

MALSAWM

A Newsletter of Centre for Community Initiative



Teacher's Day Celebration

This year, the students of **The Malsawm Initiative** took the lead in organizing a memorable **Teacher's Day** celebration at Greenhills Resort, Mata Mualltam. The event was a heartwarming tribute to the dedication and guidance of their teachers and our Director.

Students showcased their talents by writing and reciting a heartfelt poem, expressing their deep appreciation for the support and love they receive daily. The poem was dedicated to both the Director and their beloved teachers, capturing the essence of gratitude and admiration.

In addition to the performances, the students also presented thoughtful gifts to their teachers, marking the occasion with joy and gratitude. The day was filled with laughter, celebration, and a strong sense of community, as students honored those who play a pivotal role in shaping their future.

Observation of Intl Day of Sign Language



On Sept 23, 2024, for the first time in the history of Churachandpur College (Autonomous), in collab with Centre for Community Initiative (CCI), celebrated **International Day of Sign Language**. Over 250 students attended the event, where CCI staff and students from The Malsawm Initiative (TMI) conducted engaging sessions.

These sessions included lip reading, gestures, and teaching alphabets in American and Indian Sign Language, culminating with a powerful performance of India's National Anthem in sign language. This event marked a significant step towards inclusivity and awareness in our community.

Meet our student



Lianchrist, a student with Hearing Impairment in Level B at The Malsawm Initiative, has made impressive strides in both speech and academics. Initially relying on Sign Language, he struggled with pronouncing letters like R, L, and S. Thanks to his cochlear implant and dedicated teachers, he now understands letter sounds better and can form simple sentences like *"May I come in?"* His progress is especially notable in English, where he's improved in phonetics, word formation, and sentence construction. His positive attitude and eagerness to learn shine through in his consistent effort and achievements.

Training on SHG Bookkeeping



From August 20-24, 2024, CCI held a training on **SHG bookkeeping** and account management at G Bualjang and Tuilakjang Village, Churachandpur. Under NABARD's Springshed Based Watershed Development Project, the focus was on empowering women and landless communities.

Ms. Manuanching (BRT) and Ms. Sylvia Hatneijoy (DEO, MSRLM) led the sessions, providing valuable financial skills for sustainable development and self-reliance.

Supporting Displaced Students

CCI proudly partners with Ascend Coaching to support around **60 Internally Displaced Students** from relief centers across Lamka.

Despite the challenges of displacement and ongoing conflict, these resilient students inspire hope in our community. We extend our best wishes and prayers to them as they continue their education.

Independence Day at TMI



This **Independence Day**, The Malsawm Initiative celebrated the true essence of freedom by embracing inclusivity. Our students proudly showcased their love for the motherland through vibrant creative displays and a spirited march-past. Together, we aim to build a nation where every voice is heard, every ability is valued, and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Unau Day 2024



Unau Day (Day of Sibling with Disabilities), celebrated on June 26, features the theme "We Are in This Together," with fun and inclusive activities at JP Leisure Turf, Pearsonmun, Lamka. Participants enjoy inclusive games. **Siblings** and students from The Malsawm Initiative, Early Intervention, Home-Based Care, and children from partner schools—Little Gems Academy, VK Tawna High, and Angels Place—join the festivities. Supported by the Wipro Foundation since 2011, this annual event strengthens the bond between children with disabilities and their siblings, fostering a sense of responsibility towards one another.

Value Added Courses (VAC)

CCI developed curriculum on disability to be introduced as **Value Added Courses (VAC)** at two Aunotnomous College : Rayburn College and Churachandpur College and provide teaching staff for the same. The course contents include introduction to disabilities, inclusive education and Special Education, while extra contents at Churachandpur College includes Basic Sign Language VAC, covering essential vocabulary and deaf culture. These courses aim to foster inclusivity and awareness.



Empowering Women Financially

CCI helped **40 women and 4 SHGs** from G Bualjang and Tuilakjang open bank accounts at BOI New Lamka, fostering economic independence under NABARD's Watershed Development Project.



Trainings & Capacity Building

- »» On July 5, 2024, a virtual MLE **Capacity Building Workshop on Strategy Template Discussion** was conducted by **Dasra**. The workshop was attended by the **Managers of MARC and Finance**, aimed at enhancing measurement, learning, and evaluation strategies.
- »» On July 8, 2024, an **awareness session on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Specific Learning Disability** was held at **The Dawn School**, Lailam Veng. Conducted by **Mr. Paul Rozarlien, Ms. Parnei Vaiphei, and Ms. Hoikim** from CCI, the session was attended by 30 teachers from The Dawn School, focusing on **empowering parents and teachers** with essential knowledge and strategies.
- »» On July 10, 2024, **Dasra** conducted an **introduction to Measurement, Learning, and Evaluation (MLE)** on understanding systems and processes. The session was attended by the **Manager, MARC and Manager, Finance**.
- »» A refresher training on **Inclusive Education** was held on July 11, 2024, at MARC, conducted by **Ms. Parnei and Ms. Hoikim**. The training was attended by two teachers each from partner schools, including **Happy Heart School, Little Gems Academy, Tuibuang Government High School, and VK Tawna High**.
- »» An in-house knowledge-sharing session titled **"Understanding Childhood"** was conducted on July 11, 2024, at TMI by **Ms. Nemneihing Baite**, a 2nd semester MA (Education) intern from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi. The session was organized for **TMI teachers and volunteer**, focusing on insights into childhood development and education.
- »» **Wipro Foundation's OD&D Fellowship 2024-25** began with an in-person workshop held from July 11-13, 2024, at **Wipro Campus, Sarjapur, Bangalore**. **Director, CCI** attended the three-day event, engaging in sessions focused on **organizational development and leadership**.
- »» Awareness Program on **Autism Spectrum Disorder and Specific Learning Disability** was conducted on July 19, 2022, at **Easton Hall School**, Vengnuam South, New Lamka. The session was led by **Mr. Paul Rozarlien, Coordinator (Advocacy & Community Empowerment), Ms. Parnei Vaiphei, Coordinator (CB&T and Inclusive Education), and Ms. Hoikim, Assistant Admin (TMI)**, and was attended by **staff and parents** to enhance understanding and support for children with these disabilities.
- »» August 26, 2024, an online capacity-building session on **"How to Build Your Organisation's Theory of Change"** was held, featuring **Ms. Debrupa Bhattacharjee and Mr. Jisu Paul, both Research Managers from Sambodhi**. Supported by Dasra, the session was attended by **Manager, Finance, and Manager, MARC**. The training aimed to enhance the understanding of **creating effective frameworks for organizational change and impact**.

Training on Autism & ADHD



The three-day training on **Basic Care for Children with Autism and ADHD** at the Malsawm Ability Resource Centre (MARC) in Pearsonmun, Lamka, has concluded successfully. Organized by CCI, the training engaged parents, teachers, and caregivers in various aspects of autism, including **the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act 2016** and **the role of exercise in child development**.

Combining theory and hands-on practice, participants gained valuable insights and skills to better support children with autism. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of this training on these incredible kids!



“Training is the bridge that transforms potential into performance, equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to thrive and drive positive change.”

Trainings & Capacity Building

- >>> August 31, 2024, an online panel discussion titled **"Meet the Expert" focused on Learning Disabilities**. The panel featured **Dr. Vibha Krishnamurthy**, a developmental pediatrician and founder of Ummeed; **Virat Bhatia**, a parent advocate and Harvard alumnus working at Apple India; and **Anika Bhatia**, a Business Economics student at Amity University and self-advocate for Learning Disabilities. The event was supported by the Ummeed Foundation and attended by **Ms. Parnei Vaiphei, Coordinator (CB&T)**.
- >>> September 12, 2024, an **in-house** training session on **Learning Disabilities** was conducted for staff at The Malsawm Initiative by **Ms. Parnei Vaiphei**. The training focused on **effective instructional strategies**, including the use of simple instructions, point-wise explanations, and highlighting important points with colors. It also covered the importance of adjusting voice pitch, using larger fonts, and ensuring proper spacing between letters and words. Additionally, the session emphasized that children with learning disabilities can access a scribe during board exams and that these disabilities can be identified as early as ages 4 to 7.
- >>> September 17 and 19, 2024, a workshop on the **ODD Process** was held at **Malsawm Ability Resource Centre (MARC)** for all staff and one volunteer, led by the Director. The session emphasized **dedication, teamwork, and a renewed commitment to our mission**. The workshop **fostered self-reflection** and appreciation for their roles, reigniting their passion for the work and encouraging **open sharing** among team members.
- >>> September 26, 2024, **Ms. Ningthianching and Ms. Chiinthanching** conducted an **in-house** session on **EVS-Art integration**. The session emphasized how art connects to all subjects and can teach shapes, sizes, and basic math concepts. Activities focused on enhancing fine motor skills, concentration, and creativity, demonstrating the benefits of art in education. Despite some challenges with drawing, attendees enjoyed exploring their creative side and recognized the positive impact of these activities on children's focus and motor planning skills.
- >>> September 30, 2024, a webinar titled **"The Art of Storytelling in Non-Profit Pitch Decks: Engaging Donors Through Impact"** was held online, featuring **Mr. Ajay Batra**, an Entrepreneur and Start-up Mentor, with support from **BigTech** and **NASSCOM Foundation**. Attendees included **Manager, MARC, Assistant Admin, TMI**, and **Coordinators of ISP/MEAL and M&D**. The session focused on enhancing **storytelling techniques to effectively engage donors and communicate organizational impact**.

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Sensory Motor Integration Training

From August 7-9, 2024, MARC hosted a **Sensory Motor Integration Training led by Pediatric Neuro Physiotherapist, Mr. Loganathan Gurusamy**, for 14 TMI teachers. The training explored how sensory processing imbalances in children affect learning, behavior, and emotional regulation. Participants learned about the brain's role in managing stress, the importance of proper posture, and sensory systems such as tactile, vestibular, and proprioception. Teachers were trained in calming techniques, adaptive activities, and creating a positive classroom environment to support children's learning and development.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

A major milestone in the history of The Malsawm Initiative, four (4) students graduated Level-C (equivalent to Class VIII), six (6) students Level-B (equivalent to Class V) and two (2) students graduated Level-A (equivalent to Class III) through Open Basic Education (OBE) programme of NIOS in the results declared for 2024 Examination from TMI Study Centre.

Level-A graduates



Level-B graduates



Level-C graduates

