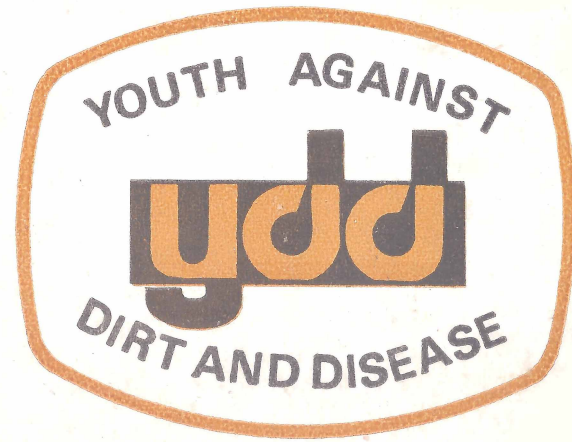


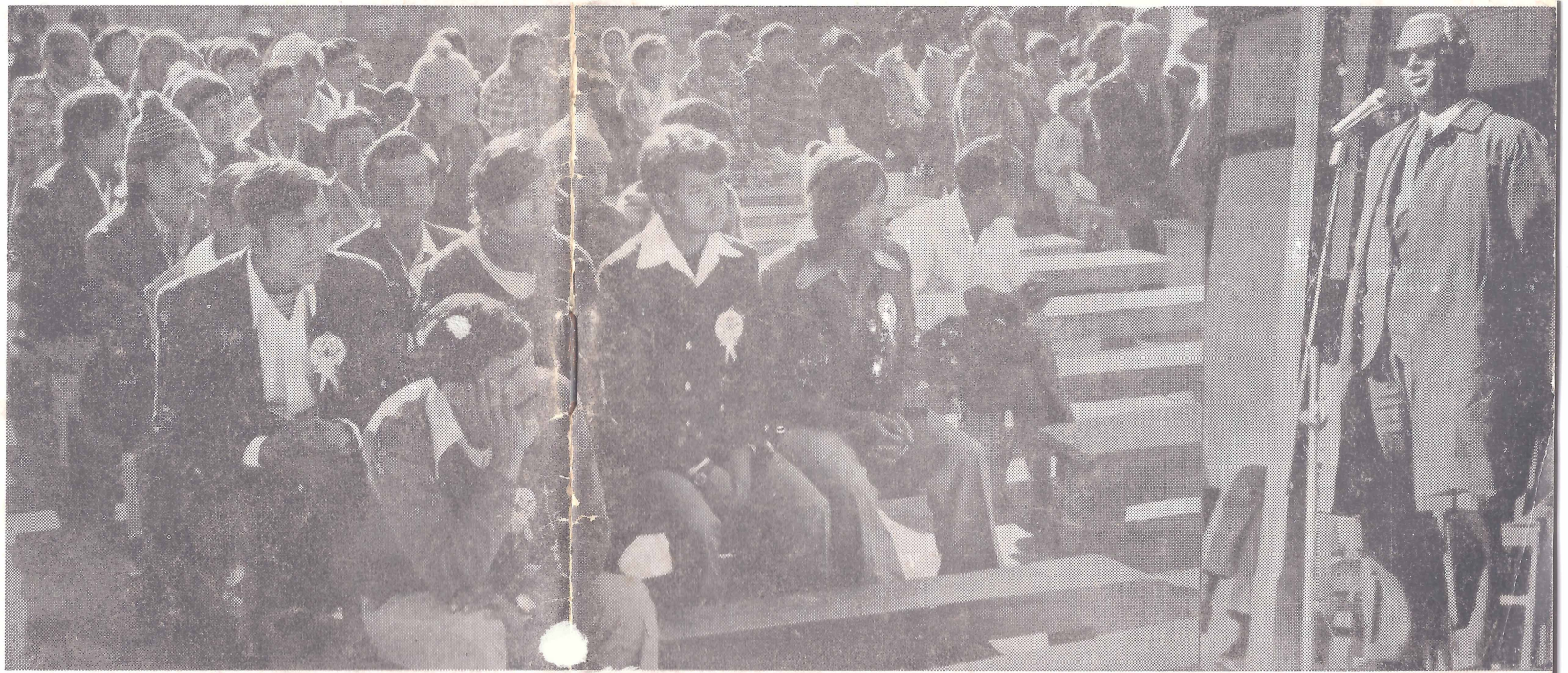


SHILLONG COLLEGE, SHILLONG

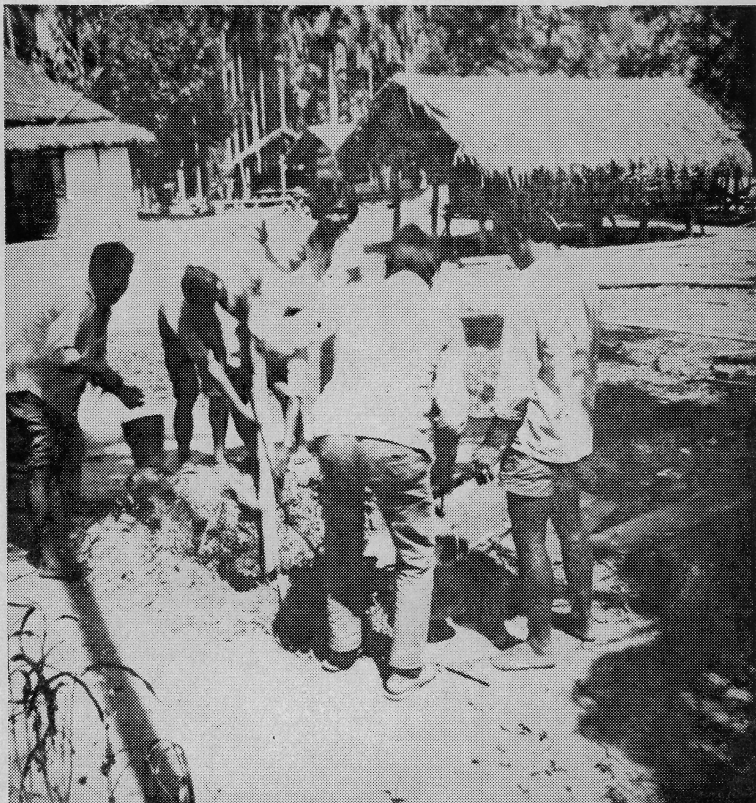


NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

**NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY**



**Dr. Chandran D. S. Devanesen**, Vice-Chancellor, North-Eastern Hill University, speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the St. Anthony's College NSS 'Youth Against Dirt and Disease' Camp



Students of Mendipathar College working on a well.



**SHILLONG COLLEGE, SHILLONG.**

Near Shillong Vidyalaya - Bishnupur. Girl students sweeping the roads while some boys clear the drains.

**NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY**  
**SHILLONG - 793001**

**REPORTS FROM COLLEGES**  
**ON**  
**NSS SPECIAL CAMPING PROGRAMME**  
**Youth Against Dirt and Disease**





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## **M E S S A G E**

I am very happy to see the reports of the 'Youth Against Dirt and Disease' Camping Programme, as organised by some of the Colleges of the North-Eastern Hill University. It is very heartening to see the amount of work these small bands of men and women did under the auspices of the National Service Scheme. I am sure that all our Colleges will continue to respond to the scheme and, in the coming years, will amply justify the ideals and expectations of the North-Eastern Hill University that its students will be deeply concerned with the development of the region and the welfare of the people.

**Chandran D. S. Devanesen**





## FOREWORD

This booklet is a compilation of the reports submitted by various colleges on their National Service Scheme 'Youth against Dirt and Disease' camping programmes. An effort has been made to present the reports in their original form and only a minimum amount of editing has been done. From the photographs sent, a selection was made keeping in mind both the topicality of the photographs and the feasibility of their being made into blocks. Some photographs had to be rejected because they did not lend themselves to block-making.

As the Education Ministry, Government of India, has decided to keep the theme 'Youth against Dirt and Disease' for the academic year 1975-76, it might be in order to state here the objectives that were laid down for this campaign. I am also including some points in explication of this year's additional theme :

### 'YOUTH FOR AFORESTATION AND TREE PLANTATION'

#### A. Main Theme :

YOUTH AGAINST DIRT AND DISEASE with activities in the following fields:

- (i) Environmental sanitation,
- (ii) Medico-social work including mass immunisation against preventable diseases,
- (iii) Provision of potable water,
- (iv) Popularisation and construction of Gobar Gas Plants, and
- (v) Any other activity in the field depending upon local conditions including educational programmes for promoting continued local cooperation for combating illiteracy, promoting savings drives, and for cultural and sports promotion.

#### B. Additional Theme :

YOUTH FOR AFORESTATION AND TREE PLANTATION

- (i) Prevention of soil erosion,
- (ii) Soil conservation works,

- (iii) Plantation of trees,
- (iv) Preservation and upkeep of trees planted, and
- (v) Other activities including educational programmes for promoting continued local cooperation for combating illiteracy, promoting savings drives, and for cultural and sports promotion.

**OBJECTIVES :**

The primary objectives of the campaign are :-

- (a) restructuring of educational system to make it more relevant to the present situation, to meet the felt needs of the community and to supplement the academic education of university/college students by bringing them face to face with the realities of the rural situation ;
- (b) provided opportunities to students in planning and executing such development projects as can help in creating durable community assets especially in rural areas and urban slums in metropolitan cities ;
- (c) taking the National Service Scheme a step further by encouraging the students and non-students to work side by side along with the adults in rural areas, thereby developing social consciousness and healthy and helpful attitude towards the community around ;
- (d) building up potential youth leaders by discovering the latent potential among the campers with a view to getting some of them more intimately involved in development projects for longer periods later on ;
- (e) emphasise the dignity of labour and the need for combining physical work with intellectual pursuits ;
- (f) encourage youth to participate enthusiastically in the process of national development and promote national integration through corporate living and cooperative action.

**Shekhar Singh**

Liaison Officer

National Service Scheme  
North-Eastern Hill University  
Shillong.

## **JOWAI GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, JOWAI**

7th - 18th January, 1975

The N.S.S. Camp by the students of the Jowai Government College was held from the 7th January, 1975 to 18th January, 1975 at Dawki, a border bazar in Jaintia Hills District. Though this type of activity is a new one in this College, yet the students' enthusiasm was visible even when they were being trained. Dr. (Miss) T. Laloo of the Civil Hospital demonstrated to them and trained them in how to vaccinate, also supplying the Party with the necessary vaccine and needles. The local Malaria Eradication Department also sent an AMI, Shri S. Das, who advised the students on Malaria eradication. The Secretary, local Red-Cross and the Dy. Inspector of Schools, Shri E.R. Tarjang helped the party by advising them, giving them leaflets, pamphlets and wall newspapers etc. The students got the cue from him about the evils of alcoholism. The Professor-in-charge was also fortunate to have the help and co-operation of Shri K.R. Dey, Assistant Regional Director, National Savings, Government of India, Shillong, who sent a District Savings Officer, Miss S. War, to Jowai to

Instruct the students. Also, she was with the campers for two days at Dawki with an audio-visual publicity unit from her department. They provided the party with the necessary forms and literature on Small Savings.

**Activities :** The party settled in Dawki M.E. School on the 7th of January, 1975. The work was started on the following morning. The boys explained to, and sometimes persuaded, the villagers about the usefulness of sanitation, small savings, vaccination etc. This endeavour resulted in the opening of some fifteen Post Office Savings Bank Accounts with the local Post Offices. They also pasted many wall-papers and publicity material on the walls of shops and houses. Their presence everywhere generated curiosity and enthusiasm. But, sometimes they found it difficult to vaccinate the shy and timid village-folks. However, they succeeded in vaccinating about three hundred and fifty of the rural people during the duration of the camp. This number was not negligible, considering the fact that all the neighbouring villages had already been intensively covered by the local vaccinating authorities. In this respect, immense help and guidance was offered by the medical staff of the Dawki Dispensary, particularly by Dr. M. Bhattacharjee. In Dawki the students constructed a culvert and built a portion of a road. The road was a neglected one and the people could not use it after nightfall. There were many enthusiastic onlookers when the students began removing the earth and boulders. Perhaps watching the students roused the conscience of the onlookers and after a while they too forgot their status and dress and joined the students. It was a happy occasion to witness a mixed-crowd like that doing social work with discipline and without grumbling. When the construction was completed, the people, particularly the users of the road, congratulated the party and exclaimed that the local inhabitants would remember their service in days to come. The students also participated in the local football matches and in variety performances. A group of students led by Shri Arnold Jones Niangti, General Secretary, Students' Union, participated in a variety performance in Umshniom village and offered some entertaining items. Also, at the same time, Shri Niangti explained the mission of our Party. They endeared the local boys, who often invited them to their villages and entertained them with tea.

The Party was privileged by the visit of Shri Jala, I.A.S., Deputy Commissioner, Jaintia Hills, who spoke highly of the activities of the students, when he found them vaccinating the needle-shy tribal people under the midday sun. Also, the work was witnessed and commended by Shri D. Duncan, Secretary, Information and Public Relations, Government of Meghalaya, who happened to be at Dawki. The students were divided into groups and also visited the neighbouring villages, viz., Darang, Lamin, Sohkhà and Nongtalang. Everywhere they did their work well. Most of the hilly-villages in this area are suffering from road communication difficulties and the distance from one village to another varies from 6 to 12 K.M. The hilly terrain and the jungle tracks up and down the hills pose a challenge to human endurance.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

The villagers are guided by the village Headman, so the Headman should be informed about the camp and a date fixed in consultation with him, prior to the commencement of any such work.

The camping should be held in two or more places, taking only one village at a time, though this may involve more expenditure in transportation. Provision of one microphone will enhance propaganda work and economise time. Reliance on other Government Departments for field publicity is uncertain. So, if the University has one such Department it can do the publicity work by rotation. The Professor-in-charge should be empowered to incur expenditure in enlisting the co-operation and help of the local social workers. In these hilly villages the problems of the villagers, as gathered from experience, are more economical than to do with health and sanitation. As such, special training in cottage industries, poultry and farming will benefit them more.

## **TURA GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, TURA**

8th - 17th January, 1975

The N.S.S. Unit of the Tura Government College, Tura, held its second Camp - "Youth Against Dirt and Disease" - at Garobadha, twenty miles from Tura, from January 8 to 17, 1975.

This village is easily accessible to a number of villages, and has the largest weekly market in the district, a High School and a State Dispensary. Also the road from Tura to Phulbari, Manka-char, Mahendragunj and Ampati, all important market centres, goes through Garobadha.

The Camp was attended by twenty students - eleven boys and nine girls - and also by fifteen casual local participants.

Dr. T.P. Jain, Prof. and Head of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Jaipur Medical College, Rajasthan, and at present Special Epidemiologist of the W.H.O., stationed in the region on Small Pox Eradication Programme, and Dr. S. Sangma, i/c. District Small Pox Eradication Programme, Tura, trained the volunteers for small pox survey and immunization. They also supplied, for the camp, materials for both survey and immunization.

The volunteers, in groups of three, moved to the villages everyday at 9 a.m., after morning routine of Campus cleaning and sanitation had been finished. They walked to the villages, ten to fifteen miles distant and sometimes reported back for lunch only at 4 p.m. Mass immunization was done in several villages where chicken pox and measles cases had been reported.

Vigorous campaigns on cleanliness and village sanitation, along with posters and publicity through a P.A. system, were organised. Two free cinema shows were also arranged; through the courtesy of the D.I.P.R.O., Tura and the District Family Planning Department.

The Camp covered seventy three villages – fortyone villages under Betasing Block and thirty two villages under Selsella Block. A Market Survey was also conducted in which information from 208 villages was recorded.

A Socio-Economic Survey was conducted in seventy three villages, covering 240 families. Mention here must be made of the encouraging support and participation of the Headmaster, Garobadha High School, and his colleagues, also the village headmen from the surrounding villages, the D.I.P.R.O., Tura, the B.D.O., Betasing Block, Dr. T.P. Jain and Dr. S. Sangma, Small Pox Eradication Programme, the Principal and a few of his colleagues, Government College, Tura and also to Dr. L. Cunville, District Surgeon, who innaugurated the Camp and Mr. L.N. Sangma, M.D.C., Chairman, Garo Hills District Council for his valedictory address.

During their short stay in the village the students picked up the vigour of the village life, showing that they could easily adopt themselves to a new environment. They were not only trimmed for physical fitness but also for a hardy and disciplined life. So happy and vigorous were they, that the Camp Medical Box lost only two tablets of APC.

We are grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for providing us with the necessary funds for the camp.

Camps like this are education translated into action. They should be encouraged, and should have even more challenging themes. For, the more camps we have the more responsible and well disciplined will be the souls we produce.

## **ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, SHILLONG**

7th - 16th January, 1975

On 7th January, 1975, a party of fifteen, consisting of students and two members of the staff of St. Mary's College, Shillong, set off to participate in a special camp against Dirt and Disease.

Originally a group of twenty five were to participate in the Camp, but due to illness and other difficulties it was a group of fifteen which set off by a specially arranged bus for Thynroit, a village some 28 km. from Shillong.

The road through Laitkor and Smit is metalled, hence the going was smooth. However, after leaving Smit, the bus had to travel over a 'katcha' road full of pebbles and stones and many were the jolts experienced by the travellers. At a certain stage a river had to be crossed; the river Umngot. This proved quite an experience, for we all had to get down from the bus and scramble over as best as we could.

As the bus came in sight of Thynroit - apparently the first which had ever been seen in the village-children started running after it, jumping from hill to hill in an effort to keep up with it.



When it came to the village, the villagers literally thronged around it and finally sat inside it.

Arrangements had been made for the party to stay in the school building, and it was not long before the students got settled in and started preparing a meal. After lunch the party divided into groups, one group was to make a survey of the village, another to collect the children in order to teach them how to keep clean, to mend their clothes and to give them lessons. A third group visited the homes to give the women sanitary and health instruction as well as assist them in keeping their homes and children clean and to distribute medicines and vitamins to the sick and under-nourished. The first afternoon was spent going round the village to take stock of their surroundings. At first the villagers were somewhat reserved but it was not long before they lost their reserve and showed themselves to be friendly, simple and very sincere. When one of them was asked by a student why she did not bathe regularly she replied very simply. 'It is too cold to bathe and, after all, what is the use of bathing when we are working in the fields all day, we only get dirty again.'

The villagers were friendly, very helpful and deeply concerned about the comfort of the students. They brought along 'phankaro' – sweet potatoes, helped to carry water and even invited the students to go to their houses and bathe, for the students did not have any bathing facilities in the school where they were housed. As one good mother said 'You are coming here to bathe our children but we have not seen you taking a bath.'

The survey made revealed the following :-

**Population of the village :-** Approx. 2,000

**Occupation of the Villagers :-** Farming.

**Main crops and vegetables :-** Rice, maize and millet, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pumpkin and radish.

**Main marketing centre :-** Smit – about 7 km. from Thynroit.

**Main food and eating habits :-** Rice and boiled vegetables, occasionally meat and dry fish curry and eggs. The villagers have two main meals, one in the morning before going to the fields and the other in the evening on returning.

**Cultivation :-** The villagers practice both shifting and permanent hoe cultivation. Unfortunately, what they produce is not sufficient to meet their needs, hence they have to travel 7 km. on foot to Smit to procure their rations and other essential commodities. For kerosene they have to go to Shillong.

**Economic Conditions :-** The villagers belong to the poorer class. They are, by some means, able to procure food but for the most part they are unable to procure sufficient clothing. The average daily wage for hired labour is Rs. 5 – Rs. 6 for men and Rs. 2.50 for women. A few persons work with the P.W.D. personnel and earn Rs. 4/- per day.

**Living conditions :-** In general the health of the people is fairly good but there were a number of people suffering from diarrhoea, dysentery, chest pains, cough and cold and malnutrition.

**Medical facilities :-** There are no medical facilities available in the village. When anyone is in need of medical treatment he has to go to Jongksha, almost an hour's walk, where there is a dispensary, and get medicine.

**Live stock :-** Cows, pigs, sheep and goats are reared. Most families have a few hens, the eggs are taken to Smit to be sold.

**Structure of the family :-** The family is nuclear and the society matrilineal. When a young couple marry they build their own house.

**Water supply :-** A small spring, which is used as the source of drinking water, has been cemented round. There is a stream on the outskirts of the village where the people wash their clothes.

**Educational facilities :-** Although there are facilities for Primary Education in the village, there is only morning school. Very few children attend school regularly as the older children have to go to the fields to help their parents while the

younger children have to look after their still younger siblings.

A number of children have never been to school.

**Communication :-** A road is under construction which will link Thynroit with Shillong via Smit and, it is hoped, bring transport facilities to the village. There are no radios or newspapers in the village, hence, the villagers are more or less isolated from the outside world and are dependent on persons coming from Shillong for news about the rest of the State.

Daily at 8 a.m. the students of No. 2 Group would gather the children of the village. Soap, towels, combs, vaseline, needle and thread were produced and the smaller children washed, combed and vaselined while the older ones were shown how to do their own grooming. Torn garments were mended and articles of clothing distributed to needy children, or rather to the most needy children, as practically all were in need of something.

On the first day there were 40 children but the number gradually increased so that in all there were 90 names on the rolls, although not all attended every day. The average daily attendance was between 55 - 60.

The children were divided into groups according to their age and ability. They were provided with slates and chalk, the older ones were given Khatas and pencils and primers. From 9 a.m. till 12 noon the children were taught the 3 R's, imparted physical training and taught singing; multivitamin tablets were distributed before they went off home. They proved anxious to learn and although reluctant at first to be washed, they later got to like it; they enjoyed having soap, towels, combs and vaseline and were liberal in their use of them.

One little boy refused to take off his shirt to have it mended so the seamstress had to perform the operation with the shirt still on him.

The new slates, khatas, pencils and books encouraged them to learn, while the charts used by the students stimulated their imagination. At physical exercises the children proved somewhat awkward but they picked up new songs without difficulty. They could be heard singing, as they went off home, the songs they had learned at the class.

The third group of students visited the homes daily. They tried to get the villagers, particularly the mothers, to be aware of the necessity of keeping their children clean and tidy and their homes and surroundings clean and sanitary. Without soap and towels it was difficult for them to keep the children clean, so soap was distributed in all the homes at the end of the camp and the towels which had been used for the children were given to the most deserving.

Multivitamins were distributed to the mothers and other members of the family, but if they were not suffering from some specific ailment, persuasion was needed to get them to take the vitamins. 'I am not sick, why do you want to give me medicine?' was the usual question asked when vitamin tablets appeared. The students had to try to get them to understand that it was not medicine that they were giving but something which would help to make them strong and prevent them from getting sick.

When any member of the family was sick, they were very happy to get medicine. The main complaints were cough and cold, diarrhoea, dysentery, indigestion, body pains, general weakness, worms, children's ailments, sores, etc. These cases were given medical care during the camp and, in almost all cases, they responded to it.

When the villagers had got to know the students, they welcomed them to their homes and were anxious to have their help. At the end of the Camp rewards were given to the children who had attended classes regularly and biscuits, sweets and balloons were distributed to all.

The time for leaving the village came all too soon; with bags packed and surrounded by villagers and children, the campers awaited the arrival of the bus which was to take them back to Shillong.

It arrived just after 3 p.m. bringing Sister M. St. Anne, Principal, who was keenly interested in the Camp. The students were happy to see Sister, they brought the villagers and children to meet her and she received the gift of a handsome cock.

Sohphlang, phankaro and orchids collected from the jungle were packed into the bus with the luggage and after much exchange of greetings and shaking of hands, even by the smallest

child, the bus started off. Again the villagers followed it as far as possible, loathe to see it go, and the campers leave. But the campers had promised to return during the term and follow up the work they had begun.

Two men and three women who had to go to the Shillong Civil Hospital for medical treatment were happy to get conveyance into Shillong and the students were happy to be able to help them. One very important outcome of the Camp was the feeling of friendliness which had sprung up between the students and the villagers and between the children and the students who taught them. The students not only better understood the problems and needs of the villagers but had become more aware of their obligation to try and help them solve these problems and provide for their needs, so sharing with them the benefits of the education they are receiving. They left the village determined to do all in their power to keep up contact with it.

## **MENDIPATHAR COLLEGE, MENDIPATHAR**

14th – 29th March, 1975

The morning sun of the 14th March, 1975 was shining as about thirty students of Mendipathar College started out for the 'Youth against dirt and disease' at Depa. Depa, which is about 24 K.M. from Mendipathar College, on Rongjeng route, is a small village and remains quite remote from the touch of modern civilisation. When the bus carrying the thirty students and two Professors-in-charge of the camp reached its destination, the batch was accorded a cordial welcome by the students of the local High School. A club building had already been arranged by the local people for lodging the party.

In the evening the students, led by the Professors, made a tour throughout the village with a view to assessing the feasibility of taking up the various schemes. Remote from the din and bustle of the town, the village gripped the attention of the students because of its panoramic beauty. The students, as well as their in-charges, were fascinated by the green hills caressing the blue sky, the melodious murmur of the meandering hills like "Manda" and the charming chirp of many a nameless bird. The

villagers too, whom they met during their stroll, astounded the party by their traditional hospitality and natural simplicity. Anyway, after the study-tour the party returned to their temporary shelter to chalk out a programme of their work.

Next day, according to the previous programme, the Principal of the college, Shri K.N. Das, M.A. (Double), turned up at 7.30 a.m. in order to formally inaugurate the camp. In a gathering of the students of the college and a good number of the local people, the Principal formally declared the camp open by spading a turf of earth for the repairing of a road which, though neglected, was important for a large section of the villagers. The road was well-nigh one kilometre in length and four metres in width. The students had to work strenuously for five days to make the road serviceable to the villagers. The road was levelled, widened and drains on both sides were dug, so that water in the rainy season might easily flow into the nearby streams.

On 20th March the party undertook the extension work of the thatched office building of the local High School. The students set out for the nearby jungle to collect bamboos and straw, which were essential for the purpose. They spent the whole day collecting bamboos and straw and when they returned to the school compound the sun was about to bid them good-bye. For the next three days they were very busy constructing the extension to the building and, when the work was brought to completion, one could see complacent smiles on the faces of the workers.

Next, arrangement was to be made for potable water. The two ring-wells along with two ordinary ones, which were, so to say, refuse dumps were selected for cleaning. It was said that the present unworkable condition of the wells was the result of throwing all sorts of rubbish into them for the last 10 or 12 years. The depth of the wells, moreover, varied from 15 ft. to 35 ft. Considering the depth of the wells and the rubbish accumulated there, it was rather a Herculean task on the part of a few students to bring them back to their original shape and utility. But the students were neither daunted nor dispirited; they were rather enthused at the thought of doing some social and humanitarian work. Anyway, the party was divided into four groups; each taking one well, with one Professor-in-charge of two groups. Three students of each group entered the well and began to fill up the bucket which was to be pulled out by those remaining

outside. The work went on on military footing and within a couple of days all the wells were cleared. Water, though still stained with mud, now made its appearance, to the great relief of the villagers.

Mass-vaccination was one of the items of the programme, as the time for small-pox was fast approaching. But in executing this task the students had to face a new type of difficulty, as most of the villagers were reluctant to be vaccinated. They were convinced that diseases are the result of dissatisfaction of the gods and as such are inevitable. However, persuasive policy adopted by the party worked with most of the ignorant villagers and ultimately more than two-thirds of the total population of the village were vaccinated in this two-day programme.

On the last day, that is the 29th of March, five more Professors, accompanied by the Medical Officer of Mendipathar State Dispensary, joined the party. They proposed to work for environmental sanitation. Hence the students together with the Medical Officer and the staff divided themselves into five groups and moved forward to cleanse the surroundings of the homesteads. Whatever dirt and rubbish were lying around the houses were cleared away and burnt to ashes. The whole morning, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., was spent in this work. The party returned for a bath and lunch. At about 2 p.m. a meeting was arranged in the premises of the Local High School, where a fair number from the public, almost all the students and the teaching staff of the school and the participants of the camp turned up. In that meeting the Professors explained the purpose of the camping and stressed the need for national service. The Medical Officer, in his speech, explained the evil effects of the various disease germs, specially small-pox, and advised the people to be on guard against them. The meeting was then dissolved and the camp formally wound up.



## **THE SHILLONG COLLEGE, SHILLONG**

15th – 24th February, 1975

We held the "Youth Against Dirt and Disease" Camp in the sports and cultural club of Rilbong. Three localities – Bishnupur, Rilbong and Kenches Trace were under the jurisdiction of the camp. The camp was held from the 15th of February to the 24th of February, 1975. 38 students, including both boys and girls, worked under the Professor-in-charge, Prof. U.C. Kakati and in co-operation with the people of these localities.

On the 15th morning the camp was inaugurated by the local M.L.A., Shri P.N. Choudhury. The Principal of Shillong College, Shri D.S. Rawat, the Principal of Sankardev College, Shri R.N. Upadhyaya and some other prominent people of the locality were also present on this occasion. In his opening address Shri Choudhury welcomed the campers and encouraged the students to take part in social work and National service. He asked them to keep up this spirit throughout their lives. He also requested the people of the localities to co-operate with the students in making the camp a success. Principal D.S. Rawat explained the aims and

objectives of the camp, and said that he expected a good performance from the students.

The students worked a lot during those ten days and tried hard to change the atmosphere of the localities. They cleaned the drains, the roads and the road sides, and also sprinkled disinfectants in all the dirty places. They dug many pits in the locality and asked the public to use these as rubbish dumps. The students personally requested the public not to throw any rubbish in the drains and to keep the localities clean.

The Camp was visited by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. A.S. Scott and the Health Officer Dr. B. Chakraborty, both of the Shillong Municipal Board. They were also very helpful in supplying lime and other disinfectants and in providing the vaccinators. Two vaccination centres were organised in Bishnupur and Rilbong areas, and a large number of people were inoculated. Cinema shows organised in the camps area were also enjoyed by the people of these localities.

The closing ceremony on 24th February, 1975 was again attended by a large crowd from the area. The ceremony was graced by the presence of the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality, the Health Officer of the Municipality, Mr. Kshiven Roy - Spl. Correspondent - Assam Tribune, Teachers and Students of the local schools and some of the members of the teaching staff of Shillong College. Shri B.K. Goswami, Head Master of Rilbong Proceeding High School, in a brief speech, offered his heartiest thanks to the Professor-in-charge and highly appreciated the work done by the students. He, on behalf of the people of these localities, thanked the students participating in this camp and also thanked the organisers of the national service scheme.

Mr. Scott, the Chief Executive Officer, after visiting the camp area, addressed the gathering and said :

" I have great pleasure in commending the good work done by the students of Shillong College, who were ably led by Prof. U. Kakati, in the 'Youth Against Dirt and Disease' Camp. The students spent several days in Kenches Trace, Bishnupur, and Rilbong localities cleaning up and disinfecting the roads, digging pits for rubbish and organising two vaccination centres, where a large number of people were attended to. At the close of the camp the entire area wore a new look, thanks to the sincere and excellent work of these students. Having set this very good example, it is hoped that the local people will so or-

ganise themselves as to inculcate the sound habits of throwing rubbish only in the dustbins and not on the road side or into the drains, and keeping not only their homes but the surrounding areas clean also. As a matter of fact, without public cooperation it is difficult to keep any environment clean and healthy. Many cheers to the participating students of Shillong College, the Prof-in-charge and the University Authorities for organising the drive, and what we want to see is more programmes of this nature in the future. These would go a long way in improving health and sanitation conditions in the town."

Finally the Professor-in-charge thanked the respected guests and the students and expressed his great satisfaction over the successful completion of the camp. He also expressed his gratefulness to the members of the sports and cultural club, Rilbong, and to the Principal, Shri R.N. Upadhyaya, for accomodating the camp. He also expressed his gratefulness to the people of these areas for their whole hearted co-operation in making the camp a success. The Professor-in-charge thanked the University Authorities for giving him this responsibility for the first time, and expressed his eagerness to shoulder such a responsibility in the future also.

## **ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE, SHILLONG**

3rd - 16th February, 1975

St. Anthony's College conducted the N.S.S. "Youth Against Dirt and Disease" camp at Nongkseh, Umlyngka and Lumparing, from the 3rd to the 16th of February, 1975, with Professor K. Singh as Professor-in-charge. The camp was formally inaugurated by Dr. Chandran D.S. Devanesen, Vice-Chancellor, North-Eastern Hill University, on the 3rd of February, 1975, amidst a large gathering of the residents of Nongkseh, Umlyngka and Lumlawbah at the Sanshnong Proceeding School, where the camp was located. Shri Maham Singh, M.L.A., presided over the function. Shri R. Thangkhiew, Secretary of the Nongkseh Youth Club, in his welcome address said that it was very fortunate for the people of the locality that the camp was being organised there, and hoped that it would be a landmark of national service in the area. Shri S.J. Duncan, addressing the campers, reminded them that though the Khasis were a very clean and hygiene conscious community they have tended to be negligent and perhaps irresponsible. He urged the campers to actively involve the people of the area in the programme against dirt and disease.

Prof. K. Singh requested the people to extend their cooperation to the campers, and said that this was not merely a clean-up programme but also an education for the campers. The Vice-Chancellor explained the objectives of the N.S.S. He urged the campers to continue their programme even after the camp was over. He advised them to select a particular place or village and to work devotedly for its welfare and development, expressing the wish that students of the country would utilise their time and energy to promote the welfare of the country. This would, he felt, make India a different country. He also called upon the people of the area to extend their help to the campers in this N.S.S. project.

Shri Maham Singh said that he was very happy to see that such a camp was being organised in his locality, and wished that the people of the area would conduct similar camps by themselves. He particularly emphasised the clean habits of the Khasis who regarded it as a sin to throw dirt on public roads or in public places. In the past, he said, a Khasi Village was a model village, spick and span in all respects. This is lost today. But such camps by the students might help to bring back the old Khasi traditions. He also urged the campers to propagate this message as a part of their programme against dirt and disease. Shri O.Roy Thangkhiew, Member of the Meghalaya Public Service Commission, expressed his gratitude to the Anthonians for deciding to fight against dirt and disease in his locality. Shri Hardinge Massar, General Secretary of the St. Anthony's College Students' Union, offered the vote of thanks.

The campers, having already been groomed for their tasks, divided themselves into groups and daily visited every house at Nongkseh and Umlyngka. To each family they explained the importance of health. They stressed on the need for boiling drinking water for healthy sanitation and for the necessity of vaccination. They enunciated the dangers of stagnant water and of dirty drains and roads. They urged each and every one to keep the village clean. The campers insisted on civic consciousness. The properties of the village should be protected and taken care of. People should not allow drinking water to go waste. They should see that the taps are properly closed. They also should not 'commit nuisance' in public places or use public drains as means to transport their dirt. They should take proper care to protect important public places, especially the sources of public drinking

water. But most of all, people should take proper care of themselves. Poverty is no reason for ill health. A little care and the strict following of simple hygienic rules means health.

The campers visited about 800 residences and conversed with about 1500 people of Nongkseh and Umlyngka. Besides, the durbars held with the help of the village Headmen and Elders gave the campers an opportunity to speak to the people of the area on the problems of health, and the means to remove them. The campers also spoke about potable water, healthy sanitation, vaccination, civic sense and healthy living conditions. Thanks to the Regional Field Publicity Officer, Government of India, and the Directorate of Publicity and Information, Meghalaya, films on various subjects of health like vaccination, dangers of mosquitos, drinking water, milk, family planning, town cleaning projects and others were screened for the benefit of the people of the area. In their home to home survey, the campers also came across some of the poorer element, like the orphans, the physically handicapped people and some who had been suffering from long illness. To express their sympathy and feelings, the campers gave them blankets.

From Nongkseh and Umlyngka the camp was shifted to Lumparing, a locality situated at the foot of the Shillong peak and under the jurisdiction of the Shillong Municipality. Here also the campers cleaned the locality. They cleaned and swept the dirt from the roads, drains, latrines and the water plant, which badly needed attention. The campers also made natural drains to allow waste water to flow freely. Lime was spread throughout the locality. The people of the locality joined hands with the campers. The campers also explained the necessity of all being one to fight against dirt and disease. They explained to them about a clean village and that since Lumparing has enough water resources it should not be difficult for them to keep the locality clean. The campers also went on a house to house survey and explained to the people about potable water, healthy sanitation, vaccination, civic duties and consciousness:

To prove that charity begins at home, the campers also implemented the programme in their own campus and cleaned the college campus and drains.

It should not be forgotten that the Directorate of Health Services of Meghalaya deputed Dr. H. Kharlukhi and Dr. W.P. Lyttan for two days at the camp.

## **A Remark on the Project**

A general survey of the camp can be summed up as follows :-

The population of the area is poor and the majority of the people are engaged in agriculture or daily labour. Trends of urbanisation have steadily crept in, but the means are still very limited. Educational standard is mainly primary level, but children of the richer sections attend High Schools and Colleges. In Nongkseh and Umlyngka, they being under the Myllem Syiemship, means of removal of garbage and sewage, fire protection and medical facilities and facilities for the disposal of human waste are totally absent. Public toilets are absent. The roads are in a bad condition and repairs are needed. Public lighting has not been introduced though the areas are electrified. Water is an acute problem. It is brought from the source at Shillong peak but there is no storage system. Home distribution is still to be implemented. A water plant could be made functional from a source close to Umlyngka if funds are available. The pit system is used for disposal of human wastes, this being neither ideal nor hygienic.

Lumparing, which is situated at the slope of Shillong peak, lacks municipal facilities though it is very much under the Shillong Municipality. Transport does not reach the locality. Only a footpath links it with the town of Shillong. Service latrines are used but the human waste is collected and dumped in pits close to the residences of the people. Absence of public drains and medical facilities create problems in keeping the area clean, though water is plentiful. It was suggested that sanitary latrines be used but people are too poor to afford such means.

In spite of these hardships and handicaps, the people of Nongkseh, Umlyngka and Lumparing are jovial, good natured and happy. They were very cooperative and helpful to the campers and joined hands with them in the programme "Youth Against Dirt and Disease." They face their problems with a smile and hope that better days will surely come.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion the camp can be said to have been very successful and highly educative, imparting to the campers the spirit of self help and of the dignity of labour. Besides it has

helped to impress upon the campers the need to work and devote their life to the welfare and development of their own fellow human beings. It has helped the campers to understand the problems of the people and in particular of those in the rural areas. They have learned to be human and to lend their efforts for the upliftment of the society. Peter Lamare commented, "It ended too soon. I was just beginning to know what life is." Everline Ryntathieng felt that his art of public relations has been greatly promoted by the camp. James D'Canster felt that there is nothing that could not be done by the students. Clifton Shullai hoped to come back with more programmes in the lines of the N.S.S. Youth Against Dirt and Disease. Hardinge Massar said "I wish that this is part of the curriculum." Ketsmader expressed more realistically by saying "I have gained very much from this camp. Now I know how to undertake social service. I shall go back to my village and try to help the people there to work unitedly for the welfare and growth of the village." Shri R. Thangkhiew said "Thank you very much." The Local Headman of Lumparing remarked "What you (Campers) have done is a lesson to be remembered forever." E. Wahlang, Secretary of the Local Durbar expressed "This is a landmark in the history of our locality." Professor K. Singh remarked on the concluding day "It is a job well done. Evermore and better ever."



## **FAZL ALI COLLEGE, MOKOKCHUNG**

21st - 26th October, 1974

The Camping Programme of the N.S.S., 'Youth against Dirt and Disease', was organised at Khensa Village Mokokchung District, Nagaland. The Principal Fazl Ali College was the convenor of the Camp. A local Committee was formed with the following members :-

**Convenor** - Shri I. Yanger, Principal, Fazl Ali College

**Profs. In-charge** - Prof. K. Borgohain  
Prof. D.N. Choudhury  
Prof. N. Chowdhury  
Prof. V.C. Kanito  
Prof. Chubalepla Chang

**Members of the Committee :**

1. S.E. P.W.D. Mokokchung.
2. S.D.O. (Sadar)

3. Civil Surgeon.
4. Social Welfare Officer, Mokokchung.
5. B.D.O., Ongpangkong.
6. Field Publicity Officer, Mokokchung.
7. District Publicity Officer, Mokokchung.
8. District Sports Officer, Mokokchung.
9. Headmaster, Khensa, M.E. School.
10. Imtil-epden, Lecturer, Fazl Ali College.
11. B. Tekalong, Lecturer, Fazl Ali College.
12. Lanu Imchen, Social Service Secretary, F.A.C. S.U.
13. Temsu Nn Jamir Ex-General Secretary, F.A.C. S.U.
14. Toshiba Echa-General Secretary, F.A.C. S.U.

On the bright sunny morning of 21. 10. 74 the N.S.S. 'Youth against Dirt and Disease' Programme was launched and was attended by as many as two hundred people including the campers. The village elders and the gaon burrahs silently seated themselves on the low benches of the school, with great eagerness to hear what the different speakers would say. A good many of them at first suspected that an element of politics was involved in the Programme. They turned optimistic and agreeable only after hearing the speeches made by the different appointed speakers.

The function was presided over by Prof. K. Borgohain. The Camp was formally declared open by Shri Ngurkhuma, S.D.O. (Civil), Mokokchung, who was the appointed Chief Guest. In the introductory speech Shri I. Yanger, Principal, Fazl Ali College narrated, in detail, the aims and objectives of the camping programme of the N.S.S. 'Youth against Dirt and Disease.' Shri R. Sonowal, C.S., Mokokchung, spoke on "The Significance of the construction of Gobar Gas Plants in the Village." He pointed out to the villagers the utility of having such a plant in the village. Shri D.P. Sinha, Peace worker, also spoke in the meeting. He urged the villagers to try and live a life free from disease by keeping their bodies, houses and the village clean. The Chief Guest wished the camping programme a success and called upon the villagers to extend their fullest cooperation to the organiser of the programme. A village elder, in his speech, expressed his gratitude to the Govt. and to the organisers for selecting their village, Khensa, as the venue for the camp. He promised to render to the organisers, all possible help to make the camp a success.

Shri V.C. Kanito was the Prof-in-charge of the camp. There were sixty campers : thirty College students and thirty village youths.

The following activities were undertaken during the camping period.

- (a) Cleaning drainage.
- (b) Cleaning drinking wells and ponds.
- (c) Constructing approach roads.
- (d) Digging Pit – as many as 15 (fifteen) Pits were dug.
- (e) Vaccination — About 300 (three hundred) people were vaccinated.
  
- (f) Non-formal education activities like, games and sports. Film shows etc. were also aranged during the camping period. Regular group discussions were held every evening and different speakers were made to speak on different topics during the discussion hours.

The camp was closed down on 26. 10. 74 after a valedictory programme. Shri T. Aliba Imti, I.A.S. (retd), was the Chief Guest for the valedictory function. Shri Bendangnukshi, Vice-Chairman of the Town Committee, Mokokchung, presided over the meeting. In his valedictory speech Shri I. Yanger, Principal, thanked the villagers for their cooperation and help. He told the villagers that henceforth they should keep their village cleaner, and try and make their village a "model village" in so far as beauty and cleanliness was concerned. He further stated that the campaign was an eye opener to the villagers, and that they should carry on the work of cleanliness, started by the Campers in their village, with greater intensity in the days to come. The Chief Guest, T. Aliba Imti, highly appreciated the work done by the Campers and the organisers and requested the villagers to follow the example set by the campers. He also thanked the Government for organising such camps and suggested that such camps also be arranged, in different areas of the state, in the future. People, he said, learn better from examples than from the precepts. The village elders thanked the campers highly for their services and promised to work more sincerely towards the betterment of their village in the days to come. They also expressed their thanks to the Government for all the good done for them through the programme.

On the whole, the camping programme of the N.S.S. 'Youth against Dirt and Disease' was a great success. The campers, as well as the villagers, definitely benefited from this camp. Both the parties were happy and satisfied – the campers for having had the opportunity to render their humble services, and the villagers for the service rendered to them. The camp had been really worth its cost.

## CHAMPHAI COLLEGE, CHAMPHAI

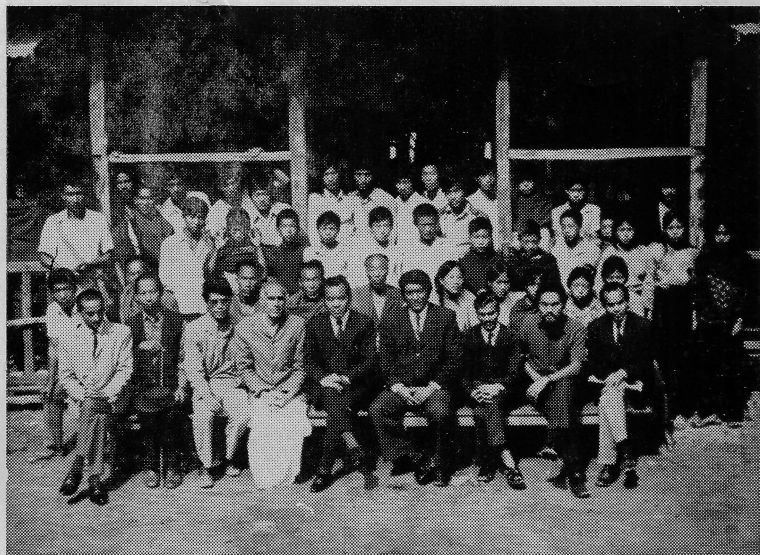
April, 1975

The college organised a campaign : "Youth Against Dirt and Disease." The campaign was inaugurated by Shri Lalhira, M.L.A. on 21st of April, 1975. Fifteen hundred people, including members of eleven educational institutions, attended the inaugural function. The campaign covered Champhai area and the three neighbouring villages and lasted for a week. The following villages were covered by the campaign : (1) Zote, (2) Khawzawl and (3) Ruantlang. Two of them are 5 kilometres and Khawzawl is 40 kilometres away from Champhai. Assisted by the medical staff throughout the campaign, 1252 people received anti-cholera inoculation, 900 houses were visited and the people advised to keep themselves clean, to consult Doctors in time of sickness and to take vaccination and inoculation. In addition to this, 25,000 pamphlets were distributed to the public. The campaigners ploughed the main streets of all the villages they visited. Campaigners received help and support from the public, from the

personel of various departments, from the educational institutions and from the public leaders.

Reports from the campaigners reveal that our villages are not too dirty. There is one natural advantages in the hill areas, that the rain easily washes all the dirty things away from the slopes of the hill side streets. Though the people want to consult doctors, but there are no medical facilities easily accessible for the people. It is a fact that there is only one doctor in an area of about 12,000 Sq. Kilometres.

The campaigners were happy over the voluntary work they had done for the public. They all said that they will again join the next campaign : "Youth for Aforestation."



### MOKOKCHUNG COLLEGE, MOKOKCHUNG.

#### Group Photo – 1st Row Sitting :-

1. N. Choudhury, Lecturer.
2. Shri Ayu.
3. V.C. Kanito, Prof.-in-charge of the Camp.
4. D.P. Sinha.
5. T. Aliba Imti.
6. I. Yanger, Principal.
7. Mr. Malaviya.
8. Bendangnukshi, Vice-Chairman, Town Committee.
9. Prof. K. Borgohain, Vice-Principal.



Vaccination under the supervision of **Dr. Bhattacharjee** (extreme right) of the Dawki Dispensary : Jowai Government College.