

# Newsletter



**GRASSROOT**

**EDITORIAL**

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(Editor)

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**Editorial Team:**

Kong Bitalinda Majaw

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Vision : "Responsibility and Power of the individual and the Community"

Goal : "Achieving the mass responsibility through social empowerment"



## *From the Editor's Desk:*

GRASSROOT was born in 2007 when a group of likeminded young people shared a vision of bringing positive changes in the society. The need of the hour is empowerment, sustainability and responsibility among the masses in the areas of advocacy, health, livelihood and culture. With these objectives in mind, GRASSROOT aimed at bringing equity inside the society and raising awareness to create public opinion at the grassroots level. These are missions that GRASSROOT seek to accomplish. Projects, seminars, fieldworks for students, and many more are some of the endeavours that the organization has conquered so far. The work is cut out for us and a challenging one at that. Yet the team members of GRASSROOT are inspired and driven to achieve their goals even with zero budget. Sometimes the zeal, the drive and the energy to make a difference also counts. The organization is trying its utmost effort to organize different programmes in the future to uplift individuals and communities' responsibility. Apart from the different projects that the organization has undertaken, it also caters to build young BSW students from colleges of Shillong through hands on training and practical experience leading to knowledge and expertise thus helping to carry the torch of change forward. HERE'S TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE.



## ACTIVITIES IN A NUTSHELL

### ON HEALTH PROGRAM

As part of the project on Health implemented by the NRHM, GRASSROOT has been working with RCH project at Pynursla Block of East Khasi Hills covering 12 villages under Pungtung PHC. Under the Community Monitoring Project, East Khasi Hills District the project covers the three blocks with 9 PHCs and 45 villages. The blocks are Mawryngkneng Block, Shella Bholaganj and Laitkroh Block. Under each block 3 PHCs are covered with 15 villages under each PHC. Both the projects were more or less similar, where we have to monitor, strengthen, improve, and facilitate the communities at the PHCs, village level on health related issues. Our work was to ensure that people have access to appropriate technical and legal information. This would also ensure that the rights of the community are not violated economically, politically, socially. It ensures that women should participate in decision making at all levels. It empowers the communities to adjust their existing social structures. It initiates workshops with the communities to assess the appropriateness of their own social structures as well as the structures at more general administrative levels to address their specific problems and issues.

### Environment Day: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012

The programme was held at Mawsahew PHC in collaboration with the Department of Cherrapunjee Ecological Project Restoration of Degraded Lands under Sohra Plateau Govt. of Meghalaya. The programme started with a welcome speech by Macdonald Rynthathiang, Programme Director. The Village Sardar shared some of his past experiences with regard to the environment. He stressed on the



disappearance of the locally available forest fruits and also the good health of the people because of the natural surroundings.

The resource person Mr. Kharpran Project manager Cherrapunjee Ecological Project Restoration of Degraded Lands under Sohra Plateau Govt. of Meghalaya spoke about the first United Nations Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm on 1972 which started the celebration of World Environment Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> June all over the world.

\* He stressed on the four important elements soil, water, tree and air which are freely given to us by Mother Earth.

### World Aids day: 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2011

The main aim of this programme is to tell people how HIV/AIDS has taken so many lives in the previous year and December 1<sup>st</sup> is the day is to remember those people who have been infected by this deadly virus and to eradicate the stigma and discrimination of the people who are infected. This programme started with the advocacy meeting at Youth Centre followed by a candle light march from Don Bosco via Dhanketi, Barik and ending at Parking Lot opposite SBI Police Bazaar.



### Human Rights Day:

**As a part of celebration, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December every year, Grassroot and VHAM.**



GRASSROOT along with VHAM, NEEDS & Indian Institute of Human Rights Education Chennai came together to celebrate Human Rights Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Various issues

concerning Human Rights were thoroughly discussed, Father Celia was one of the main speakers during the occasion. A concert called 'Rock your Rights' and 'A Skit in Action' was performed.



## Health Camps:

### 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 Lyngkhat Village:

The programme on awareness cum health camp was conducted at Lyngkhat L.P. School on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 covering Lyngkhong, Rimai, Lyngkhat and Nongtyngur village. The people who attended the awareness programme included women, children and men.

#### Objectives:

· To disseminate the information on the basic of health to women, men and youths in order to bring a change in their perspective on issues of health.



· To help people who are in need of free medical checkup for various ailments.

· To stress about the need of cooperation involvement networks of the community, government and civil society for health improvement and development.

## NETWORKING

*Grassroot has been networking with the following partners:*

**WMPA** – World Mountain Peoples' Association, France

**VHAM** – Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya, Shillong

**NEEDS** – North East Education Development Society, Shillong

**IIHE** – Indian Institute of Human Rights Education, Chennai

**ADR** – Association for Democratic Reforms, New Delhi

**ICIMOD** – Integrated Centre for International Mountain Development

**NRHM** – National Rural Health Mission, Govt. of Meghalaya

**NCW** – National Commission of Women

**MEW** – Meghalaya Election Watch

**ASER** – Annual Status of Education Report

**CMAI** – Meghalaya

**SCSTE** – Meghalaya

**NEDFI** – Meghalaya

**NEN** – Meghalaya

**Cherrapunjee Ecological Project Restoration of Degraded Lands under Sohra Plateau** – Govt. of Meghalaya

## ACHIEVEMENTS

*With the NRHM GRASSROOT has two ongoing projects in hand where they have been great achievements and successes. These projects are FNGO in Pynursla Block for RCH and Community Monitoring in Mawryngkneng Block, Laitkroh Block, Shella Bolaganj Block for Empowering of communities.*

### FNGO PROJECT

From an overall study, it was revealed that out of the 12 villages in Pynursla Block, people have started to change their perspective in terms of immunization, ANC, and PNC checkup. They have also realized the importance of institutional delivery. Some of the mothers willingly registered with the Asha after the intervention. Moreover, the Asha have started to take their role and responsibility seriously in registration of the children and pregnant women who have not been registered previously. They also started to take up their initiative play in guiding and supervising the people at large. Though GRASSROOT has initiated and motivated the women for registration of ANC and PNC, follow-up process is still ongoing.



### COMMUNITY MONITORING PROJECT

The programme began from the Orientation programme held at the block level for the PHCs and VHSCs which was conducted at khatarshnong Block and on the orientation and formation of Planning Committee' for the selected out. From Laitkroh-Khatarshnong form three PHCs committees and under Shella Bholaganj Block, fourteen Villages committee and at PHCs committees and fifteen



Mawryngkneng Block, Laitkroh-ShellaBholaganj Block. Follow up 'Community Monitoring and PHCs and Villages were carried Block which we had achieved to seventeen Villages committee, three PHCs committees and Mawryngkneng Block three



Block	PHC Committee	Nos of Village Committee
Mawryngkneng Block	Mawryngkneng PHC Committee	5 Village Committee
	Smit PHC Committee	5 Village Committee
	Diengpasoh PHC Committee	5 Village Committee
Laitkroh-khatar-shnong Block	Laitryngew PHC Committee	6 Village Committee
	Swer PHC Committee	6 Village Committee
	Laitryngew PHC Committee	5 Village Committee
Shella Bholaganj Block	Laitkynsew PHC Committee	5 Village Committee
	Mawsahew PHC Committee	6 Village Committee
	Shella PHC Committee	3 Village Committee
<b>Total from three Block 9 PHCs and 46 Village Committees has been form and strengthened.</b>		

Now the first phase can be regarded as successful, which the second phase for data and information collection from the PHCs and villages will be then carried out after receiving the formatting materials from the State NRHM.

### *"The Team's experiences with Grassroot"*

Through the activities that I have been involved whether in the issues of development, health, empowerment, capacity building and others, working with Grassroot has helped me understand my strength and also build my capacity to deal with different issues. My skills and knowledge to impart the right information to the community are also enhanced.

*(Bitalinda Majaw)*

My experiences with Grassroot was a learning experience in building rapport with the people at the village level and to also communicate better with them. But, I couldn't have done it without a proper and strong team work.

*(Darihun War)*

Working with Grassroot I have learnt community participation and the sense of ownership between the stakeholders and the service providers. I learnt that information is lacking at the community level and the people are not aware about the facilities available and other benefits provided by the government to them. Most of the people are not

aware about their own roles and responsibilities; there is also a lack of initiative in developmental activities amongst the community members. But through the many programmes organized by Grassroot, the community especially at the rural areas have come to know and started to take more initiative to come forward and show their ambition in improving their development activities at different levels.

*(Kyrmen S. Lyngkhoi)*

#### *"Dealings with the public"*

Working with Grassroot is my first opportunity in dealing with the people of different villages. It was a very difficult job to handle the work in the beginning but with team work i learnt to understand my responsibility. Sometimes there are challenging and difficult villages that we have to deal with, but in the end, co-operation through discussion and orientation with the people, i can consider our programme a success!

*(Ritalinda Majaw)*

### **Staff of the quarter April to June 2012**

*After Evaluation, the Board finds 'Bitalinda Majaw' To be adjudged as Staff of the Quarter 2012.*

#### **The Team:**

Kyrmen S. Lyngkhoi - Project Co-ordinator  
 Bitalinda Majaw - Programe Co-ordinator  
 Jareen Massar - Assistant Project Co-ordinator  
 Newborn Lawai - Accountant  
 Darihun War - Block Programme Asst.  
 Ritalinda Majaw - Block Programme Asst.  
 Shuhun Nongrum - Block Programme Asst.  
 Airyngkathi Yatbon - Administrative Asst.

#### **The Board**

Ms. Mayfereen Ryntathieng (President)  
 Mr. laikynmaw Buam (Secretary)  
 Mr. Khlainbor Kharbangar (Tresurer)  
 Mr. Macdonald L. Ryntathieng  
 Mr. Walden Massar  
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