



**Proceedings**  
**of**  
**ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar**  
**on**  
**Local Self Government in North-East India: Patterns and Dynamics**  
**28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

**Organized by**  
**The Department of Political Science and Department of History**  
**Modern College, Piphema**

*Vitsoi*  
Principal  
Modern College, Piphema

Technical Session IV		
Moderator: Mr. John Besli Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science		
11:35-13:20	Dr. Monalisa Assistant Professor Department of History Devi Charan Baruah Girls' College, Jorhat, Assam	Dynamics of women entrepreneurship: A Study on Prospects and Challenges of Bodos in Bodoland Territorial council
	Dr. Sikha Das Assistant Professor Department of Sociology Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru	Intersection of Identity and Public Space: Understanding Narratives of 'Body' from the Urban Spaces.
	Mr. Bendangwabang Research Scholar Nagaland University	Local Governance and Customary Laws in Nagaland: A historical perspective with special reference to Ao Nagas of Nagaland
13:20-14:00	Lunch	

Valedictory Session	
14:00-15:00	Chairperson : Ms. Mongsenchia Assistant Professor, Department of History
	Seminar Report : Ms. Vikeduonuo Kire Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
	Concluding remark : Dr. Himabindu M Keynote Speaker
	Vote of thanks : Ms. Neilhoukhonuo Nipu HoD, Department of History
	College Anthem

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COLLEGE



Indian Council of Social Science Research  
(ICSSR) Sponsored

**NATIONAL SEMINAR**

on  
Local Self Government in North-East India:  
Patterns and Dynamics

Organized by  
the Department of Political Science and  
Department of History  
Modern College, Piphema

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024  
Venue: Conference Hall, Modern College

*Vitsoi*  
Principal  
Modern College, Piphema

## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY - I (28 <sup>th</sup> November 2024)									
9:00- 09:30	<b>Registration</b>								
<b>Inaugural Session</b>									
09:30-10:30	Chairperson : Mr. S. Anthony HoD, Department of Political Science Welcome Note : Dr. Vitsou Yano Convener & Principal Keynote Address : Dr. Himabindu M. Coordinator & Assistant Professor Department of Politics and Governance Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar National Anthem								
10:30-10:45	<b>Tea Break</b>								
<b>Technical Session I</b>									
Moderator: Mr. Shahilo Khing Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science									
10:45-12:30	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                             Mr. Khotongti Imchen                              B.A 5<sup>th</sup> Semester                              Department of Political                              Science, Tetso College, Sovima                              &amp;                              Ms. Khriezonuo Kire                              Assistant Professor                              Tetso College, Sovima                         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                             Community-Driven Environmental                              Conservation in Mongchen Village,                              Mokokchung: Focus on the Mongchen's                              Village Council.                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Ms. Myingthunglo Murry                              Assistant Professor                              Mount Tiyi College                              Wokha                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Connectivity and Centricity: Local Self-                              Governance of the Nagas                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Ms. Kadilin Gangmei                              Assistant Professor                              Tetso College, Sovima                              &amp;                              Dr. S Hohol                              Assistant Professor                              Tetso College, Sovima                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             The Autonomous District Councils of                              Manipur- A Conundrum                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Ms. Poukenhalakliu Newmal                              Research Scholar                              Department of Education,                              Nagaland University                              &amp;                              Dr. Khotole Kheiya                              Associate Professor                              Department of Education,                              Nagaland University, Kohima                              Campus.                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             The traditional ways of management of                              tribal people through village councils in                              Nagaland                         </td> </tr> </table>	Mr. Khotongti Imchen B.A 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester Department of Political Science, Tetso College, Sovima & Ms. Khriezonuo Kire Assistant Professor Tetso College, Sovima	Community-Driven Environmental Conservation in Mongchen Village, Mokokchung: Focus on the Mongchen's Village Council.	Ms. Myingthunglo Murry Assistant Professor Mount Tiyi College Wokha	Connectivity and Centricity: Local Self- Governance of the Nagas	Ms. Kadilin Gangmei Assistant Professor Tetso College, Sovima & Dr. S Hohol Assistant Professor Tetso College, Sovima	The Autonomous District Councils of Manipur- A Conundrum	Ms. Poukenhalakliu Newmal Research Scholar Department of Education, Nagaland University & Dr. Khotole Kheiya Associate Professor Department of Education, Nagaland University, Kohima Campus.	The traditional ways of management of tribal people through village councils in Nagaland
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Ms. Poukenhalakliu Newmal Research Scholar Department of Education, Nagaland University & Dr. Khotole Kheiya Associate Professor Department of Education, Nagaland University, Kohima Campus.	The traditional ways of management of tribal people through village councils in Nagaland								
12:30-13:10	<b>Lunch</b>								

<b>Technical Session II</b>											
Moderator: Mr. Keneingulie Assistant Professor, Department of English											
13:10-15:00	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                             Dr. Khrienuo Ltu                              Assistant Professor                              Patkal Christian College,                              Chumoukedima                         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                             Self Help Group in Nagaland                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Ms. Loreno Ovung                              Assistant Professor                              Tetso College, Sovima                              &amp;                              Mr. Tsutlipang Jamir                              Assistant Professor                              Tetso College, Sovima                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Problems and Prospects of Entrepreneurs in                              Khonoma Village                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Dr. Nukshimenla Lemtur                              Assistant Professor                              ICFAI University, Dimapur                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Naga Women's participation in local                              government: An Analysis                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Dr. Koseno                              Principal                              Mt. Olive College, Kohima                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Role of Non Governmental Organizations                         </td> </tr> </table>	Dr. Khrienuo Ltu Assistant Professor Patkal Christian College, Chumoukedima	Self Help Group in Nagaland	Ms. Loreno Ovung Assistant Professor Tetso College, Sovima & Mr. Tsutlipang Jamir Assistant Professor Tetso College, Sovima	Problems and Prospects of Entrepreneurs in Khonoma Village	Dr. Nukshimenla Lemtur Assistant Professor ICFAI University, Dimapur	Naga Women's participation in local government: An Analysis	Dr. Koseno Principal Mt. Olive College, Kohima	Role of Non Governmental Organizations		
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Dr. Koseno Principal Mt. Olive College, Kohima	Role of Non Governmental Organizations										
<b>DAY - II (29<sup>th</sup> November 2024)</b>											
<b>Technical Session III</b>											
Moderator: Ms. Watimongla Imchen HoD, Department of English											
9:30-11:20	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                             Mr. Shahilo, Mr. Anthony &amp;                              Mr. John                              Assistant Professors                              Modern College, Piphema                         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                             Environment and Local Participation: A Case                              Study of Sendenyu Community Biodiversity                              Conservation.                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Mr. Kevingukho Kehlie                              Assistant Professor                              Modern College, Piphema                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Role of Village Council in the preservation of                              environment with special reference to                              Kiruphema Village                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Dr. Khobu Tsolo                              Assistant Professor                              Baptist College,                              Sechu Campus                              &amp;                              Dr. Vitsou Yano                              Principal, Modern College                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Empowering Women through Self Help                              Group: A Study in Sechu Zubza                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Dr. Dall Kholla                              Assistant Professor                              Modern College, Piphema                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Community Participation in improving                              environmental protection with special                              reference to Mao, Manipur                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Ms. Khrutalu Dozo                              Research Scholar                              St. Joseph University,                              Chumoukedima                              &amp;                              Dr. Achanger                              Associate Professor &amp; HoD of                              Political Science                              St. Joseph University                              Chumoukedima                         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">                             Issues and Challenges of 33 percent                              Women Reservation in Urban Local Bodies:                              A Study of Nagaland                         </td> </tr> </table>	Mr. Shahilo, Mr. Anthony & Mr. John Assistant Professors Modern College, Piphema	Environment and Local Participation: A Case Study of Sendenyu Community Biodiversity Conservation.	Mr. Kevingukho Kehlie Assistant Professor Modern College, Piphema	Role of Village Council in the preservation of environment with special reference to Kiruphema Village	Dr. Khobu Tsolo Assistant Professor Baptist College, Sechu Campus & Dr. Vitsou Yano Principal, Modern College	Empowering Women through Self Help Group: A Study in Sechu Zubza	Dr. Dall Kholla Assistant Professor Modern College, Piphema	Community Participation in improving environmental protection with special reference to Mao, Manipur	Ms. Khrutalu Dozo Research Scholar St. Joseph University, Chumoukedima & Dr. Achanger Associate Professor & HoD of Political Science St. Joseph University Chumoukedima	Issues and Challenges of 33 percent Women Reservation in Urban Local Bodies: A Study of Nagaland
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11:20-11:35	<b>Tea Break</b>										

  
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## Inaugural Session

A two day national seminar on "Local Self Government in North-East India: Patterns and Dynamics" sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was jointly organized by Department of Political Science and History, Modern College Piphema on November 28 and 29.

In the Inaugural session chaired by Mr. S. Anthony, Asst Professor, Department of Political Science, Dr. Vitsou Yano, Convenor and Principal, delivered the note of welcome while Dr Himabindu M., Coordinator & Asst Professor, Department of Politics and Governance, Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar delivered the keynote address.

In her address titled "Local Self Government in North-East India: Towards Inclusivity and Sustainability", the speaker mentioned the origin, historical understanding and features of local self government. She also highlighted the foundation of Indian political system and governance in Nagaland. The introductory session culminated with the singing of the National Anthem.



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## **The highlights of the Seminar**

**Day-01**

**Dated- 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

### **TECHNICAL SESSION-I**

Session Moderator: Mr. Shahilo Khing, Assistant Professor, Modern College, Piphema.


#### **1. Harnessing Local wisdom: Mongchen Village Council's Environmental Initiatives.**

- Mr. Khotongti Imchen, B.A 5th Semester, Political Science Honours, Tetso College  
&  
Ms. Khriezonuo Kire, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Tetso College

### **Abstract**

This study will explore environmental management and local participation of the community and local governing body of Mongchen village under Mokokchung district in Nagaland. Recognized for its biodiversity and indigenous cultural heritage, the village has seen unique community-driven approaches to sustainable development. The research aims to understand the traditional and contemporary conservation methods employed by the community, their effectiveness, and socio-cultural factors influencing these practices. This paper will explore the community-led environmental practices and examine the challenges faced by these communities in managing natural resources. It will also look into the policies and programmes implemented by the local body with respect to environmental conservation. The paper discusses how local participation, indigenous knowledge, and policy frameworks contribute to sustainable practices. The findings underscore the value of local engagement and traditional wisdom in promoting sustainable environmental stewardship.

Through qualitative methods, including interviews, focus group discussions and participatory observation, the study will examine the role of indigenous knowledge and community participation in sustaining biodiversity and natural resources. Recommendations to enhancing community capacity by integrating modern conservative techniques with traditional practices, and fostering collaborative partnership for a sustainable environmental management.

  
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**Keywords:** *Mongchen Village, Mokokchung, Environmental Conservation, Local Participation.*

## **Discourse**

The study is focused on the environmental initiatives taken by Mongchen Village Council. Mongchen Village is an important part of the Mokokchung District, surrounded by lush forests, diverse flora and fauna, and the Milak River, which is crucial for agriculture and fishing. The local economy primarily depends on agriculture, particularly shifting cultivation. The village has significant mineral deposits, including coal.

## *Methodology*

- Books
- Newspaper Articles
- Data collection (Google form)
- Interview Method

## *Role of village council and local participation*

The village council oversees environmental issues and enhances community involvement in environmental initiatives like tree plantation, cleanliness etc. It balances traditional practices with modern policies for effective resource management, assigns responsibilities to different age groups and promotes teamwork.

Women and youths are the key players in environmental care in their community. The women's involvement in water conservation, sustainable resource utilization, ensuring that the use of resources does not harm the environment, empowers them within the community. Youths actively participate in awareness campaigns, educating others about environmental issues. They take responsibility in preserving the sacred grove of '*Alongma*', a tourist attraction believed to be the resting place of Jina and Etiben (a romantic folklore of the Ao community).

The researchers concluded that local participation in environmental management is beneficial for sustainable development in Mokokchung, Nagaland. Strong community ties enhance collaboration and effectiveness in environmental management and that effective local governance is essential for implementing sustainable practices.

## **2. Connectivity and Centricity: Local Self-Governance of the Nagas**

- Ms. Ms. Myingthunglo Murry, Assistant Professor, Mount Tiya, Wokha.

  
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## Abstract

Local self-governance has remained the cornerstone of Indian democracy for centuries. Compared to other tribal areas of our country, the Naga villages are more homogenous, self-sufficient, and independent. The colonial government also appreciated the functioning of such highly democratic institutions, which brought about social cohesion, stability, and preserving traditional values. The paper aims to present the unique social concept of participatory democracy through various local institutions of self-governance. The paper further emphasizes understanding the local self-governance institutions in Nagaland thus giving an enduring resilience to their culture. It analyses the traditional practices of governance and social networking which have been institutionalized within a modern framework.

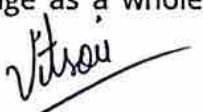
**Keywords:** *Self-governance, Nagas, Democratic, Social Institutions, Traditional*

## Discourse

In her presentation, Ms. Murry stressed on the decentralization and local governance which are considered the essential components of the self-governing authority. The structural framework of the administrative system in Nagaland is its Democratic local self-governance system through the Village Councils and subsequent authorities. The Village Councils is based on the traditional Naga way and it enjoys Constitutional sanction vide Article 371 A of the Indian Constitution; it envisage a village as a complete republic, independent of its neighbour for its vital wants, yet interdependent, for many others in which dependence is a necessity.

Local self-governance institutions in Nagaland consist of distinct systems of village administration, clan distribution, socio-cultural practices, and institutions. Nagaland Village and Area Councils Act 1978 gave each recognised Naga village legitimacy and recognition as a local self-governance institute. Gaon Buras (GBs) are considered as agents of the government. "Dobasha" or "Dobashi" are assistants to Deputy Commissioners and deals mainly with customary laws and their implementation.

Administration of law and justice is based on the 'Naga customary law and procedure' protected by the special Constitutional provisions of Article 371A ensuring speedy redressal of grievances and significantly lesser extent of litigation. The Village Council Courts are given full powers to deal with and administer the internal affairs of their villages and to maintain law and order. The Village Council plays an important role in facilitating the livelihood and economic development of the community and the village as a whole. The

  
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selection, implementation, and monitoring of all rural development schemes at the community level are under the purview of the Management Committee of the Village Development Board.

District Planning and Development Boards Area Councils (DPDB) were established in the erstwhile Nagaland Village and Area Council Act, 1978, to act as a link between the village and state authorities at the district levels to oversee development, and to resolve disputes.

Representation of women in the Village Council is vaguely absent, and participation of women in local governance is strictly limited to the reserved seats in different committees under the communitisation programme. A revolutionary change was made when a Naga village in Chizami under Phek district, by inducting 4 women as Village Council Members, 6 women in the Management Committee of the Village Development Board (VDB) and a woman was elected as the Village Development Board (VDB) Secretary of Wangti village under Chen Block in Mon district.

The concept of Communitisation in Nagaland has fostered the transfer of ownership of public resources and assets, control over service delivery empowerment, decentralization, delegation, and building capacities, all to improve the delivery of public utility systems. Nagaland as a State has received numerous accolades for innovative use of rich social capital, policy making decisions etc.

#### *Challenges and Recommendations:*

- Corruption, political influence, dominance of the few, etc. which encompasses the social, economic, and political sphere.
- Creating an innovative 'community platform', the ability to connect digitally across organizations can transform local government into a people-centric community platform.
- Enhance 'place-based' responses to local needs and development goals in critical areas such as housing, healthcare, social services, and beyond.
- Well-established toolkit to support and help accelerate government transformation initiatives.
- The future of the local governance sector should be digitally enabled, data-driven, and community-focused.

### **3. The Autonomous District Councils of Manipur: A Conundrum**

- Ms. Kadilin Gangmei, Assistant Professor, Tetso College, Sovima

&

Dr. S Hohoi, Assistant Professor, Tetso College, Sovima

  
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## Abstract

The Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) of Manipur were set up under the Manipur Hill Areas District Council Act, 1971. The workings of these councils have not been affective since the institutionalization of these councils. With the subsequent amendments in place starting from the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils (First Amendment) Act, 1975 and the latest being the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Amendment Bill, 2022 which is still in the process, there is a need to carefully understand and analyse the complexities and the challenges confronted by these local self governing institutions. It is to be noted that the councils do not fall under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Therefore, a need also arises to bring into perspective the working of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to better understand the working of the Autonomous Districts Councils (ADCs) of the state of Manipur established under the Act of 1971 of the Parliament. A general overview will also be made on the working of the three Autonomous District Councils of Mizoram – the Chakma Autonomous District Council, the Lai Autonomous District Council and the Mara Autonomous District Council of Mizoram which function under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution in this paper.

**Keywords:** *Autonomous District Councils, Local Self Governance, Sixth Schedule, Hill Districts of Manipur.*

#### **4. The Traditional ways of management of Tribal people through Village Councils in Nagaland.**

- Ms. Poukenhalakliu Newmai, Research Scholar, Department of Education, Nagaland University

&

Dr. Khotole Khieya, Associate Professor, Department of Education, Nagaland University, Kohima Campus

## Abstract

India has a dynamic federal structure of government wherein power is shared between the centre and the state with a single constitution. The constitution allows the decentralization of power and decision-making to local levels about things that affect their own community. Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) is one such decentralization under Part IX of the Constitution of India paving way for the system of local self-government of villages unlike urban and suburban with municipalities. The self-government of villages is realized through

  
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the Village Panchayats and they have been tasked with "economic development, strengthening social justice and implementation of Central and State Government Schemes".

Gandhiji's advocated "*Gram Swaraj*" (village self-governance), which is an ancient Indian concept, as the foundation of India's political system and the first PM of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, inaugurated the Panchayati Raj system at Nagaur on 2 October 1959 coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. At present, the PRI system exists in all states except Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram, and it also exist in all Union Territories except Delhi. States like Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram has strong tribal identity and traditional system of governance and thus govern through village councils which are represented by clans or khels.

As such, this paper will attempt to present the "The Traditional Ways Of Management Of Tribal People Through Village Councils In Nagaland" by highlighting village councils as an independent unit with its own governance systems and laws pertaining to land, forest, water supply, roads, sanitation, education and other welfare activities including administration of justice in accordance with the customary law and usages.

**Key words:** *Federal Structure, Decentralization, Self-Governance, Customary Laws*

## **Discourse**

Ms. Newmai gave a brief explanation of the traditional ways of management of tribal people through Village Councils in Nagaland. The Traditional village government is attributed and administered through the Village Council headed by chiefs (hereditary heads) or village elders (Gaon Bura) chosen based on the consensus of their 'Khel' or clan membership. Both Democratic and Autocratic form of government is prevalent in village government.

### *Emergence of Gaon Bura and Dobashis:*

The British during mid-nineteenth century gave rise to a three layer system: Gaonburas, Dobashis (interpreters) and District Administrators.

Goan Buras are village elders usually the traditional Khel Heads representing each Khel. They are appointed as Khel GB and the eldest among all the GBs was selected as Head GB.

The Dobashi post was created by the British to act as the translator. Through their knowledge about customary laws, they are nominated by the Village Councils and authorized by the Government to act as assistants to the Deputy Commissioners in governing the village administration.

  
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Every village has different administrative system where some had hereditary rulers like Sumis and Konyaks, while Ao's have members represented through clanship and others like Angamis elect their leaders through Khels managing all of its economic, social and religious affairs.

#### *Constitutional Provision under Article 371 A:*

Article 371 A of the Indian Constitution gives provision that no act of Parliament can apply to the State in certain areas without the consent of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.

The State Government propagated the Nagaland Village and Area Council Act, 1978 wherein the Village Council controls the overall administration in the village. It brought together the varied structures, powers and functions of the traditional village government of different Naga tribes into a common whole. Its members were chosen by villagers in accordance with the prevailing customary practices and usages. The hereditary village Chiefs, GBs and Angs shall be ex-officio members of such Council and shall have voting right.

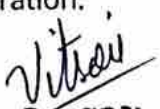
The Village Development Board (VDB) prioritizes developments for the village, prepare action plan and execute them using the village community funds provided by various agencies of the government. Developments include building of schools (including repairing works), construction and repairing of roads, community halls, construction of rest houses, rural housing, electrification of houses, plantations and fisheries, dairy and piggery units, marketing sheds.

**Powers and Administration of the Village Councils:** According to Section 14 of the Nagaland Village Council Act, the Village Councils have powers to maintain law and order and to administer justice within the village limits in accordance with the customary laws and usages and as accepted by government. Issues like divorce, extra marital affairs, adoption, theft, property and land disputes are taken into account.

Under section 15, the Village Council is empowered to act as an auxiliary to the administration and shall have full powers to deal with internal administration of the village. Such as- case relating to maintaining law and order in the village, to enforce laws passed by the competent authority on the village, to report crime and epidemic to the administrative centre, to keep a check on the transfer of immovable properties of the village.

#### *Challenges of Village Councils:*

- Economically and politically dependent upon the State Government machinery.
- Absence of knowledge and expertise may result in ineffective utilization of developmental programs under Rural Development Department.
- Lack of transparency can undermine public trust and lead to inefficient administration.

  
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- Under representation of women in the Village Councils. The participation of women in local governance is strictly limited to the reserved seats in different committees. They do not hold authoritative positions such as chairman, secretary, VDB secretary etc.

The Village Council is the oldest organ of the governmental machinery performing all the functions in Nagaland. The Nagaland Village Council Act 1978 honours the prevailing customary laws and thus has helped in retaining the past tradition of the Nagas. The Act allowing customary laws of the village for the constitution as well as setting the compositional structure has helped to retain the tradition of the past in administering and delivering justice.

## TECHNICAL SESSION-II

**Session Moderator- Mr. Keneingulie, Assistant Professor, Department of English**

### 1. Self Help Group in Nagaland

Dr. Khrienuo Ltu, Assistant Professor, Patkai Christian College, Chumoukedima

#### Abstract

Self-Help Group, an initiative to help and uplift the weaker and marginalised section of the society, had been introduced in India in 1992. SHGs are considered to be champions of poverty alleviations as they generate employment opportunities for the people. In Nagaland, it was introduced in 1999-2000, and since its inception, it has been a boon to the people, especially the women of Nagaland. SHGs had helped empower women and improve their socio-economic status. SHG movement is gaining momentum in Nagaland as it had brought about positive transformation in the lives of women. The paper attempts to examine the process through which SHGs are formed, role of SHGs in Nagaland, and the impact of SHGs on the women. It also tries to look into the role of Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM) in providing financial and mechanical help to the SHGs of Nagaland.

**Keywords:** *Self-Help Group, Women, Poverty, Economic Empowerment*

### 2. Problems and Prospects of Entrepreneurship in Khonoma Village

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- Ms. Loreno Ovung, Assistant Professors, Tetso College, Sovima

&

Mr. Tsutipang Jamir, Assistant Professors, Tetso College, Sovima

## Abstract

Khonoma is known as Asia's first green village and holds pride in its dense green forest, its rich culture and sustainable practices and its growing eco- tourism. Eco-tourism in Khonoma empowers local entrepreneurs by creating market access for handicrafts, traditional food, and guided tours, leading to increased income and job opportunities. This study attempts to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by entrepreneurs in Khonoma Village. The primary objective is to examine the specific problems faced by local entrepreneurs, which include limited access to financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient market exposure. Additionally, the study also analyzes the potential for strengthening entrepreneurial activities through local government schemes such as the Chief Minister's Microfinance initiative (CMMFI) etc, designed to support small businesses. By assessing the efficiency of these initiatives, the research aims to fill the research gaps and recommend strategies to overcome the problems with the opportunities with regards to the entrepreneurial landscape in Khonoma Village.

**Keywords:** *Khonoma, Green village, Local entrepreneurs, Local government*

## Discourse

The research was mainly based on the 2Ps i.e. Problems and Prospects of local entrepreneurship. They gave a detailed description on the interesting discoveries made in Khonoma, being Asia's First Green Village. The study aims to explore the problems faced by entrepreneurs in Khonoma and assess how local government initiatives can be better leveraged. Entrepreneurs in Khonoma Village face challenges such as access to finance, inadequate infrastructure, and cultural barriers that hinder business growth.

### *Objectives of the study*

- To examine the problems faced by the entrepreneurs in Khonoma Village.
- To analyse the opportunities for entrepreneurs in Khonoma village through local government schemes.

### *Research Methodology*

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- Simple Random Sampling method
- Descriptive method applied
- Sample size: 40
- Scale used: Likert Scale
- Software used: SPSS

#### *Hypothesis*

- Ho- There is no correlation among the problems faced by the entrepreneurs in Khonoma Village.
- H1- There is a correlation among the problems faced by the entrepreneurs in Khonoma village.

The study found that there is a correlation among the problems faced by the entrepreneurs in Khonoma village. The Data Analysis shows that the Correlation is significant at 0.01 levels. Therefore, the Null Hypothesis is rejected and the alternative Hypothesis is accepted.

*Some of the schemes listed as suggestions for the problems are:*


- MUDRA Scheme
- Prime Minister's Sadak Yojana
- National Rural Livelihood Mission
- Entrepreneurship Development Programmes
- Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- Skill India Mission

### **3. Naga Women's participation in local government: An Analysis**

- Dr. J. Nukshimenla Lemtur, Assistant Professor, ICFAI University, Sovima

#### **Abstract**

Women's participation in decision-making is essential for women's interests to be assimilated into governance. It is crucial in deepening democracy and advance gender equality especially in local governments as it is an essential step towards creating gender equal opportunities and gender sensitive policies. Participation in decision-making plays an important role in empowerment of women. The presence of women in local governments serves as an encouragement for other women to enter diverse professions and leads to breaking stereotypes of women's roles in society and public space.

  
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India is among the foremost countries for women's participation in local governments, with over 1.55 million women shaping local decision-making. India 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act which empowered local self-governments and reserved one-third of electoral seats in these bodies for women, has elevated women's participation in rural governance. Women leaders are a critical link between local governance, sustainable development, and gender equality. However, across the country, their contributions to local governance remain underrated.

Contrary to the general belief, the Naga society is deeply patriarchal, Naga women participation at the local level is quite minimal comparing to the women in the mainland India. However with the passing of the 33% reservation of seats in women in Urban Local Bodies took a different turn. Hence, this paper will assess the evolution of the representation of women in India in general and Nagaland in particular. And also will be looking at the various challenges experienced by the women in Nagaland.

For this paper, I will be using qualitative research by collecting and analyzing data to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences of the Naga women participation in Local government; and also to gather in-depth insights into the problems and experiences of the Naga women.

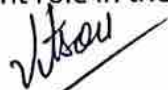
**Key words:** *Governance, Local Government, Democracy, Reservation*

#### **4. Role of Non-Governmental Organizations**

- Dr. Koseno, Principal, Mt. Olive College, Kohima

#### **Abstract**

The Non-Governmental Organizations are non-profit organizations. They do not function under the control of the Government. They function as a mediator between the Government and the society. They work for a wide variety of causes which aim at bringing about change in the life of the people. They take up those issues which cannot reach the Government in power and when some issues are looked down upon by the Government. They try to identify and rectify the social problems. They ensure that the Government is responsive in solving the issues of the people, thereby making the Government more accountable. They support the Government by providing suggestions related to policy-making. They evaluate and monitor the Government policies and activities, which encourage active participation of the people in the development process. They create awareness thereby they become the voice of the poor and the needy. They are free from bias and social evils. They act as social mediators in order to bring positive change in the social and behavioral attitudes prevailing in the society. They work towards ideological goals rather than profit-making. They are successful in bringing the attention of the Government to issues such as participation, equity, illiteracy, poverty and so on. It cannot be denied that NGOs are playing significant role in the management of

  
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local affairs, as agents of change by resolving various issues that confront the society. To achieve their goals, it needs active participation of the individuals, organizations and the Government.

**Keywords:** *Non-Governmental Organization, Non-profit, Government, Change, Mediator, Equity*

## **Discourse**

The research focused on the classification of NGOs, major roles, challenges and roles of NGOs/Civil Societies in Nagaland. NGOs are private organisations which are independent of any Government Administration as long as they are not for profit, criminal group or a political party. They work for a variety of causes in order to bring about positive change and development in the society.

### ***Classification of NGOs***

NGOs are classified on the basis of their work and according to the level of which they operate.

#### ***Based on their work-***

- Service Oriented NGOs
- Charity Oriented NGOs
- Empowerment Oriented NGOs
- Participation Oriented NGOs

#### ***Based on the level of operation***

- Community Based Organisations
- City Level Organisations
- National level Organisations
- The International Level Organisations

### ***The major roles include:***

Their role as a watchdog, role in community development, role in advocacy, role in mediation, role in capacity building, promote democracy and inclusion, improve government's performance.

The main challenges of the NGOs can be identified as follows: problem of funding, problem of regulation and legal, problem of competition and coordination, problem of accreditation, problem of solely depending on the government funds.

  
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The role of NGOs or Civil Societies like Naga Hoho, Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC), Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights, Naga Mothers Association (NMMA), Naga Students Federation (NSF) and Youth Net were discussed.

**Day-02**

**Dated- 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

### **TECHNICAL SESSION-III**

**Session Moderator - Ms. Watimongla Imchen, HoD, Department of English, Modern College, Piphema**

#### **1. Environment and Local Participation: A Case Study of Sendenyu Community Biodiversity Conservation**

- Mr. Shahilo, Mr. Anthony & Mr. John, Assistant Professors, Department of Political Science, Modern College Piphema

#### **Abstract**

A holistic approach to biodiversity management and conservation is closely linked to the communities inhabiting the intending area and its contiguous zones. A state like Nagaland, an integral part of the Indian union, inhabited by various tribes and known for warfare and hunting skills is an aspect of researchers and scholars' interest. The purpose of this study is to investigate into the role and part played by the local inhabitants under the village council and Biodiversity Board, relating with the four contiguous villages that constitutes Sendenyu Community Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation area. Both primary and secondary sources of data collection were gathered. The study result highlighted the benefits in the form of greater awareness and participation from the community members along with the regeneration of both indigenous flora and fauna. Though no significant decrease in the practise of conservation has been witnessed in the neighbouring villages yet an increased awareness and appreciation about community conservation is

  
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witnessed. The findings reveal external challenges outweighing internal challenges in the effective implementation of community biodiversity conservation.

**Keywords:** *Community, Village Council, Contiguous Zones, Conservation, Biodiversity.*


## **Discourse**

Nagaland, known for its rich biodiversity, has long been a hub of unique flora and fauna. Among its remarkable initiatives is the Sendenyu Community Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation (SCBWC), a pioneering effort by the Rengma Naga Tribe in Tseminyu District. Established in 2001, this initiative arose from a collective realization of the urgent need to protect the region's deteriorating natural resources. The villagers, under the guidance of the Sendenyu Village Council, donated approximately 19 square kilometers of their lands to create a protected area. Laws were enacted to formalize this effort, including the Sendenyu Village Council Act for Nature Conservation, which banned hunting and introduced other conservation measures.

The primary objective of this initiative was to restore the region's ecological balance by protecting its biodiversity while ensuring the sustainable livelihoods of its inhabitants. Community involvement became the cornerstone of this effort, with every resident participating in decision-making processes during public meetings. This sense of ownership fostered strong community bonds and dedication to the cause. Traditional practices such as slash-and-burn agriculture, which had significantly impacted the environment, were replaced by more sustainable alternatives like horticulture and wet terrace cultivation.

Over the years, the conservation efforts have borne significant results. The once-depleted forests of Sendenyu now host a thriving variety of wildlife, including barking deer, wild boars, hog badgers, macaques, and many bird species. The forest cover has improved, enhancing soil fertility, moisture retention, and reducing erosion. Additionally, ongoing documentation of the region's biodiversity aims to catalog its rich array of medicinal plants, wild fruits, and commercially valuable timber species.

Despite its success, the initiative faces several challenges. Human-wildlife conflicts remain a persistent issue, as wild animals frequently damage crops, exacerbating the economic difficulties faced by farmers. The lack of adequate compensation for such losses adds to their struggles. Poaching, though reduced, has not been completely eradicated. Furthermore, the limited size of the conservation area has resulted in wildlife venturing into cultivated lands, leading to further conflicts. Neighboring villages, often unaware or unsupportive of the conservation efforts, pose another hurdle. Moreover, government support, both technical and financial, has been minimal, making it difficult for the community to scale its efforts.

  
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In recognition of its achievements, the SCBWC has received several awards, including the Balipara Foundation Award (2016) and the Governor's Gold Medal (2017). These accolades highlight the community's dedication and the effectiveness of grassroots conservation initiatives.

To address the existing challenges, the community recommends greater awareness campaigns to engage neighboring villages, increased government intervention for technical and financial support, and alternative livelihood opportunities for affected farmers. Promoting eco-tourism and scientific documentation of the area's biodiversity are also crucial steps toward long-term sustainability. Furthermore, improved governance structures and collaborative efforts with NGOs, scientists, and government agencies can enhance the conservation initiative's impact.


The Sendenyu Community Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation is a shining example of how local communities can lead effective conservation efforts. By restoring biodiversity and fostering sustainable practices, it has not only enriched the environment but also strengthened the social fabric of the region. However, to ensure its longevity and broader replication, stronger institutional support and collaboration are essential. This initiative underscores the power of community-driven conservation and serves as an inspiration for similar endeavors across Nagaland and beyond.

## **2. Role of Village Council in the preservation of environment with special reference to Kiruphema Village**

- Mr. Kevingukho Kehie, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Modern College, Piphema

### **Abstract**

Every recognized village in Nagaland has a village council. According to the government of Nagaland, an area to be recognized as a village shall fulfill the following conditions such, the land in the area belong to the population of that area or given to them by the government of Nagaland or is given to them by the lawful owner of the land. The village is established according to the usage and customary practice of the population of the area. The village council shall consist of members, chosen by villagers in accordance with the prevailing customary practices and usages, the same being approved by the state government, provided that hereditary village Chiefs, GBs and Anghs shall be ex-officio members of such council and shall have voting right. Every village council, unless otherwise dissolved by the state government, shall continue for five years from the date of appointment, provided that the said period may be extended by the state government by a notification in the Gazette for a period not exceeding one year at a time. The village council will choose a

  
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member as Chairman of the council. During the absence of the Chairman a member of the village council nominated by the Chairman shall act as Chairman.

The Village Council shall have the following powers and duties such as, to formulate Village development schemes, to supervise proper maintenance of water supply, roads, forest, sanitation, education and other welfare activities, to help various government agencies in carrying out development works in the village, to report outbreak of epidemics to the nearest administrative officer or medical officer. The Village council shall be auxiliary to the administration and shall have full powers to deal with internal administration of the village. No transfer of immovable property shall be affected without the consent of the village council and written record of this shall be maintained by the Village Council.

### **Discourse**

The village council system in Nagaland plays a vital role in governance and resource management at the grassroots level. One such example is the Kiruphema village in the western Angami region, noted for its rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. However, over time, practices like *jhum* cultivation, hunting, and industrial logging led to significant ecological damage. This report critically examines the Kiruphema General Council's (KGC) efforts to address environmental challenges and their outcomes.

Kiruphema consists of three settlements operating under the Kiruphema General Council (KGC), which oversees environmental preservation and governance. The report is based on oral histories, open-ended interviews with village elders, and secondary sources like local council documents and academic studies. Comparative insights are drawn from other village-led conservation efforts, such as Khonoma's Tragopan Sanctuary and the Sendenyu Community Biodiversity Reserve.

Historically, the Kiruphema community depended on hunting and shifting cultivation for subsistence. The unregulated exploitation of resources during the 1980s and 1990s, driven by a growing demand for firewood and timber, caused severe deforestation and loss of wildlife. Iconic species like the Indian bison and Asiatic black bear were driven to local extinction. Additionally, destructive fishing practices and quarrying exacerbated habitat destruction.

The KGC, influenced by broader regional movements like the Angami Youth Organization (AYO) conservation campaigns has implemented measures to mitigate these effects. These initiatives were critical in addressing the ecological degradation caused by unsustainable practices.

### **Key Measures for Environmental Protection**

The KGC enacted several regulations to safeguard Kiruphema's environment:

  
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- . Hunting and Poaching Bans and Ban on Forest Fire: Strict seasonal restrictions on hunting were imposed. Offenders faced steep fines, and their firearms were confiscated. The KGC also strictly prohibited starting of forest fires as the village aimed at protecting biodiversity and preventing habitat destruction.
- Regulations on Logging and Quarrying: Commercial-scale logging and illegal stone quarrying were banned, although exceptions were made for domestic firewood use. Kiruphema, just like its neighbouring village Jotsoma, is one of the highest suppliers of stone within the state for various important purposes, but certain regulations were in setting up stone quarries within the village.
- Fishing Restrictions: Harmful methods using chemicals or explosives were prohibited
- Afforestation Projects and Waste Management: Tree plantation drives in collaboration with the state forest department restored degraded lands. To manage waste within the village, construction of incinerators for non-biodegradable waste and promotion of recycling practices were also set up.

These measures reflect a shift from traditional practices to a more structured approach to conservation. The Kiruphema initiative aligns with successful efforts like Khonoma's Tragopan Sanctuary, which transformed hunting grounds into protected areas, and Sendenyu's biodiversity reserve, which prioritized sustainable development alongside conservation. However, while these examples illustrate community-driven success, challenges remain in scaling such initiatives across the region.

While the KGC has achieved commendable progress, gaps persist in integrating environmental policies with broader developmental objectives like infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Future research could compare village councils across Nagaland and the Northeast to identify best practices for balancing conservation and development.

The KGC's efforts demonstrate the transformative potential of local governance in environmental preservation. By enacting comprehensive laws and engaging the community, Kiruphema has witnessed a revival of its wildlife and forests. The success of such initiatives offers a valuable blueprint for other tribal and rural communities across the Northeast and beyond. Integrating these lessons into regional and national frameworks could significantly advance sustainable development goals.

### 3. Empowering Women through Self-Help Group: A Study in Sechü Zubza

Dr. Vitsou, Principal, Modern College Piphema

&

Dr. Khobu Tsolo, Assistant Professor, Baptist College, Sechü Campus



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## Abstract


Self Help Group in recent times has become a massive movement when we talk about women's empowerment in India. SHGs with its aim to empower and eradicate poverty among women have started to leave its footprint both in rural and urban areas. Women in Sechü Zubza have been taken as the area for the study and like the rest of the Indian women, women in Sechü Zubza has started to join and form the Self Help Group not only to empower themselves but also has shown sign of improving their livelihood. As most of the women's development activities aims for the development and eradication of poverty, this paper also tries to understand the various reasons and impact of women in Sechü Zubza why they join the SHGs and their various activities. The present study attempts to analyse the empowerment of women through Self Help Group both in economic and social. Women who have joined SHGs not only have improved their economic growth but have been empowered both economically and socially. This paper thus aims to understand the impact of SHGs among women in decision making, meeting financial needs leading to women empowerment.

## Discourse

The concept of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has revolutionized socio-economic empowerment, especially for women in rural areas. Originating in Bangladesh in 1976 by Professor Muhammad Yunus, this movement was introduced in India in 1983 and has since become a pivotal mechanism for grassroots development. The SHG model involves small groups of 12-25 individuals, predominantly women, who pool savings and engage in credit-linked activities to enhance their socio-economic status.

In Sechü Zubza, SHGs primarily consist of women aged 18-60. These groups foster collective financial contributions and provide loans for productive purposes like agriculture, small businesses, and emergency needs. Additionally, they serve as a conduit for accessing government pro-poor programs, promoting savings, and developing leadership skills among members. The principle of thrift, credit, and mutual self-help underpins the SHG framework, emphasizing financial discipline and community collaboration.

The study on SHGs in Sechü Zubza aimed to assess their impact on women's empowerment and economic development. Utilizing both primary data (interviews and questionnaires) and secondary sources (records, government documents, and literature), the research examined key demographic and economic patterns. Most members were from nuclear families, reflecting a shift from joint family systems, and the majority was between 30-50 years old. Findings revealed that 90% of women joined SHGs to avail themselves of loan facilities, primarily for productive purposes. Members demonstrated prompt repayment behavior, indicating effective financial management within these groups.

  
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Economic benefits for members were significant. After joining SHGs, participants reported increased income levels, higher savings, and enhanced spending capacity. This trend underscores the potential of SHGs to alleviate poverty and improve living standards. Socially, members gained more influence in family and community decision-making. Women reported greater autonomy in matters such as children's education, household investments, and participation in social activities, reflecting a rise in their societal standing.

The activities of SHGs in Sechü Zubza extend beyond financial transactions. They include farming, gardening, floriculture, mushroom cultivation, and skill-based training facilitated by NGOs and government agencies. These initiatives not only provide income-generating opportunities but also foster a sense of community and mutual support.

Family support played a crucial role in the success of SHGs. Members received encouragement for attending meetings, repaying loans, and participating in external workshops, which contributed to the overall effectiveness of the groups.

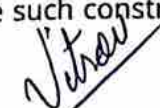
The study concluded that SHGs in Sechü Zubza have significantly contributed to women's empowerment. Members have achieved economic stability, social recognition, and a dignified position in their families and communities. However, despite these advancements, there remains a need for broader empowerment in social, cultural, economic, political, and legal domains to sustain and amplify these gains. The SHG movement, though progressing in the right direction, requires continuous support and expansion to achieve its full potential in transforming rural lives.

#### **4. Constraints faced and suggestions offered by women Self-Help Groups of Mao Areas of Senapati District, Manipur in carrying out the SHG activities.**

- Dr. Daili Kholia, Assistant Professor, Dept. Of Education, Modern College Piphema

#### **Abstract**

Although women Self Help Group (SHG) act as a catalyst in mobilizing poor women to attain socio and economic empowerment, it has been observed that women Self Help Group are facing various challenges which act as a barrier for many SHG to function effectively. In this context, it is important to study the nature of constraints and challenges facing by the Self Help Group and suggest suitable measure to overcome. Such, study to identify the nature and complexities of problems facing by the Self Help Group would help in strategizing policy measures for Self Help Group. Therefore, in this study attempt has been made to identify constraints faced by the Self Help Group and suggest suitable measures to overcome such constraints. The

  
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study was conducted to two villages of Raunamai and Punanamai villages in Senapati district of Manipur to study the constraints faced by the self-help group members for effective functioning of self-help groups. With the help of simple random sampling technique, 104 respondents were selected as sample for the study. For collection of data, a structured interview schedule was followed, which all data and require information is collected. The findings of the study revealed that the major constraints faced by the women self-help groups were playing dual role as a housewife and a business women, lack of technical help, insufficient training programme, lack of knowledge, lack of information sources, lack of marketing facilities and inadequate loan amount, delay in sanctioning loans, family problem. In order to solve these problems, training programmes should be organised frequently and loans should be provided by the banks at low rate of interest and better market linkage should be given in order to sell their produce.


**Keywords:** *Self-Help Group, Constraint, Women, Mao Manipur*

## **Discourse**

In the introduction, it was clearly stated that although Self-Help Groups acted as driving agents in mobilizing poor women to have social mobility and attain economic independence, there were certain challenges and obstacles faced within the SHGs and for which, suitable measures are required to overcome these constraints. By identifying the root causes and nature of the complexities, it would help in strategizing the policy measures for these SHGs. This study is an attempt to look into the challenges and problems faced particularly by the SHGs that were administered by the women folk of Senapati District, Manipur.

The study was conducted in two Mao villages of Senapati District, Manipur. The Method used for this research was Simple Random Method, in the forms of questionnaires and personal interviews. With the implication of the said method, 104 respondents were selected. While secondary data were collected from various literary sources, the results of these collected informations were presented with the help of tables and percentages.

In the study that was conducted, it was identified that 84.62% of the women SHGs members lacked technical knowledge in taking up income generating activities. While 73.08% agreed that, they felt over-burdened juggling dual responsibilities for both domestic work and finding income sources. Lack of training programmes due to insufficient staff strength with a result of 88.47% was also identified as a hindrance to the smooth functioning of the SHGs; which in turn leads to the issue of these groups being underfunded, as it was observed that the biggest constraint faced by these women folk was the failure to get loans in time of emergency with 92.31%. Inadequate amount of loan also follows with 84.62%. Lack of marketing facilities with heavy competitions from branded factory products also stands as a challenge for the up and coming local businesses.

  
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Following up, the suggestions and measures that needed to be implemented to tackle the aforementioned issues were also presented in a tabular format; in which, the members of SHGs strongly agreed that income generating skill training and programmes should be initiated and organized with a result of 88.46%. It was also observed that adequate financing and subsidies should be provided for women beneficiaries with a positive response of 76.93%. Regular maintenance of the register and attendance of meetings held by the members should be monitored strictly (56.61%) and along with it, mandatory rotation of leadership roles among members should be implemented and practiced within the SHGs.

SHGs are critical tools for achieving women's empowerment and inclusive socio-economic development. Despite their potential, numerous barriers inhibit their functioning, ranging from technical and financial challenges to social and informational deficits. The study emphasizes the need for timely interventions in areas such as financial literacy, marketing support, and leadership development to empower the SHGs effectively.

Some recommendations for further future research were also highlighted, such as, Comparative studies on SHG performance across different regions or states in Manipur as well as investigating the role of financial institutions in promoting and assisting the existing SHGs in the state.

This study underscores the importance of addressing SHG constraints to ensure their sustainability and their contribution to women's empowerment and broader socio-economic growth.

## **5. Issues and Challenges of 33 percent Women Reservation in Urban Local Bodies: A study of Nagaland**


- Ms. Khrutalu Dozo, Research Scholar, St. Joseph University, Chumoukedima

&

Dr. Achanger, Associate Professor & HoD of Political Science, St. Joseph University, Chumoukedima

### **Abstract**

The effective participation of women in politics is crucial for promoting gender empowerment. Development is not truly complete unless it is inclusive and engages both men and women equally. Men and women are akin to two sides of the same coin; if men can occupy positions of power, why shouldn't women? The Indian Constitution, through the 74th Amendment Act of 1992, mandates the reservation of seats for women at the grassroots level. However, in Nagaland, women have historically faced challenges in being empowered or



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encouraged to participate in politics. A society cannot be expected to thrive if half of its population is overlooked. When both women and men participate equally in politics, the government becomes a more accurate reflection of society's composition. The meaningful involvement of women in political processes is essential for building and sustaining a robust, vibrant democracy. To combat gender inequality and promote women's empowerment in politics, the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, has passed Nagaland Municipal Act 2023, for the implementation of 33 percent reservation for women in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). This research study will examine the issues and challenges faced by women in Nagaland concerning the 33 percent reservation. Data will be gathered from secondary sources such as unpublished PhD thesis, book, journals, articles, and newspapers. The study aims to propose recommendations for enhancing the efficient participation of Naga women in Local Bodies. The findings will serve as valuable contributions for researchers and women's studies alike.


**Keywords:** *Naga Women, Reservation, Issues and Challenges, ULBs.*

## **Discourse**

The participation of women in politics has long been a marker of progress in achieving gender equality. Jawaharlal Nehru aptly stated, "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened." This sentiment forms the foundation of efforts to ensure women's representation in governance. The Indian Constitution, through the 74th Amendment Act of 1992, institutionalized the reservation of 33 percent of seats for women in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). While the policy has been implemented across most states in India, Nagaland remains a unique and complex case.

In Nagaland, society has traditionally been patriarchal, where gender roles are deeply entrenched, and political participation by women has been minimal. Historically, women in the state have been excluded from power-sharing and decision-making processes, a reflection of long-standing social and cultural barriers. The political landscape has largely been dominated by men, and even though women have participated in elections at various levels, their representation remains negligible. This study delves into the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing 33 percent reservation for women in ULBs in Nagaland.

The Nagaland Municipal Act of 2001, amended in 2006 to introduce reservations for women in line with the 74th Amendment, faced significant resistance. Tribal apex bodies opposed the reservations, citing conflicts with Article 371(A) of the Constitution, which protects Naga customary laws. In 2017, efforts to hold ULB elections with women's reservations led to violent protests, resulting in casualties and the eventual repeal of the Act. However, under pressure from the Supreme Court, the Nagaland government passed the Nagaland

  
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Municipal Act of 2023, paving the way for the implementation of reservations. This marked a significant step forward, but the journey has not been without its challenges.

Women's participation in Nagaland politics remains constrained by several factors. Gender stereotypes persist, portraying politics as a domain for men and confining women to domestic roles. Traditional practices often limit women's engagement in public life, reinforcing the perception that their primary responsibilities lie within the household. Educational disparities further exacerbate the issue, as many women lack access to quality education, undermining their confidence and capacity to participate effectively in politics. Additionally, societal expectations regarding work-life balance and the dual burden of professional and domestic responsibilities deter many women from pursuing leadership roles.

Despite these challenges, there have been notable milestones. Rano M. Shaiza became the first woman from Nagaland to be elected to the Lok Sabha in 1977. More recently, in 2023, Hekani Jakhalu and Salhoutuonuo Kruse became the first woman elected to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, representing a significant breakthrough in the state's political history. These achievements highlight

To address the persistent barriers, several recommendations have been proposed. Increasing the reservation for women beyond 33 percent, as seen in other states, could create more opportunities for women to enter politics. Political parties must actively support women candidates, ensuring equitable representation and promoting inclusivity. Education remains a cornerstone of empowerment, and expanding access to quality education for women can build the skills and confidence necessary for political participation. Additionally, leadership training programs and initiatives to challenge societal stereotypes are essential for encouraging women to seek and sustain roles in governance.

The implementation of women's reservation in Nagaland's ULBs is a vital step toward achieving gender equity and enhancing democracy. However, its success depends on addressing the underlying social, cultural, and structural barriers that hinder women's participation. By fostering a supportive environment, empowering women through education and training, and ensuring institutional backing, Nagaland can set a precedent for inclusive governance. As Michele Bachelet aptly said, "A better democracy is a democracy where women do not only have the right to vote but to be elected."

#### **TECHNICAL SESSION- IV**

**Session Moderator: Mr. John Besii, Assistant Professor, Modern College, Piphema**



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## 1. Dynamics of Women Entrepreneurship: A Study on Prospects and Challenges of Bodos in Bodoland Territorial Council.

- - Dr. Monalisa, Assistant Professor Department of History Devi Charan Baruah Girls' College, Jorhat, Assam

### Abstract

Entrepreneurship is a key component of economic growth, social advancement, innovation, job creation and empowerment. Women entrepreneurs are essential to India's economic growth and advancement of gender equality. With a focus on the Bodo people, this study examines the dynamics of women entrepreneurs in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of Assam. In this area, women entrepreneurs play a crucial role in promoting community development, job creation, and economic growth. They do, however, confront a number of challenges, such as lack of institutional support, financial constraints, skill shortages, and socio-cultural hurdles. Market counterfeiting and long-standing gender stereotypes further threaten traditional industries like handloom weaving, which are ingrained in the Bodo's culture.

The study highlights the necessity of focused approaches to deal with these issues. Implementing gender-inclusive policies to address biases, initiating skill-development programs to boost entrepreneurial confidence, simplifying financial access through specialized schemes, and enhancing social networks through community and ethnicity-based organisations' are some of the main recommendations. Promoting entrepreneurship in the area will boost economic growth, raise family incomes, and increase the wealth of the country. However, the long-term success of women entrepreneurs will depend on ensuring competitiveness in international markets through targeted policies and initiatives.

**Keywords-**Women Entrepreneurship, Bodo Community, Gender-Inclusive Policies, Rural Development, Skill Development.

### Discourse

The study is focused on women entrepreneurship in Bodoland Territorial Council, its prospects and challenges. Bodo women play an active role in agriculture, traditional crafts and other related professions. They are talented in a wide range of crafts, especially in more traditional field like weaving, which greatly contribute to the economic well-being of the community. However, their businesses are frequently ignored and restricted in possibilities.



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### *Key issues*

- Underestimation of women-owned businesses and misrepresentation of women's contributions.
- Lack of entrepreneurial development and adequate acknowledgement.

### *Objectives of the Study*

- To investigate socio-economic constraints for Bodo women entrepreneurs.
- To examine support systems and opportunities available.
- To explore ways to empower Bodo women through entrepreneurship.

### *Prospects*

- Traditional finance
- Community networks
- Ethnicity based social organizations
- Market and social ties in entrepreneurship.
- Cooperatives and institutional support
- Digital platforms in entrepreneurship

### *Challenges encountered by women entrepreneurs*

- Socio-cultural barriers
- Financial limitations
- Education and skill gaps
- Balancing work and family
- Inadequate networking and mentorship
- Challenges in handloom industry
- Preserving handmade goods and traditional practices
- Challenges in preserving rural entrepreneurship
- Government policies and technological factors

### *To empower the entrepreneurs, targeted interventions were suggested:*

- Gender-inclusive policies
- Skill development programs
- Simplified financial access
- Stronger social networks

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## **2. Intersection of Identity and Public Space: Understanding Narratives of 'Body' from the Urban Spaces.**

- Dr. Sikha Das, Assistant Professor, Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru

### **Abstract**

#### **Discourse**


The research is focused on the collected narratives of various Bodies in public and urban space, exploring incidents, contexts and perspectives. Some are new information; some are critical reflections on harassment, strategies and negotiations. Body in an urban space can be seen in different ways, it can be rich, poor, labourers, corporate workers, manual scavengers, auto drivers, vendors, bus drivers, women, men, children, bodies with religious symbols, disabled, old, young, mad, homeless, migrant, traffic police, beggars, transgender, etc. The human body performs in an urban public space according to the space provided to them. This performance has power and subordination associated with it. The bodies claim, to reclaim different urban public spaces through identities, strategies and negotiations.

## **3. Local Governance and Customary Laws in Nagaland: A Historical Perspective with Special Reference to Ao Nagas of Nagaland.**

- Mr. Bendangwabang, Research Scholar, Nagaland University

### **Abstract**

Traditionally, the Nagas, like many indigenous communities, followed customary laws passed down through generations, governing the social, legal, and political aspects of daily life. Ordinarily, customary laws are derived from oral traditions passed down from generation to generation. In the past, however, customs were even brought from one location to another by conquerors, either from superior communities to inferior communities or both. Without any doubt, the British colonial administration's intervention introduced new administrative systems, yet allowed the Nagas significant autonomy to practice customary laws, creating a dual governance system.

  
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Therefore, this study will examine the historical background of the traditional societies and ancient origins and the influence of the colonial era. The study will highlight the hierarchical organization and leadership roles within the Ao Naga village council. It will also examine the role of the village council in governance, law enforcement and administration and its role in conflict resolution and maintaining social harmony. By contextualizing Naga governance within the broader framework of indigenous legal systems, this study contributes to the understanding of customary law's adaptability and its socio-political relevance. It also underscores the importance of indigenous self-governance for preserving cultural heritage, community integrity, and social harmony. Besides, the insights gained from this historical study of customary laws provide valuable perspectives for modern governance, especially in regions where indigenous practices coexist with state legal systems.

**Keywords:** Customary Laws, Nagaland, Ao, Village Council, and Governance System.

## Discourse

Nagaland became the 16<sup>th</sup> state of India in 1963, bordered by Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Myanmar. The Indian Constitution sanctioned a unique governance system under Article 371(A).

### Objectives

- Examine the governance structure of Ao Nagas.
- Understand the role of customary laws in resolving disputes.
- Analyse how these systems adapt to modern governance.


### Historical Backgrounds

#### Pre-Colonial Period:

- Independent villages with self-governance.
- Minimal inter-village interaction.

#### Colonial Period

- British control established by 1892.
- Suppression of headhunting and introduction of infrastructure

  
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The customary laws are based on oral traditions passed through generations and each village has its own laws, even within the same tribe. Putu Menden, the village council of the Ao's carries out the legislative, executive, and judicial functions. The three tiers of Putu Menden are Ongtsungdong (Head tier with Ongerand Tonglu), Tazung Menden (Administrative tier led by Tazungtiba) and Tekong Menden (Support tier managing revenue and assisting governance). Under this system of governance disputes are resolved through community discussions and majority votes decide the outcome. These customary laws are recognised under Article 371(A) and there is a need for policies to sustain indigenous systems.

### **Valedictory Session**

In the valedictory session chaired by Miss Mongsenchila, Asst Professor, Department of History, a detailed seminar report was given by Miss Vikeduonuo Kire, Asst Professor, Department of Political Science. Dr Vitsou Yano in her concluding remark heartily congratulated the paper presenters and other participants. She expressed her gratitude to the organisers and applauded them for incorporating hybrid mode of presentation during the seminar. Miss Neilhoukhonuo Nipu, HoD, Department of History, expressed vote of thanks which was followed by singing of the college anthem.

A total of 16 Abstracts was received where 13 papers were presented by 20 presenters out of which 9 papers were presented offline and 4 papers were presented online. The presenters comprised of both academicians and scholars. The seminar recorded a total registration of 106 participants.

The seminar aims to create awareness with regard to the role of local self government for advancing human rights in improving life, public health, sanitation, education, etc ensuring equality for all citizens from the grass-root level through local self government. Besides, it seeks to analyse the role played by the local self government on political, economic, social and other themes like women empowerment, environmental issues, human rights etc.

**Rapporteurs:**

**Mr. Keneingulie**



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**Ms. Watimongla Imchen**

**Ms. Cilule Ndang**

**Ms. Vikeduonuo Kire**

**Ms. Kawe Kreo**



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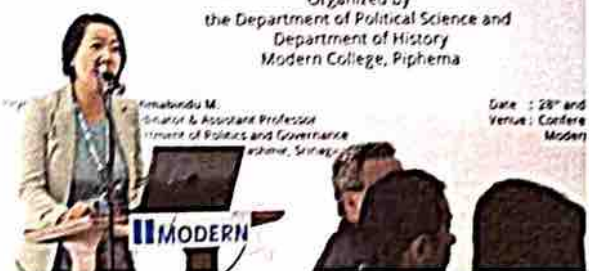


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**NATIONAL SEMINAR**

on  
Local Self Government in North-East India:  
Patterns and Dynamics

Organized by  
the Department of Political Science and  
Department of History  
Modern College, Piphema



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Date : 28<sup>th</sup> and  
Venue : Conference  
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