

## **NCERT Memorial Lecture Series**

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an apex organisation, assisting and advising the Central and State Governments by undertaking research, survey and development; training and extension activities for all stages of school and teacher education.

One of the objectives of the Council is to also act as a clearing house and disseminator of ideas relating to school and teacher education. We have initiated the Memorial Lecture Series in order to fulfill this role and to commemorate the life and work of great educational thinkers.

Our aim is to strive to raise the level of public awareness about the contributions made in the field of education by eminent men and women of India. We expect that such awareness will set off a chain of discourse and discussion.

Thus, we hope, the series will make education a lively subject of inquiry while simultaneously encouraging a sustained public engagement with this important domain of national life.

The memorial lectures Series covers public lectures commemorating the life and work of nine eminent Indian educational thinkers and practitioners.

We invite persons of eminence from academia and public life to deliver these lectures in English or any other Indian language. Our intention is to reach large audience consisting particularly of teachers, students, parents, writers, artists, NGOs government servants and members of local communities. We hope these lecture series will be of use to our audience as well as the public in and outside the country in general.

### **Titles of Memorial Lectures**

| <b>Title</b>                         | <b>Venue</b>                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Gijubhai Badheka Memorial Lecture    | Madras institute of Development Studies, Chennai |
| Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Lecture | RIE, Bhubaneswar                                 |
| Zakir Hussain Memorial Lecture       | RIE, Mysore                                      |
| Mahadevi Verma Memorial Lecture      | RIE, Bhopal                                      |
| B.M. Pugh Memorial Lecture           | NERIE, Shillong                                  |
| Savitri Phule Memorial Lecture       | SNDT Women's University, Mumbai                  |
| Marjorie Sykes Memorial Lecture      | RIE, Ajmer                                       |
| Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture       | Presidency College, Kolkata                      |
| Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture      | NIE, NCERT, New Delhi                            |

### List of B.M. Pugh Memorial lectures conducted by the NERIE, Shillong

| Sl No | Date                            | Venue  | Speaker  | Theme   | Chairperson   |
|-------|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| 1.    | 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2008     | Women's College, Laitumkhrah, Shillong               | Shri Ratan Thiyam, Chairperson, Chorus repertory Theatre, Imphal.  | Theatre language and expression   | Prof. K. C. Baral, Director, EFLU, Shillong campus                            |
| 2.    | 27 <sup>th</sup> march 2009     | Don Bosco Youth centre, Shillong                     | Shri P Sainath, Rural Affairs Editor, The Hindu, Mumbai  | India in the Age of Inequality: Farm crisis, Food crisis and the Media                  | Ms. Patricia Mulhim, Editor, Shillong Times                                   |
| 3.    | 9 <sup>th</sup> October, 2009   | St Mary's College, Shillong                          | Prof Nandini Sundar, Prof. of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University                                 | Social and Political Exclusion, Religious, Inclusion: The Adivasi Question in education | Prof. J. P. Bagchi, Principal, NERIE, NCERT, Shillong                         |
| 4.    | 10 <sup>th</sup> November, 2010 | North East Council Secretariat Auditorium, Shillong. | Vinod Raina, Member, Central Advisory Board of Education and Convenor of Basic Education, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, | Education and Knowledge in the Time of Globalisation: Inclusion, Quality and Agency     | Shri Hassibuddin Ahmed, a senior advocate of the Gauhati High Court, Shillong |

#### A brief report of the fourth B.M.Pugh memorial lecture

The fourth B M Pugh memorial lecture was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 in the North East Council Secretariat, auditorium, Shillong. The guest speaker for the day was Vinod Raina, member Central Advisory Board of Education, and Convenor Basic Education, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, and who was also recently engaged in advocacy work for Right to Education legislation and was member of its drafting committee. The chairperson for the day was Shri Hassibuddin Ahmed, a senior advocate of the Gauhati High Court. The lecture was well attended by an audience of about 250 people in a jam packed auditorium comprising people from different walks- teachers, students, writers, artists, NGOs, Government servants and members of the local communities.

The lecture began with a very simple felicitation to the speaker and the chairperson. This was followed by a welcome address from Prof J.P.Bagchi, principal of the Institute. While extending a warm welcome to the august gathering, he also mentioned about the contribution made by the former Director of NCERT, Prof Krishna Kumar in initiating the NCERT Memorial lecture series all over the country. Dr. S. Saigal then briefed the house on the contribution of BM Pugh to the field of education. She stressed on the fact, as to how B M Pugh right from the early part of the twentieth century, was influential in bringing Shillong to the limelight and

making it a place in the educational map of the country. To ignite once again the memories on his life and works, the speaker and the chairperson lit the candle. Dr F.G.Dkhar, the local coordinator of the programme who was anchoring the show handed the rest of the time to the chairperson.

Mr. Ahmed briefly introduced the theme, “Education and Knowledge in the Time of Globalisation: Inclusion, Quality and Agency” and handed the time to the speaker. The speaker introduced the theme with an elaborate historical analysis of the change and continuity in the system of education over periods of time to situate the question of inclusion, quality and agency in its correct perspective. The Right to Education was then reflected and touched upon, and wherein issues like Inclusion, Quality and Agency found a place in it. Known for his oratory skills, Vinod Raina captured the attention of many. It ended with lively interactions from different sections of the audience. This marked the level of its success. The talk created awareness on The Right to Education Act and it is also hoped that it would continue to set off a chain of discourse and discussions. The three hour lecture finally ended with a vote of thanks from Dr B Devi, Associate Professor of the institute.