



CommunicationsDesk

SkillWise

Page 1

June was filled with project activities that was key to move the task forward on the construction front and the skill front. The meeting with the DC of East Garo Hills was very purposeful to get the DPCU in that district organised and moving. The conversation helped the project to be more aware of things, realising the need to think of prioritising Career Counseling in schools. Such conversation is helping the project consultants to think of replicating some of these ideas, keeping in mind the variant contexts of each district and each school.

Skills and skill workshops have been happening, indicating that the skill section of the project has moved forward if not faster than the other sections. The livelihood experts have taken steps to engage with the target community giving importance to the development of the youth and talking about the skill trends with the young people and their communities.

The construction specialists have also reached out to the communities to build their capacity. The idea is to enable the people from the communities and school management committees to monitor the construction processes.

Environmental safeguards has converged well with the rest of the project operations – as the task to care for the environment is valued and acted upon.



The much awaited project logo has officially arrived. Thanks to the initiative, designing and input of all those people involved. July should be another happening month.

For more information:

Kit Shangpliang, Communication Specialist,
PMC - Accenture

 kitkumar.shangpliang@accenture.com
kitkumar.shangpliang@gmail.com

 +91 98630 27061



Another Skills Workshop with SSCs and Training Providers

with key input from Jude Xalxo, British Council



Organising team and facilitators from DOL, MSSDS and British Council at the workshop in Shillong

The project's Technical Assistance *British Council* supported another skill workshop organised by the National Skills Development Corporation in Shillong.

The purpose of the workshop is introduce the sector skill councils to the state and explore avenues on enhancing partnerships and skill initiatives. The workshop was hosted by Department of Labour.

The workshop was attended by 5 SSCs and around 15 Training providers plus local state departments like Industry, Weaving etc, while MSSDS was represented by Shmti. R.Kurbah.

All partner firms were present including members of British Council.

Other points of discussions are

- DOL expressed interest in a few training providers and said they could look for partnerships in ITI s, specifically for Automotive and Manufacturing trades.
- Interest was also shown in some SSCs for trade inputs.
- Overall, the sessions were interactive. The training providers shared their current presence (which is very low to nil) in Meghalaya and future plans to open centers.
- There was an agreement between DOL and NSDC that a common MOU document would be created and circulated to the training providers who are interested in having partnerships and trainings with DOL in the state.
- There was discussion having a Center of Excellence center in the state and having presence of SSCs for NE.

Green follow-up at construction sites –

key input PMC Environment Safeguard Specialist, N.Bhattacharjee

Implementation of environment safeguard norms to protect and minimize carbon foot prints is not the only goal during creating infrastructure in schools. The project also has to ensure clean and potable water, clean and hygienic ambience and introducing renewable energy sources, wherever possible.

environment beyond the scope of the project and carry forward their exposure, experience and message much beyond in life through practical follow up action.

All these interventions will leave a lasting impression on young minds to care for the

Such investments will be a model for future government and non-governmental initiatives, a possibility for the young generation to act in the interest of safeguarding the environment.

Official Project Logo Out

Supporting Human Capital Development now has an approved logo. Having a logo is a huge plus to the branding of the project. It will help position the project and its causes and facilitates easy communication, especially to the target communities.



The initiative, design and input into the design was done by the communications people of NGO, PMC and Project Coordinator, in consultation with many other stake holders of the project especially the members of the PIUs.

The shape of the logo takes the form of a key, with project pictures inside the Meghalaya map sourced by the communications specialists from Aide-et-Action. The blue and brown silhouette pictures around the yellow circle, reflect the human capital activities.

MSSDS Skill Development Officers Workshop – Orientation on Skill Trainings

– Jude Xalxo, British Council

A workshop was held with the Skill Development officers of MSSDS. This is part of the orientation programme on Skill Trainings.

The key findings and observations from the Need Analysis exercise were shared and discussed. The observations regarding trainings done by PIAs and suggestions for learning enhancements were deliberated upon and suggestions were made. The workshop happened on May 14.



Should Career Counselling take important place in every school?

Input: Kamki Diengdoh, Communication Specialist, NGO

Career Counselling seems to have emerged as a sole concern after a series of interaction with district administrations. Apart from having a permanent nodal point where youths can come in and register themselves, the DPCU is also desirous to have multi-level awareness campaigns.



In east Garo hills The DPCU wants to focus on the counseling services of the project as they feel there is an imperative need for the same. There is a need to make Career counselling integral to the system and suggested that at least one teacher from each school should be given training, specifically on career counseling.

The DC East Garo hills specifically requested the District Secondary Education Officer (DSEO) to look into the possibility of including career counseling in the schools. He opined that there should be one weekly or monthly class on career counseling with the students. The DPCU intends to institutionalise career counseling into i) School Counseling Program and ii) Skill Counseling Program and is seeking assistance from the concern consultant to look into this matter.

The DPCU proposed to collaborate with the project with regards to the capacity building program of personnel who will be responsible for career counseling services at the youth centre at Samanda Block, EGHD.

The DPCU saw the need on having a training manual and also for the concerned consultants to share the reports and findings of any the Skill gap analysis or need assessment conducted in EGHD. To follow the interest of the DPCU, the project is preparing a plan to develop IEC materials on career and skill opportunities.

Meeting DC East Garo Hills: Ground Zero Concerns addressed

Input: NGO

The District Administration East Garo Hills District expressed sincerity to work towards making the project a social success. The DC, Shri. C.Diengdoh insisted on having all possible information on the project and especially all the details of the 5 selected schools in the district. He requested a copy of the MOU and also want clarity on the flow of fund. His justification being that, in order to monitor the project in the district, all such information should be made available to the DPCU. This will ensure the ability of the members to answer questions and also to check from the ground level.



The Program manager of the NGO brought to the attention of the DPCU that there is a discussion to have 2 additional members/staffs, assisting them in the form of MIS or computer operators. This appointment, is however yet to be finalized.

With regards to this pertinent point, DC reiterated that since all the members of the DPCU are ex-officio members having their own respective responsibilities, they may not be able to monitor the activities of the project on a full time basis. Therefore there is a need to have a dedicated monitoring unit within the DPCU and this will enable them to realize the aims and objectives of the project smoothly. The discussion revealed a shortage of capacity at the higher secondary level in the district. Most of the higher secondary schools and colleges cannot enroll more students due to infrastructural constraints, and since most of the students in EGHD come from an economically challenged background, the option of studying outside the district is not feasible.

The BDOs present at the meeting opined that there may be lack of transparency on the part of the contractors when it comes to quality control, estimates and timelines.

With regards to skill under the domain of PIU 2, the DPCU feels that there is a need to develop an efficient system in maintaining a database of all the potential youths. He stressed on the importance of collecting all possible data during any future mobilization drives/ campaigns (skill fests, etc) in order to follow-up on the potential youths seeking skill based training.

CommunityEngagement

CONSULTATION/AWARENESS MEETINGS HELD WITH TRADITIONAL VILLAGE HEADMEN

Three consultation meetings with the village headmen's of Umsning Block-Ribhoi district (29th May), Thadlaskein Block – Jaintia Hills District (8th June) and Pynursla Block – East Khasi Hills district (26th June) were organised as part of the larger awareness building & mobilisation campaign's being currently done by Aide et Action in the SHCDM project.



The consultation was chaired by the respective BDOs' of Umsning & Pynursla Block and attended by specialists from the PMC, British Council, NGO & DSDO/SDO's of MSSDS.

Headmen from 155 villages attended these consultations. The main objective of the consultation was;

- To disseminate SHCDM project related messages to the village headmen's.

- To directly interact with the village headmen by providing subject specific projected related messages and answering their queries and apprehensions, if any.
- To understand their aspiration, views and suggestions to strengthen the mobilisation & awareness building campaign.
- To develop a base of the project in the local area councils & extended support in mobilization.



The consultation was very much meaningful in terms of participation and the scopes of issues discussed and develop clarity among the participants.

Orientation

Orientation & due diligence monitoring of construction in schools



The Construction specialists reached out to 15 School Management Committees across the state to orient them on the civil works being undertaken in the project supported schools. On the other hand, they also conducted training to the SMC members on the due diligence monitoring of construction happening at the schools.



Livelihood experts conduct consultations on Vocational and Skill training

In June, a total of 197 participants took part in the consultations organised in various parts of the state of Meghalaya. The objective of the consultations were to understand the aspirations of the students, youth and community members

Key Findings:

Secondary and Higher Secondary students

- In the urban setting, most of the students aspire to pursue higher education, especially professional courses such as medicine, engineering, education, law etc while few of them wanted to join navy, army and air force
- In the rural setting, the students aspired to become Nurse, teacher, police officer, motor mechanic, self-employment, lab technician etc

Unemployed youth

- There are interests to pursue skill trainings in carpentry, 2 wheeler servicing, mobile repairing, electrician, tourist guide, plumbing etc.,



- There are also interests to become entrepreneurs and start:

- 2 wheeler workshop
- Photo studio
- Traditional dress maker

- Tailoring
- Fish vendor
- Weaving

Some of the youth showed interest in starting their own Rubber plantation, Fruit processing Unit, Cattle rearing, Poultry farm and piggery for which they sought additional training

Most of the youth were willing to undergo skill training provided that they will be placed within Meghalaya. They were willing to migrate to other parts of the country provided the government assures safety and security to them

Women

The women expressed their interests to be trained in managing cash crops, food processing, Beehive keeping, weaving, tailoring, embroidery, candle making, soap making, Silk worm, mushroom cultivation etc.,

Education PANINDIA



ClassroomHumour

Pupil: Teacher, would you punish me for something I didn't do?

Teacher: Of course not

Pupil: Good, because I didn't do my homework

Pupil: I don't think I deserved zero on this test!

Teacher: I agree, but that's the lowest mark I could give you!

Teacher: I want you to tell me the longest sentence you can think of

Pupil: Life imprisonment!

4th teachers' salary hike

SHILLONG June 4: Deputy Chief Minister in-charge of Education RC Laloo has sent a proposal for enhancement of salary of the 4th teachers' to the State planning and finance departments.

This was informed to the All Meghalaya SSA School Teachers' Association (AMSSASTA) during a meeting held recently. During the meeting, various issues such as teachers' salary, enhancement of SSA Teachers' salary and the regularisation of the SSA teachers' posts were discussed.

Stating that everything has been done from his side, the Minister said, a pool of skilled manpower.

Mission Green Meghalaya to be implemented in State

SHILLONG June 5: The State has taken up an initiative to implement 'Mission Green Meghalaya' through the Integrated Basin Development and Livelihoods Promotion Programme with a focus on enhancing sustainable green cover, adoption of green technologies and building up a green movement.

The Mission Green Meghalaya (MGM) has been conceived on a convergence platform in which all the concerned government departments, agencies, community based organizations and traditional institutions work in close cooperation.

With increasing population, an emerging trend of significant reduction of 'green cover' is being noticed in the State due to the indiscriminate felling of trees and other plant species both in the community forests, private forests, reserve forests and also severe destruction of 'green cover' along the roads and the water catchments.

Due to the heavy rainfall that the State receives and considering the nature of the roads in the hilly terrains, protection and enhancement of road-side 'green cover' is of utmost importance to protect the roads from landslides, slips, sinking and also to maintain the aesthetic beauty. It will also reduce land, water, air and noise pollution.

CBSE to begin Financial Market Management course

The Central Board Secondary Education (CBSE) is planning to introduce Financial Market Management course in the curriculum of class 11 and 12 beginning from 2015-2016 academic session. The course will be in collaboration with the National Stock Exchange. CBSE and NSE will provide a joint certificate to students on successfully completing the course.



Boy makes hoax call to avert parent-teacher meet

A 13-year-old boy in Kurukshetra (Haryana) on Saturday allegedly made a hoax bomb call to school authorities to prevent a parent-teacher meeting, police said. "We got a call from the school this morning that some unidentified person had rung up to say a bomb has been planted..," Kurukshetra's SP said. However, no case has been registered against the boy.



"Indianise" education system: RSS

The RSS has said that the current system of education has led to loss of the "treasure and techniques of our knowledge, creation and application" and stressed on the need to "Indianise" it. Criticising the British education system, it added, "The system they created was mainly to run the state machinery as per their convenience."



World Environment Day 2015
Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.
June 5

State observes WED 2015

The Forest Department, took the lead role in the observation of World Environment Day in the State on June 5 at State Central Library from 10.15 am onwards. The Forest Department, Government of Meghalaya organised a State Level Green Ambassador Conclave on the occasion of the World Environment Day.