

Kiang Nangbah Govt. College, Jowai
Department of Commerce
Field trip to Kongthong Whistling Village
East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya
Dated: 20/08/2023



Introduction: The field trip to Kongthong Whistling Village which is located about 60 km from the capital city Shillong was an immersive experience that offer our students a unique glimpse into the cultural richness and extra communication methods of the kongthong villagers. The village renowned for its age-old tradition of using whistling as a form of communication, provide an enriching opportunity to explore the intersection of culture, community, and heritage.

Objective: The primary objective of this field trip is to introduce students of 6th semester to the distinctive cultural practices of Kongthong, particularly the whistling language used by its residents. The trips aim to foster cultural understanding, appreciation, create awareness of the importance of preserving such unique traditions and promote cultural tourism which in turn improve economic development of this region.

Itinerary: The field trip itinerary included:

1. **Visit to Rangkylliw at Mawrah village:** - Rangkylliw is famous tourist spot consists of a scariest bridge and breath-taking view point where beautiful landscape of hills and deep slope can be seen from here. It is about 38 km from Shillong and we reach this spot at 10 am but unfortunately due to the bad foggy weather nothing could be seen on this morning. The bad weather did not dampen the spirit of our students, they enjoyed this place with some photos session and had their packed lunch before leaving this place at 11 am.
2. **Welcome and Introduction at Kongthong Village:** We received a warm welcome by one of the village elder Shri Pynshai Majaw. We came to know from him that there are 700 villagers and it located 60 km from Shillong. He then explained to us about the history and significance of Kongthong's Whistling village. Later on, he took us to the Kongthong Traveller Nest a home stay run and manage by the village.
3. **Whistling Demonstration:** On reaching the beautiful travellers nest the three old ladies Kong Marbaiahun Kkongsit, Kong Shidiap Khongsit and Kong Shngain Khongjee gave us a very warm welcomed. Through Kong Shidiap Khongsit we came to know that the people of Kongthong use whistling as a method of conveying their messages to their fellow villagers. The villagers of Kongthong have called this tune "Jingrwai Lawbei" which means mother's love song. The villagers have two names-one is a regular name and another is a song name. The song names are two versions – a long song use at work in the forest and the short song is normally use at home. There are around 700 villagers and there are 700 different tunes.



Kong shidiap Khongsit then demonstrated in front of us the short and long tune where her mother composed for her. Similarly, Mr. Pynshai Khongsit demonstrated the short and long tunes which his mother lovingly uses to call him at home and at work respectively.

- 4. Interaction:** In the interaction session with Mr Pynshai Majaw and the elderly ladies we understand their way of life, traditions, and daily activities. The villagers give credit to Mr. Rakesh Sinha a Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar who adopted this village in 2019 and suggested a UNESCO tag. Through his work Kongthong is very popular and known all over the world as Kongthong Whistling Village. In 2022, the Ministry of Tourism selected Kongthong village UNWTO's (The World Tourism Organisation) "Best Tourism Villages" award along with two other village in the country.

Impact: The field trip had a profound impact on students, providing them with deeper understanding of the cultural diversity and the significance of preserving indigenous languages and traditions. It also facilitated a cultural exchange and promoted mutual respect and appreciation between the students and the kongthong community.

Conclusion: The field trip to Kongthong whistling village was an enlightening experience that transcended traditional learning environments for the teachers and students. It successfully achieved its objective of preserving such unique traditions and promote cultural tourism which in turn improve economic development of this region.

The following are the list of students who participated in this field trip.

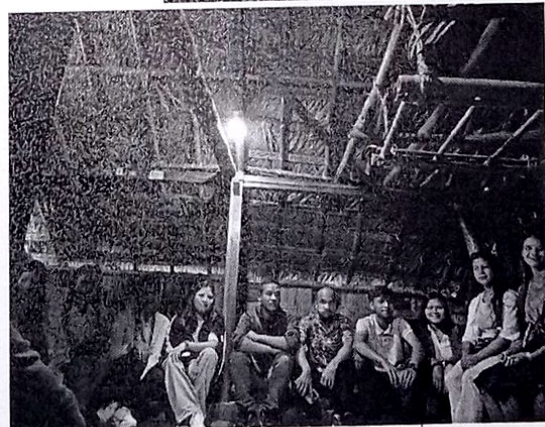
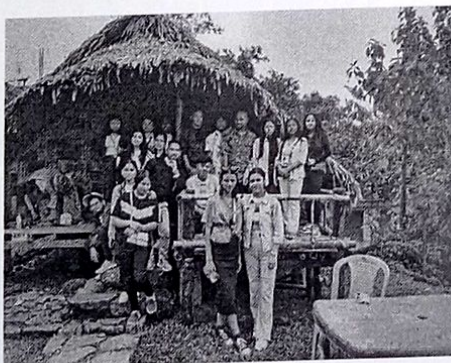
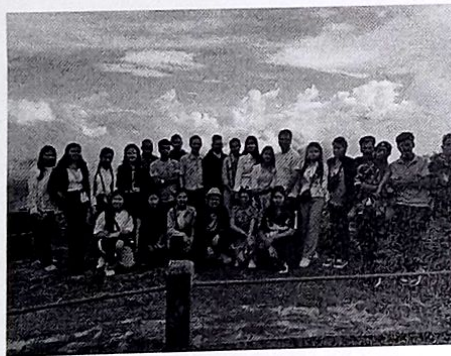
1.Miss Ibashisha Phawa

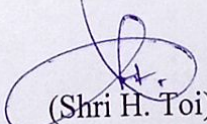
17.Miss Thywill Sariang



2. Miss Emidakachwa Sari
3. Miss Wailad Shylla
4. Miss Dakaru Ksoo
5. Miss Silver Jubilee Padu
6. Mr. Rapkima Dkhar
7. Miss Rufina Lyngdoh
8. Miss Arroiki Passah
9. Mr. Kermi Biam
10. Miss Kani Dapoibiang Chullet
11. Miss Wanfulme Niang
12. Miss Kitarani Suchiang
13. Mr. Heimonmitre Dkhar
14. Mr. Helpmi Phawa
15. Mr. Teibormi Shadap
16. Mr. Ebor Bamon

18. Miss Priya Pale
19. Mr. Seibormi Suchiang
20. Mr. Meio Lamurong
21. Mr. Yomewatip Dkhar
22. Miss Phriangki Lakiang
23. Miss Therisia Shylla
24. Miss Lalremruot Motsun
25. Mr. Makhanelangki Dkhar




(Shri H. Toi)

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