

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Department of Geography.

The Department of Geography in the School of Environmental Sciences was established in July 1976. Its basic aim is to endeavour to develop an understanding of the various environmental processes, both physical and cultural so that the training and knowledge which is imparted during the formal M.A. M.Sc., and research courses would be meaningful for the purpose of analysing various spatio-temporal problems of the country with specific emphasis on the North-Eastern Region and to develop a proper strategy for the socio-economic development of the hill areas of the North-East.

Achievements of the Department

Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1979 in the Jawaharlal Nehru University and Mr. S.S.A. Jafri submitted his Ph.D. thesis in the same University. The Ph.D. research work of Mr. A C. Mohapatra, and Mr. Ali Ahmad lecturers, Mr. N.P. Goel, Statistical Assistant and Mrs. P. Chittaranjan is nearing completion.

Research Activities

In the field study programme, the Department conducted a socio-economic survey in the Umran Basin (Khasi Hills) taking fifteen villages as samples. In the field work all the M.A./M.Sc, and research students participated under the supervision of faculty members. On the basis of the information gathered, a documentary report was prepared. A similar survey was made in the city of Shillong to ascertain the ethnic structure, population composition and social amenities in the selected localities of the city.

The students of M.A. IV semester led by Dr. R.K. Rai and Mr. S.S.A. Jafri, conducted a geomorphic and socio-economic survey of Kalimpong and Gangtok (Sikkim) in March, 1980 as a part of their curricular programme. The students studied the fluvioglacial features along Kalimpong - Gangtok road and collected useful data on the cultural landscape of Sikkim. The purpose of study was to assess the role of rigorous environment on the socio-cultural and economic life of the communities. Work is in progress on a project "Impact of Modern Technology on the cropping patterns in Khasi Hills".

Break up of Students' intake

Year	Male	Female	Total	of which	
				SC	ST
1979-80					
MA/M.Sc. I Semester.	17	5	22	—	7
M.A./M.Sc. III Semester.	15	6	21	—	7
M. Phil	11	3	14	—	1
Ph. D.	4	1	5	—	—