EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP
LADY KEANE COLLEGE
SHILLONG
(DATE: 10:05:2024)

A REPORT

AN EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP TO MAWKYNREW BLOCK

OBJECTIVE: *Understanding the differences in the usage of English language and the development of communication skills in English language in urban and rural schools.*

     Introduction: The use of the English language in urban and rural areas of the Khasi Hills in Meghalaya reflects the socio-cultural and educational dynamics of this region. Meghalaya, known for its diverse linguistic heritage and strong tribal identity, places importance on English as an official language and medium of education. However, there are noticeable differences in its usage between urban and rural areas of the Khasi Hills.

     The Education Department of Lady Keane College, Shillong, organized an educational field trip to Mawkynrew Block. Fifty-seven sixth-semester students participated in this initiative, engaging in interactions and evaluations focused on the students' usage of the English language. The study included students from Classes Six to Eight at Holy Cross Secondary School in Mawkynrew Village and Presbyterian Secondary School in Umtong Village. These schools were selected as sample sites to assess the English language abilities and skills of rural students, providing a comparison with their urban counterparts in the same grade levels.

     GENERAL OBSERBATIONS

1. Proficiency and Exposure

1) **Urban Areas**: In urban centers like Shillong, English proficiency is generally higher. Exposure to English is widespread due to better access to quality education, media, and communication platforms. Urban residents often use English in formal and informal settings, including schools, workplaces, and social interactions.

2) **Rural Areas**: In rural parts of the Khasi Hills, English proficiency tends to be lower. This is mainly due to limited access to quality English-medium education and fewer opportunities to interact in English. Khasi, the local language, dominates everyday communication in rural settings.

2. Educational System

1) **Urban Areas**: Urban schools, especially private institutions, emphasize English as the primary medium of instruction. Students in urban schools are more likely to be fluent in English, given the focus on developing reading, writing, and speaking skills.
2) **Rural Areas**: Rural schools often face challenges such as a shortage of trained English teachers and lack of resources like libraries and modern teaching aids. While English is taught, it might not be the primary medium, and the quality of instruction can vary significantly.

3. Usage in Communication

1) **Urban Areas**: English is frequently used in official communications, public speeches, and professional environments in urban areas. It also serves as a bridge language among people from diverse linguistic backgrounds.
2) **Rural Areas**: In rural areas, Khasi remains the dominant language of communication. English is typically reserved for official or formal contexts, such as government-related matters or school settings.

4. Influence of Media and Technology

1) **Urban Areas**: Urban dwellers have greater access to English-language media, such as newspapers, television channels, and online platforms. This enhances their exposure to English vocabulary and usage patterns.
2) **Rural Areas**: Rural residents often rely more on local-language media. While smartphones and internet penetration are increasing, access to English-language content is still limited compared to urban areas.

5. Cultural and Social Perception

1) **Urban Areas**: In cities like Shillong, English is often associated with modernity and professional success. Urban residents may use English to display their educational and social status.
2) **Rural Areas**: In rural areas, Khasi cultural identity is stronger, and English is not as closely tied to social prestige. While valued for educational and official purposes, it does not dominate social or cultural interactions.

6. Code-Switching Practices

1) **Urban Areas**: Urban speakers frequently switch between English and Khasi, blending the two languages fluidly in conversations. This reflects their higher comfort with English.
2) **Rural Areas**: In rural communities, code-switching occurs less frequently, as most interactions are conducted primarily in Khasi, with English used sparingly.

Conclusion

The differences in English usage between urban and rural areas of the Khasi Hills are shaped by disparities in education, access to resources, and cultural priorities. While urban areas exhibit higher English proficiency and usage due to better opportunities and exposure, rural areas maintain a stronger reliance on Khasi, with English playing a more supplementary role. Bridging these gaps requires investment in rural education, infrastructure, and teacher training to ensure equitable language development.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED

Sl No	Voucher No	Category	Description	Amount	Total Amount
1	1	Vehicle Rental	Rental Fees for Two buses	Rs 8000/- x 2	Rs. 16,000/-

Total Transport cost: Rs. 16,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Thousand) only.

(HOD)

Education Department
Lady Keane College
Shillong.

Students Participated"
1. Phidasuksha Kharkongor
2. Aitihun Kharkongor
3. Zenniefer Marbaniang
4. Daiakershisha Kharsyad
5. Artibariskhem Marwein
6. Bidanchi A Marak
7. Priyanka M Marak
8. Iadahun Khonglam
9. Susmita Hajong
10. Ruthi Ramdinmawii
11. Emika Sumer
12. Daphinosha Jyrwa
13. Chesalon M Marak
14. H Rinlan
15. Balarisa Kharir
16. Yadasuk Passah
17. Mayanglambam Asha Devi
18. Minam Tayeng
19. Brahmacharimayum Karishma Devi
20. Artimon Myrthong
21. Artilin Lyngkhoi
22. Sylvia Rani
23. Wandaphisha Kharkrang
24. Balahun Kurbah
25. Bandarishisha Pathaw
26. Syntiew Khongiong
27. Basilissa Jacqueline Shadap
28. Ackmesilda P Marak
29. Aifulness Lyngkhoi
30. Naphibanpyntngen Kynshikhar
31. Darihun Nongsiej
32. Mutum Dincy Devi
33. Lasharailang Chyne
34. Nabaaiti Khonglam
35. Labianghun Khongwir
36. Traceable Langstang
37. Judica Sun
38. Aiom Ksiar Marbaniang
39. Lasiewdor J Myrthong
40. Marisha Sten
41. Alizia Thangkhiew
42. Sabanty Khongwet
43. Shilpa Rabha
44. Hc Ngosua
45. Phibashisha Nongkhlaw
46. Ianosha Myrthong

47. Daphishisha Mary Ryntathiang
48. Stefene E Laloo
49. Banasha Kurkalang
50. Barikor Nongpoh
51. Banistina Lamare
52. Anita Essai
53. Sumonhi Suchiang
54. Dayophika Pathaw
55. Nrikamle Newme
56. Moushumi Ghosh
57. Sabita Chettri

Photographs: