

**CASE STUDY
ON
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
UNDER
MEGHALAYA SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (MSLA)
A Continuous Professional Development Program for Principals and Heads of Schools**

**DIENGLIENG GOVERNMENT LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL,
DIENGLIENG, MAWKYNREW BLOCK, EAST KHASI HILL DISTRICT,
MEGHALAYA.**

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MEGHALAYA
2023**

Abstract

The school in the East Khasi Hill District of Meghalaya, once considered underprivileged with zero student enrollment before the COVID-19 lockdown, underwent a remarkable transformation. After the lockdown, it welcomed 111 students and introduced several activities, including a student's kitchen garden for providing mid-day meals to children. These developments were unprecedented for the school and culminated in the recent recognition of winning a state-level competition for the World No Tobacco Day Rally and Signature Campaign in 2023.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)

The National Centre for School Leadership at NIEPA has designed key process indicators (KPIs) for School Leadership Academies. The case study fall under **Component 1** – Content and Material Development and **KPI – 1**.

1. About the School

Dienglieng Government Lower Primary School, established in 1949, stands as one of the oldest educational institutions. Situated in a rural area, it operates under the management of the Department of Education, Government of Meghalaya. The school offers instruction in both Khasi and English, catering to students from pre-primary to primary (Class I to V). It is affiliated with the Meghalaya Board of School Education and occupies a modest building with three classrooms accommodating all mentioned classes. At the helm of the institution is Smt. Darimeka Suchiang, a highly qualified academician with a Master's degree in Science (M.Sc.), Bachelor of Education (B. Ed.), and MTET (Meghalaya Teachers Eligibility Test) credentials. The school's faculty consists of three teachers, including two female assistant teachers. The student body comprises students from pre-primary to Class V, with a total enrollment of 111 students."



2. Location of the School

Dienglieng Government Lower Primary School, located in Dienglieng within the Mawkynrew Block of East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, is an inclusive institution catering to pre-primary and primary education for both boys and girls. The school is approximately 60 kilometers away from Shillong, and the quickest route to reach it is via the Jongksha-Mawkynrew road, which spans around 40 kilometers."



3. About Meghalaya

Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya and the administrative hub of the East Khasi Hills District in North-Eastern India, is often referred to as the "Scotland of the East." This charming city is renowned for its tourism attractions, including Umiam Lake, Shillong Golf Course, Wards Lake, Ka Phan Nonglait Park, Shillong Peak, State Museum, Don Bosco Museum, and numerous others. Beyond the city, the region boasts captivating tourist destinations like Sohra, located 50 kilometers away, celebrated worldwide for its breathtaking landscapes. During the monsoon season, when rainfall reaches its zenith at these higher altitudes, hundreds of thousands of visitors from across India, and thousands from abroad, flock to this remarkable place to experience its natural beauty.



4. Leading Innovations

4.1 Student's Enrollment

Once an inactive school with zero enrollment in 2019 before the COVID-19 lockdown, this institution saw a significant transformation over the subsequent years. In 2020, the school

welcomed its first two students, and by the end of 2021, the enrollment had increased to 35 students. The momentum continued into 2022, as word spread throughout the village about the positive changes in the school, resulting in a boost to enrollment with a total of 99 students. By 2023, the school's enrollment reached an impressive 111 students. This remarkable turnaround has positioned it as one of the most active government primary schools in the entire block, having evolved from zero enrollment to 111 students.

Table 1: Showing the increases of the student’s enrollment with years

Sl. No.	Student’s Enrollment	Year
1.	0	2019
2.	2	2020
3.	35	2021
4.	99	2022
5.	111	2023



Fig 1. First two students along with teachers

4.2 Student’s Uniform

As seen in Fig. 1, a notable observation is the absence of school uniforms among the students. This trend persisted from 2019 through 2021, with students consistently attending school in civilian clothing. However, in 2022, after corresponding with the higher authorities and referencing data from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), the school successfully secured a grant from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to provide

uniforms for its students. This marked a significant milestone as it was the first time in the school's history that students had access to proper school uniforms, enhancing both their sense of identity and the overall school environment.



Fig. 2. Students with uniforms

4.3 Student's Book

Back then, from 2019 onwards, the schoolchildren faced a significant challenge as they lacked the necessary books for reading and writing. This situation persisted for several years, impacting their access to quality education. However, in the year 2022, the school took proactive steps by submitting a formal request to the higher authorities, highlighting the issue. This request was based on the data and information obtained from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), which provided crucial insights into the school's needs. In response to this plea, the school was granted funding from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) specifically allocated for school textbooks. This marked a turning point, as it was the first time in several years that the students had access to the necessary educational materials, greatly enhancing their learning experience and educational prospects.

5. School Activities

There are many diverse activities in which the school actively participates throughout the academic year. These initiatives encompass a wide range of events and celebrations, reflecting the school's commitment to holistic education and community engagement. These activities include Children's Day, dedicated to celebrating the children's and their potential; Tobacco-Free Education Institution Day, promoting a healthy and smoke-free learning

environment; the Mid-Day Meal program, ensuring nutritious meals for students; a joyful Christmas party to foster a sense of togetherness and celebration; engaging in various social work initiatives to contribute to the betterment of the community; Environment Day, emphasizing the importance of ecological stewardship; the Annual Sports Day to nurture physical fitness and sportsmanship; the School Creative Week, encouraging students' artistic expression and creativity; Poshan Maah, promoting nutrition and health awareness; the No Tobacco Rally and Signature Campaign, advocating against tobacco use; and, finally, the Independent Day celebration, marking the nation's freedom and unity. These activities collectively reflect the school's dedication to well-rounded education and community involvement.

5.1 Children's Day

Children's Day, a cherished day on their calendar, is dedicated to celebrating the children's innocence, creativity, and their limitless potential, reminding us of the importance of nurturing and safeguarding their dreams and aspirations. The image displayed below captures the essence of Children's Day celebration, marking the first occasion where students celebrated this special day alongside their teachers.



Fig. 3. Celebrating the first children's day



Fig. 4. Celebrating the second children's day

5.2 Tobacco Free Education Institution (ToFEI)

Tobacco-Free Education Institution Day serves as a powerful platform for fostering awareness and advocacy, promoting a healthy and smoke-free learning environment that empowers students to make informed choices about their well-being and encourages a lifelong commitment to health-conscious living. In the picture, we are seen completing the TOFEI activities as directed by the Government of Meghalaya that all schools should actively work towards making their school campus a tobacco-free zone.



Fig. 4. Celebrating the first ToFEI programme

5.3 Mid-Day Meal

The Mid-Day Meal program, a vital initiative in our educational system, plays a pivotal role in ensuring that students receive nutritious and balanced meals daily, addressing not only their physical nourishment but also fostering a conducive environment for focused learning and overall growth. A picture of their first mid-day meal served post lockdown was done in the school itself.



Fig. 5. First mid-day meal served

5.4 Christmas Party

The joyful Christmas party serves as a heartwarming gathering that goes beyond mere festivities; it is a cherished annual event meticulously organized to foster a profound sense of togetherness, unity, and shared celebration, embracing the spirit of love, giving, and goodwill among all participants. The first Christmas party celebrated on December, 2021.



Fig. 6. First Christmas Party celebrated inside the school

5.5 Social Work

At the conclusion of 2021, our school year was marked by a unique experience. Although we spent just three months in school, specifically during October, November, and December, we made the most of this time by actively engaging in meaningful social work activities, made possible with the invaluable support of our dedicated parents. Furthermore, our devoted teachers went above and beyond their regular duties by organizing a special annual event wherein they distributed thoughtful gifts to our students, creating lasting memories and a sense of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.



Fig. 7. First School Social Work



Fig. 8. Gifts from teacher's contribution

5.6 Environment Day 2022

Environment Day stands as a pivotal occasion, marked with a series of engaging activities, all centered around a shared commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable practices. It provides a valuable platform for our school community to come together and collectively emphasize the critical importance of ecological stewardship, advocating for responsible actions that nurture and protect our planet for future generations to come. The school celebrated the world environment day for the first time in the year 2022, which take part by all the 99 students.



Fig. 9. World Environment Day Celebration 2022

5.7 Annual School Sports 2022

The Annual Sports Day is a highly anticipated event that extends far beyond mere athletic competition. This day-long celebration of sports and camaraderie is meticulously planned to provide a holistic experience for our students. It not only nurtures physical fitness through a diverse array of sports and activities but also places a strong emphasis on cultivating essential values like teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play. In doing so, it goes beyond the realm of physical activity to instill life skills that will serve our students well in their personal and

academic journeys, fostering a deep appreciation for the principles of healthy competition and cooperation. The annual sports was first conducted in the year 2022 with 99 students enrolled.



Fig. 10. Annual Sports Day 2022

5.8 School Creative Week

They also encouraged and empowered students to take the initiative and express their creativity by organizing special events that allowed them to brainstorm and implement their own innovative ideas. This culminated in a week-long creative extravaganza held within the school premises, aptly named the 'School Creative Week.' During this vibrant and imaginative event, students were given the freedom to showcase their artistic talents, talents,

and unique perspectives, fostering an environment of self-expression, innovation, and collaborative learning.



Fig. 11. First time school creative week celebration

5.9 Poshan Maah

The school actively participated in the Poshan Maah initiative, aligning with the government's directive to promote nutrition and health awareness. Throughout this dedicated month, the school embarked on a comprehensive campaign that extended well beyond the classroom, encompassing a wide range of activities and awareness programs aimed at fostering a culture of good nutrition, health consciousness, and overall well-being among students and the broader community. This multi-faceted effort underscores the school's commitment to not only academic growth but also the holistic development and health of its students.





Fig. 12. Poshan maah celebrated for the first time

5.1a No Tobacco, Rally and Signature Campaign

The school, recognizing the paramount importance of raising awareness about the detrimental effects of smoking and tobacco use on health, took proactive steps by organizing a comprehensive 'No Tobacco Rally and Signature Campaign' within the village. This well-executed campaign extended its reach to the local community, mobilizing not only students but also residents of the village to actively participate and lend their support. Through this concerted effort, the school aimed to instill a heightened sense of consciousness regarding the grave health risks associated with tobacco consumption, while also galvanizing a united front against this harmful habit within the community.



Fig. 13. First rally and signature campaign held for No Tobacco

5.1b Independence day's Celebration

The school's commitment to fostering patriotism and a deep appreciation for the country's heritage and freedom is exemplified through its annual 'Independence Day Celebration.' This grand event serves as a momentous occasion that transcends the boundaries of the school, bringing together students, teachers, parents, and the wider community to commemorate the nation's hard-fought freedom and the enduring spirit of unity that binds us all as proud citizens. It is a day when the school campus reverberates with patriotic fervor and pride, reminding everyone of the sacrifices made by our forebearers and the responsibility we carry to uphold the principles of democracy, diversity, and unity in our great nation. This was the Independence day ever celebrated which include many activities as seen in the figures below.



Fig. 14. First Independence Day celebration

6. Extra-Curricular Activities

6.1 School Kitchen Garden

The school kitchen garden, strategically established in close proximity to the school premises, serves as an educational platform with the primary objective of imparting valuable gardening skills to our students. By actively engaging in this gardening endeavor, students

not only acquire hands-on knowledge about cultivating various vegetables but also gain a profound understanding of the journey from seed to plate, as the harvested produce is subsequently incorporated into the nutritious mid-day meals provided at the school. This commendable initiative thrives with ongoing support from dedicated parents, who actively contribute their time and resources to ensure its continued success.



Fig. 15. School Kitchen's Garden

7. Achieving the State Level Competition

The school's remarkable accomplishment was formally acknowledged during an Award Ceremony, where it received due recognition for securing the top position in the State Level Competition for the World No Tobacco Day Rally and Signature Campaign in 2023. This prestigious accolade symbolizes a significant milestone in the school's history and is a testament to its unwavering dedication to the cause. Being crowned the winner in the primary category across the entire state showcases the school's exceptional commitment to health advocacy and underscores its exemplary leadership role in championing the cause of tobacco control and public health awareness.

It is a great recognition for **Dienglieng Govt. LP School** to be the Winner from the primary category in the entire state.



Fig. 16. Head Teacher Smt. Darimeka Suchiang receiving the award on World No Tobacco Day



Fig. 17. Head Teacher, Assistant Teachers along with Education Minister Shr. Rakkam A. Sangma, Government of Meghalaya while receiving the award on World No Tobacco Day

8. Challenges for the School

The school faces a multitude of challenges, including poor infrastructure, a shortage of adequate rooms for the teaching and learning process, a limited number of teachers, insufficient teaching materials, a lack of government funding, no access to clean water supply, absence of electricity for e-learning, and an absence of a playground for children to

play in, compounded by the lack of proper fencing for ensuring their safety during school hours.

9. Conclusion

Thus, we can see that there has been a significant transformation in the school, transitioning from having no student enrollments to a remarkable 111 enrollees. The newly appointed teachers have worked tirelessly, with special commendation to the Head of School, Smt. Darimeka Suchiang, who has taken school leadership as a pivotal step in the school's transformative journey. Countless school activities and extracurricular events have been organized, culminating in a notable achievement: winning the State Level Competition for the World No Tobacco Day Rally and Signature Campaign in 2023. Therefore, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the School Teachers for orchestrating this remarkable transformation, and despite the numerous challenges faced, this school has now emerged as one of the best Primary Schools in the entire Block.



ANNEXURE 1

List of Contributors, DERT

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