According to U Borsingh, "The comeback has called for school authorities and youth clubs all over the khasi and Jaintia hills to start procuring instruments. . We witness a growth, as more

Where cultural traditions meet skilling – Kit Shangpliang, PMC

people got into traditional music, leisurely and professionally. This has changed the demand and supply of the instruments".



For the last century, music in the Khasi hills has had to face the onslaught of various cultures. To such unintended cultural incursions and developments, the reaction from the traditional conscience was natural. The primordial natural response of the traditionalists was loud and clear. The call to travel back to the past in search of the cultural-musical roots got stronger as many artistes were influenced by the organic elements of their own music. This movement to root has taken a long time to surface. It has gone back and forth, and now stands as a gradual development that gets caught in a series of cultural combats.

Capacity Building Workshop on Communication Skills for Community Mobilisers

The workshop on Communication Skills for District Community Mobilisers (DCMs) was organised by AeA, with support by Mr. Pat McLaughlin, Team Leader, British Council Technical Assistance (BC-TA) Team, at the Conference Hall, the Directorate of Employment and Craftsman Training (DECT), Shillong. Ten DCMs participated in this 7 hour long workshop

The workshop aimed at building the capacity of DCMs on communication skills and consisted of a mixture of awareness-raising activities. The key objective of the workshop was for the participants to become better aware of, and thereby improve their communication skills such as effective speaking, active listening, the importance of verbal and non-verbal messages, the importance of consistency and assertiveness in meetings and the barriers to effective communication.

Contents of the workshop included three essential ingredients of communication i.e. a) sending messages, b) receiving messages and c) barriers to effective communications, which was delivered through power point presentation, games, group activities, stories, individual presentations and group discussion.

All the 10 DCMs found the workshop a fruitful one. All the participants rated the workshop from good to excellent.

The teaching and learning had left an impression in the young minds, "The workshop helps me to know, culturally, the past, the present and how do we face the future", says fifteen year old participant Lamphrang Lyngdoh from Pynter village.



If the demand for traditional instruments is going north, (logically speaking) the skilling has to follow suit. Should we see a Yamaha electric Duitara or a Tama Nakra? Should we see Meghalaya's skill organisations exploring such possibilities with the international brands. With proper market assessments, the genX crowd could make good use of such innovations.

MORE SchoolVisits

Consultation with youth, women and teachers

The Livelihood experts took up consultation meetings in South, West, East and North Garo Hills, Jaintia and East Khasi Hills to know the aspirations of youth, women and teachers. It was observed that most of the youth had aspirations to start their own small enterprises but were unaware of the livelihood schemes and loan facilities provided by the government.



Livelihood Experts interacting with RVT Center Students in Tura

The experts also briefed the participants on the Livelihood opportunities and skill training facilities available in the state.



A total of 186 participants (32 Male & 154 Female) participated in 10 meetings

These consultations were attended by Youth groups, Regional Vocational Training Institute trainees, Teachers, Rabha Community in Manikganj, Services providers and women groups.

INCLUSIVITY



Anthropologist, Education Specialist and Livelihood Specialist with a child with disability

Rapid Screening

Assessment of Schools

Rapid Screening Assessment of Schools of Phase II of the project was undertaken and completed in the remaining 60 schools. During the rapid assessment, it was observed that there is low representation of women in most of the School Management Committees. There is scope to improve the quality of education in most of these schools.



However, in a few schools, the teams have come to know that girls who got married have rejoined schools to complete their formal education. There was a need for more interactions between parent and teachers. Lack of motivation among teachers was one of the important aspects affecting the quality of education in schools.

Assessment & Interface

Collection of Base Line information on minor tribal groups

Other minor tribal groups were identified following the inclusive nature of the project. With this in mind, NGO's anthropologist visited 5 block offices in Ribhoi, West & East Khasi hills to collect information from the local government authorities. Along with the information on the tribal groups, she also gathered data related to urban population and details of various civil society organisations in these districts.

Capacity Building of SMCs to monitor Civil Work

The construction specialists conducted orientation to SMCs on New Construction Architectural & Structural Drawings in 11 schools (6 schools in East Khasi Hills Districts, 2 schools of West Jaintia Hills, 1 each in East Jaintia Hills & Ri Bhoi Districts) of Phase I.

Case Study

The story of a woman who moved away from depending on government jobs. For this enterpriser, it is about tailoring dreams – by Chandra Kiran

Since her childhood, Ester was fascinated by stylish clothes and always wanted to learn the skill of tailoring & embroidery. To realize her dream, she joined an embroidery training institute when she was in class ten.

An intelligent student, Ester continued her regular education alongside the tailoring classes until her father passed away. With no one to look after her mother, she had to discontinue her degree course and leave for Sohra (Cherrapunjee) to stay with her mother.



Ester at her workplace in Tura

After few days, she came back to Tura and got herself enrolled for the Tailoring course in the Regional Vocational Training Institute. After completion of the course there was no looking back for Ester.

She underwent advanced training in Embroidery and Knitting and started her own Tailoring shop established through a loan from PMRY scheme. "I brought a machine and started my work. Earlier I wanted to study and get into government service. But now I feel I made a correct decision by choosing this profession which always interested me. "she says with a confident smile.

"I earn Rs 10,000 a month and support my family. I feel proud when people identify me as an enterprising woman" Sangma says.

North East emerging as new job hotspots

NEW DELHI: Youths from North East might no longer feel the need to flock to the metros in search of better job avenues, as per a recent study conducted by Recruitex data analysis.

The year-long study, which spanned from February 2014 to February 2015, reveals that the North Eastern states are emerging as new job hotspots with a higher salary bracket.

Automobile, IT services, consumer goods and financial sectors are top job growth drivers in the North Eastern states leading to 5-30 per cent annual growth in talent demand in the region.

Positive job scenario in the region is credited to improved infrastructure, better consumer sentiments and investments in IT and core manufacturing sectors such as automobile, consumer durables and FMCG, the study showed. Income in the region is also better compared to the metros in similar positions, it added.

Interestingly, majority of the jobs are available in the Rs 4-10 lakh salary bracket in the state. Sectors such as education travel and tourism, FMCG (Fast-moving consumer goods) and BFSI (Banking, Financial services and Insurance) are strong across the region," the study said.

Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram have also reported higher average year to year growth in talent demand than the metros. In Sikkim, the demand for talent is up by 6 per cent in hospitality, IT-software, biotech and pharma.

Child Development

708 new Anganwadi centres in Meghalaya

SHILLONG: At the recently concluded budget session of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Social Welfare Minister Deborah Marak informed that 708 new Anganwadi centres have been sanctioned in the state during the current financial year (2014-2015). "A total number of 185 new Anganwadi centres have been sanctioned in East Khasi Hills District alone," she informed.

DistrictWise

District Featured: North Garo Hills



Area: 1,113 sq. km

Population: 118325

District Headquarter: Resubelpara

Language: Garo

Assembly seats: 4

Administrative Units

The district comprise of two Community & Rural development Blocks namely,

* Resubelpara C&RD Block

* Kharkutta C&RD Block

Boundaries

North	-	Assam
South	-	East Garo Hills District
East	-	West Khasi Hills District
West	-	West Garo Hills District

Police

Office of the Superintendent of Police

North Garo Hills District

HQ : Resubelpara, Meghalaya Pin Code-794108

Telephone Directory (STD Code - 03659)

Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme

- Integrated Village Development Plans (IVDP) prepared for 35 villages through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises - learnings being used to scale up the effort to the other villages progressively.
- 500 entrepreneurs/ partners selected for sending on exposure visits to various national institutes across the country.
- Exposure visits have been linked with projects.
- Enterprise Facilitation Centre (EFC) is set up at Williamnagar.
- Proposal for setting up a Mobile Multi facility Centre (MFC) finalized.
- 1740 number of partners sanctioned margin money support under the 'Womens Economic Empowerment through Financial Inclusion Scheme' .

FROM THE ASSEMBLY BUDGET ALLOCATION

Education:	Rs 681.88 cr
Roads and Bridges:	Rs 555.20 cr
C& RD:	Rs 509.90 cr
Health and Family Welfare:	Rs 380.50 cr
Water Supply & Sanitation:	Rs 309.40 cr
Soil & Water Conservation:	Rs 263 cr
Water Resources:	Rs 169.80 cr
Urban Development:	Rs 169 cr
Social Welfare:	Rs 152.30 cr
Agriculture & Horticulture:	Rs 147 cr
Tourism:	Rs 107 cr
Power:	Rs 96 cr
Forest & Environment:	Rs 81.30 cr
Commerce and Industries:	Rs 70.50 cr
Revenue & Disaster Mgmt:	Rs 60 lakh
Animal Husbandry & Vet:	Rs 50.50 cr
Sports & Youth Affairs:	Rs 40.85 cr
Housing:	Rs 43.20 cr
Border Areas Development:	Rs 39.50 cr
Sericulture & Weaving:	Rs 34 cr
Arts & Culture:	Rs 30 cr
Labour:	Rs 25.72 cr
Information Technology:	Rs 25.50 cr
Fisheries:	Rs 23 cr
Cooperation:	Rs 14 cr
Transport:	Rs 7.44 cr
Personnel:	Rs 7 cr
Civil Defence &HG:	Rs 5.35 cr
District Council:	Rs 5.50 cr
Mining & Geology:	Rs 5 cr
Prisons:	Rs 4.50 cr
Food, Civil Supply & CA:	Rs 1.30 cr

CM targets poverty-free Meghalaya by 2022

SHILLONG: Chief Minister Mukul Sangma has said that the state government is targeting to eradicate poverty by 2022, the Golden Jubilee year of statehood. "Meghalaya, blessed with bountiful natural resources, should be able to completely eradicate poverty by the time we gather to celebrate golden jubilee of our Statehood," Sangma said while presenting the annual budget in the Assembly.

On industries, he said that a total of 152 industrial units under micro, small, medium and large enterprises were promoted during the current year with an investment of Rs.19 crore in plant and machineries. "Another 82 industrial units will be provided financial assistance of Rs.38.89 lakh shortly. 191 units were set up under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme apart from mentioning sustainable initiatives in health, education, tourism and information technology.