

To commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence and the Golden Jubilee of Meghalaya statehood, a one day Seminar was organised at our esteemed institution on the 20th of May 2023 on "***The Role of Rev J. J. M. Nichols Roy in drafting the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India***". The Seminar was organised by the Jingshai Academy in collaboration with the Jingshai College, Tynring and the Political Science Department, Nabon Women's Synod College.

The Seminar was chaired by Elder T. Mawlong. The programme started with Bible reading and prayer by Mrs. W. L. Tariang followed by opening remarks and introduction given by Shri. B. Ryngnga. Shri. B. Ryngnga thanked Rev. Dr. O. L. Snaitang for his willingness to share his wealth of knowledge on the subject and appreciated his tireless works and dedication. Further, he highlighted on the role played by Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy in drafting the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India and his relentless efforts to make it happen.

The welcome address was delivered by Mrs. I. Pathaw, Head of the Department of Political Science who warmly welcome the Resource Person, Rev Dr. O. L. Snaitang, the Chief Guest, Shri. Brightstarwell Marbaniang, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Prof A. Passah, Department of History, NEHU, members of Jingshai Academy, the teaching and non-teaching faculty and the students of the College.

Shri Brightstar Marbaniang, Member Legislative Assembly, Mawlai Constituency gave his address on the hard work and dedication of Rev J. J. M. Nichols Roy as a member of the Assam Legislative Council who was elected as a representative to the Constituent Assembly of India. In this Constituent Assembly Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy introduced the Draft of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India which was passed by the Constituent Assembly on 7th September 1949 under Article 244(2) and 275(1) of the Indian Constitution which led to the creation of the Autonomous District Councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Rev. Dr. O. L. Snaitang, Resource person of the Seminar, presented a detailed discussion on the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. At the outset Rev. Dr. O. L. Snaitang narrated that the Khasis were the indigenous inhabitants of the Khasi Hills. The Khasis were divided into many Himas numbering around 29 Himas. Further, the Khasis were divided on the basis of languages, dialects and beliefs. Therefore there was no political hegemony and unity. The British Government in fact brought unity to the Khasis States administratively. In 1874 the capital of erstwhile Assam was shifted to Shillong and in this way Shillong as a political seat of the British Government gained recognition and importance.

On the role of Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy as author of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the resource person traced back the life history of Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy. He was born on 12th June 1884 in Mawsyiarwait,

Shella. He studied at Lba High School but his studies were disrupted due to earthquake in 1897. After the earthquake the family of Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy shifted to Jasir. Later, Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy completed his entrance examination from Shillong Government High School in 1889 and went to Calcutta for higher studies in which he accomplished his degree in 1904.

Rev. Dr. O. L. Snaitang highlighted as to what are the reasons for Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy to draft the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India:

1. To solidify the hynniewtrep community the concept of fraternity and equality of the Khasi –Jaintia was the keynote of the Sixth Schedule.
2. To preserve the traditional system of the Khasi political institutions which was a democratic system of administration and to bring them together into a unified legislative body which paved the way for a Councillor Autonomous Council.
3. To initiate Women's participation by opening up ways for political freedom, equality and eligibility at the behest of people's decision and election.

Rev. Dr. O. L. Snaitang in his concluding remark urged the youths to process initiation for the original pattern of the Sixth Schedule of Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy rather than the modified version which now forms a part of the Constitution of India.

The Seminar was greatly informative and beneficial to each and everyone. We expressed our deepest gratitude to Jingshai Academy and Jingshai College, Tynring in collaborating with Nabon Women's Synod College for organising such an inspirational programme. We look forward to conduct more such seminars that will further enhance the knowledge of the students as well as the teaching and non-teaching fraternity.

The Seminar culminated with the benediction by Rev. Dr. O. L. Snaitang.