

## CELL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

REPORT JULY 2024-JUNE 2025

Event Attended: Empowerfest 2.0 on account of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> October 2024)

The office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with Saint Edmunds College, Shillong, organised Empowerfest 2.0 on an event in honour of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 on October 2024 in Saint Edmunds' College Auditorium. The event featured two components: a panel discussion on inclusivity in education with Shri Swapnil Temble, IAS, Director of School Education and Literacy, Smti. C. D. Lyngwa, MCS, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri Carmo Noronha, Secretary, Bethany Society and Shri Waiki Snaitang, a student with visual impairment, Saint Edmunds' College. The second component featured an intercollege debate competition on the motion, "Strengthening Inclusive Education in Meghalaya is a better government strategy than establishing Special Schools for persons with disabilities". The event also featured songs by visually impaired students of Jyoti Sroat School, Shillong and Saint Edmund's college choir.

The event was attended by the Convener of the Cell for Persons with Disabilities Associate Professor Beena J. Sawkmie of the Department of Sociology and Associate Professor Dr. Jean Dkhar HOD of the Department of Hindi along with two student debaters: Ms. Suhana Nongrum (for the motion) of the Department of Political Science and Ms. Inamesha Syiem (against the motion) of the Department of English and four fifth semester student attendees of the department of Sociology: Ms. Kritika Kalita, Ms. Kristina Bhairali, Ms. Likhia Tunia and Ms. Roshni Sharma.

The event exposed students and staff to the exceptional abilities of Persons with Disabilities, especially in debate and musical performances and highlighted the importance of nurturing students in an inclusive environmental setup in order for them to take their rightful place in society.

Photographs:



*Sawkmie*

Associate Professor Beena J. Sawkmie

Convener, Cell for Persons with Disabilities