

# RAPPORTEUR'S REPORTS

ON

“ELECTORAL LITERACY AND PARTICIPATION”

A Nation Seminar

*Jointly Organized by:* Department of Political Science, Government Khawzawl College and District Election Office, Khawzawl District, Khawzawl, Mizoram

Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021

## RAPPORTEUR'S

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|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Mr. Lalliantluanga     | : | Assistant Professor, Department of Mizo, Govt. Khawzawl College      |
| 2. Mr. Lalruatpuia        | : | Assistant Professor, Department of Mizo, Govt. Khawzawl College      |
| 3. Mr. Vanlalmangaihsanga | : | Assistant Professor, Department of Mizo, Govt. Khawzawl College      |
| 4. Mr. K.C. Lalrindika    | : | Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Govt. Khawzawl College |

*Approved*

*21/11/21*

**NATIONAL SEMINAR**  
**ON**  
**ELECTORAL LITERACY AND PARTICIPATION**

**INAUGURAL FUNCTION:**

The inaugural function started at 11:00 Am under the chairmanship of Mrs. Lalthlamuani, Associate Professor, Head, Department of Political Science, Government Khawzawl College.

Mr. K. Lalkulhpuia, Assistant Professor (Co-ordinator) introduced to the attendants, the Deputy Commissioner of Khawzawl, the Electoral Officer, the Principal of Government Khawzawl College, the Chairman of the inaugural function, the Block Level Officers, YMA Sub-Headquarter, Mizoram Journalist Association, DDK Stringer, Rapporteurs, and also invited the Resource Persons to give self-introduction.

Welcome Speech was delivered by Mr. R. Lalrintluanga, the Principal of Government Khawzawl College. The principal greeted and thanked the resource persons, special invitees including the – Deputy Commissioner, Khawzawl District, Election Officer, Booth Level Officers, NGOs, Students, etc. for attending the National Seminar jointly organized by the Government Khawzawl College and District Election Office, Khawzawl. He also thanked the Department of Political Science and Electoral Literacy Club of this College for all the efforts they put for the success of the Seminar.

The chairperson then invited the Chief Guest, Shree. C.C. Lalhhuangkima, Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer, Khawzawl to deliver a speech. The Chief Guest appreciated the conduct of seminar in English, and he was also glad that the Resource Persons came from Saitual and Champhai as it showed their sincerity and devotion to the programme. The themes of papers to be presented were also commended by him. He then spoke about the importance of Electoral Literacy and invited all to be enrolled in the Electoral Roll. He stated that the Indian electoral process was the most robust in the world electoral process and warned the audience to not believe in the false rumors and conspiracy about the elections. He also cited how people from other states stated that Mizoram was not like other parts of the country as they have never violated the rules of elections. He also mentioned the important role of MPF (Mizoram Peoples' Forum) for having free and fair elections in Mizoram, and that EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) was introduced in Mizoram in 2003 for MLA election.

Following the short speech, a Key-note address was delivered by Mr. H. Lalramenga, Sub Deputy Commissioner and Election Officer, Khawzawl District. He talked about the concept of Electoral Literacy and its importance. He said that the citizens of civilized countries have sound knowledge about necessary information of all aspects, likewise if the citizens of our state were also aware of all the elections process in our country, there could be immense development in the state. He further mentioned the significance of having

knowledge about the model code of conduct. He then requested the participants to make use of Voter's helpline and the ECI Website.

### TECHNICAL SESSIONS:

Second session was started with the two technical sessions from 1:00 pm chaired by Mr. K. Lalkulhpuia, Seminar Coordinator and Mr. Joseph Vanlalnghaka, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Government Khawzawl College respectively. In these two sessions different resource persons presented their papers on different topics related to Electoral Literacy and Participation. The summary of their papers presented is attached in the appendix.

In the first Technical Session, Dr Soukarja Ghosal Assistant Professor, Department of English, Governmentt Khawzawl College was invited to deliver a speech on the "Election from Literature View Point" and he talked about the origin of election and how it spread to the world. The Resource Persons who presented their papers in this session are shown below:

- 1) Ms. Mimmy Rosangpuii, Assistant Professor, Government Champhai College & Research Scholar, Mizoram University – *"Significance of Electoral Literacy for a Stronger Democracy"*
- 2) Ms. Lalhmingangi, Assistant Professor, Government Khawzawl College & Research Scholar, Mizoram University – *"Electoral Participation Mizoram: An Overview"*
- 3) Ms. Liansangpuii Khiangte, Assistant Professor, Government Saitual College – *"Social Media: A Medium of Political Participation"*

In the Second Technical Session, the following resource persons were presenting their papers.

- 1) Mr. Lalchhuanawma, Assistant Professor, Government Khawzawl College – *"A Comparative Study of Mizoram: Electoral Participation in Mizoram Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha Elections since 1970"*
- 2) Mr. Lalchhanhima, Assistant Professor, Government Khawzawl College – *"A Study of Pre-Colonial to Post-Colonial Mizo Society with Special Reference to the Evolution of System of Government"*
- 3) Mr. PC. Lalrindika, Assistant Professor, Government Khawzawl College & Research Scholar, Mizoram University – *"Electoral Literacy: A Historical Study of Elections in India with Special Reference to Mizoram Politics (1954 – 1987)"*
- 4) Dr. Lalliantluanga Ralte, Assistant Professor, Government Khawzawl College – *"Significance of Electoral Literacy to form the Right Government"*

The National Seminar on "Electoral Literacy and Participation" jointly organized by Department of Political Science, Government Khawzawl College and District Election Office, Khawzawl District, Khawzawl had come to an end with the Vote of Thanks speech by Mr. K. Lalkulhpuia, Coordinator.



## ***Electoral Participation in Mizoram: An Overview.***

Lahmingsangi  
Asst. Professor  
Govt. Khawzawl College  
Research Scholar, MZU

Electoral participation is the lifeblood of democracy. Till 1946, the total voting percentage of India was far less than its actual population. The voting rights were confined to certain eligibility criteria and not chosen by the common people of India. Universal adult suffrage came into play only after India gained Independence, and with the Indian Constitution enforced in 1950s. The paper presents a brief analysis of MLA elections in Mizoram giving special reference to voters turn out during the years. Mizoram witnessed the first Legislative Assembly elections in 1972. Since 1972 till the last 2018 State Legislative Assembly election, Mizoram witnessed 12 Legislative Assembly elections. After the attainment of statehood, INC captured four elections out of the total eight State Legislative Assembly elections and MNF has also won four elections. The paper examines various factor influencing voting behaviour in Mizoram such as political, economic, regionalism, religion and patriarchy, etc. No single factor determines why and how a person votes and all the factors must be taken into account.

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## ***Social Media: A Medium of Political Participation***

Liansangpuii Khiangte  
Asst. Professor  
Dept of Political Science  
Govt. Saitual College

This paper focuses on the reorganization of traditional political participation to a newer form of political participation with the inclusion of social media as a means of political participation with the advent of technology. The paper explains the meaning of social media and its types. The 2008 US election was used as an example to showcase how social media was used as a tool. The popularization of social media as a medium of politics in India was also highlighted with the movement in India called India Against Corruption following with the 2014 India election. It also highlights the necessity of establishing a social media cell for campaigning by political parties. The paper concludes with the upcoming popularity of new social media and the important role that it now holds.

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## ***Significance of Electoral Literacy To Form The Right Government***

Dr. Lalliantluanga Ralte  
Asst Professor  
Dept of Education  
Govt. Khawzawl College

This paper talks about the importance of election in democratic system of government. The role of electoral literacy in stopping different malpractices, in order to make a strong and efficient government. It also mentioned the importance of casting a vote, why some voters are not interest in casting their vote and punishment for selling votes, why we celebrated National Voter's Day on January 25 every year.

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## ***A Comparative Study Of Mizoram Electoral Participation In Mizoram Legislative Assemble Ad Lok Sabha Election Since 1970***

Lalchhuanawma  
Asst Professor  
Dept of Pol Sc,  
Govt Khawzawl College

When Mizoram became Union Territory in 1972, it witnessed its first Legislative Assembly elections. In Mizoram, people tend to participate more in the election of Legislative Assembly rather than on Lok Sabha election. It is also evident that the Lok Sabha election are somehow influenced by the party in power at the center. The electorates in Mizoram possibly make a conscious choice in voting to power parties towards whom the ruling party dispensation in Delhi are perceived to be favorably disposed. This paper also examines the elections of both Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha on the grounds of literacy rate. Mizoram being one of the highest literacy rates has a high rate of voters turn out, however there are still quite a few rejected votes in every election. The case is particularly high in the 2013 MLA Election with a rejected vote of 2842.

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## ***Significance of Electoral Literacy for a Stronger Democracy***

Mimmy Rosangpuii

Asst. Professor,

Govt. Champhai College

Research Scholar, MZU

The Theme for National

Voter's Day 2020 is "Electoral Literacy for a stronger Democracy" which is celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to utilized and to spread awareness among voter's for promoting informed participation in the electoral process. Electoral Participation programme, known popularly as Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation programme **SVEEP**, this is the flagship programme of the Election Commission of India (ECI) for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting electoral literacy in India. This ensures maximum participation of voters and aware of their voting rights and provides legal information about the electoral process in a democratic country. This programme enables the citizens to make a better understanding of their rights and demands. Democracy is made by its people with productive knowledge about the electoral process.

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# ***Electoral Literacy: A Historical Study of Elections In India With Special Reference To Mizoram Politics (1954-1987)***

P.C. Lalrindika  
Asst Professor  
Govt Khawzawl College  
Research Scholar, MZU

Free and Fair election is necessary for building a stronger democracy. Election is all about choosing a representative for the betterment of every democratic nation. Its root can be traced back to 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC in the city of Athens and In India it can be traced back to Vedic Period, Chola Empire where palm leaves were used as a ballot paper for voting a representative.

This paper stated that after gaining independence the balloting system of voting was adopted in First and second general election to form Lok Saba in 1952 and 1957. From 3<sup>rd</sup> General election Marking system of voting was introduced. And Electronic Voting Machines were used for the first time in 1982 at Kerela Parul Assembly Constituency election and from 2004 EVMs were used at all polling station in the country. The year 1991 was a crucial point in Indian economy due to liberalisation of economy also known as Introduction of New Economic Reform.

In Mizoram, voting system and political consciousness are introduced and evolve only after the coming of British and Christian missionaries. The political consciousness was hardly existed before 1920s. One significant event was the formation of The Mizo People Union in 1946 which is also known as the first political party in Mizoram and The Mizo National Front which was form on Oct 22, 1961.

In Mizoram election have been conducted from 1972 during Union Territory to elect MLA and Lok Shaba, till now we have 40 assembly constituency and 1 Lok shaba Seat and the last election was held in 2018 as the MNF Ministry forming the government.

In democratic country, voting is the most powerful weapon to form a good government as it reflects the choice of people, and the level of voter turnout is an indicator of a democracy.

# **A Study of Pre-Colonial To Post-Colonial Mizo Society With Special Reference To Evolution Of System Of Government**

Lalchhanhima

Asst. Prof

Dept. of History

Govt. Khawzawl College

Mizoram have come a long way from a system of chieftainship to a democratic form of government. The milestone that Mizoram had achieved is a big step considering what it had been through.

After the coming of the British, the Mizo's started to have awakening in every sphere of their life. Among these, the greatest revolution was the political one. It brings forth the Mizo to the world view and made them realized what they could have achieved. Thus, leading to the formation of the political system to fight for their independence

What we can learn from this development is that Christianity, education and the World War-II are some of the biggest contributors to the awakening of the political mindset of the Mizos.

Since the attainment of statehood, Mizoram have become the most peaceful state in India and as far as the election is concern, Mizoram got the cleanest elections and one of the best turn out vote.

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