

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

MEGHALAYA STATE COMMISSION
FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS





From the Chairperson

Smt Iamon M Syiem

Throughout history we have observed the “child” coming out from the shadows, from barely being seen and not even heard, emerging into an enabling and protective system that encircles our planet. When the most vulnerable are nurtured and protected by systems, laws, policies and agencies, it strengthens and protects our very own existence as societies and population groups. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, has been a major landmark in ensuring and protecting the Rights of the Child. India ratified the Convention on 11 December 1992. The Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, has further ensured the development and protection of Child Rights in India. The NCPCR and SCPCR's are entrusted with the mandate of protecting violations against Children Rights through the POCSO Act, 2012, safeguarding their Constitutional liberties and Rights through the RTE Act, 2009 and understanding and dealing with their vulnerabilities through the JJ Act, 2015 and other such provisions.

In the three years of my term, the Commission has facilitated some of its desired goals, through its activities and strategies. It has been my personal pleasure and honour to interact with scores of Children through our school awareness programmes, working alongside with our Child Rights Partners. Our visits and interactions with the committed officers in the field, the DCPO's who faced the daunting challenges in the field daily, along with the DCPU team, has enriched and humbled me personally and made the Commissions' work so much easier.

As a Commission we have tried to work out certain strategies for awareness and strengthening our database. The introduction of the YouTube Channel which was launched in December 2020 has vastly improved the outreach of the Commission. The Khasi translation of the POCSO Act was released in February 2024. The Awareness Programmes on Substance Abuse in Schools is an ongoing activity. The creation of a Portal through the NIC for streamlining the various reports and

records (Data) received from the DCPU, the Police and the Courts is also in process. The goal and objective is to digitize and build up the database which we hope will be accessed and utilized as resource by concerned stakeholders.

A Preliminary POCSO Report was also released on February 2024, but we hope the Commission will come up with a publication of a Comprehensive Report soon. The translation of the salient points of the POCSO Act in Garo language is in the works. On the whole, the process of streamlining, responding, facilitating, developing new strategies, interacting with all stakeholders, while keeping within the context and spirit of Child Rights policies, Rules and Laws has been a vibrant exercise of the Meghalaya SCPCR team.

It has been my honour and privilege to serve the children of our State by ensuring and protecting their rights and vulnerabilities for these past three years, (September 2020 - February 2024), through the Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. It is an ongoing challenge to reach every child through the various stakeholders and agencies, Government and Non-Government, through concerned individual and groups from all sections of society.

My heartfelt thanks to the Government of Meghalaya which has facilitated our efforts through the various departments, first and foremost the Social Welfare Department, the Education Department, the Health Department, the Police Department and Courts, the Labour Department, the Commission for Disabilities and other facilitators.

My sincerest thanks to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

(NCPCR) for all the guidance and collaborative ventures undertaken for different programmes and for the overall continuous contribution to the policies towards protection and care of children. We are also grateful to all those who have collaborated with us in fulfilling the stated objectives of the Commission – Faith Foundation, Kripa Foundation, Bosco Integrated Development Society(BIDS), Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya (VHAM) , Rangbah Shnongs of different localities and others.

We appreciate the concerns raised by our friends in the media and their inputs. We are also grateful to all those who have provided us with information and reached out to us from the field which includes individuals, communities and various social groups.

I am truly grateful to our Member Secretary, Smti. Mary Ann Kharbhih, who guided and mentored us through all the Government labyrinth of procedures and rules, with great composure and excellent disposition. I am personally indebted to the close knit team of the SCPCR, Sara, Lizai, Andrew, AB, Edward, Mario, Pynshai, Victor and Bala – who stepped up to my pace and carried the work of the Commission forward, tirelessly and with great enthusiasm.

As I move on, to my next assignment I thank God for giving me a space and chance to serve the Children and the people of the State. I am indebted to the Government for giving me that opportunity. I am thankful, enriched and blessed to have all the wonderful, committed people I have encountered and worked with during these past three years.

My Best wishes for health and vigour, compassion and wisdom to all who strive towards creating a safe and enabling environment for our Children.

ABBREVIATIONS

- NCPCR National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- SCPCR State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- ASCPCR Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- ASCPS Assam State Child Protection Society
- NCW National Commission for Women
- NEHU North Eastern Hill University
- MIIT Moreau Institute of Integral Training
- MLCU Martin Luther Christian University
- NIFT National Institute of Fashion Technology
- SBP Seva Bharti Purvanchal
- DCPO District Child Protection Office
- DCPU District Child Protection Unit
- AHTU Anti Human Trafficking Unit
- NIFT National Institute of Fashion Technology
- JJ Act Juvenile Justice Act
- POCSO Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act
- RTE Right to Education (Act)
- PLV Para Legal Volunteers
- BIDS Bosco Integrated Development Society
- EKH East Khasi Hills
- WJH West Jaintia Hills
- EJH East Jaintia Hills
- NEDFi North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd
- MSLSA Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority
- DLSA District Legal Services Authority
- NIPCCD National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development
- UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children
- CPCR Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act
- SCPS State Child Protection Society
- MSCPCR Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

MEGHALAYA STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (MSCPCR)



BACKGROUND

With the aim of effectively addressing the issue of protection of Child Rights in Meghalaya, the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights was established. The Commission comprise of a Chairperson and six members including two women representatives.

The Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules 2013 was notified vide Govt. of Meghalaya Notification No. SW(S) 112/2009/170 dated 10th July, 2013.

Subsequently, the Government of Meghalaya, Social Welfare Department, vide Notification No. SW(S) 112/2009/236 dated, Shillong the 28th February, 2014 appointed Smti. Meena Kharkongor as Chairperson, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The Chairperson joined the Commission on 11th March, 2014 and the office was inaugurated on the 23rd May, 2014.

Smt. Meena Kharkongor tenure was renewed vide Notification No. SW(S) 112/2009/447 dated Shillong, the 26th July, 2017. When Smt M Kharkongor's term ended, an interim arrangement was made in which Smt C Kharkongor IAS, Secretary Social Welfare was given the additional duty and appointed

as Chairperson vide Notification No. SW(S) 112/2009/572.

The Government of Meghalaya vide Notification No SW(S) 112/2009/693 dated 9th September 2020, appointed Smt Iamonlang M Syiem as Chairperson, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights till September 13, 2023 and further extended the term from December 2023 to February 2024.

The Commission comprises of the Chairperson, Member Secretary and six members. There are six members who were notified and joined the Commission vide Notification No. SW(S) 112/2009/694 dated 9th September 2020, till September 2023 namely:

1. Smt Shanon Dona Massar
2. Smt Yorika Shylla
3. Smt Flabina P. Marak
4. Shri Mirthnath K. Marak
5. Smt Tiana Tarin D. Areng
6. Dr Iwamon Laloo

Smt. M A Kharbhiih took over as Member Secretary vide Government of Meghalaya, Notification No. SW(S) 112/2009/Pt II/20 dated 29th November 2023

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION :

Section 13(1) of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 lays down the functions of the Commission as follows:

1. Examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the time being in force for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
2. Present to the State Government, annually and at such other intervals, as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards.
3. Inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases.
4. Examine all factors that inhibits the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disasters, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, maltreatment, torture and exploitation, pornography and prostitution and recommend appropriate remedial measures.
5. Look into the matters relating to children in need of special care and protection including children in distress, marginalized and disadvantaged children, children in conflict with law, juveniles, children without family and children of prisoners and recommend appropriate remedial measures.
6. Study treaties and other international instruments and undertake periodical review of existing policies, programmes and other activities on child rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation in the best interest of children.
7. Undertake and promote research in the field of child rights.
8. Spread child rights literacy among various sections of the society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means.
9. Inspect or cause to be inspected any juvenile custodial home, or any other places of residence or institution meant for children, under the control of the Central Government or any State Government or any other authority, including any institution run by a social organization; where children are detained or lodged for the purpose of treatment, reformation or protection and take up with these authorities for remedial action, if found necessary.
10. Inquire into complaints and take sou-motu notice of matters relating to:-
11. Deprived and violation of Child rights.
 - i. Non- implementation of laws providing for protection and development of children.
 - ii. Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships to and ensuring welfare of the children and to provide relief to such children, or take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities.

12. Such other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of child rights and any other matter incidental to the above functions.

POWERS RELATING TO INQUIRIES

As per Section 14(1) of the CPCR Act, 2015

- a. The Commission shall, while inquiring into any matter referred to in clause (j) of sub-section (1) of section 13 have all the powers of a civil court trying suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and, in particular, in respect of the following matters namely:
 - i. Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath.
 - ii. Discovery and production of any document.
 - iii. Receiving evidence on affidavits
 - iv. Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or officer.
 - v. Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

STEPS AFTER INQUIRY

As per section 15 of the CPCR Act, 2005, the Commission may take any of the following steps upon the completion of any inquiry held under this Act, namely:

1. Where the inquiry discloses, the Commission of violation of child rights of a serious nature or contravention of provisions of any law for the time being in force, it may recommend to the concerned Government or authority the initiation of proceedings for prosecution or such other action as the Commission may deem fit against the concerned person or persons.
2. Approach the Supreme Court or the High Court concerned for such directions, orders or writs as the Court may deem necessary.
3. Recommend to the concerned Government or authority for the grant of such interim relief to the victim or the members of his family as the Commission may consider necessary.

SPECIFIC MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION AS PER SOME IMPORTANT ACTS:

- a. The Right of Children to free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
- i. Examine and review the safeguards for rights provided by or under this Act and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
- ii. Inquire into complaints relating to child's right to free and compulsory education; and compulsory education.
- iii. Take necessary steps as provided under section 15 and 24 of the Commission for Protection Rights Act.
- iv. The Commission shall while inquiring into any matters relating to child's right to free and compulsory education under clause (C) of sub-section(1) have the same powers as assigned under section 14 and 24 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights.
- v. Under section 32(3) of the RTE Act, any person aggrieved by the decision of the local authority may prefer an appeal to the Commissions for protection of Child Rights.

- b. The Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
 - As per section 109(1) of the JJ Act 2015, the Commission for protection of Child Rights shall in addition to the function assigned to it under the CPCR Act 2005, shall also monitor the implementation of the provisions of the JJ Act in such manner as may be prescribed. The Commission shall while inquiring into any matter relating to any offence under this Act, shall have the same power as are vested in the Communication under the CPCR Act, 2005. As per section 109(3) the Commission shall also include its activities under the section in its Annual Report.
- c. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012 : Section 44-Monitoring of implementation of the POCSO Act. : As per section 44(1) of the POCSO Act, the Commission shall in addition to the functions assigned under the CPCR Act, also monitor the implementation of the provisions of the POCSO Act in such manner as may be prescribed. As per section 44(2) the Commission shall while inquiring into the matter relating to any offence under this act shall have the same powers as are vested in it under the CPCR Act, 2005.

As per section 44(3), the Commission shall also include its activities under this section in its Annual Report.

THE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS



The Bill for establishing the Commissions exclusively for protecting rights of children was first introduced in Parliament in 2003. Thereafter, it was referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources Development. The Committee submitted its 165th Report in 2005 on the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Bill, 2005. The Bill was debated in Parliament and passed in 2005. It received the President's assent on 20th January, 2006. The Commission of Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 (CPCR ACT) provides for the constitution of a National Commission and State Commission for protection of Child Rights. It also provides for the establishment of Children's Court for providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of Child Rights.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) being a statutory body constituted under section 3 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act 2005 (4 of 2006) is responsible for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights provided under different legislations. Specifically , NCPCR has been mandated with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of legislations relating to child rights such as Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015(u/s 109); POCSO Act 2012 (u/s 44) and RTE Act 2009 (u/s 31). The Commission further ensures that all laws, programmes , administrative policies,

recommendations , campaigns , advisories etc, should be in complete alignment with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNCRC).

The Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights was notified and established on 28th February, 2014. The Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights from its inception has been engaged in upholding the spirit of the Constitution by protecting and promoting the Rights of Children and many important steps have been taken up by the Commission for the Protection of Rights of the children in the State to ensure that children have a protective Child- friendly environment.

The Mandate of the Commission is to "PROTECT, PROMOTE and MONITOR" Child Rights in any form. The Constitution of India stipulates Rights of Children. Article 15 (3) allows the State to make special provisions for Children, Article 21 A recognizes the Right to Free and Compulsory Education for Children and Article 24 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines or any hazardous employment. Further the Constitution also imposes certain duties upon the State in the form of Directive Principles of State Policy, which are Article 39 (c) and (f) and Article 45. It also imposes a fundamental duty under Article 51 (k) upon parents to provide opportunities for Education to their children.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

1ST - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023



सही पोषण - देश रोशन

**REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES
CONDUCTED UNDER
THE INITIATIVE OF
#POSHANMaah2023**

The government's national flagship programme, POSHAN Abhiyan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition), enters its sixth year in 2023. To accelerate its efforts towards improving nutritional rates among women and children, this year the government is focusing on key human life cycle stages—pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence—with the theme 'Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat' (Well-Nourished, Well-Read And Empowered India).

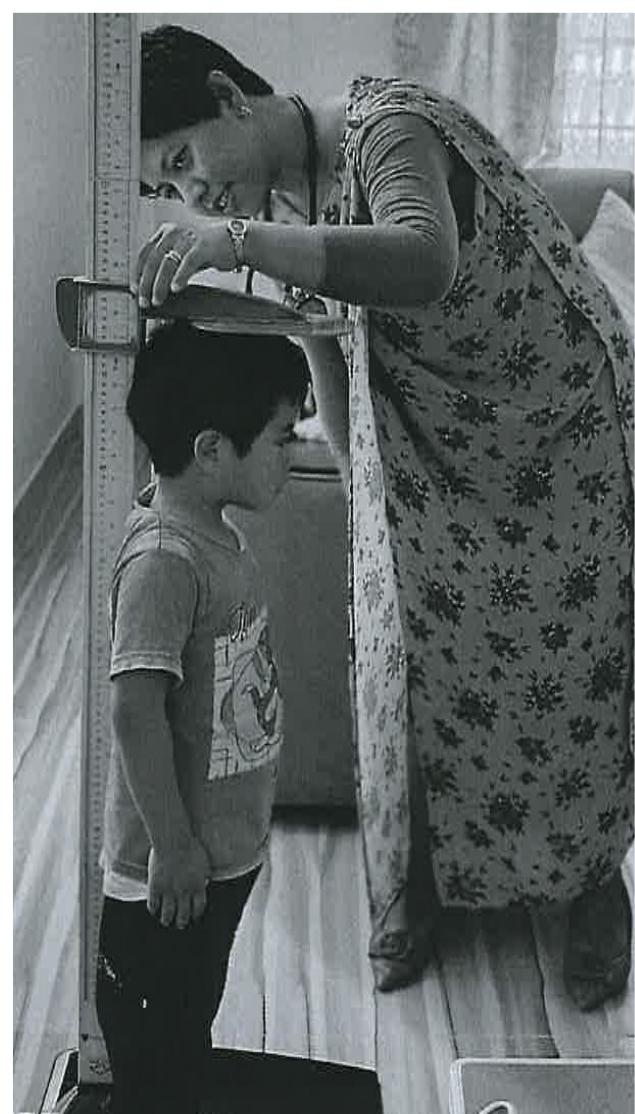
In compliance with the direction and instruction of National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPCR) through the Chairperson of Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Right (SCPCR) to observe the celebration of Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month) in the whole month of September, 2023 in the Child Care Institutions, activities and programmes were carried out for the children as per guidelines laid down by the Commissions.

Poshan Maah is being celebrated as part of the POSHAN Abhiyaan, the Central Government's flagship programme which aims to improve nutritional outcomes for children under 6 years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The Child Care Institutions and various Shelter Homes (Boys , Girls and Special Needs) have taken this opportunity to celebrate this month of Poshan Maah, by involving the children in different activities. The following activities were conducted across these homes:

1. Awareness program on Poshan Maa
2. Health assessment and Growth monitoring.
3. Awareness and regarding ill effects of consuming high fat salt and sugar (HFSS)
4. Awareness on nutrition and healthy food.
5. Drawing competition on healthy food.
6. Distribution of bookmarks and leaflets about healthy food.
7. Cooking demonstration classes.
8. Fancy dress competition on healthy food.
9. Talks and demonstrations on balanced diet.
10. Food exhibitions.
11. Talks about personal hygiene cleanliness water and sanitation.
12. Medical health camp.
13. Hemoglobin test.
14. Discuss on anaemia.
15. Talks on diarrhea and preventive measures
16. Maintenance of nutri-garden kitchen
17. Demonstration of diet diversity including local homemade food
18. Screening of documentaries regarding excessive use of chemicals and pesticides in food
19. Chart paper preparation about healthy lifestyle food nutrients Poshan Maa and benefits of vegetables
20. Quiz competition
21. Slogan competition
22. Cleaning drive
23. Artwork on nutrition using food items





GLIMPSES OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE 6TH RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH 2023 IN ALL DISTRICTS OF MEGHALAYA



PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES ATTENDED / CONDUCTED



SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME ON #CHILDREN #ISSUES THAT MATTER AT GOVERNMENT BOYS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL LUMDIENGJRI - JUNE 2023



SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME ON #CHILDREN #ISSUES THAT MATTER AT ST JOSEPH GIRLS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL JAIAW - JUNE 2023





June 28, 2024: As part of the World Day Against Human Trafficking, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) and the District Administration of East Khasi Hills District conducted a sensitization workshop titled "Prevention and Combating Child Trafficking 2.0 in 100 Bordering and Adjoining Districts in India".





CHAIRPERSON'S INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS OF GARO UNION SCHOOL SHILLONG ON VARIOUS CHILDREN ISSUES ON 25 JULY 2023



INTERACTION WITH SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS AND FACULTY FROM NORTH EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY (NEHU) SHILLONG



OTHER PROGRAMMES ATTENDED BY CHAIRPERSON/MEMBER SECRETARY:

- Screening the Film "From The Shadow" at Women's College Shillong by Impulse NGO Network on 12th May 2023
- Launching of the Children and Youth Campaign - Who can protect me ? I and We ? organised by Child Friendly Shillong under BIDS on 27th May 2023
- Seminar on Socio Economic Status of Single Mothers at the State Convention Centre organised by the Meghalaya State Womens Commission on 23rd June 2023
- Inauguration of the National Law University Meghalaya at Nongthymmai Mayurbhanj Complex on 8th July 2023
- Inauguration of the Completed Building of the High Court of Meghalaya on 8th July 2023
- Guest speaker at the Orientation Programmeat JJM Nichols Roy College Shillong on 21st July 2023
- One Day State Level Consultation Programme on Children in Conflict with Law : Prevention, Fair trial & Rehabilitation on 5th August 2023 organized by the Juvenile Justice Committee High Court of Meghalaya
- Regional Symposium on Child Protection Child Safety and Child Welfare"at Kalakshetra Khanapara Guwahati Assam organised by the NCPCR on August 12th 2023
- Speaker at District Level Bible Youth Camp 2023 organised by the Balang U Blei (M&A) from 11th-13 Aug 2023 on the topic "Involvement of Youth in Society"
- Launch of the mascots MOI and TIEW on 3rd April 2024 at Don Bosco Youth Centre Laitumkhrah Shillong under the My Safe Space Campaign organised by Faith Foundation
- Chairperson attended the Bench of the National Lok Adalat on 11th May 2024 as Conciliator Under the High Court Legal Services Committee
- Workshop on Gender Action Plan for Meghalaya organised by WorldBank MITP on 18th July 2024



TM
YOUR VOICE.YOUR STORY
THE MEGHALAYAN

MEGHALAYA | NORTHEAST | NATIONAL | INTERNATIONAL | CULTURE & LIFESTYLE | OPINION

MEGHALAYA

Child rights panel's plea not to circulate videos of kids

SHILLONG: The State Child Rights Protection Commission (SCPCR) has said that the act of a father killing his two children was "unspeakable". "The person that you can trust the most, I think it is a betrayal..."

June 3, 2022 . 2 min read

f X WhatsApp Email



The Shillong Times

ESTABLISHED 1945

MEGHALAYA

POCSO Act in Khasi hailed

By: By Our Reporter | Date: March 4, 2024

Share post: [f Facebook](#) [X Twitter](#) [P Pinterest](#) [Q WhatsApp](#) [in LinkedIn](#) [Email](#)

SHILLONG, March 3: The Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) has come up with the Khasi translation of the POCSO Act of 2012, which is expected to help the people have a better understanding of this legislation dealing with sexual assault and sexual exploitation of children.

The Director of the Meghalaya National Law University, Kerpa Meida Lyngdoh Nongbri said having the translated version of the Act is a step forward.

"It might not be one step ahead since we need to catch up with many of the challenges. But it is definitely a step forward since we are planning to reach out to the people to understand what the Act is all about," she said.

Lauding the MSCPCR for the effort, she said having a translated version of the Act is not easy.

"An effort has been made to translate the operative part and important provisions of the Act so that we understand what abuse and exploitation is. We will need many other translated versions," Nongbri said.

She said the POCSO Act is a strong legal framework to provide comprehensive protection, legal remedies, and justice for children.

She further said the effective implementation of the Act will happen if they can make people understand what it stands for.

Nongbri said she understands the challenges of handling the victims of sexual abuse as she had been a special judge under the POCSO Act.

She said she has seen how a victim turns hostile or comes to court fearing the stigma associated with sexual abuse. Children exposed to trafficking also undergo trauma, she added.

"As citizens, we have the responsibility to speak out if we come across cases of children being sexually exploited," she said.

Nongbri said the POCSO Act offers more space and scope to deal with the offences against children.

"Before this Act, we only had the Indian Penal Code which did not speak much about abuse against children," she said.

MSCPCR chairperson, Iamonlang M. Syiem said the Garo translation of the POCSO Act is in progress.

"When we started a year ago, we did not realise it would be so difficult to translate the Act into Khasi. Many words are taboo or slang. We do not utter them in public," she said.

Syiem felt it was high time they had a language with a certain kind of decency and integrity.

Social Welfare Minister Paul Lyngdoh in the presence of Law Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh recently released "Ki Kyndon Añi", the Khasi version of the POCSO Act, in Shillong.



Meghalaya: Sensitization workshop held on 'Prevention and Combating Child Trafficking'

As part of the World Day Against Human Trafficking, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) and East Khasi Hills district administration conducted a sensitization workshop



Sentinel Digital Desk

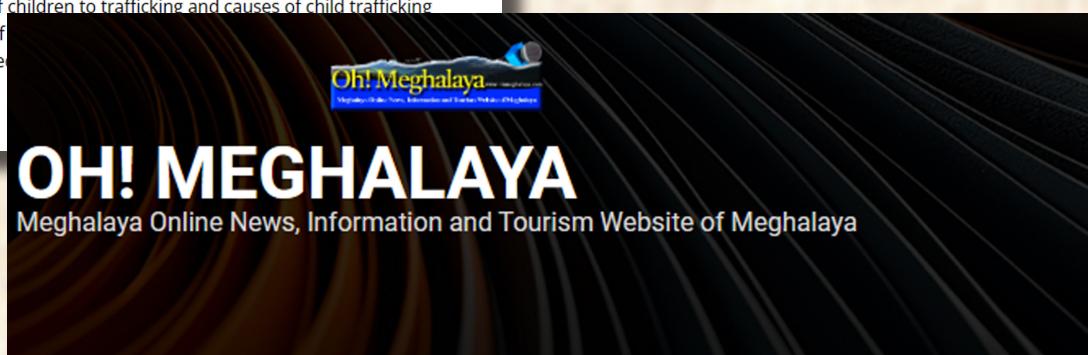
Published on: 30 Jun 2024, 10:18 am

A CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG: As part of the World Day Against Human Trafficking, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) and East Khasi Hills district administration conducted a sensitization workshop titled 'Prevention and Combating Child Trafficking 2.0 in 100 Bordering and Adjoining Districts in India'.

D. Kharshiing, ADC, East Khasi Hills based her speech on the theme 2024 'World Day Against Trafficking Persons, Leave no Child behind in the fight against Human Trafficking'. She stated that [Child Trafficking](#) is a heinous crime which needs immediate and continuous intervention.

Reasons for vulnerability of children to trafficking and causes of child trafficking are - inadequate support of refugee flows in war affected areas, lack of support from their families.



Meghalaya registers 2566 POCSO cases

Posted on February 29, 2024 by ohmegalaya

Meghalaya has registered over 2,566 cases under the protection of children from sexual offences (POCSO) Act 2012 till the end of 2023. Of these, a total of 1984 cases are still pending in the various district Courts. The disposal rate of cases in the state is 22.68%.

This was revealed in the Preliminary Report on the POCSO Cases in the Courts of Meghalaya prepared by the Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) released on Thursday.

The report said when it comes to convictions of cases, it may be pertinent to point out that Ri Bhoi District has the distinction of having the highest number of convictions at 50 followed by West Khasi Hills at 31 convictions and closely followed by East Khasi Hills at 30 such convictions.

Even though South Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills have 0 (zero) number of convictions, this may be partly due to the fact that there is no Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) appointed in South Garo Hills to try the cases and hence all cases in the district are pending before the Court in this district.

South West Garo Hills district on the other hand has POCSO Court established in 2017 and has not had a single conviction.

MSCPCR IN THE NEWS



REPORT ON THE RELEASE OF THE KHASI TRANSLATION "KI KYNDON AIN KONGSAN" OF THE POCSO ACT, 2012 29TH FEBRUARY 2024

The programme started with the playing of the National Anthem. This was followed by the passing of the lit candles by the dignitaries with the word HOPE inscribed on them. These were further passed on to Children symbolising the lighting of hope and passing the hope onto the future generations.

The welcome address was delivered by Smti C D Lyngwa, Director of Social Welfare. In her address she welcomed the guest and attendees to the programme and she highlighted the role of the Department of Social Welfare in establishing various initiatives and the creation of the "Early Childhood Development Mission" to look after the welfare of the Children. She spoke on creating awareness, knowledge and hope especially when it comes to violation of rights of children and gave her appreciation for the Khasi translation of the POCSO Act, which in her words will go a long way in bringing knowledge and awareness.

The programme continued with the address by Smti I. M. Syiem, Chairperson, Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. She addressed the gathering by

stressing on the importance of the translation of the POCSO Act especially for the Police Department, the Health Department, the District Child Protection Offices and those working in the field of Child Sexual Abuse. She also thanked the tireless work of the translators in completing the translation in time. The Chairperson also talked about the creation of a Calendar which is child specific and the various Child artists and their contribution towards the calendar.

The Chairperson spoke on the POCSO report which was to be released during the later part of the programme, and she highlighted the various problems faced in getting accurate data and specified that the report was just a brief glimpse of the actual ground reality in the State. She further highlighted that in order to get a full picture of the total reality of POCSO Cases in the State of Meghalaya, further studies need to be conducted and proper research should be carried out.

The next address was delivered by Smti Macdalyne Sawkmie Mawlong, Executive Member, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, who spoke about the importance

of the Act, especially when it comes to Child Sexual Abuse which is a hidden topic and rarely spoken about. She highlighted the fact that in most rural areas there is also the stigmatisation of the survivors of CSA. She stressed that there should be adequate resources to provide succour to such survivors and that there should be a push to provide information about POCSO and Child Sexual Abuse in Schools so that Children will be able to understand and seek remedies if such instances were to occur to any of them. Address was delivered by Smt. K. M. Lyngdoh Nongbri, Director, Meghalaya State Judicial Academy, who spoke about the translation of the POCSO Act, and why it was necessary in particular to gain accessibility and awareness of the POCSO Act, among the various section of Society as well as for those working in the field of child sexual abuse. She drew parallels from her past as a POCSO Judge and spoke from experience about child rights, child exploitation and forced labour.

Next Address was delivered by Smt. D. Kharbteng, District & Sessions Judge, East Khasi Hills District was about her other role as District Legal Service Authority, where she was part of generating awareness in the rural and interior areas on the POCSO Act, the challenges and difficulties in the field when it comes to certain words and their usage and getting the right balance that is understood by the population. She emphasized that having a copy of the translation was important to help people remember the facts about the POCSO Act.

The programme was followed the release of the Meghalaya State Commission Calendar

by Dr. Ampareem M Lyngdoh, Minister, Law Department, and distribution of the Calendar to the children whose paintings and drawing were selected for the Calendar.

After the distribution of the Calendar, the Hon'ble Minister made her address to the gathering and spoke about the demystification of the POCSO Act, in order to bring about the awareness on the POCSO Act and its significance. She also spoke of the Rights of the Girl Child. She also spoke about simplifying Legal aid to assault survivors and lauded the Commission through the Chairperson for bringing out the translation of the POCSO Act as well as the POCSO Courts Report. The Law Minister also stated the fight has started and the translation of the POCSO Act needs to be translated into action by making each and every Child in the State aware about it.

A presentation on the POCSO Report was made by Shri. A. Nongbet, Research Cell, Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The presentation consisted of the figures of the POCSO Cases in the State as well as the Conviction and Acquittal rates. The presentation also highlighted the Pendency of cases in the POCSO Courts. The presentation also highlighted the number of cases reported during the Pandemic Years which were on the increase. The presentation served to bring the ground realities on the present scenario of the POCSO Cases in the State.

The Official release of the POCSO Report By Smt. K.M. Lyngdoh Nongbri, Director, Meghalaya State Judicial Academy was the next event and was followed by the recitation





of a poem by Miss. Janelle A. I. Syngai, from Loretto Convent School Shillong. She recited a Poem by Ramneet Kaur titled "Hope sustains Life".

The main event of the release of the Khasi Translation of the POCSO Act, "Ki Kyndon ain ba Kongsan" was made by the Chief Guest, Shri. Paul Lyngdoh, Minister of Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya.

The minister officially released the Khasi translated version of the POCSO Act, after which he felicitated the translators and thanked them for their service. After the felicitation of the Translator, the Chief Guest made his address and talked about hope after a setback in life and overcoming such setbacks. The Chief Guest also stated that there is a huge number of Child marriages in the state and the need to reverse the trend

of early child marriage. The importance of having the POCSO Act in the Khasi Script is that it can be used to spread awareness to the rural areas so that no one can plead ignorance of the POCSO Act.

Further on Shri. Paul Lyngdoh, implored everybody present, as well as all lawmakers, parents, faithleaders and all lawabiding citizens to take upon themselves the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the Children across the state of Meghalaya.

The final event of the day was the distribution of Calendar by the Guest of Honour, Smti. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Minister i/c Law & Health Department, etc to the Children present at the programme.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Smti. M. L. Warjri, District Child Protection Officer, East Khasi Hills District.





Brief explanation of compiled POCso Data as given in the preliminary report on POCso cases in the courts of Meghalaya

Report released on 29th February 2024

A Preliminary Report on the POCSO Cases in the Courts of Meghalaya

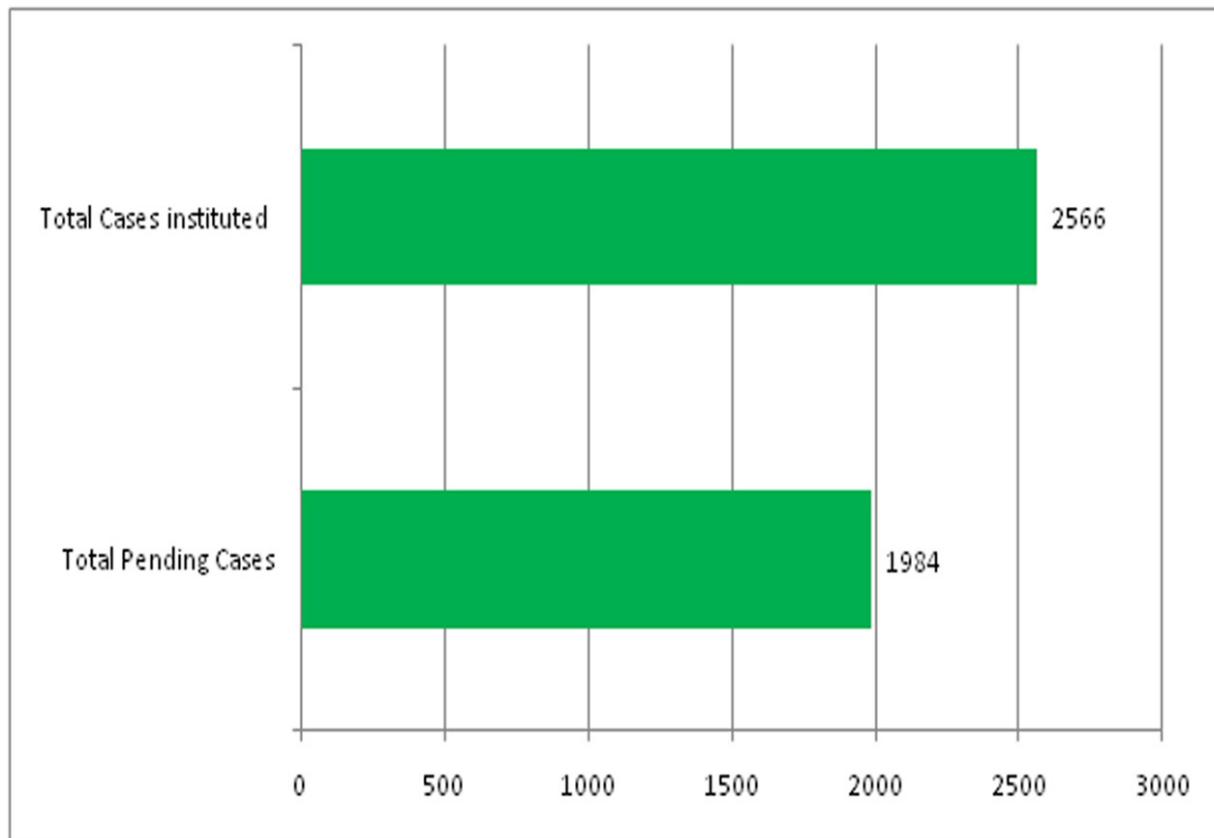


The POCSO Act, Introduced on 14th November, 2012 was legislation enacted to rein the incidences of Child Sexual Abuse after consideration of Case law and studies on Child Sexual Abuse in India.

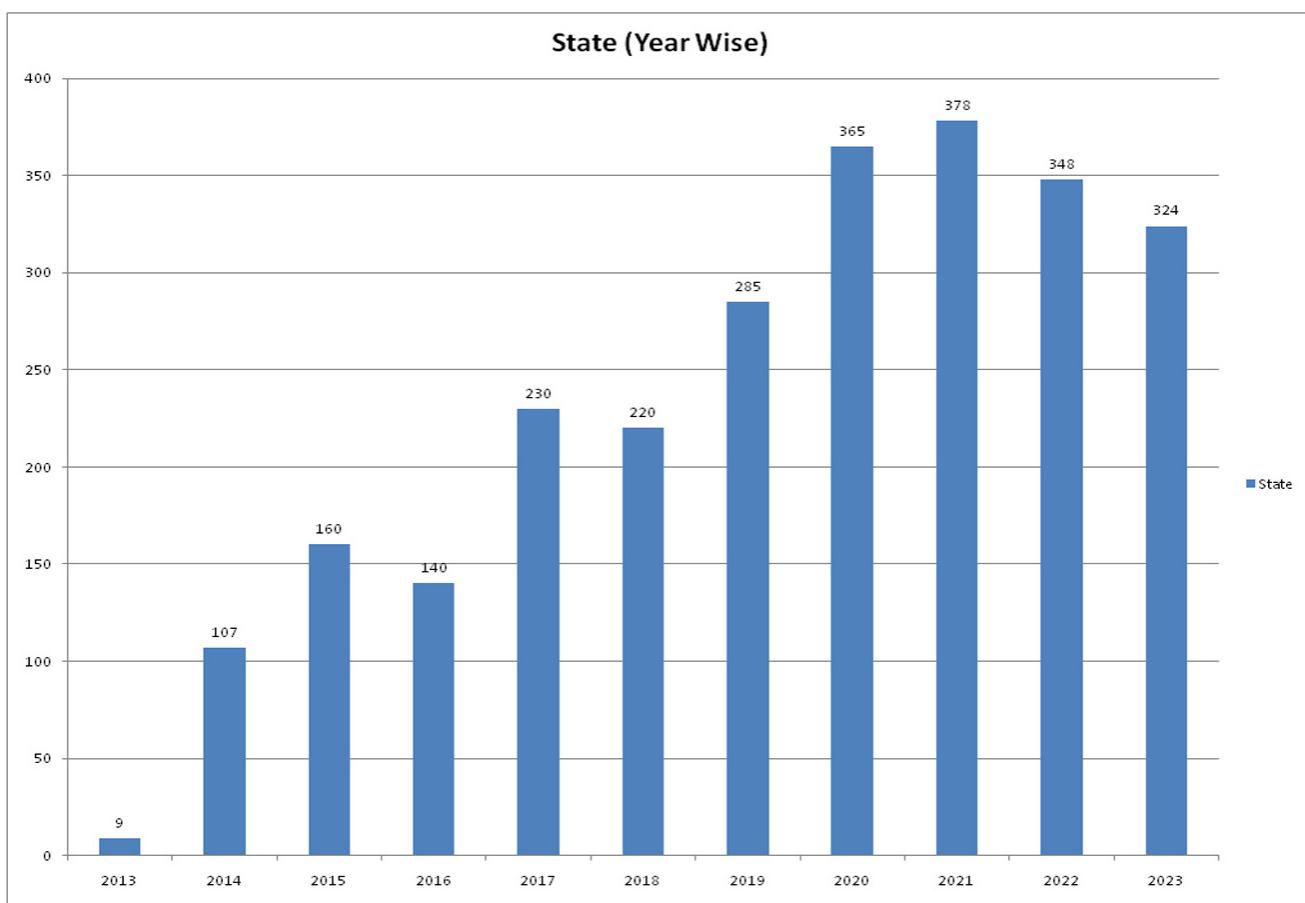
However, any legislation has to be evaluated and strengthened from time to time. It has been more than a decade since the first POCSO case was instituted in the State; therefore it is only dutiful that an analysis of the functioning of the POCSO Cases instituted in the various POCSO Courts in the State is conducted.

In light of the above statement, the following is a brief analysis of the various POCSO Courts functioning in the State of Meghalaya. It is to be noted that every facet of the data being presented here has been thoroughly cross checked and verified based on the reports the Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Shillong has been receiving

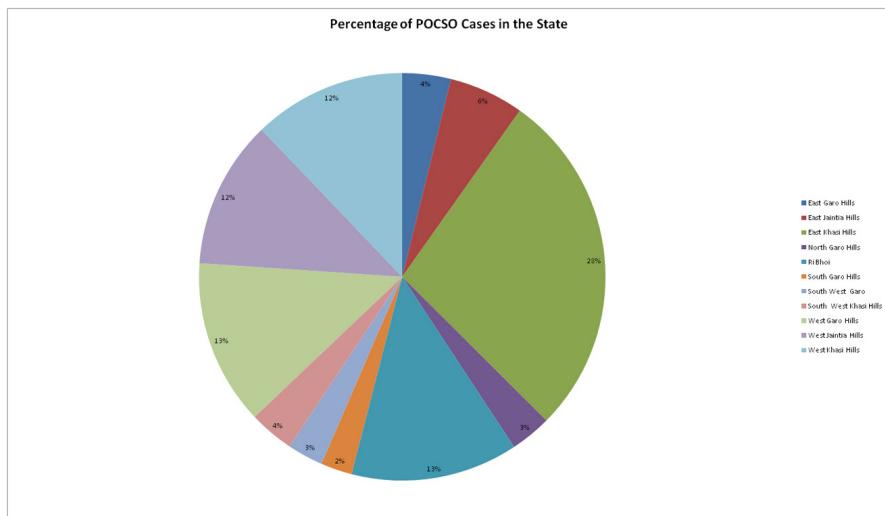
from the various POCSO Courts in the State. It may be noted that the first Case to be registered under the newly designated POCSO Courts was on 4th June 2013 at the East Khasi Hills POCSO Court. and subsequently other POCSO Courts have been established in the other Districts of the State. At present out of the 12 (Twelve) districts in the State, 11 (Eleven) Districts barring the newly established Eastern West Khasi Hills have POCSO Courts with designated POCSO Judges presiding over these courts. The total number of cases instituted in these Courts since their inception till the end of the year 2023 has reached a total of 2566 (Two thousand five hundred and Sixty six) cases, out of which a total of 1984 (One thousand nine hundred and eighty four) cases are still pending in the various district Courts. The disposal rate of cases in the state is 22.68%.



The following figure depicts the trend of cases instituted in the Courts year wise, it may be noted that the total number of cases instituted has increased over the years and this may be due to various factors for which a more proper research is suggested. However, it may be noted that during the pandemic years the number of Cases instituted were highest at 365 in 2020 and 378 in 2021.

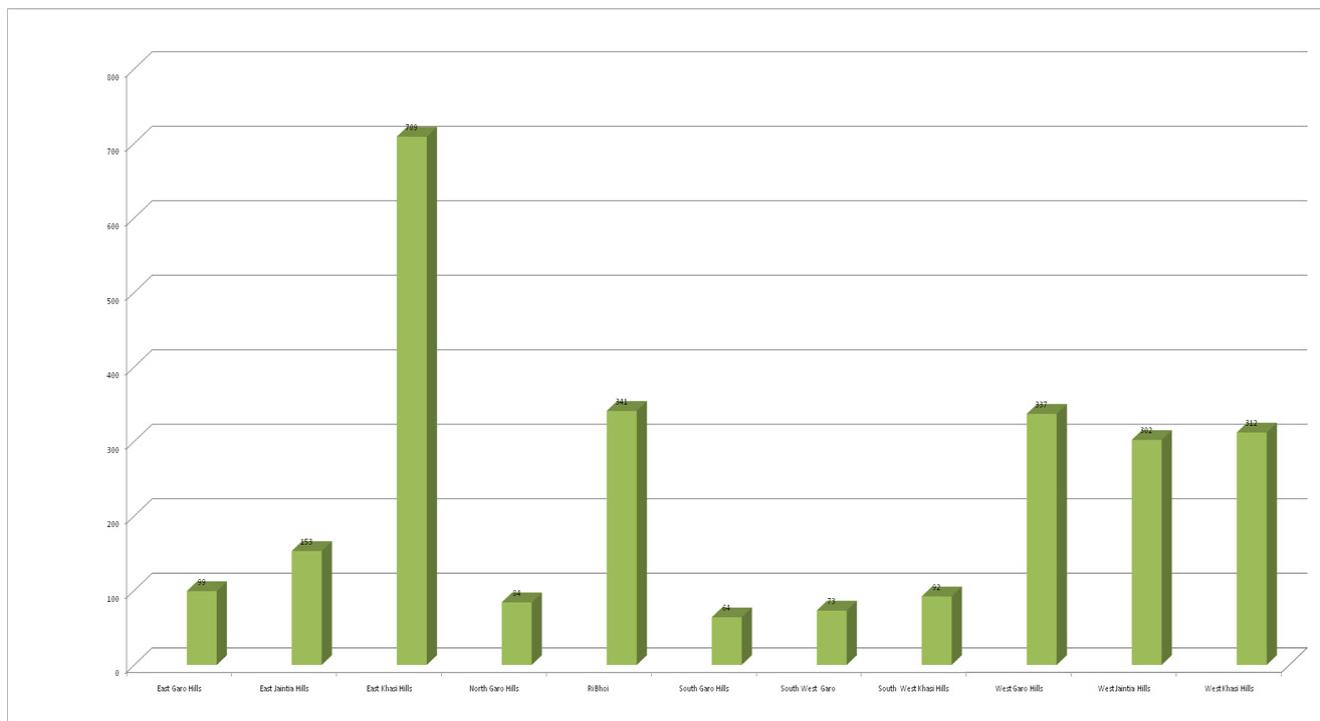


Coming to the District level, the highest number of POCSO Cases registered in the various POCSO Courts of the State depicts that East Khasi Hills has the highest number of POCSO Cases instituted at 709 cases which accounts for 28% of all POCSO cases in the State. The lowest number of POCSO cases instituted in the state goes to south Garo Hills which account for only 2% of the total at 64 Cases.



The following figures depicts the a portion of the disposal of cases, it may be mentione here that the disposal of cases does not include only Convictions and Acquittals, but other factors such as Deaths of the accused, absconders and transfers of cases from one district to another which happens frequently due to the establishment of new districts and district POCSO Courts.

Case Load District Wise

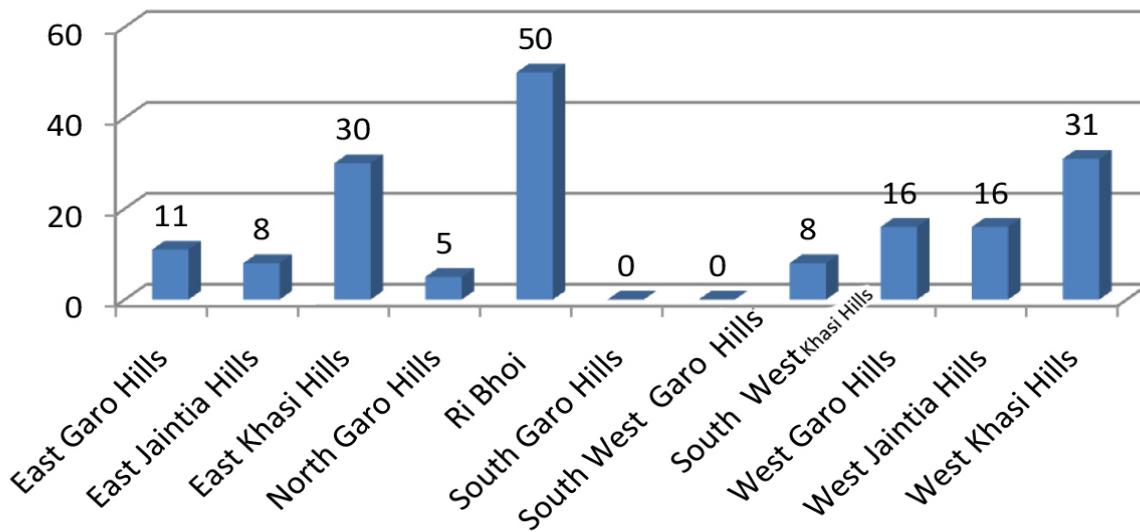


When it comes to Convictions of cases, it may be pertinent to point out that Ri Bhoi District has the distinction of having the highest number of convictions at 50 followed by West Khasi hills at 31 convictions and closely followed by East Khasi Hills at 30 such convictions. It may be pertinent to note here that even though South Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills have 0 Number of Convictions, this may be partly due to the fact that there is no Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) appointed in South Garo Hills to try the cases and hence all cases in the district are pending before the Court in this district. South West Garo Hills district on the other hand has POCSO Court established in 2017 and has not had a single conviction.

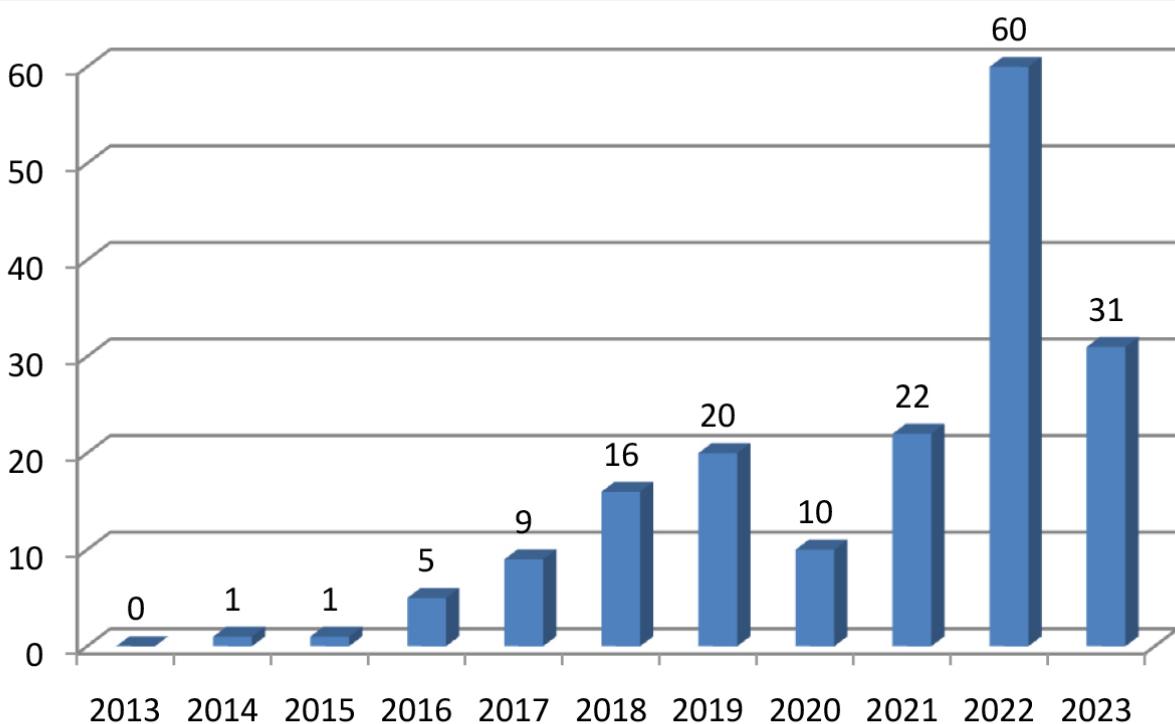
Convictions

When it comes to convictions of cases, we can also see them on an annual basis and note that the number of convictions have been steadily increasing yearly and the highest number of convictions on an annual basis was in the year 2022 with a total number of 60 convictions followed closely with 31 convictions in 2023.

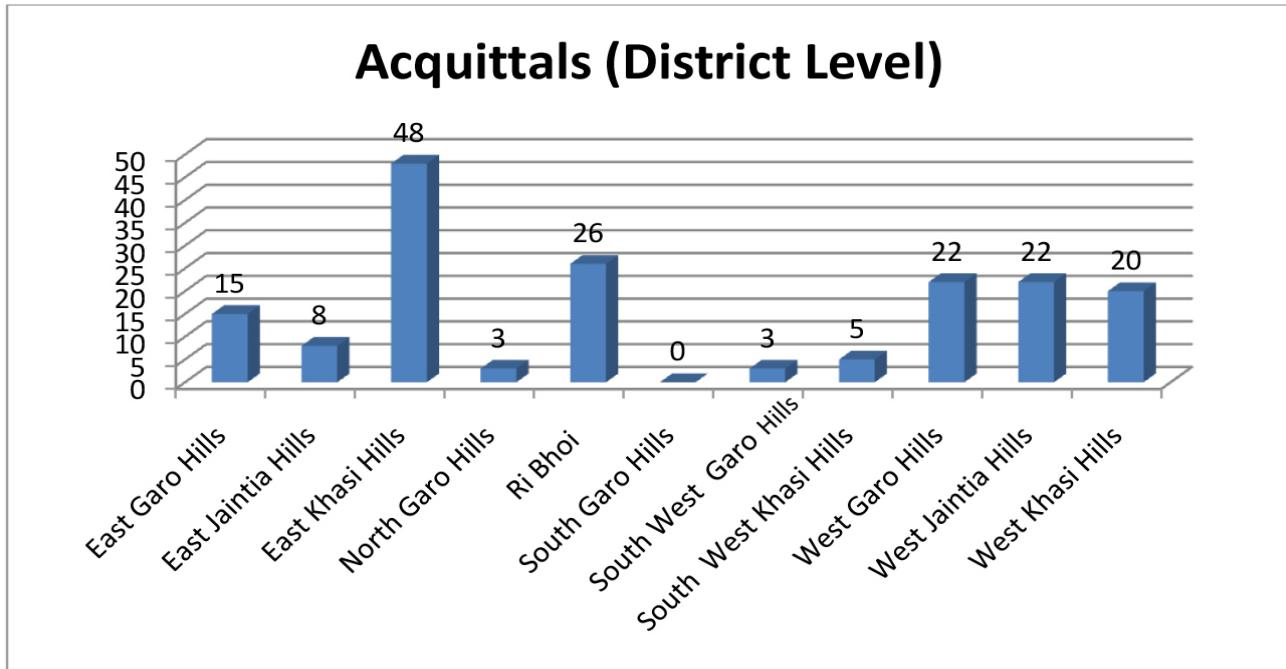
Convictions (District Wise)



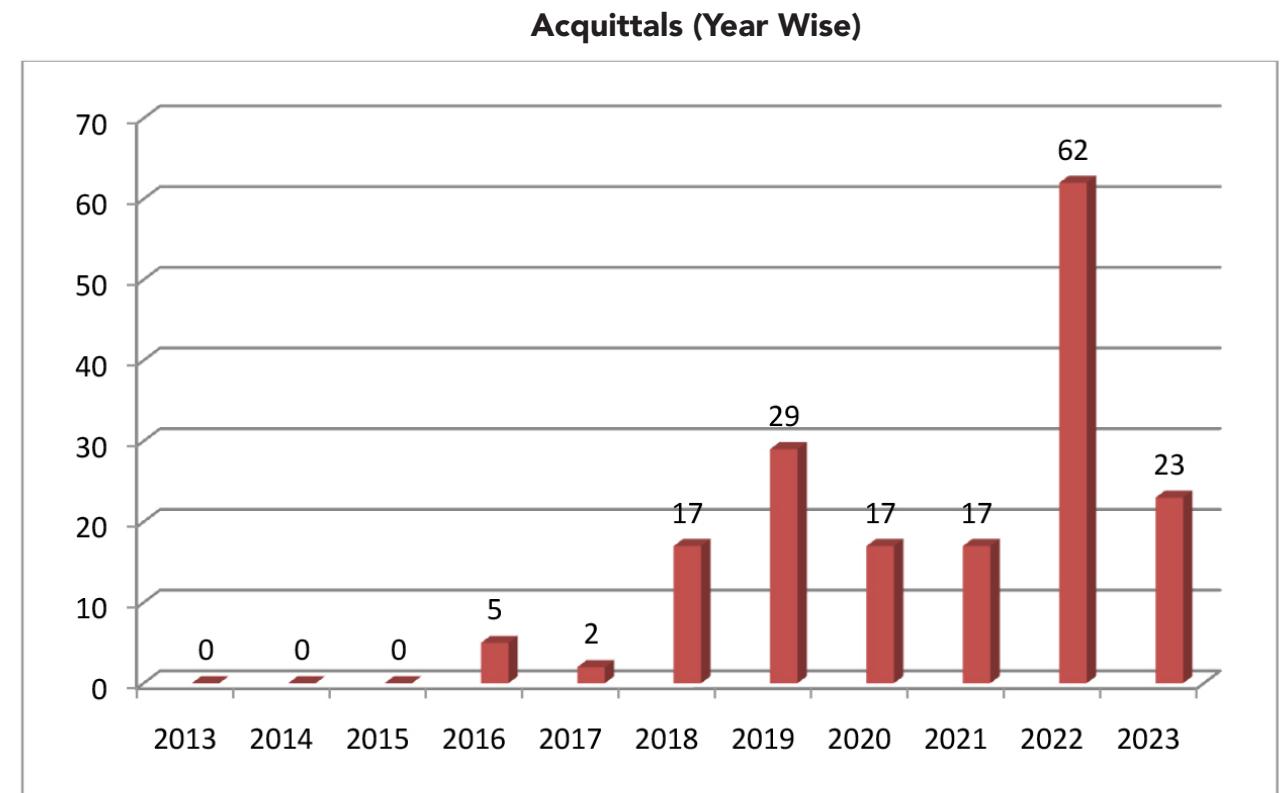
Convictions Year Wise



In the matter of disposal of cases which result in acquittals, the following picture emerges, The highest number of acquittals among the various district POCSO Courts is East Khasi Hills District with a total of 48 acquittals. The lowest number of acquittals are shared by both North Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills at 3 Acquittal each.. The distinction is made here, that even though South Garo hills has 0 acquittals , this is primarily due to the fact that POCSO Cases in the district are pending due to a no SPP in place.

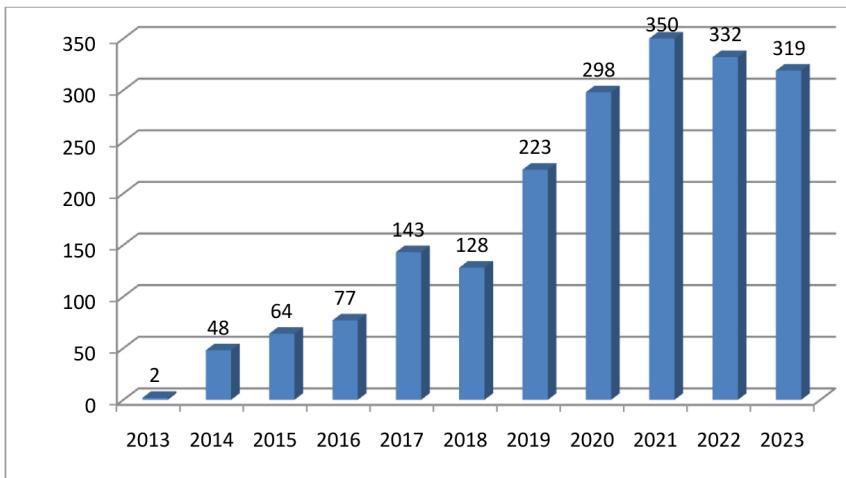


When we look at the number of Acquittals on an annual basis, we find that the highest number of acquittal in the State was in the year 2022 with a total number of 62 acquittals



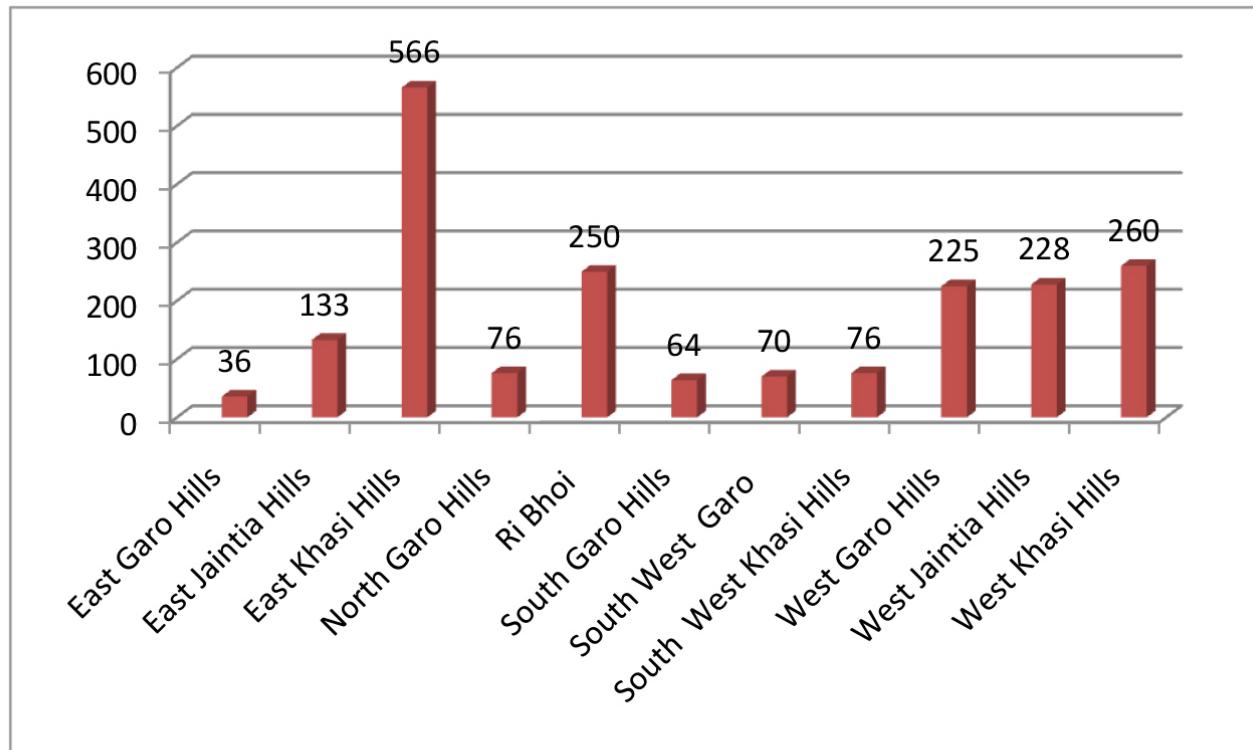
When it comes to pendency of POCSO cases in the State the following picture emerges, it may be noted that Cases instituted since 2013 are still pending in the POCSO Court. The highest number of pending cases in the State were from the year 2021 followed closely in 2022.

Pendency (Year Wise)



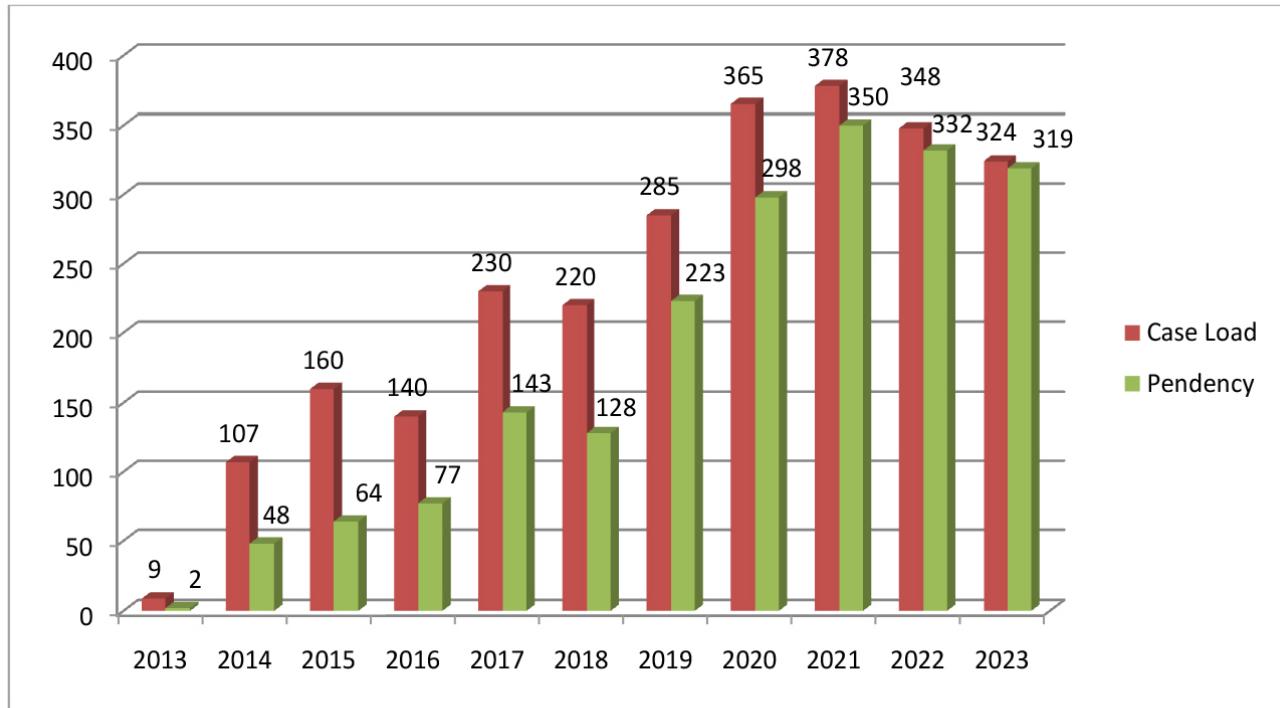
Looking at the pendency of cases in the State in a district wise manner we find that East Khasi Hills has the highest number of pending POCSO cases in the State at 566 cases pending in the POCSO Court of the District. The lowest number of pending cases in the State is East Garo Hills with a total number of 36 cases pending in their POCSO Court.

Pendency District Wise



The following graph depict a proper picture of POCSO Cases instituted in the State and their pendency at the various POCSO Courts in the State

Case Load and Pendency in Courts







Chairperson with Former Member Secretary SCPCR Shri L Lyngdoh along with present Member Secretary SCPCR Smt M A Kharbhih, Addl Director Social Welfare Dept Smt D V Massar, and Smt N Umdor Member Secretary Women's Commission alongwith DCPO Smt M Warjri and LCPO Smt C Malngiang



Chairperson with the staff of SCPCR



MEGHALAYA STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

RELEASE OF THE KHASI TRANSLATION

"Ki kyndon Aiñ ba kongsan"

OF THE POCSO ACT 2012

29TH FEB 2024

11:30 AM

FORESTWOOD HOTEL, SHILLONG



						
DEFINITION OF A CHILD	NO DISCRIMINATION	BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD	MAKING RIGHTS REAL	FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP	LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT	NAME AND NATIONALITY
						
IDENTITY	KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER	CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES	PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING	RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS	SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY	FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION
						
SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS	PROTECTION OF PRIVACY	ACCESS TO INFORMATION	RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS	PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE	CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES	CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED
						
REFUGEE CHILDREN	CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT	REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT	SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP	FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME	ACCESS TO EDUCATION
						
AIMS OF EDUCATION	MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION	REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS	PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK	PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS	PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE	PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING
						
PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION	CHILDREN IN DETENTION	PROTECTION IN WAR	RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION	CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW	BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES	EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

43-54



HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD