



**WELCOME ALL THE DIGNITARIES
TO THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
16TH NOVEMBER, 2012 AT SHILLONG**



**REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN –
“AN INSTRUMENT FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION”
SPONSORED BY
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN DELHI
IN
COLLABORATION
WITH THE
STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN MEGHALAYA
AND
STATE RESOURCE CENTRE FOR WOMEN MEGHALAYA
HELD ON
16TH NOVEMBER 2012
AT
PINWOOD HOTEL
SHILLONG**



REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN –
“AN INSTRUMENT FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION”

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**Arrival of Dr. Mukul Sangma
Hon'ble Chief Minister Of Meghalaya**



**Arrival of Smt. Mamta Sharma
Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission For Women**



INTRODUCTION

Highlights -

Women, constitute half of the world's population, in other words, half of humanity and their strength cannot be ignored and there is a vital need for total involvement of women in the process of Development and Empowerment. According to the Country Report the Govt. of India Empowerment means moving from position of enforced powerlessness to one of power.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) Delhi in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Commission for Women (SCW) and the State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) Meghalaya decided to hold the Regional Conference in the North East as this area where at times, is overlooked and besides Meghalaya being the Matrilineal Society, the venue for holding the Regional Conference is appropriate. The theme of the Regional Conference on Empowerment of Women – An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation” has been chosen due to the fact that **Economic Empowerment is the key to empowerment of women in totality**. It was therefore, imperative to give a greater thrust to equip women with Social and Economic Empowerment.



ANCHOR - SMT. LUCETTA SYIEM



PRESENTATION OF BOUQUETS TO DIGNITARIES

INAUGURAL PROGRAMME

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

**EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN - AN INSTRUMENT TO POVERTY
ALLEVIATION**

VENUE - PINWOOD HOTEL, SHILLONG

16TH NOVEMBER, 2012

9.30 - 10.30 A.M	Registration	:	
	Anchor :	:	Smt. Lucetta Syiem
11.00 - 12.00 Noon	Inaugural Session	:	
11.00 - 11.05 A.M	Bouquet Presentation	:	
11.05 - 11.10 A.M	Welcome & Introductory Address		Smt. R. Warjri Chairperson Meghalaya State Commission for Women
11.10 - 11.20 A.M	Speech	:	Shri. T. Dkhar Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya Social Welfare Department
11.20 - 11.30 A.M	Highlights of the objectives of the Regional Conference	:	Smt W. Syiem Hon'ble Member National Commission for Women
11.30 - 11.40 A.M	Key Note Address	:	Smt Mamta Sharma Hon'ble Chairperson National Commission for Women Special Guest of Honour
11.40 - 11.50 A.M	Address	:	Shri J.A.Lyngdoh Hon'ble Minister I/c Social Welfare Minister Guest of Honour
11.50 - 12.05 Noon	Inaugural Address	:	Dr. Mukul Sangma Hon'ble Chief Minister Chief Guest
12.05 - 12.10 A.M	Vote of Thanks	:	Smt L.N.Jyrwa Mission Director State Resource Centre for Women, Shillong
12.10 - 12.25 Noon	TEA BREAK		
12.30 p.m	TECHNICAL SESSION		

Inaugural Session -

The Conference begin with the registration of participants. All together there are 160 participants attending the conference consisting of Chairperson National Commission for Women, Members National Commission for Women, Chairpersons, Members and Member Secretary of State Commission for Women of all North Eastern States, State Government Officials, NGOs, Eminent Women, member of Civil Society and Media person. The theme of the Regional Conference is on Empowerment of Women – “An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation”.



LIGHTING OF THE LAMP

Regional Conference for the North Eastern States. Empowerment of Women – “An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation” held on 16th November, 2012 at Pinewood Hotel Shillong.



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY
SMT. R WARJRI, CHAIRPERSON MEGHALAYA STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN.**

**Welcome Address by Smt. R. Warjri
Chairperson Meghalaya State Commission for Women**

Smt. R. Warjri in her welcome address highlighted that the theme 'An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation' has been chosen because poverty in itself is a huge crisis and its impact affects women the most leading to 'Feminization of Poverty'. Smt. R. Warjri welcomed the Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma and appreciate the efforts of the Chief Minister in launching the Social Assistance Programme for the benefit of widows and disabled in the State. She welcomed the Minister of Social Welfare Shri. J.A.Lynghdoh for his support in the empowerment of women. Smt. R. Warjri welcomed the Chairperson National Commission for Women Smt. Mamta Sharma, Smt. Wansuk Syiem Member National Commission for Women, Smt. Shamina Shafiq Member National Commission for Women, Chairperson and Member Secretary State Commission for Women of all North Eastern States, Shri. T. Dkhar I.A.S, Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya Social Welfare Department, Smt. L.N. Jyrwa Mission Director State Resource Centre for Women, Padmashree T. Phanbuh, and representatives from different NGOs.

Women are oppressed on account of low literacy rate, lack of knowledge and awareness about their rights at various level and free legal aid schemes to safeguard the interest of women. To restore the rightful place of women in society, we must effectively address these problems and strife for the overall holistic development of women. Empowerment can only be achieved through joined efforts of National Commission for Women/State Commission for Women/ Civil Society/ NGO's/ groups/ Durbar Shnong at various levels. It is also important to link Self Help Group movement with Micro- credit activities to reduce poverty and to empower women economically. Moreover, we should also enhance eco- empowerment of women through skill development, micro- credit vocational training and entrepreneurship and Self Help Group.

Through a collaborated effort like this, we hope that at the end of the day as a group, we will ensure all resolutions and proposals are taken forward both in letter and in spirit as an attempt to bring positive, concrete and contributory change in the status and role of women, both in social standing and in Nation Building.



ADDRESS BY SHRI. T. DKHAR I.A.S
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Address by Shri. T. Dkhar I.A.S
Secretary Social Welfare Meghalaya

Shri. T. Dkhar stated Women are the backbone of the Society and the heart of the Family – to define the role played by women is as defining the depths of the ocean. She plays the main role in the shaping of society as a whole, without any reservations or predictions whatsoever.

Over the years the Planning strategies for women have evolved from “Welfare” to “Development” to “Empowerment” from the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards and there has been a marked shift in the approach to women’s issues.

Women are still beset with numerous problems of discrimination, exploitation, indifferent attitudes, gender oppression, women suffer from wide spread social and economic problems such as illiteracy, poverty, malnutrition, maternal and infant mortality, and social customs which has hindered the progress of women. Shri. T. Dkhar express concern at the increasing rate of crimes and atrocities committed against women in the whole country, which include social abuse and harassment of women, domestic violence, women and child trafficking, child labour, child marriages, female infanticide, indecent representation of women, drugs addiction, divorce, separation and others.

In this context, he mentioned that the National Mission for Empowerment of Women Govt. of India has appropriately established the State Resource Centre for Women Meghalaya with the objective to promote holistic empowerment of women, gender equality through inter – sectoral convergence of Government programmes, schemes and services. In his concluding address, he expressed that holding of Regional Conference on Empowerment of Women – An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation in consultation with the respective Chairperson of the North East State Commission for Women and State Resource Centre for Women will strengthen the convergence strategies and facilitate the process of coordinating all the women’s welfare and socio – economic development programmes across Ministries and Departments and NGOs for Empowerment of Women in totality.



ADDRESS BY SMT. WANSUK SYIEM

HON'BLE MEMBER NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Address by Smt. Wansuk Syiem
Hon'ble Member National Commission for Women

On this auspicious gathering amidst all of you, Smt Wansuk Syiem said that she is confident that this conference will go a long way in Women Empowerment as an Instrument for Poverty Alleviation. Women are the future of our country, Women are the keys to Nation and Peace Building. They represent in all fields, Judiciary, Parliament, Journalism etc. She reminds the person who runs the kitchen should be empowered so as to have more say in the day to day activities whether be it education, skills development, health, decision making, respect, dignity, work participation, economic independence etc. Women should be empowered in all these fields, hence imparting training to women in various skill developments is very important so that they can be empowered to combat poverty.

Smt. Wansuk Syiem stated, the reason for women not being in the forefront of society is because the average family structure in India still works under patriarchal system. In Meghalaya, though women enjoy equal status, freedom and self determination with their male counterparts, but in reality the overall status of women and their legal entitlements particular in rural and semi-rural areas discrimination still persists and calls for a long struggle. Most of the rural women face problems because of lack of awareness to different schemes like MGREGA, RTE, RTI etc. Therefore the National Commission for Women along with the State Commission for Women, different NGO's and Civil Societies has put up a concerted effort to sensitise women about their rights and privileges.

The National Commission for Women's is still in its nascent stage for gender empowerment but efforts are being made through joint collaboration of the State Commission for Women, State Resource Centre for Women and NGO's will enable to create vigilance, through training programmes, skill development and awareness about the rights of women I am sure "POVERTY" will be a thing of the past.



**ADDRESS BY SMT. MAMTA SHARMA
HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR**

Address by Smt. Mamta Sharma
Chairperson National Commission for Women

We are the people of a country which believes in non-violence. Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, Ambedkar have shown the way of peace and harmony. India has made a lot of progress in all the fields of prosperity and financial equality for its citizens. The time is not far behind when the word "Poor" will be eliminated from our dictionary. Our Constitution has provided to its citizens Equality, Freedom of Speech and Sovereignty. In today's context, the financial equality among the citizen of India has become the most important factor for progressive India.

Smt. Mamta Sharma stated that North East people have progressed a lot in all fields whether be it education, sports, administration or business. Regarding the self employment of a woman, I would like to bring to you a stance of a poor lady who used to prepare pickle at her small hut in Haryana and use to sell it in the neighboring areas of her village. Slowly she started it with her husband who sold the pickle on a small cart to adjoining cities. I feel proud to tell you today her annual turnover is more than one and a half crore which is a great achievement for a lady. National Commission for Women had honour her on the International Women's Day. There are so many examples where women have become self employed. Lata Mageshkar, Asha Bhosle, Sunita William, Noori, Sania Mirza and Saina Nehwal are the outstanding women in their field. Another example is also Mrs. Mary Kom, a boxer from the North East who has put the region on the world map by winning Bronze medal for our country. There are so many other examples where women of the country are playing an important role for the empowerment of women.

She appreciated the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma, the Hon'ble Minister Social Welfare Shri. J.A. Lyngdoh Meghalaya that she is confident under their dynamic leadership, their presence will help insteering all gender specific programmes in the right direction to empower women socially, politically and economically.

She further highlighted the achievements of the National Commission for Women. The Commission has taken up various programmes for the welfare of women. Like settin up 24x7 Help Line/Call Center in Ahmedabad, Gujarat for the distress and the needy women, provides legal support to women. Various programmes are organized viz, Mahila Adhikar Abhiyan programmes in different parts of the country to make women aware of their rights. The programme was just recently launched at Rajasthan and similarly Abhiyans is plan out in other states also. Apart from this, National Commission for Women

is holding Legal Awareness Programmes and Seminars. The commission has also initiated a programme of Capacity Building for the Police Academy and Judicial Academy of the different states for proper implementation of women related laws.

Smt. Mamta Sharma mentioned the issue of Trafficking of Women in some parts of the country including the North Eastern Region. In spite of our best efforts, the problem is still continuing. National Commission for Women along with some NGO's are trying their level best to overcome this problem by holding street plays in every corner of the metropolitan cities. Steps taken by National Commission for Women will definitely enlighten the masses in rural areas of the country.

She also share of the action taken by National Commission for Women personally that letters have been written to all the Chief Ministers of the States highlighting the issue of "Child Marriages" and the "Declining Sex Ratio". I am happy to inform you that we have received good response from them and they have issued necessary instructions to their respective departments to overcome this burning problem. Smt Mamta Sharma also informed that the web portal of the National Commission for Women where women can file their complaint at any time for which immediate response is taken care of.

I take this opportunity to appreciate Members of the National Commission for Women who are discharging their duties as per their assignment.

With these few words, I assure you that I am always available to you whenever I am needed. I am asking Smt. Wansuk Syiem to organize such programmes in other parts of the North East. I do visit other states all over the country but I focus on the North East which is very important and unique part of our country. Chairperson of UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji is also very keen on the upliftment of the people of these states and has shown her interest in the handicrafts made by the craftsmen of the region and lauded their artistic interest.

I convey my best wishes to the organizers of this conference and wish them every success in their endeavour.

Thank You, Jai Hind

Smt. Mamta Sharma
Hon'ble Chairperson
National Commission for Women





**ADDRESS BY SHRI. J.A.LYNGDOH
HON'BLE MINISTER SOCIAL WELFARE MEGHALAYA
GUEST OF HONOUR**

Address by Shri. J.A. Lyngdoh
Hon'ble Minister Social Welfare

At the outset, I would like to extend my warm greetings and welcome the Hon'ble Chief Minister Meghalaya, Hon'ble Chairperson National Commission for Women, the Hon'ble member of National Commission for Women and officials National Commission for Women Delhi, all the Chairperson and member Secretary North East and distinguished guests. It is a privilege for me to be present in this august gathering, and to focus on this very important issue of Women Empowerment – An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation. Women Empowerment is enumerated as and when women have better access to literacy, education, health, skills, work participation, economic independence, advancement to higher positions of power, decision making, self reliance, self respect, dignity and better conditions of living. Literacy is one of the major tools, which can help women to know their rights. When women are empowered through education they can acquire resources towards socio economic development so that they become an integral part of the Nation building process.

Women's empowerment has gained increasing importance both as objectives and as instruments for poverty reduction, and infact Women's Economic Empowerment should aim at improving at improving the well being of women.

The year 2001 was observed as Women's Empowerment Year with the objectives to create a nationwide awareness regarding the problems and issues affecting women, accelerating actions to create awareness on women's right, and enhanced self confidence so that women can play a leading role and participate actively in the Social, Political and Economic avenues of the Nation.

The Department of Women and Child Development Govt. of India and the Social Welfare Department in the State was set up with the objective to provide a holistic development for women and children. The Department have undertaken a large number of major initiatives in the social welfare sector. Such achievements are vocational training programmes, training and capacity building for self employment for women, training for empowerment

of women and linkages of SHG (Self Help Group), supplementary nutrition to children and mothers under the ICDS programme, SABLA, IGMSY (Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana). Recently the Govt. of India appropriately launched the scheme for Empowerment of Women. The National Mission for Empowerment of Women was launched on 8th March 2010 by the Govt. of India Ministry of Women and Child Development. The vision of the mission is to promote all round development of women and eradicating all forms of exploitation and discrimination, providing access to education, maternal and child health care to achieve the full potential and ensuring them rightful share in the allocation of resources and decision making so that women become equal partners in the family, in the society and in the process of Nation Building.

The Social Welfare Department also focus on the preventive and rehabilitation measures in the social problems, issues like disability, drug addiction, juvenile delinquency, child labour, illegal trafficking of women and children, domestic violence against women and gives more emphasis to empower women socially and economically.

The 11th Five Year Plan had tried to adopt a Gender Lens though minimal, in the 12th Plan, the mid-term review emphasis that a lot is left to be done and needs to be done in empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. The holistic empowerment of women cannot be brought about if the departments work in isolation. The Key strategies for empowerment of women is the inter – sector convergence of schemes/Programmes/Services meant for women, SHGs, appropriate and localized communication to strengthen public education on gender issues, legal rights and entitlements; sensitize and built capacity of functionaries at all levels, partnership between State Government, Central Government, Civil Society, NGOs and Village Institutions. In order to promote economic empowerment it is important to work jointly at different level for achieving empowerment of women and making convergence a success. Women employment in the labour force has been comparatively low in the past years and has been a major concern economically only a quarter of women in India have been in the economic activities. So, through “convergence the economic scenario of women will be transformed or translated in the overall development and empowerment of women.

With these few words, I express my gratitude to the National Commission for Women (NCW), for sponsoring and holding the Regional Conference on Women Empowerment – “An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation” jointly with the Meghalaya State Commission for Women and State Resource Centre for Women Meghalaya and the participation of the respective Chairperson of the North East State Commission for Women is a positive step that will provide effective strategy mechanism for the benefit and empowerment of women as instrument for poverty alleviation.

With this, I wish the Regional Conference on Empowerment of Women – “An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation” a success and I have no doubt that the conference will bring out valuable suggestions for holistic empowerment of women.

Thank You, Jai Hind, Mitela

Shri. J.A. Lyngdoh
Hon'ble Minister
Social Welfare



**ADDRESS BY DR. MUKUL SANGMA
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER MEGHALAYA
CHIEF GUEST**

**Address by Dr. Mukul Sangma
Hon'ble Chief Minister Meghalaya**

I am delighted to be here today and I extend warm greetings to all of you. My colleague, Shri J.A.Lyngdoh Minister I/c Social Welfare and especially Smt. Mamta Sharma, Hon'ble Chairperson National Commission for Women Delhi, Smt. Wansuk Syiem Hon'ble Member National Commission for Women Smt. Shamina Shafiq Member National Commission for Women, respected Chairperson, members and member Secretary North East State Commission for Women, Shri. T. Dkhar Secretary Social Welfare Govt. of Meghalaya, Shri. H.M. Shangpliang Director of Social Welfare, Smt. L.N. Jyrwa Mission Director State Resource Centre for Women, officials Social Welfare Department, other officials representing Government Department, Resource Persons, members of the NGOs, M.S.W students from Martin Luther University, St Edmunds College, Media Electronic & Print, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The responsibility of the State to strive to bring equalities in income and social status by creating equal facilities and opportunities amongst individuals is the key to bringing in the socio-economic transformation of the country. Various laws enacted and their enforcement to achieve the social order securing equality between man and woman are reflections of the commitment of the State to fulfill the objective of eliminating gender inequalities and thus securing a just and equal social, economic and political opportunities.

While empowerment is a multi - faceted, multi dimensional and multi layered concept, the economic empowerment of women is the key to empowerment of women in totality. Independent women are not only capable of contributing for economic stability of their own families but are also capable of providing much needed contribution in the socio-economic transformation of the society. There is a need for the policy makers to initiate and adopt policies and programmes for furthering the end result of existing programmes and policies in respect of economic empowerment of women. The sensitization and motivation of the women to strive for achieving economic independence have, in recent years, seen the coming together of women in forming Self Help Groups, formation of clusters and federations of such Self Help Groups, emerge as competent and capable women leaders at the grass root levels with resultant increase in per capita income thus contributing to the growth of the

country thereof.

Mapping of the resources and identification of appropriate economic activities with training and skill up-gradation including entrepreneurship development of the women will go a long way in achieving these objectives of economic empowerment of women.

Women in the North East are vulnerable because of conflict situations, live in different terrains, women live in border areas, human trafficking and Aids are the challenges that women in the region face. We may say that in Meghalaya a Matrilineal Society and as such, women are better placed socially. However, their condition has not fared too well. The drudgery of women is more profound due to the hilly terrain where they have to travel long distance for firewood and water. Alcoholism, Drug addiction, teenage pregnancy, broken marriages and divorce, trafficking, high maternal mortality rates, Infant mortality rate, problems like poverty, domestic violence with consequential effect on women and children, crime against women and incidence of rape continues to pose as challenge for their empowerment.

Govt. of India and State Government has undertaken a series of initiatives to improve the situation of women towards economic dependence and towards securing a dignified livelihood. The National Commission for Women has played a leadership role in reviewing legislations and recommending improvements to ensure that women's rights are protected and enhanced. Similarly, the Govt. of Meghalaya constitute the State Commission for Women during the year 2004 to facilitate women in the State a forum to air their grievances and to look into specific cases of complaints of atrocities and harassment, denial right and exploitation of women in the State.

The Government of Meghalaya have initiated a Special Programme called "Economic Empowerment of Women through Financial Inclusion" for upliftment of women under which a seed money for entrepreneurship promotion is provided in the name of the female head of the family. This is further supplemented by capacity building and entrepreneurship development programme. Total of four lakh families will be covered under this scheme.

With these few words, I express my gratitude to the National Commission

for Women (NCW), for sponsoring and holding the Regional Conference on Women Empowerment – “An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation” jointly with the Meghalaya State Commission for Women and State Resource Centre for Women Meghalaya and the participation of the respective Chairperson of the North East State Commission for Women is a positive step that will provide effective strategy mechanism for the benefit and empowerment of women as instrument for poverty alleviation.

With this, I declare the Regional Conference on Women Empowerment – “An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation” Inaugurated and wish all the stakeholders (participants) a successful deliberation.

THANK YOU, JAIHIND, MITELA

Dr. Mukul Sangma
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Meghalaya



VOTE OF THANKS

BY

SMT. L.N.JYRWA

MISSION DIRECTOR

STATE RESOURCE CENTRE FOR WOMEN

Smt. L. N. Jyrwa Mission Director State Resource Centre for Women Meghalaya offered the vote of thanks on behalf of the organizers. She thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma as his presence at the Regional Conference is a great inspiration and encouragement inspite of his extremely busy schedule, it is a reflection of the importance that he has articulated of the vision of Women Empowerment as the key of providing much needed contribution in the socio economic transformation of the society. I express my special thanks to the Guest of Honour, Shri. J.A. Lyngdoh Hon'ble Minister Social Welfare for his gracious presence and all along he has been very supportive and handholding in the empowerment and development of women, as well as for his constant support and guidance in the Social Welfare Department. We would also like to acknowledge our gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairperson National Commission for Women Smt. Mamta Sharmaji, Smt. Wansuk Syiem Hon'ble Member National Commission for Women, Smt. Shamina Shafiq Member National Commission for Women and thanked the

National Commission for Women for having felt the need of sponsoring a Regional Conference at Shillong. I am convinced that with the presence of the Chairperson National Commission for Women along with the Members shows their commitment towards achieving women empowerment. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Chairpersons, Members and Member Secretary of State Commission for Women of the North Eastern States and particularly Smt. R. Warjri Chairperson Meghalaya State Commission for Women for all the support for the conference. I express my special thanks to the Principal Secretary Social Welfare Department Shri. P.W. Ingty I.A.S for his support, Secretary Social Welfare Department Shri. T. Dkhar I.A.S, Director of Social Welfare for their support and cooperation. I am also thankful to all the speakers who addressed the theme so eloquently and we are all inspired by your great words.

I also extend my thanks to the Chairman Meghalaya State Social Welfare Board Smt. O.B.Tariang, Resource Persons, Dr. Fenela Nonglait, Vice Chairperson Meghalaya Law Commission, Shri. Utpal Kumar De, Economics Department N.E.H.U, Shri. Anil Pradhan I.P.S (retd), Dr. A. Mishra, Cardiology NEIGRHIM and Smt. G.S.Lyndem Principal Extension Training Centre SIRD who will be sharing their inputs at the technical session. A big thank you to NGOs, M.S.W students of Martin Luther University and St Edmunds College, all Protocol Officers (Social Welfare), Member Secretary Meghalaya State Commission for Women and staffs, State Resource Centre for Women staffs, the media print and electronics, the Rapporteurs and Anchor and each one of you presence here. We appreciate the presence of the eminent NGOs and Padmashree T. Phanbuh for their enormous cooperation and we seek their continued support.

I concluded my vote of thanks with a quotation from the Bible on the ***value of a woman.***

Thank you all once again and I hope the Regional Conference will come out with valuable recommendations for the overall development of women.



**MESSAGE - SMT. SHAMINA SHAFIQ
HON'BLE MEMBER
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
AT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN -
"AN INSTRUMENT FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION".**

Message by Smt. Shamina Shafiq
Hon'ble Member National Commission for Women

At the outset, I want to thank Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya Social Welfare Department, Chairperson Meghalaya State Commission for Women, Mission Director State Resource Centre for Women and everybody associated with the Regional Conference on Empowerment of Women – An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation, which will help to promote economic livelihood activities through a convergence mechanisms that will transform and inspire overall development and empowerment of women.

Empowerment of Women – “An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation” is need of the hour. Society cannot progress without empowering 50% of its population i.e. the women. The conviction with which all delegates/ participants voiced their opinion would indeed go a long way in changing the scenario and shall prove a milestone for others to look up to.

I also wish all the Chairpersons of the North Eastern State Commissions for Women who are rendering their impervious services for the social causes like upliftment of under – privileged, downtrodden and poor women hailing from minority communities and widows.

**TECHNICAL SESSION
SESSION I**

12.30 – 1.00 P.M	--	Holistic Strategy for Empowerment of Women Resource person : Dr. Fenela. Nonglait Vice Chairperson Meghalaya Law Commission Chairperson : Ms. Sano Vamuzo, SCW Nagaland
1.00 – 1.30 P.M	--	Promote and Strengthen Livelihood for women Resource person : Shri. Utpal Kumar. De Associate Professor Economic Department, NEHU Chairperson : Ms. Lalni Puii, SCW Mizoram
1.30 – 2.00 P.M	--	LUNCH

SESSION II

2.00 – 2.30 P.M	--	Social, Legal Empowerment and Education Resource person : Shri. Anil. Pradhan, I.P.S Retd. Director General of Police Chairperson : Mrs. Poornima Roy, SCW Tripura.
2.30 – 3.00 p.m	--	Women Health as an Indicator of Development Resource person : Dr. Animesh. Mishra Proff & HOD (Cardiology) NEIGHRM Chairperson : Mrs. L.Ibettombi Devi, SCW Manipur
3.00 – 3.30 P.M	--	Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment of Women. Resource person : Smt. Sara. Lyndem Principal Extension, Training Centre SIRD, Nongsder Chairperson : Ms. Gumri Ringu, SCW Arunachal Pradesh
3.30 – 4.30 P.M	--	Action Ahead – Recommendations & Wrap up Mrs. Roshan. Warjri : Chairperson SCW Meghalaya Mrs. Poornima Roy : Chairperson SCW Tripura Mrs. L.Ibettombi Devi : Chairperson SCW Manipur Ms. Sano Vamuzo, : Chairperson SCW Nagaland Ms. Lalni Puii, : Chairperson SCW Mizoram Ms. Gumri Ringu, : Chairperson SCW Arunachal Pradesh Mrs. P.C. Bhutia : Member Secretary SCW Sikkim Ms. Monidipa Borkotoki : Member Secretary SCW Assam

Session I : **Holistic Strategy for Empowerment of Women**
Chairperson : **Ms. Sano Vamuzo State Commission for Women Nagaland**
Resource Person : **Dr. Fenela Nonglait**
Vice Chairperson
Meghalaya Law Commission



Dr. Fenela Nonglait Vice Chairperson Meghalaya Law Commission, enlightened the audience by portraying, women in general do face discrimination and deprivation in reality. We lived in a world where technologies and internet have shape and gives information to millions of lives, yet, the information in the Internet are not accessible to women in the rural areas which is very sad. In 2001, it was observed as Women's Empowerment year but we see that in the progressing year women are still discriminated and their rights being violated. The National policy on empowerment of women 2001 has been implemented, promising internationally those women to be respected. However, violence against women is on the rise both in urban and rural areas. Article 15 (3) of the constitution gives legal status to the women, but the majority of women still lack the required knowledge. Gender equality was provided in the national policy, but sometimes it seems to be misinterpret that it will give full authority and power to women. In this context, it is not man that is a major issue which A.S Anand said "We are not fighting against men, it is a fight against discrimination" (Human Rights). Therefore, it is

important to note that all the stake holders should participate to discuss on how to empower women holistically and how to make these 'legal rights' to women reality. For instance, the NREGA is a flagship programmes where it has benefit women a lot. This programmes where every person is entitled benefit both for women and men. However it is also important that women are in a platform where their Welfare, development and empowerment are look into it. Emancipate the women for empowerment through Awareness programmes are to be organized both in rural and urban areas for women empowerment with special emphasis on legal rights. The Domestic Violence Act which is implemented in 2005 to help women to encounter violence in their homes. It is also an Act to take women out of the violent space. Framing of a policy on crime against women is needed to look at the various aspects that will benefit women.

- It is very important to upgrade the women's cell in police station, which is lacking in North East Region.
- Implementation of the Protection of Domestic Women's Act is to ensure to rescue the woman from the violent household and give her all rights of the household.
- Mobile Sariksha Kendra or helpline on wheels should be set up to cater the needs of women.
- Family courts is also needed which we have only the prosecution courts now.
- Police module role should be implemented because most of the sexual offence case happens in the State
- Set up of a female counseling centre is needed where lie detector should be in place
- Lacuna of framing rules at the state levels
- Domestic violence committee – nodal agency is the social welfare department of Meghalaya.

Section 10 – not less than 1/3 members at the national level should be women. However, rural poor have no guarantee for livelihood and are overburdened with hardship of poverty and drudgery. Hence, enhancement of livelihood in bringing security to the household is very important.

Section 12 not less than 1/3 of the non-official members nominated shall be women. Section 5, programme officer shall ensure that every member registered shall provide unskilled work within 15 days of registration. It is interesting to know that most of the states have not implemented according to the section. In case of number of children accompanying the workers in a work site is 5 and more, one woman has to be deputed to take care of the children and the woman shall be paid the total wage. Moreover, laws have to be specific to help women as most laws are not punitive but rather preventive law to protect the women.

Session II. : **Promote and Strengthen Livelihood for Women**

Chairperson : **Ms. Lalni Puii, State Commission for Women Mizoram**

Resource Person : **Shri. Utpal Kumar De**
Associate Professor
Economic Department, NEHU



Shri. Utpal Kumar De highlighted the long standing problem of women in the form of Perceived Insecurity, Discrimination, Exploitation and Upliftment. Normally women headed households are poorer than male headed as their earning is less than men, and most of the women are involved in lower graded job than men, hence the participation rate is lower than men. However, he gave a situational analysis of the Matrilineal Society in Meghalaya having more Equality free access to Education, Health care, Ownership of Property, Authority in the Family, more participation in decision making, Dominance in the socio economic activity/low political participation while in the Non Tribal society there is more inequality, less authority in the family, Ownership Right, Access to Education, Health care etc. vis-à-vis men is also comparatively lower Participation in decision making. Relatively a better political participation after 73rd/74th Amendment and emphasis for promoting livelihood security/opportunity for women as it can create income to supplement the family. The facilitator highlighted that Livelihood security will provide more economic independence, economic empowerment /capability, less social discrimination – Social/psychological empowerment

(despite its variation across the societies), increase in participation in decision making process at home and in the society. Better utilization of resources and promote investment in health, education i.e., human resource (Ghosh & De 2011) also investment in infrastructure and its development (Chattopadhyay & Duflo, 2001)

Shri. Utpal Kumar De also mentioned Household survey conducted during 2006-07 in East Khasi Hills, Tripura and Jharkhand relating to Empowerment and focus on the importance of livelihood security. He also mentioned, that there is great potential in tourism activities to promote livelihood of women in Meghalaya, as the State is nature based tourism. However, he shared the findings of the primary survey conducted in East Khasi Hills from three major tourist sites, Lady Hydari Park, Shillong Peak and Cherrapunjee (conducted in 2010-11).

Hotel owners – 48

Heads of Restaurants – 36

Heads of fast food stalls – 24

Street food stalls – 20

Vendors – 68

Tourist taxi/vehicle – 40

Local taxi/small vehicle – 20

It is observed that Seasonal variation flow of employment and income depending upon the Peak Season. Requirement of Labour during peak season is more in demand, and in order to meet the demand the supply has been met by employing casual/daily labourer. In terms of employment females were highly benefitted and that in the category of informal sector and relatively inferior occupation; while men were mostly in relatively better occupation and organised sector were also benefitted

Female employment have been increased more proportionately than their male counterpart in the low status jobs e.g., sweeper, vegetable processor, helper of cooks etc.

Suggestive measures

- Promotion of livelihood security is important for Economic Empowerment
- Women can easily be involved in Nature based tourism to promote livelihood activities.
- Need to segregate tourism and hospitality activities across gender. However, poor educational status and special entrepreneurial skill are the reasons behind differential job status, it needs to be addressed effectively.
- Formation of cooperatives/SHG can contribute towards economic empowerment of women.

Session III. : **Women Health as an Indicator of Development**
Chairperson : **Mrs.L.Ibettombi Devi, State Commission for Women Manipur**
Resource Person : **Dr. Animesh Mishra**
Proff & HOD (Cardiology)
NEIGHRIM



Dr. A. Mishra focused on the basic rights of women with special emphasis on Health Check up, HIV compulsory check up as medical ethics. Test cannot be carried out without personal consent of the person. In 1886 across the globe neither men nor women used to work together. When a type writer and telephone was installed, changes began to take place in which women and men started working together. Women's cry has taken the back seat against asking men to give equal status. In America, all legal systems are in place yet; the highest rate of paternal alleviation, domestic violation, child abuse is highest. President Barrack Obama was asked "despite the highest per capita income being spent on America, yet they are the weakest in mathematics and in science" which he could not answer the questions. In South Asian countries, women take a leading role in educating a child whom she balances outside and inside family affairs and also took a keen interest in giving values to the children. There are lesser crimes reported in south Asian countries. In rural India, majority of women suffered from Urinary Tract Infection disease. To take sanitary measures women use a piece of saree during menstruation. If mortality and maternity rate is low then infant mortality rate is too low. There is a clear difference in urban and rural areas, suffering from bronchital and asthma. In Meghalaya which is a matrilineal society, the Out Patient Department (OPD) attendance is mostly registered by males. Men require less medication for recovery while a woman needs more attention for recovery. In India, we do not have gender specific biological research. When we look at the medical fraternity Female has increased by 200 percent. The facilitator shared his experienced that the Disease pattern of women is different in India. Moreover, Women clinic and behavioral clinic is also lacking in the Country in general and in the State in particular.

Session IV. : **Social, Legal Empowerment and Education**

Chairperson : **Mrs. Poornima Roy, State Commission for Women Tripura**

Resource Person : **Shri. Anil Pradhan, IPS**
Retd. Director General of Police



Shri. Anil Pradhan begins his presentation by the beautiful words of Swami Vivekananda “There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of the women is improved” – A holistic approach on women empowerment through education.

Women are remarkable in various positions today in almost all fields. India Today has listed 25 women of that have achieved great success. Today the field of expertise is more diverse as ever than before. Women are the present and the future of India. As William Shakespeare said that “the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world”. Though we see the great transformation in our everyday society yet, the educational, economic, political and social backwardness of women hinders the process of social change. We still hear and see the presence of crime against women, for instance honour killing which several other crimes go unreported. Trafficking of women and children are a major concern today not only in India but also around the world. In India, female infanticide, domestic violence etc are quite common. Working women have their share of serious problems – wage, sexual discrimination and sexual abuse in the office space. The vast majorities of women are disadvantaged and are apathy of the legal system. He shared his views in referring to the article that came out in Times of

India issue November 3, 2012 where it was reported the dowry harassment on 16 years old. This shows that the evil social demand of dowry is still very much prevalent in India. In the present scenario, we also notice the problem of teenage marriage and pregnancy. The National Crime Record last year shows an upward trend in crime against women. The Shillong times, Nov 11, 2012 reports the common issue that is socially accepted the girl as 'unwanted'. In Marathi they say 'nakusa' which means 'unwanted' in Satara district, Maharashtra. In some areas, Social evil is officially accepted in which the plight of women have worsened. Women suffered the most in the pre-independence era and Raja Mohan Roy calling for emancipation of women. The constitution of India provided special protection for women but in reality women's right are still being violated. There are diminishing sex ratios in many states and there are also educational disparities. Children are sent to school not according to intelligence or aptitude but according to sex, boys are sent to school first, if resources are available. Parents do not see any viable relationship between education and economic empowerment. However, there should be a change in the attitude of men towards the women and a lot has been done to improve the legal status of women – marriage and succession to ancestral property. The road forward lies in the education of women, as this will enlightened the social norms that suppress Women. The facilitator emphasis that a Comprehensive approach should be look into in order to tackle the problem. There should also be equal opportunity to women as well to the male counterpart, empower the women through education is very important. The Right to Education should be implemented in letter and in spirit. He suggested to organize more regular awareness camps at village levels through NGOs. The National Commission for Women should be vested with more powers and jurisdiction. However there should be pro-activeness on the part of the government, collector, and police for empowerment of women. The role of the society is also important to treat women as equal partners on road to development.

Session V. : **Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment of Women**

Chairperson : **Ms. Gumri Ringu, SCW Arunachal Pradesh**

Resource person : **Smt. Sara. Lyndem**
Principal Extension, Training Centre
SIRD, Nongsder Barapani



Smt. Sara Lyndem presentation show pointers to factors that determine Poverty in simplest form as a State of being Poor due to inadequate Purchasing Power. Purchasing power is inadequate when there is lack of money income in the hands of the people .She interpret that Inadequate purchasing power is observed in a high percentage of people and households in the form of illiteracy, diseases, lack of skills for commercial orientation, etc and in Short, being poor would mean not getting the Basic Requirements necessary for Empowering the capacities of the Poor including Women.

Smt. Sara Lyndem enlighten the audience of the basic requirements in order of urgency food, cloth, shelter, Health care, literacy, knowledge, skills, information, technology, income generating activities, credit and marketing, Social activities, decision making and leisure.

The facilitator stated there are two ways that women can become empowered economically :-

- i. Through self efforts
- ii. Through Group Efforts

THROUGH SELF EFFORTS

Life Improvement practices for self and own household:

- Some Practices do require money, eg daily meal, clothes, fuel, medicines, transport, pocket money, etc
- Some practices do not require money, eg observing, understanding, manners, hygiene, etc
- Some practices are money saving eg use of low cost household devices, kitchen garden, recycling, preservation, energy saving, hygiene, review of wasteful expenditure
- In general, improvement of dietary habits, hygiene practices, use of drudgery reducing implements, kitchen gardening, food preservation using traditional methods, traditional home-based income generation activities

IS SELF EFFORT ENOUGH

- There are other Basic Requirements for total empowerment where a woman has no means of obtaining by oneself alone
- Individually, women from generations have been in various forms of income generation activities including marketing
- Lack of information combined with adequate infrastructure delayed women empowerment as they continued to suffer from poverty and economic marginalization.
- Women today are facing the economy which is increasingly becoming less-labour intensive but more capital, technology, knowledge and Skills driven.
- Time has come for women to build their capacity as a group by pooling in their resources to enable themselves to obtain the requirements necessary for economic empowerment.

Keys to empowerment

- Women should organize themselves as a group for promotion of diversified and gainful self-employment opportunities in order to provide appreciable increase in income on sustainable basis.
- Women should organize into SHGs with savings, thrifts and loans activities in operation.
- Should start income generating activities for livelihood as a business venture by selecting viable micro-enterprises. For this purpose they -
- should upgrade Skills, credit worthiness and credit absorption capacity
- Groups should qualify the test of Market Acceptance
- However, most groups cannot select and promote viable micro-enterprises because of:

- low level managerial skills, low value-addition products, low marketing outlets
- Lack of information and adequate infrastructure, storage, transportation, CREDIT, Bank linkage, etc

The Way Forward

- None can force a woman to remain poor except herself
- Women can become empowered economically by taking advantage of the outside support system – social or political or legal systems in the country
- (a) Women's Empowerment Year, 2001 saw empowering women through group efforts initiated through the programme known as Swayamsiddha.

Major Initiatives For economic Empowerment as Outside Support System

- Women to jointly strengthen through micro level income generation activities
- Women to build their Capacity through literacy, health, functional education, rural development programmes, entrepreneurship, etc

(b) Economic Empowerment of Women Through MGNREGS

- Enhance livelihood security through assured 100 days of employment to each job card holding family
- Equal Pay for all irrespective of gender
- Generation of productive assets and protecting of environment
- Holistic development of women as per social agreement covering education, health, SHG movements, etc

(c) Economic Empowerment of Women through NRLM

- The central objective of the Mission is to reduce poverty by organizing the poor families into strong institutions such as SHGs and Federation of SHGs
- A prerequisite is that at least one woman should be from each family organized
- Such Institutions will be nurtured and provided continuous support structure for income generation on sustainable basis.

Gender Budgeting

- (Since) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997 – 2002) specified that central and state governments should ensure that not less than 30% of the funds / benefits are earmarked to all the women related sectors.

Later she share her experience of some of the success story from North East that transform the spirit of Economic Empowerment.

I. MILIZULI SELF HELP GROUP

- Formed in July, 2001 by 10 poor women of pottery community as a joint effort for economic empowerment
- Hirapara Village of Nalbari District

Before Group Formation

- Women engaged in clay works in between their family responsibilities
- Earnings were hand to mouth with no savings
- Proceeds depended on male members who sold in other villages and haats at their convenience
- Life was hard – health, nutritious food and sending children to school were alien situations

After forming:

- Group corpus was created and deposited
- Economic Independence of members began
- Interaction in group meetings and collective decision making built their self confidence

SIRD ASSAM provided training and capacity building

Further Road Ahead:

Had enough confidence to open a stall in Chamata town for selling wares

Diversified their activities in a broiler farm and piggery

The Stall became an outlet for all types of their products

Took advantage of Adult Education and became literate – read, write and count

Outcome

- Each Member takes loan from group corpus and invest in their own business from time to time
- Each member earned money for the group and for the family
- Each family is financially sound
- The process of total economic empowerment is achieved.



Wrap up & Vote of Thanks offered by

- Mrs. Roshan. Warjri Chairperson SCW Meghalaya
- Mrs. Poornima Roy Chairperson SCW Tripura
- Mrs. L.Ibettombi Devi Chairperson SCW Manipur
- Ms. Sano Vamuzo, Chairperson SCW Nagaland
- Ms. Lalni Puii, Chairperson SCW Mizoram
- Ms. Gumri Ringu, Chairperson SCW Arunachal Pradesh
- Mrs. P.C. Bhutia Member Secretary SCW Sikkim
- Ms. Monidipa Borkotoki Member Secretary SCW Assam

The Regional Conference can be termed as a success, as almost all related gender issues were taken on board in these five sessions. It provides an overview and challenges to join hands towards achieving Economic Empowerment of Women.



ACTION AHEAD – RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Common forum of the North East be form to take up issues concerning Women of the region.
2. National Commission for Women/State Commission for Women to be vested with more judicial powers.
3. Strengthen convergence and support system at all levels with line departments, National Commission for Women, State Commission for Women, National Mission for Empowerment of Women Govt. of India, State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW), Professional Agencies and NGOs.
4. To establish Task force to look into gender specific issues.
5. Sensitization Programme on Legal Awareness at various levels for stakeholders.
6. Devise a Mechanism System for monitoring and evaluation for all schemes and programmes of Government that has an impact on women.
7. Need to carry out agenda specific biological research.
8. Set up of Behavioral Clinics especially for women.

9. Accesibilty and availability of women clinics in rural and urban areas.
10. Involvement of women in tourism potential.
11. Family Courts to be established.
12. Mobile Suraksha – Helpline on wheels to cater to the needs of women
13. R.T.E be implemented in letter and in spirit.
14. Pro – activeness, Law enforcement for enforcement of women.
15. Capacity building and upgradation of skills for Empowerment of Women.
16. Strengthening SHGs and formation of cooperatives, federations and to emphasis on Micro financing.
17. Involvement of women in decision making process at home and in the society.
18. Set up Rapid Action Forces where Women Commander force tackle issues relating to violence and crime against women as being done in Assam.
19. More Awareness camps to reach out in rural areas.
20. Effective monitoring of the implementation of NREGA in proper payment of hundred days wages to the beneficiaries with special emphasis on women.
21. Upgrade the Women’s cell in the respective Police Stations.
22. Set up female counseling centre where lie detector are in place.



Participants at the Regional Conference



**PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON
WOMENS EMPOWERMENT- AN INSTRUMENT FOR POVERTY
ALLEVIATION**

HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2012 AT PINEOOD HOTEL, SHILLONG

Sl. No	Name	Signature
1	Dr. Mukul Sngma, Chief Minister Meghalaya	Sd/-
2	Shri. J. A. Lyngdoh, Minister of Social Welfare	Sd/
3	Smt. Mamta Sharma, Chairperson National Commission for Women	Sd/
4	Smt. W. Syiem, Member National Commission for Women	Sd/
5	Smt. Shamina Shafiq, Member National Commission for Women	Sd/
6	Smt. R. Warjri, Chairperson Meghalaya State Commission for Women	Sd/
7	Smt. Purnima Roy Chairperson Tripura State Commission for Women	Sd/
8	Mrs. Gumri Ringu, Chairperson Arunachal Pradesh	Sd/
9	Ms. Lalni Puii, Chairperson Mizoram	Sd/
10	Ms. Sano Vamuzo, Chairperson Nagaland	Sd/
11	Dr. L. Ibettombi, Chairperson Manipur	Sd/
12	Shri. S. Megachandra Sharma Member Secretary, Tripura	Sd/
13	Ms. Monidipa Borkotoki, Member Secretary Assam	Sd/
14	Mrs. P.C. Bhutia, Member Secretary Sikkim	Sd/
15	Dr. Manjushree Pathak, Member of North East Expert Committee	Sd/
16	Ms. Rozami, Expert Committee	Sd/
17	Ms. Rebika Deon, Assam State Commission for Women	Sd/
18	Shri. T. Dkhar, Secretary Social Welfare Department	Sd/
19	Shri. H.M.Shangpliang, Director of Social Welfare Meghalaya	Sd/
20	Smt. L.N.Jyrwa, Mission Director SRCW	Sd/
21	Dr. Fenela Nonglait, Vice Chairperson Meghalaya Law Commission	Sd/
22	Shri. Utpal Kumar De, N.E.H.U	Sd/
23	Dr. Animesh Mishra, NEIGRHIMS	Sd/
24	Shri. Anil Pradhan, I.P.S Retd. D.G.P	Sd/

25	Smt. G. S. Lyndem, Principal Extension SIRD	Sd/
26	Smt. B.B. Nalle Addl. Director of Social Welfare Meghalaya	Sd/
27	P.S to the Chairperson National Commission for Women	Sd/
28	Pay & Accounts Officer, National Commission for Women	Sd/
29	Smt. Z. J. Lyngdoh, DSWO Jowai	Sd/
30	Smt. I. Tariang, DSWO East Khasi Hills	Sd/
31	Sarah M. Bang, CDPO Mawsynram	Sd/
32	Smt. M. Wanniang, DPO	Sd/
33	Smt. J. Umdor, Child Development Project Officer	Sd/
34	Smt. N. Umdor, CDPO Shillong Urban	Sd/
35	Smt. P. Suchiang, Research Officer	Sd/
36	Smt. V. War, Child Development Project Officer	Sd/
37	Smt. D. Pyrbot, Child Development Project Officer	Sd/
38	Smt. W. Nongrum Child Development Project Officer	Sd/
39	Smt. F. Sunn, Child Development Project Officer	Sd/
40	Smt. B. Nengnong, Child Development Project Officer	Sd/
41	Smt. M. Kharkongor, Child Development Project Officer	Sd/
42	Smt. V. Blah, Child Development Project Officer	Sd/
43	Smt. S. Ryngnga, Asstt. Commissioner for P.W.D	Sd/
44	Smt. M. Kharkongor Meghalaya State Commission for Women	Sd/
45	Marilyn Pinto, Nirmali	Sd/
46	Methilinda Sangma, Nirmali	Sd/
47	Smt. A. Nongkhlaw President, N.E.W.D.C	Sd/
48	Smt. P. Myrchiang Asstt. Treasurer, N.E.W.D.C	Sd/
49	Sr. Judith Shadap, WISE	Sd/
50	Dr. T Khongwir Rotary Club of Shillong	Sd/
51	Shri. Deimebanda Blah	Sd/
52	Dr. M.P.R. Lyngdoh Laitumkhrah - 793003	Sd/

53	Shri. R. Lyngdoh, Media	Sd/
54	Ms. Rumiki Biam	Sd/
55	Mrs. Priyadarshan Khoudongbam	Sd/
56	Huntifull L. Marshyllong	Sd/
57	Forne Dekharram	Sd/
58	Aril June R. Marak	Sd/
59	Lurshaphrang Shongwan	Sd/
60	Banseng R. Sangma	Sd/
61	Dala Phanbuh	Sd/
62	Zou	Sd/
63	Bapon Hajong	Sd/
64	Hiaranghing	Sd/
65	Ketouzuazo	Sd/
66	Phrangshwa S. Lyngdoh	Sd/
67	Femina Kshetrimajum	Sd/
68	C. Anela Jamir	Sd/
69	Phida	Sd/
70	Prabhakar Boro	Sd/
71	Chinsuam Manoj	Sd/
72	Mr. Pynbhalang Shongdiar	Sd/
73	Joly. S. Diengdoh	Sd/
74	K. L. Kharpor	Sd/
75	K. D.E	Sd/
76	K. Beautiful Myrthong	Sd/
77	Smt. I.D. Lyngwa	Sd/
78	Mrs. Usha Geonka	Sd/
79	Agnes Kharshiing	Sd/
80	S. K. Seal, SRC	Sd/
81	Dr. L.L. Sawian	Sd/
82	Smt. Irene Hujon	Sd/
83	Angela W. Ingty, Member MSCW	Sd/

84	Tamchi T.R. Marak, Member MSCW	Sd/
85	Smt. Christabel Wanniang, CSWO	Sd/
86	Darilyne Syiem, N.E.N	Sd/
87	Rossanna Lyngdoh, Impulse NGO	Sd/
88	Rikynti Nongpyiur, GS Lympung ki Seng Kynthei	Sd/
89	Blicky Dkhar	Sd/
90	Bajanty Aglarom	Sd/
91	Lahundashisha Rumnong, N.E.N	Sd/
92	Ibadasuklin Kharshandi, N.E.N	Sd/
93	Mrs. T. Phanbuh, Lachumiere	Sd/
94	Ms. W. Tariang, MSCW	Sd/
95	Dr. V. Kharmawphlang Principal CTE(PGT)	Sd/
96	Smt. Donna Lyngwa	Sd/
97	S. Maxwell Lyngdoh, Professor MLC	Sd/
98	Dr. Rica Lamare, Manbha Foundation	Sd/
99	Th. Tiberrose Monsang	Sd/
100	Smt. Lalhriuapuii	Sd/
101	Rajkumar Gupta	Sd/
102	SAPna Baruah	Sd/
103	Smt. P. Mawlong	Sd/
104	M. Shabong	Sd/
105	M. Syiemlieh	Sd/
106	Clever J. Nongbet	Sd/
107	G. Lyngdoh	Sd/
108	M. Warjri	Sd/
109	F.W.B. Marbaniang	Sd/
110	I.Lyngwa	Sd/
111	B. Marbaniang	Sd/
112	J. Majaw	Sd/
113	R. Suting	Sd/
114	M. Hujon	Sd/

115	Shri. Marc Diengdoh	Sd/
116	Shri. Macdonald Ryntathiang	Sd/
117	Smt. M. Syiemlieh Lecturer, M.L.C.U	Sd/
118	Banisha Diengdoh M.L.C.U	Sd/
119	Jessilia Sunn M.L.C.U	Sd/
120	Regina Ryingnga M.L.C.U	Sd/
121	Evershine Wahlang M.L.C.U	Sd/
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123	Bahunlang Lyngdoh M.L.C.U	Sd/
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125	Chongneithem Lhoubum M.L.C.U	Sd/
126	Narisha Diengdoh M.L.C.U	Sd/
127	Juliet Shangrit M.L.C.U	Sd/
128	Ahiczer P. Suchiang, M.L.C.U	Sd/
129	Daphilia G. Thankhiew M.L.C.U	Sd/
130	Banrishisha Kharbudon M.L.C.U	Sd/
131	Amanda Thankhiew M.L.C.U	Sd/
132	Karishma Sharma M.L.C.U	Sd/
133	Ibansaralin kharbani M.L.C.U	Sd/
134	Donbpoklin Nongsiej M.L.C.U	Sd/
135	Sabena Lyngdoh M.L.C.U	Sd/
136	Junitha D. Shira M.L.C.U	Sd/
137	Debajani Bordoloi M.L.C.U	Sd/
138	K. Songachan M.L.C.U	Sd/
139	Peter Kapfo M.L.C.U	Sd/
140	Akumsenla Aeir M.L.C.U	Sd/
141	Narola Aeir M.L.C.U	Sd/

142	Janet Swu M.L.C.U	Sd/
143	Vizovunou Lohe M.L.C.U	Sd/
144	Hinotoli K. M.L.C.U	Sd/
145	Ticu Rolie M.L.C.U	Sd/
146	Dolly Wotsa M.L.C.U	Sd/
147	Hravene David M.L.C.U	Sd/
148	Banri Kynti Shisha Diengdoh M.L.C.U	Sd/
149	Doreen Shylla St. Edmunds College	Sd/
150	David Langki Suchiang St. Edmunds College	Sd/
151	Bashisha Chyne, St. Edmunds College	Sd/
152	Valarie Marboh St. Edmunds College	Sd/
153	Wanhunlang Nongrum St. Edmunds College	Sd/
154	Georgia G. Momin St. Edmunds College	Sd/
155	Kim Guite St. Edmunds College	Sd/
156	Banrisha Wahlang St. Edmunds College	Sd/
157	Missippa Nongrum St. Edmunds College	Sd/
158	Evan Diengdoh St. Edmunds College	Sd/
159	Micheal Shadap St. Edmunds College	Sd/
160	Kegitar Lyngkhoi St. Edmunds College	Sd/

N-E women commissions press for 'task force'

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: The chairpersons of the state women commissions of the eight Northeastern states on Friday decided to send a proposal to the Union Government for the formation of a 'task force' to oversee that recommendations on women-related issues discussed at various intervals bear good fruits.

This decision was unanimously taken at a regional conference on 'Empowerment of women-an instrument for poverty alleviation' organised by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Commission for Women and the State Resource Centre for Women, Social Welfare department here on Friday.

Besides the formation of a task force, they have also



Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma in conversation with Chairperson of National Commission for Women Mamta Sharma in the city on Friday. (ST)

decided to ask the government to empower the National Commission and states commission with more judicial power so as to handle and take care of various women issues which are on the rise.

"At present, we are vested with civil power and with time, there is a need to be vested with more judicial powers to ensure that wom-

en's issues are handled more efficiently," Chairperson of Meghalaya State Women Commission Roshan Warjri said here while summing up the whole conference.

The leaders of the eight state women commissions also stressed on the need to form an e-group with an aim to make communication better and much easier.

(Contd on P-10)

Compromise in rape cases intolerable: NCW chief

By Shankytiew Mawrie

SHILLONG: The trend of rape accused and the concerned victim coming to an understanding to forego the crime cannot be tolerated, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) Mamta Sharma said.

In an interview with *The Shillong Times*, Sharma said that the trend of 'reaching a compromise' by the victim and the accused is not justified and cannot be accepted.

"To reach at a compromise is not justified and the victim herself cannot compromise at any cost. In fact, they should fight and get the accused arrested and punished for the crime," she stressed.

Despite having a multitude of its, Meghalaya is facing a peculiar problem of an unusual rise in crimes against women in the last few years and this is due to lack of implementation of prevailing laws and regulations, Sharma observed.

"The law is there and it is very strong but due to lack of implementation of these laws, women are facing problems," she said.

The NCW Chairperson asserted that the police should be sensitized on such issues concerning women as



NCW Chairperson Mamta Sharma

they play an important role in providing relief to the female victims.

When asked whether the respective governments are implementing the NCW suggestion to contain crime, Sharma said the state commissions and the national commission are autonomous bodies and since the commissions were formed by the government, they are accountable.

"Since the Central government through the Ministry of Women and Child Development is pouring in funds

for running the state commissions, they also take up suggestions forwarded by us," she said.

It may be noted that the Meghalaya Government, on August 10 this year, notified the Meghalaya Victim Compensation Scheme 2011 whereby Rs 50,000 would be provided for maximum limit of compensation for rape victims and Rs 25,000 for injuries causing severe mental agony for the victims. However, as per the latest assessment, it has been noticed that there have been few takers for the scheme.

Reacting to this, Sharma said the government should not only create more awareness on the scheme so that the victims can avail this but also stress on the need to enlighten the women on the prevailing laws, rights and schemes.

She rued the fact that most of the womenfolk in the rural areas are still hesitant to approach the police or the court, if law to demand justice.

"Lack of education and awareness are the main reasons why women are afraid to approach the police or the court because they still hold the idea that the same involves a lot of money. To change this mindset, we should touch the rural areas and the block level," she stated. (Contd on P-10)

NCW regional meet today

GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU
SHILLONG, NOV 15: The National Commission for Woman, New Delhi in collaboration with the State (Contd. on P-3)...

NCW regional meet today

Commission for Woman and State Resource Centre for women Meghalaya, Shillong is organising a regional conference on empowerment of woman – "An instrument to Poverty Alleviation" on November 16.

Compromise in rape cases...

(Contd from P-1) Commenting on the delay in providing medical reports to the rape victims after their medical examinations which often leads to delays in following up the case, the NCW Chairperson said one should check that the concerned medical practitioner is a person without any 'black mark' in his/her report and if there is any hidden agenda then the concerned medical practitioner should be punished as per law.

Stressing on the trend of delayed justice to rape victims, Sharma said, "This trend is happening everywhere in the country and to tackle this problem the police and the fast track courts should be efficient enough and work fast on such cases to prevent the accused from getting a chance to walk away with bail and tamper with the evidences."

When apprised on the alarming trend in the State involving the rape of minors, Sharma said it is a big social problem and to tackle this, the mindset of the society should change. "This is a problem which should be handled jointly by the Social Welfare department, police, educational institutions, NGOs, headmen, church bodies and the likes," she added.

On the prevalence of rape cases involving relatives like father, uncle or brother, Sharma said, "This is also one of the problems which has cropped up in our society and awareness should be very strong; keeping the girls and police alert every time besides providing counseling to the girls in schools and colleges."

Commenting on the issue of trafficking of women which is prevalent in the State, the NCW Chairperson said the government and the police should be very vigilant and keep a close watch at every check points especially in the border areas, bus stands and railway stations among others.

Sharma echoed the statement made by the Chairperson of the Meghalaya State Commission, Roshan Warjri, on the need to empower the commission with more judicial powers, saying that the state commissions have civil powers only. "At present, we only have the power to summon the accused and if there is any problem, we send letters to the government and the matter is then entrusted to the police. I think there should be more powers vested upon the commission to make our judgments stronger and to ensure justice to the victims," she added.

N-E women commissions...

(Contd from P-1) The resource persons from the law, police, health and education department including social organizations who spoke on various topics highlighted the need to translate the acts and laws legislated into regional languages, making tourism an alternative for promoting sustainable activity of women while highlighting the drawbacks in the process of investigating a rape case which involved delay in charge sheeting and prosecuting the accused.

Earlier, during the inaugural session, Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma said that independent women are not only capable of contributing towards economic stability of their own families but can also provide much needed contribution in the socio-economic transformation in a multi-dimensional way.

He also pointed out that if people are financially literate and productive, then the per capita increases which in turn increases the GDP of the State.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Mamta Sharma, highlighted the issue of trafficking of women in some parts of the country including the North East, stating that, "In spite of our best efforts, the problems is still continuing. Hence, the NCW along with some NGOs need to work together to overcome this problem by holding street plays in every corner of metropolitan cities and rural areas of the country."

The conference was attended by Social Welfare Minister JA Lyngdoh, Director of Social Welfare HM Shangpiang, NCW member W Syiem, Secretary of Social Welfare department T Dkhar and Mission Director of State Resource Centre for Women L Jyrwa, besides government officials, students and others.





