Name: Sangma, Maribon Viray

Designation: Lecturer

Organization: Counselling Psychology Department,
                                    Martin Luther Christian University,
                                    Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Contact Information: Garo Baptist Church, Behind Governor's House, Bivar Road, Shillong, 793001, Meghalaya State, India.

email: yvonnebgo@yahoo.com

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About the Presenter:

Mrs. Maribon V. Sangma, is a lecturer in the Counselling Psychology Department of Martin Luther Christian University, Meghalaya, North East India. She is the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Indian Association for Career and Livelihood Planning (IACLP). She is associated with SIM (Serving In Mission, International) North East India centre for screening, counselling, and training of Christian missionary candidates for Foreign Missions.   She worked as a youth director in the Philippines and as a teacher-missionary in Palau, Micronesia.

She coordinated the first full programme of Jiva Career Counselling among the class 10 students of St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School Shillong, Meghalaya State. In her present research, she works to find out the teaching strategies, parental involvement, career beliefs and their relation to the motivation of the high school students. She also aims to find out the impact of career counselling as an intervention programme to those who are at risk of disengagement and career developmental discontinuities.

Title of Paper: **The impact of career counselling on Career Preparation Status and the Academic Achievement Motivation
of High School Students in Meghalaya: A report of preliminary findings.**

        One of the most significant challenges faced by the educational system in the state of Meghalaya (North East India) is an increasing rate of school dropouts. The 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Department of Education of India, shows that over 75.9 percent of students between class 1 and 10 dropped out of school in 2006 -2007 in Meghalaya. A further challenge is that some students who do stay on in school, do poorly in their examinations. The 2009 Class 10 Examination result in the state also recorded a pass percentage of just 46.77 students according to the Meghalaya Board of School Education (MBOSE) Examination Results Booklet, 2009). From the same source, it can be seen that out of the seven districts of the state, East Khasi Hills District has the second lowest percentage of pass having 26.86 only.

The literature indicates that a strong future orientation with specific reference to career development goals could enhance young people's academic achievement motivation and thereby reduce the tendency to drop out of school (Arulmani, G., & Nag, S., 2006; Webber, J., 1986; Miller, J., and Imel, S.1986). A useful construct to examine a young person's career development goals is to assess their Career Preparation Status. This is a construct introduced by Arulmani (2006) to describe the career chooser's readiness to begin preparing for a career.

Against this background, the researcher aims to incorporate Career Counselling as an intervention program into the school time table of class 10, in order to study its impact on the Career Preparation Status and Academic Achievement Motivation of High School Students. Class 10 students studying in MBOSE schools in the East Khasi Hills District who are already known to be particularly vulnerable for low academic achievement and dropping out of school will participate in the study.

The study presents the following objectives:

1. To identify the factors affecting the Academic Achievement Motivation of the students, with special focus on the quality and nature of parental support, parental career beliefs, quality and nature of teaching strategies experienced by a student, and the career preparation status of a student .
2. To provide a specific form of Career Counseling to the sample, and study the impact of this intervention on Career Preparation Status and Academic Achievement Motivation.
3. To advocate Career Counselling services in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya.

The method to be adopted will be as follows:

The Jiva Career Counselling curriculum developed by The Promise Foundation, India (2009), will be used as career counselling intervention for this study. Using a constructed questionnaire, the Academic Achievement Motivational level of the students will be measured. The Career Preparation Status Questionnaire (Arulmani, 2006) will be used to measure the sample's preparedness for career decision making tasks. The Before-and-After with Control design will be used. The sample composed of the experimental and control groups will be drawn from ten schools under MBOSE from the East Khasi Hills District. Correlations and regression analysis would be used to make estimates and predictions about how the variables are associated with each other. Parental support and involvement, teaching strategies, and career beliefs are some variables which will also be studied as factors affecting the Academic Achievement Motivation of the students.

The presentation at this conference will comprise an overview of the literature, the methods to be employed and a glimpse into the preliminary findings. The paper will be relevant to those who work with young people who are at risk of disengagement and career development discontinuities.