

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP AT NONGTALANG

Conducted by UUSSC, CCB

Date: 11 – 13 March

Events of the Workshop

11 March 2011

6:30 pm Inaugural function

The meeting was chaired by Rev. H.H. Mohrmen, minister in-charge of Nongtalang Unitarian Church, who originally is from the village and now lived in Jowai, the capital of Jaintia Hills District.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Member of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly who represents the area, Mr. Lakhmen Rymbui, in the presence of more than 80 people. There were also many leaders and elders from different localities who attended the workshop. Rev. H.H Mohrmen chaired the meeting and Ms. Pretty Tongper gave a welcome speech. Mr. David Warjri the Co-ordinator of the C.C.B (Community Capacity Building) explained the concept and about the needs and importance of this workshop. Brigitte and Peri, the members of the Partner church from Urbana, (Chicago), Illinois, also briefly addressed in this workshop. Mr. Lakhmen Rymbui, the Local M.L.A of this Constituency also stressed the importance, needs and advantages of this workshop and he also urged the people to co-operate with the team.

After the inaugural function was over, the first exercise of this workshop was introduced to the village members. **Mapping** and **institutional analysis** was facilitated by Mr. Raymond Khriam. All the members of this village present were actively participated in the program and showed keen interest and enthusiastic about the first exercise. All the facilitators were busy with guiding the people how to sketch the map. The village members were divided into four groups. Two groups were given the task of sketching the map and another two groups were given to do the institutional analysis of Nongtalang Village. Some of the facilitators sat with the village elders to interview and get the idea about the history of the entire Nongtalang Village.

History of Nongtalang Village

The Village was under the War Jaintia Hills District, Amlarem Sub-Division. It is bordered to Bangladesh. The village is about 45 kilometres from Jowai, the capital of Jaintia Hills and 109 kilometres from Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya.

The village Nongtalang existed since time immemorial. Initially it was started from one small particular locality called "Phlang of another village known as Amtapoh". Some people of Phlang locality one day while hunting, they were caught in a heavy rain. So, the flat big rock where they took shelter fell down due to heavy rain which was then accompanied by an earthquake. There were about 30 to 31 men taking shelter under that rock at that time. They then decided to support the rock with bows and arrows they were carrying. But among them, there was one man named "Bir Nongpoh" a giant, who supported the flat rock during that earthquake. When he was exceedingly tired he told the rest of the people to get out of the flat rock but they disobeyed. Later on all died except Bir Nongpoh. That slab/rock was then known till today as "Shmia Laiphui (Maw Laiphew Ngut)" the rock of thirty. The villagers from Phlang gradually then came and lived in the village. At that time hunting for them was not meant for pleasure but for sacrifice in the altar of one goddess named "Lei Kpong". Soon they came to realise that this place was good enough to live in. They then seek permission from the Myrchiang clan. The Myrchiang clan gave them the land and thus this Nongtalang village came into existence. All the customs and traditions existed in the village till today was administered by the Myrchiang clan. Later they affiliated with the King of Jaintiapur which is now in Bangladesh.

Nongtalang comes from the combination of two words. (Nong- means Village and Talang is the name of the clan which first came to inhabit in the village. The Talang clan now came to be known as “Lyngdoh Talang”. Lyngdoh meant those people who are still holding and performing the traditional rituals.

They then elected the leader from the “Talang” clan who automatically became the chief of the village and looks after the general welfare of the whole village. The tradition still continued to this day.

By tradition the head or chief of the village should always be from the “Lyngdoh Talang” clan and under him there are 12 executive members representing the other different clans and form a committee known as “Durbar Manniew”, the council of the maternal uncles. Out of these, there is “Lyngdoh Korbar” who looks after the welfare of the village. He was the real head of the village. But whatever he needed to do, he has to get the recommendations from the Lyngdoh. The Lyngdoh and Lyngdoh Korbar can be elected only from the Talang clan and they enjoy this power for life.

The council also has two officers known as “Sangot” and “Meji” respectively. Sangot is like a public information officer where his duty is to provide information to the whole villagers. While the Meji is a secretary specifically meant for the Durbar Manniew.

There was another “Myntri” who is responsible for religious matters.

Apart of the Durbar Manniew, there was another General Durbar that all men in the village participated. This Durbar is like the assembly of people.

Duties of the Durbar Manniew:- All the executive members of the Durbar Manniew will share the issues/matters to their related clans and discussed their needs accordingly. The members in the Durbar Manniew must be reliable, trustworthy and have no bad images in them and also in the family as a whole. The members must have female descendants in their clan. They believe that the ones who do not have female descendants may commit mistake as they are not afraid of doing things though wrong. They also believe that if they have female descendants, anything wrong that they committed in their life time will descent in their family for life through the offspring. The Durbar was always held in the Lyngdoh’s residence. Handicaps were not allowed to be the members of the Durbar.

Duties of the General Durbar: The General Durbar took place very rarely as most of the works were mainly placed in the Durbar Manniew. The Durbar was always held in the open place called Rem-U-San. Sometimes it was held in the Lyngdoh’s residence. Here, handicaps were allowed to share their views and suggestions but cannot take any decision.

There are four main religious traditions in the village. These are :-

1. Rongkhli (Tiger Festival)
2. RongPyrtuh Festival
3. Ronglyngkan Festival
4. Rongphor Festival

Since time immemorial the village was administered by a committee consisted of an indigenous faith known as “Manniew Committee”. This committee is elected by the clan who are still belonging to the indigenous faith. Till today the village was looked after by this Committee. This administration exists in an inherited manner. Election is democratic but only through the recommendation of the Lyngdoh Talang clan.

Whenever the different Local Committees have new thoughts and suggestions for the welfare of the village, they need to bring to the Durbar Manniew for recommendation.

This history of the village was detailed by Biron Lyngdoh Talang and Enial Lyngdoh and other elders who are the residents of Nongtalang.

Session I

After the inaugural function and refreshment, the villagers started their first exercise on **Mapping and Institutional analysis**. There were four groups in this session.

The people who attended the first session of this workshop were more or less 100 in number and all the members of different localities attended this workshop. The workshop was a successful one. Some of the groups were very active and almost finished their assignment and some of the groups were running very slow but they were very keenly interested in doing those exercises. In those exercises, each group had to choose their own leader, to be the representative and to report the activities of their own group and what they had done in the workshop. When the sketch was finally done, all the leaders of each different group had to present their report. Group 1 and 4 were doing the mapping and group 2 and 3 are doing the Institutional Analysis. The leader from group 1, Mr. Heavenly War presented the report on mapping. He explained about the map that had been sketched by the Group. Miss Remedy Pohiti, leader of group 4 explained the map that had been sketched by her group. The two groups have done their level best on sketching of their maps. Mr. Mandichynnamm Tongper, leader of group 2 addressed on institutional analysis. The group tried to note down all the institutions that existed on the whole Nongtalang. And at the same time the group tried to note down all the institutions that have not been in Nongtalang. Mr. Bennyson Pohchen, leader of group 3, also tried to show the different institutions that existed in different localities. All the leaders of different groups have done their wonderful jobs either in mapping or in institutional analysis. The first session on mapping and institutional analysis was over, and the next day, the session will start with two or three exercises. The C.C.B hopes that all the village members of this whole community will participate and co-operate with the workshop for the betterment of the community as a whole.

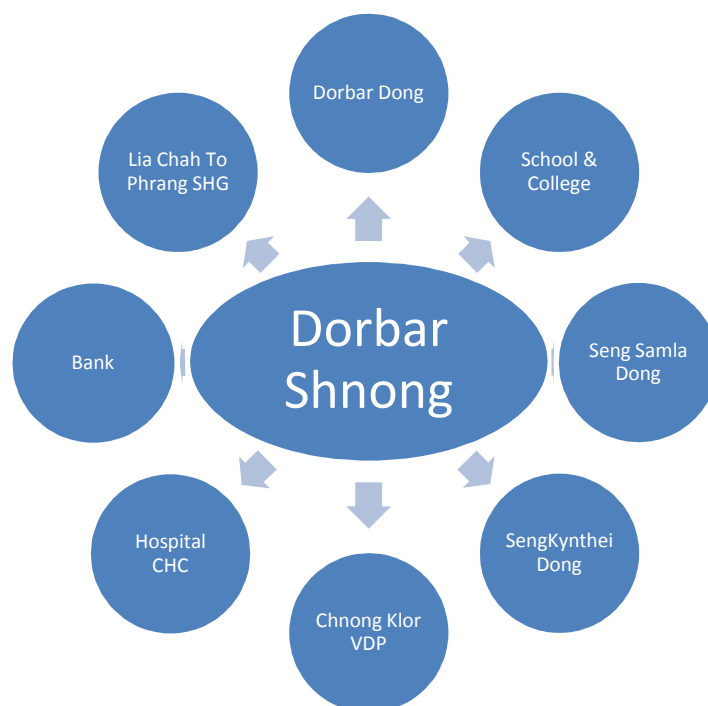
Mapping by Group – 1



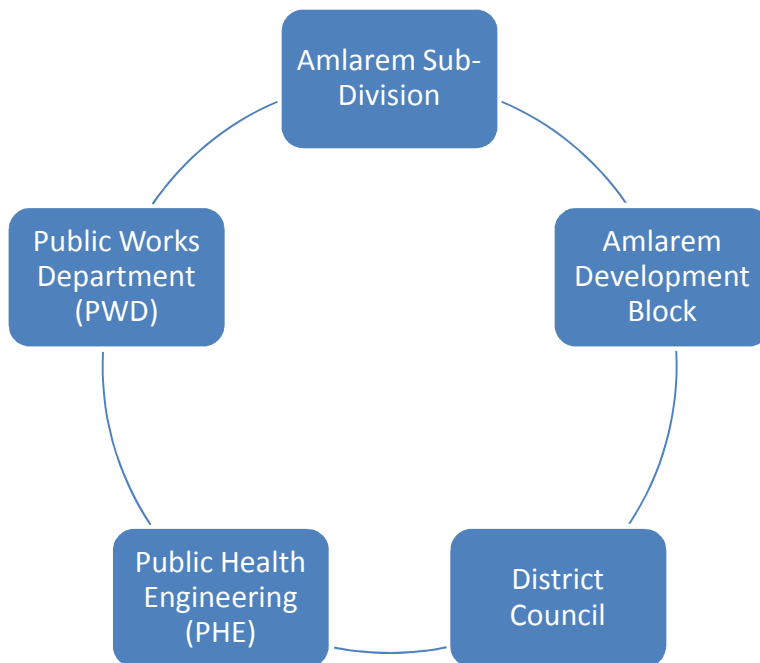
Mapping by Group – 4



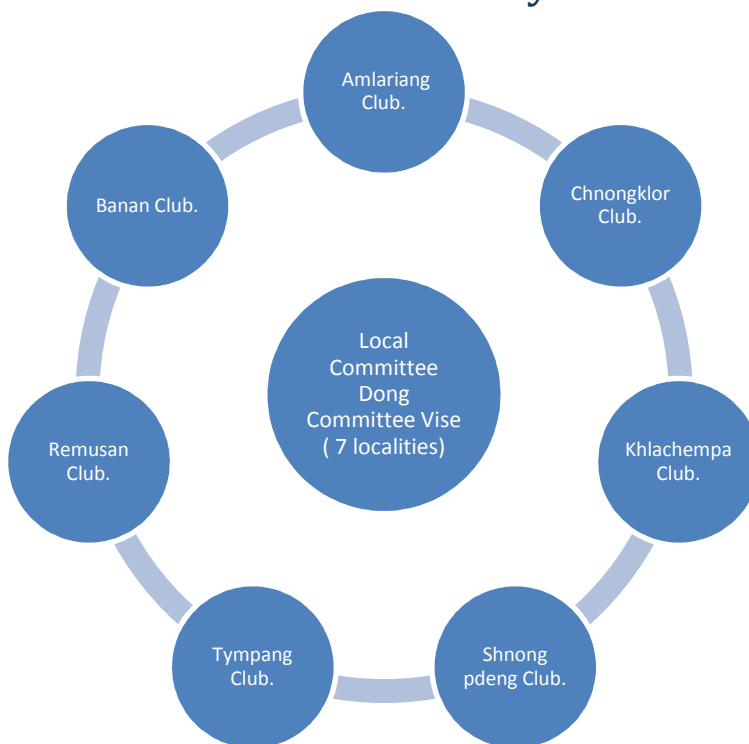
Institutional Analysis Group-2



Resources outside the Village



Group 3 Institutional Analysis



Institutions under the 7 Localities

- [B] 1. SengSamla Khlachempa Club
 2. SengSamla Shnong Klor
 3. SengSamla Tymphang Club
 4. SengSamla Amlariang Club
 5. SengSamla Pdeng Shnong

 6. SengSamla Banan Club

 7. SengSamla Remusham Club
- C. Durbar Manniew Raj Nongtalang
- D. Rea- Beliang Committee
 E. Local Committee
 F. Nongtalang College Governing Body
 G. School Managing Committee Nongtalang Government Higher Secondary School
 H. School Managing Committee St. Joseph Nongtalang
 I. School Maneging Committee Unitarian Nongtalang.
 J. School Managing Committee ChnongKlor School.
 K. School Maneging Committee Tymphang club school.
 L.School Maneging Committee Shnong pdeng club.
 M. Village Health Sanitation Committee Amlariang.
 N. Village Health Sanitation Committee Khlachempa Club.
 O. Village Health Sanitation Committee Chnongpdeng.
 P. Banan Club Vigiliance Committee.
 Q. Vigiliance Committee Khlachempa club.
 R. Vigiliance Committee Nongtalang Village.
 S. Seng Nongkhih Prhrebang Nongtalang.
 T. Seng Kynthei Khlachempa.
 U. SengKyntheiAmlariang.

Session 2

Date: 12, March 2011

The second session of the workshop was given the exercises on needs and accomplishment. All the members of each group were busy to note down all the different activities which they are needed in this village. In this second session of the exercises, they are forming three groups and all the three groups are now discussing about what are the needs that the people in this village have. The participants of three different groups are;-

From group 1, their names are:-

- 1) Shri. Arnest Mannnar, 2)Diborlang Nonglamin, 3) Domiwell Lyngdoh, 4)Mantiphrang Lyngdoh, 5) DamietwanTongper, 6) BiatNonglamin, 7) Rom Paduna, 8) ElevensingPohrmen, 9)Smt. Alldrina Nonglamin, 10) DohNonglamin, 11)Sianglamin Mannar

From group 2

- 1) Shri. Heavenly War, 2) Siang Lyngdoh, 3) Venus Tongper, 4) YoumonTariang, 5) DilonTariang, 6) Firstborn Myrshiang, 7) Smt. New Nonglamin, 8) Thymmai Pohrmen, 9) Ro Pohrmen, 10) Dekyntudiam Nonglamin

From Group 3,

- 1) Mr. Suk Bareh , 2) Winson Pohrmen, 3) Min Bareh, 4)Miss Purnima Tongper, 5)Ruphi Tongper, 6)KanonTongper, 7)Molika Pohrmen, 8)Nangroi Lyngdoh, 9) Barisha Nonglamin, 10) Happy Tongper, 11) Remedi Tongper, 12) Blessmi Lyngdoh, 13) Deitilang Lyngdoh, 14) Min Pohrmen

The leader from Group 1, Mr. Arnest Mannar had given the report on the needs that the people of Nongtalang have. He discussed the different activities in detail and this had been sketched in the chart.

Group 1

NEEDS	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Safety Sanitation Footpath	School/College Water Supply
Indoor/outdoor games	Roads
Street Light	Hospital
Orphanage	Bank
Library	Aganwadi Center
Park	
Crematorium	
Hostel (Boys & Girls)	
Creche Telephone Communication	
Market	
Night School (For Cultivator & Adult Youths)	

Group -2

Needs	Accomplishments
Footpath	C.H.C
Public Toilet	Veterinary Hospital
Indoor Games (Mini Stadium)	Higher Secondary School
Library	College
Dumping Place	Quest House(I.B)
Drainage System	Primary school
Street Light	Bank (Meghalaya Rural Bank)
Park	Playground
Farms (Poultry, Diary)	Water Supply (Reservoir)
Factory	University (Martin Luther University)
Landline Communication	Net Work Tower
Post Mortem	Internal Road
Higher Secondary(10+2)	Community Hall
Secondary School	Bathing Platform
Tourist Site	Community Ground
Internal Road	Post Office

Group -3

Needs	Accomplishments
Internal Road	Lower Primary Schools
Waiting Shed	Bank
Drainage System	Hospital
Guesthouse	Post Office
Market	Secondary School
Computer Education Centre	English School
University	College(Arts stream)
Higher Secondary School	Anganwadi Centre
Excise Department	
Children's Park	
Recreation Centre	
Indoor Stadium	
Community Hall	
Public Toilet & Health Sanitation	
Tourist Department	
Self Help Group	
Playground	
Library	
Night School	
College (Science and Commerce stream)	
Internet facility	
Creche	
Telephone exchange	
Transportation	

Session – 3**Pair wise ranking****Ranking of needs in Nongtalang**

Problem	IOS	M	L	P	SL	TC	S	HSS	IR	NS	Points	Rank
Indoor & Outdoor Stadium(IOS)	IOS	M	L	P	IOS	IOS/TC	S	HSS	IR	IOS/NS	2	8th
Market (M)	M	M	M	M	M/SL	M	S	HSS/M	M	M	7	3 rd
Library (L)	L	L	L	L	L	L	S	HSS	L	L	6	4th
Park/Tourist Spot (P)	P	P	P	P	P	P	S	HSS	P	P	5	5th
Street Light (SL)	SL	SL	SL	SL	SL	SL	S	HSS	IR	SL	2.5	7 th
Telephone Communication (TC)	TC	TC	TC	TC	TC	TC	S	HSS	IR	TC	1.5	9 th
Sanitation (S)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	9	1st
Higher.Sec.sc(Science &Commerce)Stream (HSS)	HSS	HSS	HSS	HSS	HSS	HSS	S	HSS	HSS	HSS	7.5	2 nd
Internal Road (IR)	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	S	HSS	IR	IR	4	6 th
Night School (NS)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	S	HSS	IR	NS	0.5	10th

Session -4
PROBLEM ANALYSIS ON MARKET BY GROUP – 3

CAUSES	PREVIOUS SOLUTION	INDICATOR
There is no Market	There was Amlympiang Market	Feeling of ownership about the Market
Betel and nuts etc. has to be transported to the Market	The market was far away from the village	Market Committee
	There was no Roads	Approach to the Govt/Village

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR PRIORITY MARKET AT NONGTALANG

ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	WHO	WHEN	INDICATOR
Forming the Market Committee ESTABLISH THE MARKET Opening of the Market	Place/N.O.C (No objection Certificate)	Market Committee	April – 2011 to Nov – 2011. Jan 2012	1. Raising fund and giving revenue to the village. 2.It creates employment 3.Develop the house holds economy 4.Creating a neighbourhood's feelings

PROBLEM ANALYSIS ON SANITATION BY GROUP -1

Causes	Previous solutions	Opportunities
Safe guard our daily health	No proper sanitation is used or implemented	Responsibilities of every inhabitant
Bring cleanliness to our area	Toilets are used in jungles	Sanitation is in need for every corner of the village/areas
	Wastes are roughly thrown. Social works are done once a year through different localities	Public latrine is the most essential Household sanitation

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR SANITATION

ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	WHO	WHEN	INDICATOR
1. Permission from the Headman / Land owner/Chairman/Secretar	1. Water supply. 2. Tank	V.H.S. Committee/Chairman/Secretary	2011 from May to August	Benefit to every inhabitant,

y of the concern area. 2. V.H.S. Committee (Village Health Sanitation) to implement the project. 3. Cooperation. 4. Rules. 5. Funds. 6. House hold sanitation. 7. Budget. 8. Detailed project report	3. Septic tank 4. Building 5. Foot path 6. Govt. 7. Donation			bring cleanliness and gives good health to every one
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Group- 2 Problem Analysis

Causes	Previous Solutions	Indicator
1. Lacking of Income. 2. Expenditure. 3. To have opportunity for all to study in these both streams, commonly.	Village committee has been trying to talk with the higher authorities; Education Department, for the requirement of this need.	Through the Education department and along with the help of our representative (M.L.A/M.D.C) and with retrying of the village committee for fulfilment of this need.

Group-2: Action plan for Higher Secondary School.(Science & Commerce) Stream.

Activities.	Resources Needed	Who	When	Indicators
1. Creation of Surveying Committee. 2. Creation of planning Committee. 3. Making Detail Project Report(DPR) 4. Meet the Principal of Higher Secondary School and discuss the	1. place 2. Building 3. Hardwares 4. Teachers 5. Library 6. Hostels 7. Toilet 8. Water 9. Lawn 10. Road 11. Electricity 12. Computer 13. Playground 14. Laboratory 15. Rooms	1. Government (Education Dept) 2. Representatives (MLA/MDC etc.) 3. With School Managing Committee (SMC) 4. SMC/VC (Village Committee) will meet Education Dept.)	1. 2012 to 2014 April 2011 April 2011	1. To give opportunity to those students who do not have opportunity to study outside in these both streams common

matter. 5. Meet the Education Department. 6. Meet the M.L.A. 7. Meet the M.D.C.	16. Labour from Villagers 17. Contribution from village fund	5. SMC /VC will meet MLA 6. SMC/VC will meet MDC	Between May 2011	ly.
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Special thanks to Rev. Helpme Mohrmen, the Minister Incharge of Nongtalang Unitarian Church for his valuable thoughts and time in making the workshop a successful one.

Also a special thanks to all the Unitarian church members of Nongtalang for their hardwork, dedication and commitment to make this workshop a success.

We are very grateful to our friends from the Unitarian Church, Urbana who sponsored this program. A thank you note to Brigitte and Peri, the members of the Partner church from Urbana, (Chicago), Illinois, who were able to be together during the workshop.

Special thanks to Cathy Cordes, the Executive Director of the UUPCC and also the whole UUPCC for making this plan possible. A thank you note to Dr. Richard Ford and Eileen Higgins for the initiation and the empowerment towards our facilitators to kick start the work.

Last but not the least, our sincere thanks to the following Facilitators for the tremendous job they were doing during the workshop:- Mr. David Warjri (Coordinator), Mr. Raymond Khriam, Mr. Wanlang Myllemngap, Mr. Pynkhrwlang Warjri, Mr. Lincoln Sawian, Miss Leiki Suchiang, Miss Yoodafi Nonglamin, Biron Lyngdoh Talang and Rev. Nangroi Suting.
