

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION SECONDARY SCHOOL, LAIMAWSIANG



RKM SECONDARY SCHOOL, LAIMAWSIANG

The school was established in the year 1960. Before that, there was no other school in the village as well as in the nearby villages. Now, there are three schools in Laitmawsiang, one private-owned LP School and one Secondary school run by the village. The wisdom that God blessed the village elders during those days was wonderful. They saw the need, they acted upon and with one accord, and they went to meet the Secretary of the Mission in 1959. Unfortunately all of them are no more now and it is a sad thing that I have no idea who were the village elders and the secretary of that time. To be precise, the secretary agreed to provide and run the school from class A to class III but the school building was constructed by all the men in the village through the guidance of the village elders, and in one day, the thatched school building was ready. As

a head teacher, I love to hear these stories because present situation was not as beautiful as that.

In 1960, the school started with two teachers, Babu Jit and Kong Pris, appointed by the mission. Both of them were from different villages since no one from the village was eligible to teach. Poor thing, within few years they resigned their job and many other teachers come and go as they like. From 1960 to 1972, different teachers came and worked for few years and went away. Because of this, the well to do families sent their children to other places like Sohra and Shillong to study but most of the parents were unable to send their children to school, hence the villagers suffered. Wonders happened, one brilliant boy, named Dralnor Nongrum, a student of the school, after completing his matriculation from RKM HS Sohra, decided to come and help the school in the year 1973. He became the Headmaster of the school from the day he joined and from that time onwards, the school was running smoothly till this day.

Whatever it is, even though it was an LP School, prominent figures like Dr (late) P.W. Khongjee, MD and ex-MLA of Sohra Constituency, his sisters, one was a staff nurse holding high position in a Government Hospital and another who is resides in England were the products of the school. Many other Government servants who have retired and others who are in service were the products of the school but the most important figure who did not think of himself, though he was

offered many Government jobs, was Late Dralnor Nongrum. The credit goes to the village elders of the year 1959 and to him in particular.

Not much was known how many teachers were there when Babu D. Nongrum joined but the school was running well. He will go and meet all the parents and requested them to send their children to school. 98% of the residents were very poor and some of them denied sending the children. Others sent only for few months and years. Hence many people were uneducated though the school was established very much earlier. But somehow through his hard work and patience, parents were more convinced to send their children to study and in some cases, all the children in the family were educated though parents are not. The most significant changes that happened during his time were that students from all the surrounding villages joined the school. These villages include Mawlyndiar, Sohkynduh, Rymmai, Mawshken, Mawbawein, Dewiong, Khrang and even Laitryngew. So RKM Laitmawsiang School became very famous as many bright students were there, who were also very good in Mathematics in particular. Many students used to get scholarships from the Government. When they completed schooling from here, they would easily get admission in other schools, like RKM HS Sohra, St.John bosco' boys and girls HS Sohra.

Within two years of Babu D.Nongrum's teaching, the villagers had become very much advanced that they felt the need of higher education, an upgradation from a lower primary school to an upper primary school.

He and the village elders went to Sohra to meet the Secretary of the Mission at that time to place their request before him, of which they received a sour reply that the mission was not having fund to upgrade the school since many of the villages were asking the Mission to start the school in their villages. You know, the people of this village still remember the rejection they received in the year 1974 and when our present Secretary, Swamy Anuragananda wanted to upgrade the school in 2016, we received lots of objection and some people who never supported the Mission even wrote to the Education Department to stop the school from being upgraded. A public meeting was conducted in the year 2016 to decide whether our school has to be upgraded or not. To a great surprise, 95% of the villagers supported the Mission. The school was finally upgraded from 2017. But when the school was upgraded, Babu D.Nongrum was no more. He retired in the year 2007 and passed away in the year 2015. If he had seen the school as it was today, he will be very happy.

In a span of 32 years of his service, he received so much appreciation from the students, parents, the Mission and the Education Department. He received a national award as the best teacher in lower primary section. He had contributed so much to the society by producing so many bright students who are now working in different areas of life. Some of them are Government servants, police personnel, an engineer who is working in railway department, many teachers, nurses, laboratory attendants and many who are doing their own business.

Great was the impact of the school for the people of the village and nearby villages. If RKM had not been there, the people will be still struggling in sending their children to school. We teachers in RKM are very strict but 90% of the students from the village are studying in our school. The fees is little high in our school and parents struggle to pay for the school fees but still will not send their children to another school. Mawlyndiar village has a secondary school but 80% of students from that village come to our school. Due to the increase in the number of schools in the village, as mentioned 3 schools, we see a drop in our enrollment in the LP Section. Upper primary and secondary section remain almost same from the time we started.

The second impact of the Mission is the mobile team from the dispensary department, which has been initiated for so many years. Before they used to serve only to the people of Laitmawsiang. Later, they started catering in two villages, Mawlyndiar and Laitmawsiang. This program was a great help to both the villages. They used to come twice in a month and many patients received proper treatment from the doctors with good medicines. I used to hear people said that if they go to a government hospital, they received few medicines and the rest they have to buy but when they visit the RKM Doctors, they received all the medicines for 10 rupees only.

The Mission has supported in every way it can. Hence, somehow in the year 1993, the school received one sanctioned post in the LP Section.

Today the school has advanced greatly in all areas, with new school building, appointment of qualified teachers, installation of smart classes, proper fencing (though partially completed), plantation of trees that makes the school campus beautiful, proper way of conducting assembly, classes, extracurricular activities for students, enrichment programs for teachers, head teacher's meet every month and so on.



May God continue to guide and help the Mission as we are celebrating the 100 years of its service in the state of Meghalaya.

Smt. Listilda Khongrymmai

Head Teacher

RKM Secondary School Laitmawsiang,

Sohra