

# **Implementing Interventions at Elementary School stage: A Block Level Research Project**

**(Programme Coordinators -Prof B Barthakur and Dr F.G.Dkhar**

**Core Committee Members –Dr B. Kharlukhi, Prof. S.C.Roy, Prof B.R.Dkhar, Dr M.G.Wallang and Shri A Sen)**

## **Introduction:**

Educational interventions which have emerged from research, development and training need to be tested in the field, to see their impact. Thus, adopting an educational block will help to understand the ground realities when it comes to the implementation of new strategies and interventions in the field of education and also learning from its positive and negative impacts.

The present study is confined to Bhoirymbong Block of Ri Bhoi District, which is also the aspirational district of the state of Meghalaya. The Ri Bhoi District came into existence and assumed the hierarchical status of a District on the 4th June 1992 by upgrading the former Civil Sub-Division. The District was carved out from the erstwhile East Khasi Hills District and lies between North Latitudes 25 15' and 26 15' and between East Longitudes 91 45' and 92 15'.



The responsibility for the correctness of internal details rests with the publisher.

The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

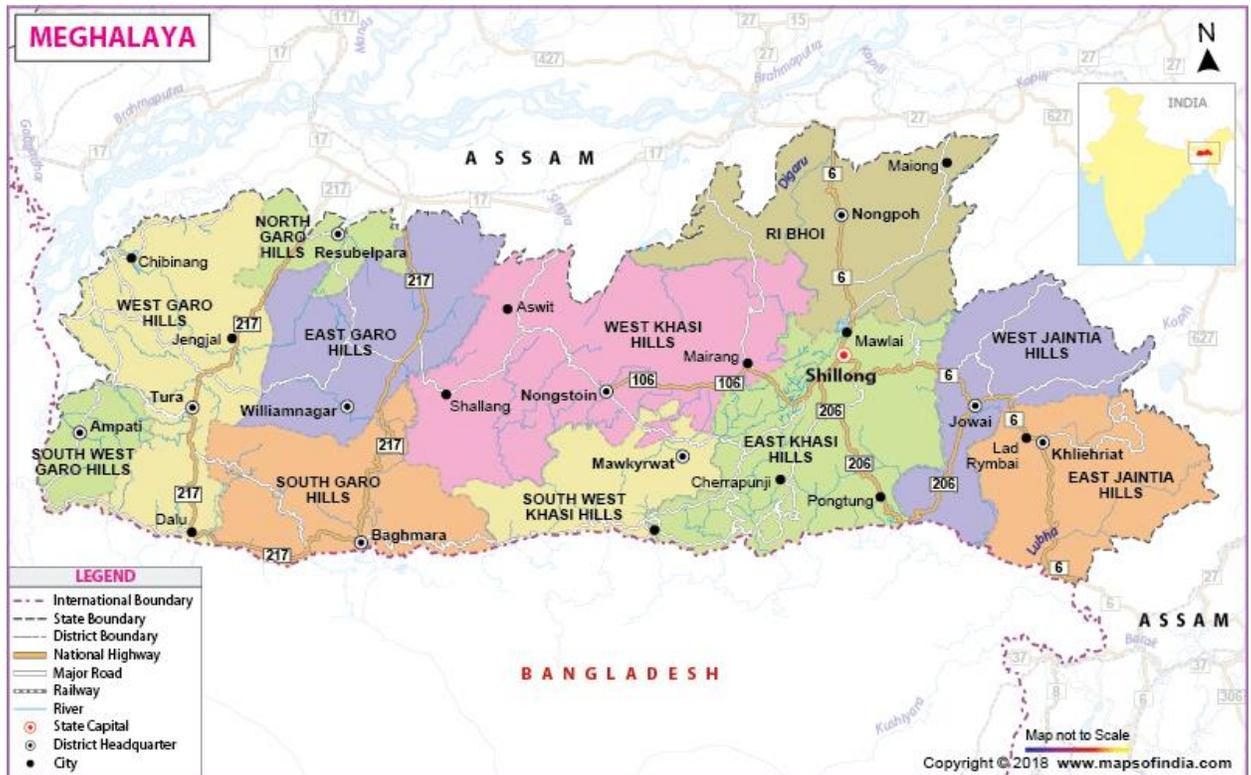
The external boundaries and coastlines of India agree with the Record/Master Copy certified by Survey of India.

The state boundaries between Uttarakhnad & Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh have not been verified by the Government's concerned.

The administrative headquarters of Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab are at Chandigarh.

The interstate boundaries amongst Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya shown on the map are as interpreted from the "North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971," but have yet to be verified.

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The Bhoirymbong Block covers the following G S circles-

- Umiam
- Umroi
- Um ktieh
- Bhoirymbong
- Nongtraw
- Kyrdem
- Mawbsein
- Mawbri
- Umpohwin
- Mawlasnai
- Tryso
- Umtlieh

(Vide Government Notification No CDD.84/2013/369 dated 31.1.2017)

According to the data received from Block Mission Centre- Umsning, Bhoirybong Block has about 200 elementary schools, where 20 are Government Schools, 11 are Adhoc schools, 59 are private schools, 28 are Deficit schools and 82 are SSA Schools.

### **Objectives of the study:**

- To adopt the Bhoirybong Block for two years to intervene into the role and functioning of elementary schools.
- To conduct a base line study on teachers and students of the Block.
- To enhance the capacity building of Heads of Institutions and teachers on recent trends in education.
- To provide an inclusive and holistic training to Block Resource Persons, Cluster Resource Persons and teachers of the school.
- To bring the schools closer to the community and vice versa in the form of reach out programmes.
- To orient community members on the need, importance and recent trends in education.

### **Progress of the study:**

#### **(i) A Brief Report on its official launching**

Apart from the joyous celebration that was organized to mark the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCERT at NERIE, was also the official announcement of the above programme of the Institute. The first part of the day's programme was devoted to this, which was then followed by a cultural programme. Shri Lakmen Rymbui, Minister of Education, Government of Meghalaya, was the Chief Guest for the function. Besides him on the dais were the Guests of Honour, Shri George B Lyngdoh, Member of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly of Umroi constituency, where NERIE comes within its jurisdiction, and Shri D.P Wahlang, IAS, Principal Secretary of Education, Government of Meghalaya. Some of the other invited guests were Shri P Lartang, the Deputy Director, DERT, Shri W Nongbet the DSEO, RiBhoi District, Shri P.P Yadav, the Block Mission Coordinator, Umsning Block and others.



(From Left to Right- Shri D.P. Wahlang, Shri George B Lyngdoh, Shri Lakmen Rymbui ,Prof B.Barthakur)

As customary, Prof. B Barthakur, Principal of the Institute gave a warm welcome address to all the dignitaries, invited guests and to all present. In his inaugural address, a mention was made about the adoption of an Educational Block for implementing NCERT's intervention at the elementary level. Dr F.G.Dkhar gave a brief presentation on the objectives and approaches which will be followed while adopting the educational Block.



( From Left to Right- Shri D.P. Wahlang, Shri George B Lyngdoh, Shri Lakmen Rymbui , Prof B.Barthakur and Dr F.G.Dkhar)

Below are the excerpts of the speeches of the Chief Guest, and the Guests of Honour, specifically on adopting the Bhoirymbong, Educational Block by NERIE, NCERT



Shri Lakmen Rymbui

“..I congratulate you for identifying the Block, as the pilot project. In the two years that you are going to study, there is wealth of data in the Bhoirymbong Block, which can be replicated in other parts of the state. I wish that this project will be a successful one and it will help to true quality education for the students.”  
Shri Lakmen Rymbui, Education Minister, Government of Meghalaya



“.....If we study the current system, Teacher Education is one of the biggest challenges .....to be proficient in teaching. The thousands of untrained teachers, nearly 40,000 of them in the state is a big challenge for us. The recent initiatives of the Union Government trying to make the D.El Ed course compulsory for all teachers is also yet to be felt in the ground, ....the results.....the fruits are yet to be seen. Even though we are moving in that direction, the NERIE has adopted 200 schools which is really a Blessing for our Block, and the 721 teachers that we are targeting to train in these particular two years, I think is a big challenge. In two years to train 721 teachers with quality training and with better teaching tools is also a very challenging task. I appreciate the efforts put on by NERIE and with the Blessings of NCERT are with us, so that we can achieve this massive target.” Shri George B Lyngdoh, Member, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Umroi Constituency



“I am happy that NERIE will be involving in this Block intervention in Bhoirymbong, the new Block because as part of the supporting Human capital management Project which is also known as the ADB project in our state, we already have the Meghalaya School Improvement Plan, something very similar to what you are going to do..... going to schools, getting involved in exercises like capacity building, like community involvement, like more inclusive management of the school. It is the same thing which we are also pronouncing through the Meghalaya School Improvement Plan. So, I request NERIE, the Professors who are involved, and Prof Dkhar who is here to speak to our people in the Education Department, in the DSEI to hand hold in this. ....I hope that this effort and the endeavor being taken by NERIE will bring useful outcomes and results to this area.” Shri D.P Wahlang, IAS, Principal Secretary, Education, Government of Meghalaya

At the end of all the speeches, the adoption of the Block was then officially announced by Shri Lakmen Rymbui, Education Minister, Government as follows, “Today the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2018, the NERIE, NCERT has adopted the Bhoirymbong Block for educational interventions from today onwards. I hope that in these two years the children of this Block will benefit from this intervention. Thank you”

## **(ii) A brief Report on The Orientation Programme for Village Headmen and Principals of Schools of Bhoirymbong Block**

**T**he Orientation programme was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at Mawbri Parish Hall, Bhoirymbong, as it is the only venue which could accommodate more than 300 participants in the area. The programme started at 10:30 AM and lasted for more than 90 minutes.



***(A view of the venue)***

The chief guest for the occasion was Mr George B Lyngdoh, Member of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, of Umroi Constituency, who was also present on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2018, when the programme was officially announced by Mr L Rymbui, the Education Minister of the state of Meghalaya. Also present in the gathering was Mr P P Yadav, the Block Mission Coordinator, of Umsning Block, Fr B Marbaniang, the Parish Priest, besides Prof B Barthakur, and the faculty. (Core committee members of the study)



***(From left to right- Fr B Marbaniang, Mr P.P.Yadav, Mr Gerorge B Lyngdoh, Prof B Barthakur, Prof S C Roy and Dr F.G.Dkhar)***

On record the number attended was 205, with 116 Head Teachers, 11 Headmen, 54 teachers, 3 Vice Principals, One President of School, 3 Secretary of School, 3 Asst Headmaster, 9 Cluster Resource Persons and 1 Block Pesource Person, and a representative from a NGO, village. (However, based on head count the number of participants exceeded 300)



***(A section of the Participants)***

The main purpose of the Programme was to orient the Head Teachers/ Principals of schools on the adoption of the Block and also highlighting to them on its aims and objectives as spelled out below-

- To adopt an Educational Block of a State for two years to intervene into the role and functioning of elementary schools in the area.
- To enhance the capacity building of Heads of Institutions and teachers on recent trends in education.
- To provide an inclusive and holistic training to Block Resource Persons, Cluster Resource Persons and teachers.
- To bring the schools closer to the community and vice versa in the form of reach out programmes.
- To orient community members on the need, importance and recent trends in education.

Prof B Barthakur, welcomed the gathering, which was followed by a brief introduction on the Study and NCERT's Interventions in the Educational Block. He also mentioned about the National Achievement Study which would be conducted shortly and the cooperation and support required for its successful administration of the test.



***(Prof B Barthakur addressing the gathering)***

The Chief Guest, Mr George B Lyngdoh applauded the efforts taken by the NCERT and by NERIE in particular for adopting the Educational Block of Bhoirymbong, and mentioned that the teachers, students and the people of the Block should consider themselves privileged to get selected out of the many Blocks in the North Eastern part of the country. He emphasized on the need for hand holding and working together with also so much of eagerness and expectations to see quality change in the educational scenario in the Block. The Chief Guest also mentioned about the need to ensure that students do not drop out from school because of the language factor.



*(Mr George B Lyngdoh, Chief Guest for the function)*

Below are the highlights of the brief talks given by Prof S C Roy, Dr M.G.Wallang, Dr F.G.Dkhar and Mr Arnab Sen.

Prof S C Roy, informed the gathering about the learning Outcomes developed by NCERT and its importance to adhere them to the teaching –learning process in the Classroom. The need of the students to be at par with the others in the country is of prime importance.



*(Prof S C Roy while talking about learning Outcomes)*

Dr Mellisa G Wallang stressed on the importance of providing education to Children with Special Needs along with other children right from the time when students join formal education. She also highlighted that the language of the child should not be a barrier for a child to learn and excel in the school, which in one way maybe a barrier to Inclusive Education. She also mentioned that learning Disability of the child maybe due to the problem of language in the classroom.



*(Dr Melissa addressing the gathering)*

On reaching out to the Community, Dr F.G.Dkhar emphasized on the significance and role, of Headmen in School Managing Committees, basing it on Chapter IV Clause 21, of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. She also mentioned that from time to time, there will be programmes for the Community on issues like personal Cleanliness, Health related programmes and also in making their localities clean and green.



*(Dr F.G.Dkhar, while talking about the role and participation of the Community)*

Mr Arnab Sen informed the gathering about the initiatives taken by NCERT in the field of ICT, and also emphasized on the importance of Information and Communication Technology in the classroom.



*(Mr Arnab Sen while explaining on the need for ICT in the Classroom)*

Before the programme came to a close, Dr F.G.Dkhar, introduced the Junior Project Fellows, for the help and support to be given to them as they go from one school to another for the Base line study



*(From Left to Right) Dr F.G.Dkhar, Spailin, Lakyntiew, Sandarisa and Gitanjali)*

As all things must come to an end, the vote of thanks was given by Prof B R Dkhar.



*(Prof B R Dkhar, while giving the vote of thanks)*

The meeting ended with a cup of tea and snacks for all the participants. This informal session led to more interaction and networking with heads of Schools and Village Headmen. The response received from the participants was overwhelming and this has motivated the Programme Coordinators and core committee members to work further in fulfilling the objectives of the study.

### **Some photographs taken after the function**







Group Photograph of Principal Investigator, Programme Coordinator, JPFs and Sister Terena for the help and support she rendered while arranging for the venue and for the smooth functioning of the day's programme.

**(iii) Base line Study of the Block-**

**With the help of the JPFs, the status of the base line study as on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 is as follows-**

CRC	No of schools acc. To Gvt	No of schools visited
BHOIRYMBONG	30	22
MAWBRI	28	22
KYRDEM	23	18
UMROI	36	11
NONGTRAW	26	24
KLEW	20	19
MAWLASNAI	31	9
TYRSO	18	9
LIARBANG	26	0
UMEIT	29	0
	267	134

(iv) Two Community programmes to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 and 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 2018.

