

Editor's Note

Busy as the month of May was with just over a month left for the even semester to end, many departments juggled hectic schedules with important events. This issue has a few reports on them.

Guest house of any institution is crucial to its image and CB Chhetri highlights this point in his article on the growth of the university's guest house over the years. Santosh Rai takes us down the green lane as he reminisces about his experiences of being part of the environmental awareness team and the growth of the luxuriant green trees as testament to the success of such a project.

Education department proudly announces its first M.Phil awardees and the editorial team wishes them a bright future.

Until the next issue, stay well!

Jasmine Yimchunger

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Technology based Entrepreneurship Development Programme (TEDP) organized by Department of Computer Applications in collaboration with Sikkim Consultancy Centre (SICON)

The Department of Computer Applications, Sikkim University in collaboration with Sikkim Consultancy Centre (SICON) successfully organized a six-week long Technology based Entrepreneurship Development Programme (TEDP) from 31st March 2017 to 24th May 2017. The programme was funded by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S. K. Gurung, Joint Registrar on 31st March 2017. The inauguration programme was also attended by Dr. S.S. Mahapatra, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Dr. B. K. Acharya, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Mr. H. K. Mandal from SICON, members of the faculty and participants.



The motive of the orientation programme was to raise awareness regarding various spheres which would play a pivotal role in shaping a person into an entrepreneur. The sessions were addressed by representative from Banking and Finance, Scientific Organizations, Academics and Local Entrepreneurs.

The following speakers were invited to share their expertise and experience Shri. P. T. Sherpa, Retd. AGM (SBI), Shri. S. R. Creshta, AD (MSME), Shri. D. Basnet, Local Entrepreneur, Dr. J. Upaddhya, Assistant Professor, Sikkim Government College, Dr. S. S. Mahapatra, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Shri. B Muthupandian, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Dr. P. K. Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Dr. S. Tamang, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Ms. M. Thakuri, Assistant Professor, SRM, Mrs. C. Khawas, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Applications and Dr. M. P. Pradhan, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Applications.



A special session on positive thinking was also organized by the representatives of Brahma Kumaris.

Shri. T. K. Kaul, Registrar Sikkim University graced the valedictory session. He conveyed the significance of the programme to the participants and motivated the participants to use the skills acquired for molding themselves into an able and successful entrepreneur.



ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME OF SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

In the spring of 2009, I joined Sikkim University. My first assignment was preparation of draft syllabus of Horticulture and Floriculture Management Department. Due to limited man power both teaching and non teaching staff used to work tirelessly as human automation. We used to assemble in the Kanchendzonga Administrative Block to report on the progress of assigned work and used to go home late evening or sometimes even at midnight. This practice of long work hour confined us in the workplace. On a fine morning, I was quickly flipping the local news papers on the receptionist's desk. When I saw an advertisement inviting a proposal to organize environment awareness programme in Sikkim, and for that financial assistance was to be provided to the selected proposals under the scheme National Environment Awareness Campaign. During that time, I was posted in the Evaluation Section of the University.

With prior permission from the University authority, I applied for the grant and our proposal was selected. After receiving the first instalment of the grant we organized an environment awareness programme on 3 July 2010 at Sawhney village, East Sikkim and the venue was Community Hall, Chuwatar. The theme of the programme was climate change. We were in contact with the members of Ajambari Sansthan, a local NGO and Mrs Meera Thapa was the president of the organization. In the programme, I introduced the resource persons from the University and addressed the occasion mentioning the objectives of the programme. Ms Kalpana Dahal Chettri, Section Officer delivered a lecture on climate change and its impact on biodiversity. She also narrated the folktale of Sikkim Himalayan Rhododendron and its significance in today's age of climate change. The participants mostly from the local villages were not aware of that folktale. Dr. Binu Sundas, Former Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology spoke about the vectors of transmissible diseases and the impact of climate change on human health. His lecture generated lots of curiosity among the participants and the programme almost became a health camp. Finally Ms. Nancy Choden Lhasungpa, former Office Assistant gave a short talk on civic sense and waste management. The programme was concluded with interaction among the participants and plantation drive of locally available tree species near the landslide prone areas and drinking water sources. The sapling of local tree species was provided by the nursery of Forest Department of the Government of Sikkim.



In the year 2011, I again submitted proposal in response to the advertisement regarding the organization of environment awareness programme in Sikkim and our proposal was accepted for the financial assistance. On 10 July 2011, we organized environment awareness programme on the theme 'biodiversity conservation' in Aho-Yangtam village of East Sikkim. This time one of the resource persons from the University Mr. Vivek Moktan, System Analyst delivered a lecture with the help of power point presentation on civic sense and waste management followed by a short documentary film based on civic sense, Mr. Nishad Subba, Assistant, System Management spoke about Biodiversity Protection Act 1998 with power point presentation followed by a short documentary film based on it. Dr. Veer Mayank, Assistant Professor, Department of Law gave a short talk on Environmental Law of India. The participants who were mostly from the villages and high school students were delighted with the involvement of Sikkim University in organizing such type of programme in their village.

During lunch break, all the participants including the resource persons were very cautious on the disposal of used paper plate and cup as there was an immense impact of power point presentation and short documentary film on civic sense and waste management. The programme concluded by the plantation of local tree species in nearby areas.



In the year 2013, I was posted to the erstwhile School of Policy Planning & Studies. I was nominated as Faculty Advisor to the University Student's Environment Club. As previous year, I submitted a proposal for financial assistance to the Environment, Forest & Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim regarding the organization of environment awareness programme for the University staff and students. Miss Swastika Gurung, former student of the Department of Microbiology was enthusiastic to have environment club in the University. On 25 May 2013, we organized awareness programme on biodiversity conservation in the Raap Jyor- Cauveri Girl's Hostel, 5th Mile and I was assigned as Faculty Advisor. Dr. Basundhara Chettri, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology delivered a lecture on Biodiversity of Sikkim and its importance for conservation. She highlighted important biological species of Sikkim that need conservation. Dr. Binu Sundas, former Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology delivered a lecture on HIV & AIDS and the role of responsible citizens. Ms Kalpana Dahal Chettri, Section Officer delivered a lecture on Civic Sense and role of citizens for waste management in the places we live in. The programme concluded by the plantation of few local tree species in the unused land below the hostel.

I still now, visit these villages and look at the areas where we planted. Their presence and luxuriant growth gives me immense pleasure and their height indicates my association with Sikkim University.



Santosh Kumar Rai
Assistant Professor, Department of Botany

Visit of Horticulture Department to Govt. Mushroom Cultivation Centre, Mazitar and Govt. Sericulture Centre, Mamring, East Sikkim

The B.Sc. VI semester students of Dept. of Horticulture along with Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, course instructor and Mr. Bahadur Singh Bamaniya, guest faculty visited Govt. Mushroom Cultivation Centre, Mazitar and Govt. Sericulture Centre, Mamring, East Sikkim on 29th May, 2017. At Govt. Mushroom Cultivation Centre, Shri Yogesh, HDO guided basics on mushroom cultivation e.g. button mushroom, oyster mushroom, milky mushroom and paddy straw mushroom. The equipments related to mushroom cultivation were also demonstrated. The students performed practical on compost pasteurization and preparation of spawn bags. A visit to nearby horticultural farm was also made by the visiting team. At Govt. Sericulture Centre, Shri Nand Bahadur Chettri, Field supervisor guided on the basics of mulberry silk, muga silk and eri silk cultivation and showed the mulberry propagation through cuttings and silk worm in the field too. The visit was very much informative and useful for the students as mushroom cultivation and sericulture both have immense potential for generating self employment opportunities.



Mulberry silk cocoon at Govt. Sericulture Centre, Mamring, East Sikkim



Shri Yogesh, HDO taking theory class of Horticulture students on mushroom cultivation

The Department of Hindi, Sikkim University, organized a Departmental Talk on 5th May. The speakers of the session were Professor Harish Kumar Sharma, Dean, School of Language and Literature, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar and Professor S.M. Iqbal, Andhra University, Vishakapatnam.

Prof. Sharma spoke about "*Hindi Sahitya ka Bhaktikaal*". He related the topic with the present scenario and told the students about its relevance. He also elaborated on the social, economic, political and historical aspects of the Hindi Bhaktikalin Sahitya.

Prof. Iqbal while speaking about "*Bhasa Vigyan*" mainly focused upon the nature of Hindi language and linguistics. He further presented the importance of research in this field.

The program has helped students of the Department to understand these areas properly due to which they have largely benefitted.



Report by Dinesh Shahu, HoD, Department of Hindi

Education Department awards first MPhil on 26th April, 2017 to three scholars, Mr. Anupam Pockrel, Ms. Pricilla Ghimeray and Mr. Nabin Manger.

Mr. Anupam Pokhrel has completed under the supervision of Dr. Subhash Misra, Ms. Pricilla Ghimeray under the supervision of Dr. Anju Verma and Mr. Nabin Manger has completed under Dr. Vimal Kishor Guidance.



The three MPhil awardees stand tall behind their supervisors.

Orientation cum Workshop on Field Survey and Techniques

The Centre for Endangered Languages, Sikkim University (henceforth, CEL-SU) conducted an “Orientation cum Workshop on Field Survey and Techniques” from 24th to 28th April, 2017 at Barad Sadan, Gangtok, Sikkim University. Prof. Anvita Abbi, Prof. KV Subbarao, Dr. Rajesh Khatiwada, Dr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya and Shri Sujoy Sarkar were invited as the resource persons for the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to provide an academic orientation to fieldworkers generally on how to go about a fieldwork (dos and don'ts) with special focus on linguistic fieldwork. Around thirty-two participants comprising post graduate and PhD scholars from various departments of the University attended the workshop. The inaugural session was chaired by Professor T. B. Subba, Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University. The program began with the welcome address by Dr. Samar Sinha, Coordinator, Centre for Endangered Languages (CEL).



The inaugural session chaired by Professor T. B. Subba, Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University along with the Resource persons.

The technical session was started by Professor Abbi where she shed light on the current Indian linguistic situation, and enumerated the various internal and external challenges likely to be encountered on and off the field while working on endangered languages particularly in North-east India. She also made frequent reference to her experience of documenting various endangered languages specially Great Andamanese and she continued with *Elicitation Techniques and Preparing Multilingual Dictionaries* and focussed on the details that are to be taken into consideration while eliciting data.

Professor K. V. Subbarao gave an interactive introduction to syntactic analysis of languages. He extensively covered the special typological features that were distinctive to the Tibeto-Burman languages, eliciting data from the languages of the participants of the workshop.

In Dr. Rajesh Khatiwada's lecture, participants were introduced to the ideas for investigating the phonetics and phonology of languages. One of his lectures *Phonetic Transcription* introduced transcription systems along with an interactive hands-on session on transcription of linguistic data using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). He also illustrated the various tools and methods used in eliciting and recording articulatory data.



Lecture on *Phonetic Transcription* by Dr. Rajesh Khatiwada

Dr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya illustrated the methods related to the fieldworkers. Situating linguistics as a discipline across the realms of science, social science and humanities, he explored the methods to study human language while critiquing the questionnaire method used in linguistic data collection. Among other things, he spoke about the Chicago School of Sociology, Nel Anderson's work on the hobos; human nature of the linguistic data; and the need for empathy when conducting fieldwork.

Shri Sujoy Sarkar elaborated in detail upon the linguistic scenario of India, with a special focus on North Bengal. He discussed the various parameters used to assess the vitality and endangerment of languages, and illustrated the same in the classroom by using the UNESCO (2003) parameters for assessing the various languages spoken by the participants.

In addition to the experts, Shri. Balaram Pandey from the Department of Nepali, Sikkim University talked on *the People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI - Sikkim Chapter): Knowing the Linguistic Scenario of Sikkim*. He spoke about his experiences during the survey and documentation of the languages of Sikkim that was done for the PLSI.

Dr. Charisma Karthak Lepcha from the Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University gave a talk on *Endangered Languages and Revitalization*. In her talk, she brought some anthropological perspectives into the study of language as a window to the culture. Her talk generated a very lively discussion on issues in anthropological studies, and on the premise/proposal/idea of “giving back to the community.”

In the valedictory session, participants shared their valuable feedback with the organizers and resource persons of the event expressing their satisfaction on the outcome of the workshop. The session was followed by distribution of certificates to the participants by Prof. Abbi and concluding remarks by Dr. Samar Sinha, Co-ordinator, CEL. The workshop was fruitful and successful.



Last day of Workshop with Professor Abbi

University Guest House

It may not appear to be over stretching to say that the guest house of an institution is its face and first impression about it. The manner in which an organisation goes about the upkeep and maintenance of its guesthouse actually often is a tell-tale description of the health and efficiency of its management. In an institution of higher learning such as a university, this appreciation of the role that a guest house can and does ideally play makes much sense since such institutions regularly keep receiving guests from various nook and corner of the world.

In India, the government guest houses are generally well built on centrally relevant locations but are often inadequately maintained. Managing a guest house demands high level skill in hospitality matters and also a team of dedicated manpower to handle the various aspects of works linked to hospitality management. Unfortunately, university guesthouses often do not get the priority and attention they ideally deserve. Unlike professionally managed hotel industry, inadequate and unskilled manpower deployment often force a compromise on the quality of services rendered at a university maintained guest house. The fact that both service quality and infrastructure are crucial in a well maintained guest house often is undermined.



Standard room of the Guest House

At Sikkim University, it has been our persistent endeavour to provide the best of services and facilities we can afford to offer to our valued visitors. To fulfil that desire, it has been maintaining a fully furnished hired property in the Development Area, Gangtok having 18 decent rooms for running its guest house. The spectacular panoramic view of Gangtok town and Paljor stadium visible from the guest house indeed is truly refreshing. Located at a walking distance of 10 minutes from MG Marg, the prime marketing place of Gangtok, the guest house has 1 VIP Suite, 2 super deluxe rooms, 15 deluxe rooms and can accommodate about 30 plus guests at any point of time. The entire building is Wi-Fi enabled and each room is equipped with LED TV, intercom connectivity besides other basic amenities such as cupboard, reading table and the likes to make the stay of its esteemed

guests comfortable. The dining hall at the ground floor is duly equipped to service the guests with hot, healthy and delicious food. In addition to the security guards deployed round the clock, the entire building remains under CCTV surveillance to ensure that safety and security of the guests never get compromised. The building has a standard elevator installed in it and a heavy duty generator installed to ensure that the outages do not cause discomfort to its residents.

Food is being provided to the guests on demand and at a nominal rate despite the fact that its kitchen is run only using the revenue it generates from its guests for food it serves. Manned with only 1 receptionist, 2 house-keeping staff and a cook besides the security staff, the guest house faces formidable challenges to fulfil the expectations of its guests though it leaves no stone unturned in its striving to serve its guests the best it can. In matters of booking accommodation at the guest house, the guest house management goes by the first cum first serve principle and charges a nominal amount of Rs. 1,000/- per night per room. Invited guests visiting the university which normally account for 80%-90% of the total bookings are provided free accommodation. Online booking of accommodation through email request is enabled and can also be made using the prescribed performa provided at the University website www.cus.ac.in. Subject to availability, bookings are usually confirmed by a return mail. To handle such matters and upkeep of records in a more proficient manner, the management of the guest house has recently automated its booking and billing section using software dedicated to handle such job.



Dining Hall



Guest House Lounge

Managing the guest house, has, since the very beginning been a major concern. No doubt that that the facility and the service quality provided at the guest house has recorded a steady improvement over the years, yet, it can hardly be denied that there remains a lot to further improve the guesthouse. It grants us some degree of satisfaction now that except for the VVIP guests, accommodation requests for most guests visiting the university or the city are being handled at the guest through deft management of its booking schedule. It needs no mention that being a university guest house, it mostly caters to the guests who come here as invitee of the university. It, however, makes the guest house management happy to share the information that despite its limited capacity, it has also

been able to accommodate few other guests as well who were not direct invitee of the university consequently contributing to revenue growth of the guest-house. A considerable rise in the revenue generated from the guests other than the university guests in recent time substantiates the fact that our guest house has been able to provide decent service and attract guests willing to avail the facility even on payment basis.

Revenue Generated from Guests other than University Invitees

