

MINUTES OF THE THIRD STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE

21st FEBRUARY, 2018

SHEC Members Present:

1. Smti. Roshan Warjri, Hon'ble Minister of Higher & Technical Education, Government of Meghalaya.
2. Prof. S.K. Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hills University.
3. Shri. D.P. Wahlang, I.A.S, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Government of Meghalaya.
4. Shri. Ambrose Ch. Marak, M.C.S, Director of Higher and Technical Education.
5. Dr.M.P. R Lyngdoh, Retired Principal
6. Prof. B. Myrboh, Pro Vice Chancellor North Eastern Hills University
7. Smti. D. Dkhar, Principal of Sankardev College, Shillong.

The third meeting of the State Higher Education Council (SHEC) was held on the 21st February, 2018 at 11:00 AM in the Conference Hall, Academic Building, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong. The meeting was chaired by Smt. Roshan Warjri, Honourable Minister of Higher & Technical Education, Government of Meghalaya, who is also the Chairman of the SHEC. The Chairperson welcomed the SHEC members present in the meeting and proceeded the meeting by requesting the State Project Director (SPD) of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Meghalaya to read out the proceeding of the last SHEC meeting.

Shri. D. P. Wahlang, I.A.S, Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya & SPD, RUSA Meghalaya read-out the proceedings of the second SHEC meeting held on 19th December, 2016. And to which the SPD gave a quick updates on the recent developments after the last SHEC meeting.

Further, Prof. S.K. Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hill University, who is also the Vice Chairman of the SHEC gave a brief summary of the consultative meeting of SHEC held on the 15th & 16th of February, 2018 at the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi. The Vice Chairman said that the meeting was a great learning experience for him in order to understand the scope and the expansion at which the SHEC could work in transforming and shaping higher education scenario in the state, some of the matters which he drew out from the consultative were:

- Meghalaya has around 20% of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and hence measures needs to be taken to improve the GER so that it meets the national average target.
- Focus on equity issues- gender, inclusions, diversities and social justice.
- Professional development of teachers and the need to undergo induction programme before the aspirant teachers expose themselves in the field of teaching.
- Embracing creative anatomy in higher education.
- Improving the excellence and quality of higher education.
- Governance in higher education
- Accreditation and Assessments of higher educational institutions.
- Encouraging higher educational institutions on enrolling on National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
- Enforcing of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and alike online course so that 20% of credit may be taken by student in an institution and coordinate with departments in choosing a subject of specialisation.
- Inculcating digital initiatives in higher educational institutions.
- Inculcating University Grants Commission (UGC) reforms and regulations.

The Vice Chairman also shared the highlights of the presentation by the National Mission Director of RUSA on 'New Initiatives in Higher Education with focus on RUSA', which are: introducing of new accreditation method for National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), i.e, 20% field assessment and 80% data captured online. Initiatives to keep a check on activities and track funds utilizations. On the end note the Vice Chairman urged that -the SHEC should be more active in pursuing and intervening on topics to develop higher education in the state. SHEC should meet atleast twice a year to address issues concerning higher education and also advised the council to open areas of learning by organising inter-state SHEC meetings, conferences and workshops.

The SPD, RUSA Meghalaya in his inputs reminded that Meghalaya was on board with RUSA in the late 2015 and hence from the constitution and composition of SHEC, O/o SPD and TSG, to the implementation of various project under RUSA till date the state has picked up really fast.

On matters concerning GER in higher education the SPD pointed that if we are to track records we can see that there have been no investments by the State Government in higher education in the last ten years; it

1
It was only after recent intervention of the Government where in the realization of the importance of investing in higher education space was understood. It was only after that, when through a cabinet approval that the department got an approval of sanctioning of nine community colleges which will be widespread all across the state. These community colleges classified into two groups- Green Field Project (fully government sanctioned) and Brown Field Project (partially government sanctioned) will be set up with special emphasis in rural areas and projected to ease the gaps in districts and villages where there is no Government Colleges.

The SPD also added that in the SHEP 2.0 the state has proposed for setting up of New Model Degree College in the outskirts areas like Patharkhmah and Mawtengkut, as these areas have only schools and higher secondary schools and colleges are yet to spring up in these areas and having model college and community college as such will simultaneously boost GER of higher education, improve quality, curb rural to urban migration for higher education and reduce dropouts. So the focus on higher education in the last six months has improved and setting up of two professional colleges, two new model degree colleges, nine model degree colleges has been sanctioned and works are initiated.

On accreditation of colleges, the SPD ascertain that almost all the aided colleges are timely accredited, hardly 1-2 colleges are yet to get accreditation, the reason being these colleges falls under the government space, the government college were lagging behind in proposing for an accreditation, eventually through the consultants in RUSA Meghalaya their pace shall be picked up. As far as the NIRF is concerned the department has communicated with colleges to get involve to the ranking framework, but it solely depends on the college on the intensity at which they involve in filling online questionnaires, hopefully in the coming years we see more colleges participating in the NIRF.

On State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SLQAC) the department have had meetings, and the only impinging problem at present is less involvement from NEHU, and therefore requested NEHU to work in close contact with the department in adhering to SLQAC. The SPD also emphasised that with regards to digital initiatives, a lot of digital content, classrooms and initiatives have been carried at the elementary and higher secondary level. As for in higher education there is no special funding on digital initiatives yet, at present it solely depends upon the college individual initiatives, the department has already inform colleges regarding MOOCs and the matter shall be take up soon in the next Principals Council meeting. With regards to Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) NEHU, the faculty improvement plan under RUSA was asked to be prepared by the HRDC and submitted but was rejected by MHRD on grounds that the proposal should focus on capacity building of teachers and not on infrastructural support for the HRDC. Moreover in a meeting with the Director of HRDC, NEHU he clarified that faculty improvement cannot be taken by the HRDC unless the existing infrastructures, classrooms and training space is further enhanced, hopefully the matter shall be reviewed by the MHRD in the next meeting.

The SPD also accreted to the council that many states have enacted their respective SHEC act, but Meghalaya SHEC is still functioning under an executive order. The department has already prepared a cabinet memo and a presentation on SHEC was also made to the Chief Minister and the proposal was sent to the cabinet for an approval, but due to upcoming assembly elections the proposal is stuck with the cabinet. The SPD also highlighted that funding under RUSA 2.0 will also depend on the enactment of SHEC act.

Further, the reactions and response presented by the SPD on higher education it then was open to the floor for discussion, to which the Vice Chairman requested an emphasis to boost and the need to imbibe Culture of Innovations in institutions. In response to which the SPD informed that in an institutional review meeting held on 2nd November, 2017 individual colleges were prompted on Research and Innovation in higher education and asked to forward proposals on Research and Innovation under SHEP 2.0 and gladly few proposals have been submitted in the plan.

In addition the Vice Chairman cited few programs on skill based training under NEHU, which prepares youths for the market and suggested that providing of additional skill based course for students will enhance employability. The Vice Chairman also believes that the state and the north eastern region has a lot of potential in the field of innovation and suggested that colleges should have innovation club to enhance prospects in the culture of innovation space.

Dr. M. P. R Lyngdoh, retired Principal and a member of SHEC urged that since almost all colleges are NAAC accredited, government should initiate in encouraging colleges to go for NIRF. She also pointed that though SLQAC is present in the state but it is not active and functioning regularly and while summing up requested to pace up the enactment of the SHEC act.

8

Prof. B. Myrboh, Pro Vice Chancellor NEHU and a member of SHEC said that from the accreditation conducted over the years most of the colleges in the state are performing above average and are getting better every year and with RUSA onboard he believes that the state will bring out some of the best colleges in the country. He also projected that over the years the GER in higher education is increasing; hence colleges should understand the rate of demand and introduce post graduate courses in respective colleges so that students do not have to depend on the University for access in higher education. In response to the inclining demand for higher education in the state, the SPD asserted that the department has given a directive to government colleges not to deny enrolling of student seeking admission, and help curbing dropouts. Hence the government step to set up community colleges is timely and hopefully we finish it in due time and provide access to the forth coming demand. The SPD also pointed that the Cap-Ex for the community college segregated as Green Field Project (10 Cr) and Brown Field Project (2 Cr) will curb the demand for higher education.

The discussion was then followed by a presentation on the Progress Review of RUSA in the state by Principal Consultant, RUSA Meghalaya. The presentation showcased the timeline of how RUSA embarked its journey in the state, from the day it was constituted to the implementation of various project under its banner in the state. The presentation also gave a quick review of SHEP 1.0, funds sanctioned and utilised under Infrastructure Grants and Equity Initiative Grants under RUSA. Moreover work progress of Infrastructure Grants and Equity Initiative Grants under RUSA and balance amount to be utilised of individual beneficiaries was also presented before the SHEC. The progress review also showcase the physical progress of each beneficiary institution for both components Infrastructure development and Equity Initiative programme conducted under RUSA till date. The presentation also highlighted the other initiatives such as official meetings, capacity building programs, trainings, workshop, awareness programme carried under RUSA till date.

The other points discussed in the meeting are, the need to introduce integrated Bachelor of Arts- Bachelor of Education (B.A.-B.Ed.) courses, to which the SPD said that the department is fully sensitised with the matter concerning with training of teachers, in fact the government is looking ahead to introduce Masters of Education (M.Ed.) and Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed.) (to be funded under ADB) sooner by July 2018. The existing teacher training centre in Malki will be upgraded to an institution availing integrated B.A-B.Ed. programme. And alike college is proposed to be setup in Jowai and Tura as well.

The discussion was then followed by a presentation on the SHEC 2.0 by the SPD, RUSA Meghalaya, the presentation gave a snapshot of the SHEC 2.0, an overview of the proposed SHEP 2.0, the financial outlay of the proposed SHEP2.0 and also funds proposed for individual components mentioned below was also presented:

- Creation of 2 New Model Degree College,
- Upgradation of 2 existing Degree College,
- Infrastructure Grants for 23 Colleges
- Equity Initiative Grants for 23 Colleges,
- Research, Innovation and quality improvement for 23 Colleges,
- Faculty Recruitment Support for 20 Colleges and
- Management Information System.

The total sanction proposed for the above mentioned components is Rs. 220.21 Cr. With 90 % Central share- Rs. 198.19 Cr and 10 % State share of Rs. 22.02 Cr.

The proposed SHEP 2.0 was open to the councilmembers for discussion and the proposal was unanimously approved by the council.

In conclusion, the Chairman of SHEC advised to - follow up on additional proposals for Research and Innovation from other beneficiary colleges as well, to take up Faculty Recruitment Support with state government and also requested the SHEC and its members to meet up once every six months at least. Also the Vice Chairman added that a meeting may be organised with beneficiary colleges to share the success stories of SHEC, SHEP and RUSA programme till date.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Shri. Ambrose Ch. Marak, Deputy Project Director, RUSA Meghalaya. The DPD extended a thank you note to the Chairman of SHEC for sparing her time from busy schedule and making a presence felt in the third SHEC meeting, gratitude of thanks to the Vice Chairman of SHEC for sharing his insight of the consultative meeting and important pointers to keep a gauge, gratitude

9
to the SHEC members present in the meeting for the interactive session, gratitude of thanks to the Principal Secretary for the opportunity. And also thanked the Principal Consultant, RUSA Meghalaya and the RUSA team for organising and making the meeting a successful one.



Smti. Roshan Warjri,
Chairperson of the
State Higher Education Council
Meghalaya

Memo. No. Edn.28/2016/Pt.I/

Dated , Shillong 22.02.2018

Copy to:-

1. P.S to the Minister of Higher & Technical Education, Government of Meghalaya, for information
2. Prof. S.K. Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hills University
3. Shri D.P. Wahlang, I.A.S, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Government of Meghalaya.
4. Shri Ambrose Ch. Marak, M.C.S, Director of Higher and Technical Education.
5. Dr.M.P. R Lyngdoh, Retired Principal
6. Prof. B. Myrboh, Pro Vice Chancellor North Eastern Hills University
7. Smti. D. Dkhar, Principal of Sankardev College, Shillong.



State Project Director, RUSA
Meghalaya