



MAYFEREEN RYNTATHIANG

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Profile

Mayfereen a 2022 Acumen Leadership Fellow is a Social Worker with more than a decade of committed work put in the field of her choice and she is passionate about her work. She has done a Masters in English Literature and topped it up with education in Human Rights and has completed a leadership and human rights course at Columbia University, with The International Indigenous Women Forum in 2016. In March 2021, she completed a study on Indigenous women and governance in North East India, with Oxfam, Cambodia.

She founded and heads Grassroot, an NGO with its main objective being to encourage, empower and enhance people's rights and responsibility for societal change from an indigenous and gender lens. (www.grassrootshillong.org)

Mayfereen is actively associated with World Mountain People Association (WMPA), representing the state in world mountain conferences held at Ecuador and Chamberie, France. She is also associated with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on enhancing advocacy skills and understanding trans boundary issues of the Hiamalayas.

During her years of contribution to the society, she has also visited various international conferences speaking her mind of human rights issues. She was a part of the Mountain Community Team to present a motion on Anti uranium mining in Meghalaya at the UNESCO, Paris, represented the Presbyterian Church of India in Bangkok, Thailand in a workshop on Human Rights and was part of a South East Asian exposure trip on Violence Against Women in Bangladesh.

In 2016, she represented India at the United Nations Permanent Forum of Indigenous issues, at the UN Headquarters, New York, USA to lend a voice on land and cultural rights.

She is also a documentary filmmaker and script writer- some of her documentaries like "Voice of the Voiceless" & "Hear our Voices- A Cry from the Himalayas" are note worthy productions.

Experience

2003 till 2019: Senior Programme Officer with Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya (VHAM)

2019-date: Senior Consultant, Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya (VHAM),PPP

October 2021 till date: Project Director, TI Summary of responsibilities:

Supervising and Managing Primary Health Centres in Jatah and Dangar, East Khasi Hills. Lobbying and advocacy for proper health services and attention is also one of the many responsibilities.

Community Development as a passion continues with Jaintia Hills and Ri Bhoi District since 2003 till date. Facilitating around 30 SHGs in empowerment of rights and creating livelihood opportunities through skill training and enhancing existing skills, with eri silk weavers, turmeric producers and organic farmers. Creating market viability and niche for more exposure to local, national and international market is one of the responsibilities that follow.

Co-ordinating as a state co-ordinator in Community Action for Health to monitor the health centres and services of 189 villages, 27 PHCs and Subcentres in East Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills. The project is in tandem with NHM whereby a partnership is entered with the State NHM to address the anomalies that resulted from the analytical findings of the partnering District NGOS in each District.

2017-2018: Livelihood Specialist, Meghalaya with Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya (SHCDM) and Aide Et Action/ADB

Summary of responsibilities:

- Encouraging young people to register for skill livelihood programmes available with the government

Formulating project proposals, supervising the field placement of MSW and BSW students of Universities, colleges, supervise the function of the office

Conducting awareness programmes on gender Livelihood opportunities, Rights, and facilitating advocacy programmes at various levels.

2001-2003: Research Associate in North East Network

Summary of Responsibilities:

- Conducting field works, action based research and formulating project proposals are the main responsibilities.

Consultancy Experiences:

- Was a Gender analysis consultant with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Australia, (June to November 2022)
- Was a consultant team lead for the Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP), (1st to 30th November 2022)

- Was a Consultant Technical Support with MEL, AYNI, FIMI (July to September 2022)
- Was a research consultant (October 2020-March 2021) with Oxfam, Cambodia to conduct a study on Indigenous Women in Water Governance in the Transboundary Meghna Basin in South Asia.
- Was a Social Audit Independent Consultant (8th December 2020-27th February 2021) with NESFAS, Meghalaya
- Was a consultant supervisor for a research team from Chicago University to conduct a research on Micro Credit Savings.
- Was a consultant in 2015 with Bethany Society to study the gender gap and links among differently able children in North East India.
- Was a consultant in 2012, with the Royal Government of Bhutan to aid in the formulation of the tourism guidelines of the country.

Trainings, Conferences and Workshops attended:

Trainings/ conferences/ workshops	Organized by	Held in	year
Her and Now , Women Entrepreneurship Cohort 2	Dhriiti, Ministry of Skill and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and GIZ	Online	2020-2021
Entrepreneurship Master Class IV	Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship, (MIE), Government of Meghalaya	Shillong	2019
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2016	International Indigenous Women Forum /FIMI	Newyork, USA	2016
Women in Parliament / legislative planning Women Parliament	IWID/ Impulse Do	Shillong Noida	2015
Third World Encounter of Mountain People	WMPA, France	Oloron Sainte Marie France	2010

Workshop on human rights	Bosco Reach out, Dignity international and TISS	Guwahati	2009
Human Rights	CCA	Chiangmai i Thailand	2007
Inception meeting on advocacy	ICIMOD Nepal	Nepal	2004 and 2006
Silk identification	Central Silk Board	Guwahati	2006
Understanding treatment of Domestic Violence	NEN Shillong	Shillong	2005
HIV vulnerability in female drug users and partners	UNODC	Shillong	2005
Basics of counselling	NEN, Shillong	Guwahati	2003
Decision making and local governance	WMPA, France	Sikkim	2002
Second World Encounter of Mountain People	WMPA, France	Ecuador	2002
Reproductive health and rights	NEN, Shillong	Shillong	2001
Conflict resolution	Impulse Ngo Network,Shillong	Shillong	2001
Gender Mainstreaming	IFAD, Shillong	Shillong	2001
National Young Full Members conference	YMCA	Salem, Chennai	1998
First Aid	Red Cross	Shillong	1992

Researches conducted:

Period	Work conducted	Organization/ Company
2020-2021	• Indigenous Women in Water Governance in the Transboundary Meghna Basin in South Asia.	Oxfam, Cambodia
2009-2011	Facilitating surveys and action based research with students in MCH, PDS, schemes implemented and advocating for the same	VHAM,Shillong

2005	Supervised and analysed the socio findings in 7 villages of Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya	VHAM, Shillong
2004	Supervised the socio and geographical mapping of IDUs in Meghalaya	ICSSR, Shillong
2004	Socio-Economic research in 6 villages of Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya	SOS, Shillong
2003	Quantitative Research on Assessment of injections practices in Meghalaya	INCLLEN, Delhi (www.incllen.org)
2002	Property resource Management in Pammanik village, Jaintia Hills	ICIMOD, Nepal
2002	Fertility survey in Shillong	Flinders University, Australia
October 2002- Feb. 2003	Qualitative research on support services available for Women to counter Violence Against Women	North East Network, Shillong
2001	Survey on the domestic violence in Shillong	North East Network, Shillong
2002	Survey on the resource directory available for Abused women in the State	Do

Publications:

Script writer of the documentary; 'hear our voices', a cry from the Himalayas'. a documentary on water rights exploitation

Compile, analyze and edit the socio findings of 7 villages in Ri Bhoi District, 2005

Was a part of the team to direct, and script the documentary 'voices of the voiceless', 2004, a documentary on drug use and its impact

Compile the research paper on socio and geographical mapping of IDUs in Meghalaya

Edit and compile the socio-economic research paper in Ri Bhoi District, 2003

Edited and translated into Khasi the Resource Directory for Women, 2002

Initiatives:

- Has led a team of 20 to Guwahati for the National Integration Camp, 1993
- Initiated trainings and meetings on Gender, HIV and AIDS, Violence Against Women, Life skills, formation of SHGs, and substance Abuse at the rural and urban level from 2001 till date.
- Was a part of the team to the South East Asia exposure trip on Violence Against Women in Bangladesh
- Was a part of the team to initiate a Violence Against Women Campaign in Shillong from 25th to 10th of December 2002
- Has led a team of six to Darjeeling youth conference, 2004
- Initiated a Human Rights Campaign in Jaintia Hills, 10th December 2005
- Is a part of the PCI team to formulate the policy on HIV and AIDS at church level which is now accepted.
- Is a regular resource person with the YWCA, India
- Initiated the formation of a rights based organisation called 'grassroot' in 2007
- Is a part of the mountain community team to present a motion on Anti uranium Mining in Meghalaya at the UNESCO, Paris, France in 2010

Educational Qualification:

Degree	Board/college/ university	YEA R
Masters in English Literature	IGNOU	2006
Bachelor in English literature	Lady keanes' College	1999
Pre-university	Lady Keanes' college	1996
Class X	St.Josephs' Girls High School	1994

Other Qualifications:

- ❖ Human Rights and Leadership training, Columbia University, USA
- ❖ Certificate in Human Rights, IGNOU
- ❖ 2 weeks course in internet, NIIT, Shimla
- ❖ Diploma in computer fundas, DOS, Word Access, Power Point, Excel from Grace System, Shillong

Volunteer Experience:

- ❖ Volunteered with SOS children's village
- ❖ Volunteered with YMCA
- ❖ Volunteered with Lions' Club
- ❖ Volunteered with SANKER rehabilitation centre
- ❖ Volunteered with the SP, West Jaintia Hills, Government of Meghalaya during COVID 19 Lockdown in 2020 as a BCC facilitator and counsellor

Fellowships: fellow of the SMILE Programme, IGSSS from April to September 2006

Scholarships: been awarded the million kisses, (United States of America,) scholarship in 2011 to document folklore of the khasis.

Awarded a scholarship from International Indigenous Women Fund and Food for Agricultural Organisation (IIWF and FAO) on Food Security

Spring Fair Birmingham, UK, 2007, to showcase the eri silk products of the weavers.

Memberships:

Is a member of the World Mountain People's Association and coordinator of the North East of India.

Founder of an NGO called 'Grassroot'

Executive member of the youth group in Wahingdoh Locality Is permanent resource person of PCI

Personal Information:

Date of birth: 31st May 1978

Place of birth: Shillong

Marital status: unmarried

Languages known: Hindi (speak), English (read, speak and write),
Khasi (read, speak and write), French (beginner).

Hobbies: Swimming, trekking, reading, music, and many more .

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.