**Name of the fellow:** Prince Thangkhiew

**Reporting month/ period: June to September 2017**

**Project title:** Lynti Khasi School

**Project description:**

Established in 2012 the Lynti Khasi School has progressed in a positive direction, despite the lack of proper infrastructure, lack of teaching & learning aids and irregularity in teacher’s salary. Prior to the establishment of the Lynt Khasi School, the children of the shepherd community of Umsawwar were attending the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) schools. However the timing of these schools which did not suit the children, led to their dropping out of school. The primary reason here being is that parents of these children wanted them to gaze the cattle’s as it was their only means of livelihood.

While realising the depth of the issue Prince Thangkhiew formulate an alternative way for addressing the issue which is titled as **“Lynti Khasi School”**. FST played the role of enabler during the implementation of the idea for access to education for the children of Umsawwar village. The alternative and innovative model of the Lynti Khasi School operated from 6 AM to 10 AM. This alternative way of timing, helped the drop out children to return back to a school filled with joy and experiential learning. Lynti Khasi School covered the beginners, non-going children and school dropout children of the village. The school aims to provide alternative creative learning opportunities for the children of this remote village and facilitate their growth as responsible and creative young citizens. Apart from this, the school has introduced the traditional concept of local governance of *Khasi* community which is *Dorbar (Council)*. The children *Dorbar* of Lynti Khasi School provides the platform to understand decision making process, gender equality in decision making and to make the children empower to create their own space of learning.

Being the enabler, Foundation for Social Transformation along with Prince is making efforts towards sustaining the school by providing the basic amenities of quality based education with appropriate infrastructure, sanitation facilities, teaching and learning aids, sports equipments, books and most importantly teachers, with a mission to uplift the future youths of the community, in order to foster development in the long run.

This project “Lynti Khasi School” has been successful in its own way and has achieved expected outcome. Umsawwar village had huge school dropout rate. After setting up of Lynti Khasi School the school has witnessed enrollment of 60 students and the school has appointed 2 full-time teachers. This school has a children *Dorbar* ( council) and this *Dorbar* is encouraging the students in active participation in the decision making process, especially girls, with the aim that few years down the line Umsawwar a remote village of Meghalaya will have a women representative in the Village Dorbar ( council), where till date Khasi women have no representation.