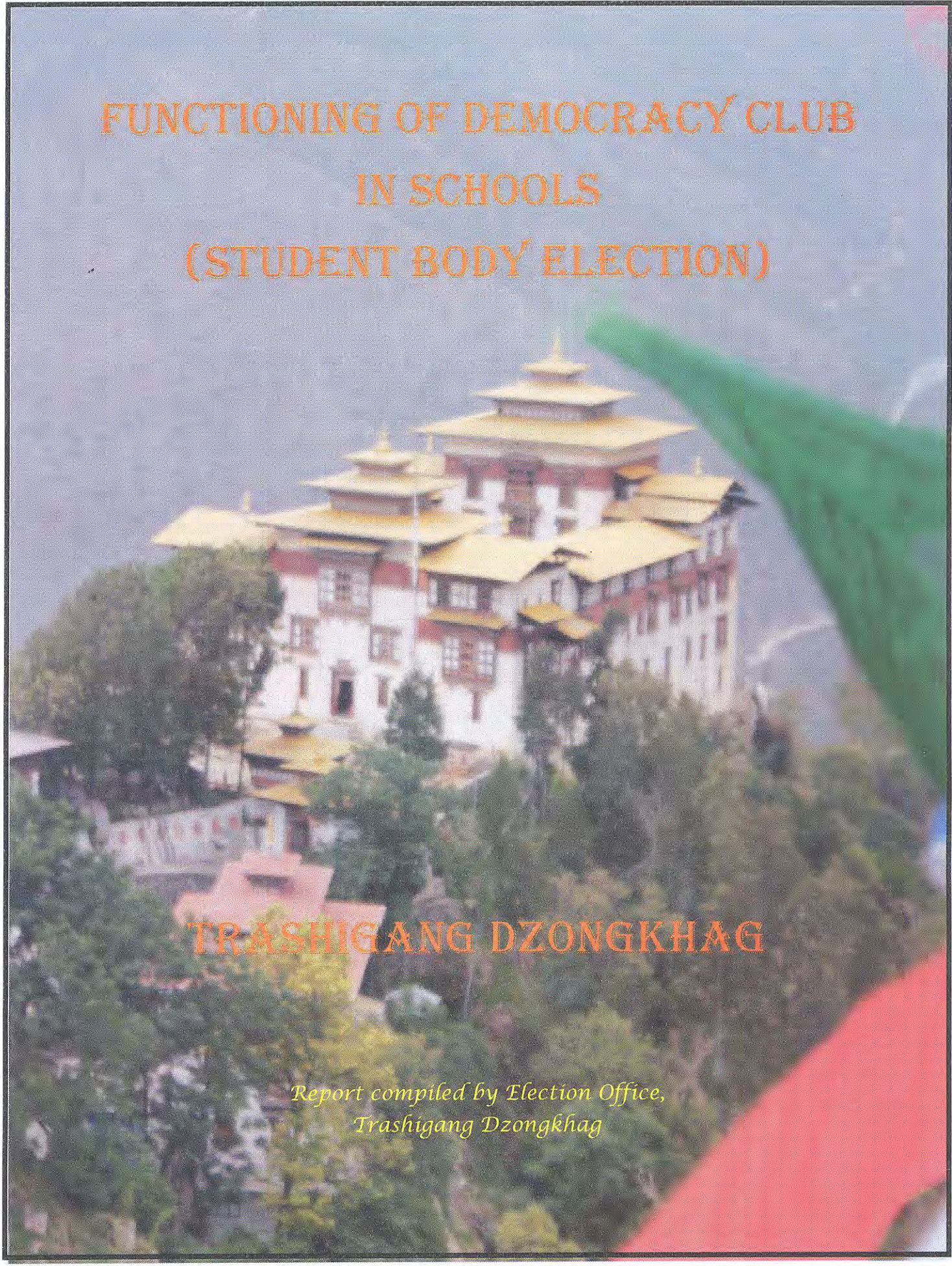


The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Trashigang Dzongkhag, a large traditional Tibetan-style building with multiple yellow-roofed tiers, situated on a hillside surrounded by green trees. A large green flag is visible on the right side, and a red flag is at the bottom right corner.

FUNCTIONING OF DEMOCRACY CLUB IN SCHOOLS (STUDENT BODY ELECTION)

TRASHIGANG DZONGKHAG

*Report compiled by Election Office,
Trashigang Dzongkhag*

Democracy Clubs in schools

In pursuit to strengthening the idea of democracy in the country, Election Commission of Bhutan in collaboration with the Ministry of Education came up with the idea of introducing democracy at school level, thus introducing Democracy club in the schools and institutes.

Trashigang Dzongkhag has 16 schools enrolled as Democracy Club schools out of 68 schools including ECRs, with few other schools looking forward to be enrolled as one.

With the introduction of Democracy Club in the schools, it was also agreed between the club members and the Election Commission of Bhutan during the BRIDGE workshops, that the elections at school level should be supported by the Dzongkhag election offices with proper poll procedures.

The list of schools enrolled as Democracy Club School/College under Trashigang Dzongkhag:

1. Sherubtse College
2. Jampelling Higher Secondary School
3. Jigme Sherabling Higher Secondary School
4. Tashitse Higher Secondary School
5. Rangjung Higher Secondary School
6. Trashigang Middle Secondary School
7. Gongthung Middle Secondary School
8. Udorong Middle Secondary School
9. Duntse Middle Secondary School
10. Bidung Lower Secondary School
11. Bikhar Lower Secondary School
12. Rangjung Lower Secondary School
13. Wamrong Lower Secondary School
14. Kanglung Primary School
15. Moshi Primary School
16. Yonphula Primary School

List of schools who have submitted their application to be enrolled under democracy club school:

1. Merag Lower Secondary School
2. Sagteng Lower Secondary School
3. Phongmey Primary School
4. Tokshimang Primary School
5. Bartsham Primary School
6. Kangpar Primary School

As of now, the election office have successfully conducted student elections in 15 schools including Sherubtse College, out of 16 schools presently enrolled as Democracy Club school, whereby the elections in Rangjung Higher Secondary School is to be held in September as of School's annual plan.

Election in Merag and Sagteng schools were also conducted as observed necessary by the school administration and requested the election office.

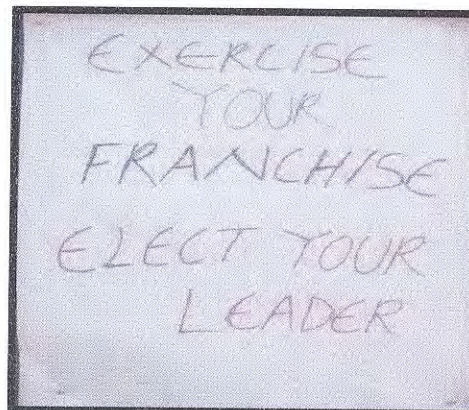
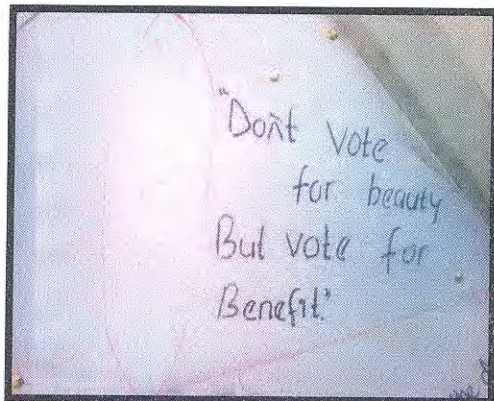
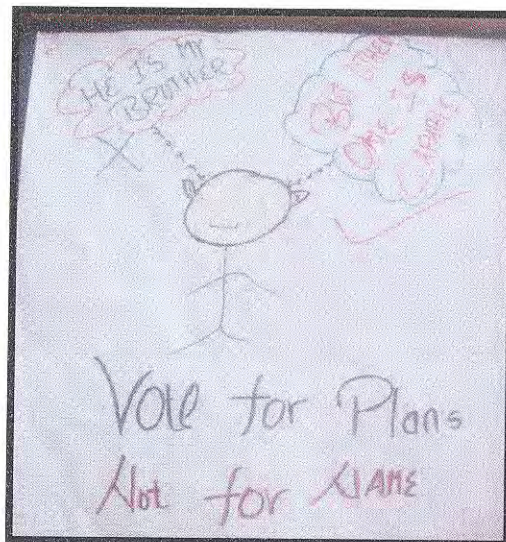
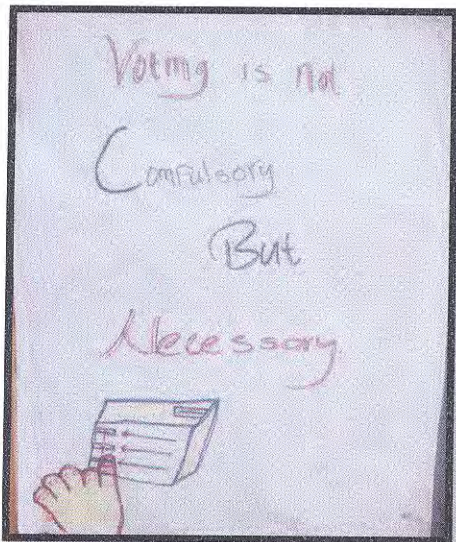
As per the convenience of the schools, the election dates for respective schools were submitted to the election office as soon as the school re-opened from their winter break. The election office sometimes had to form teams amongst ourselves in order to cope up with the election schedule submitted by the respective schools.

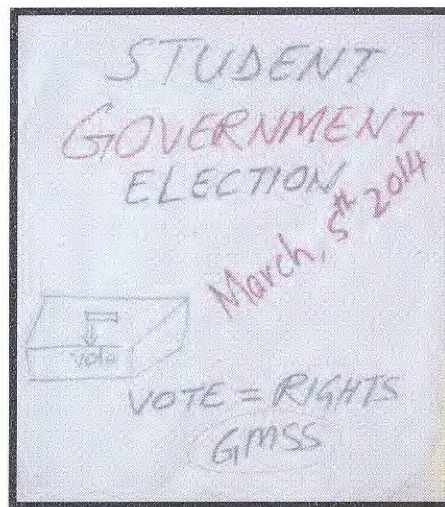
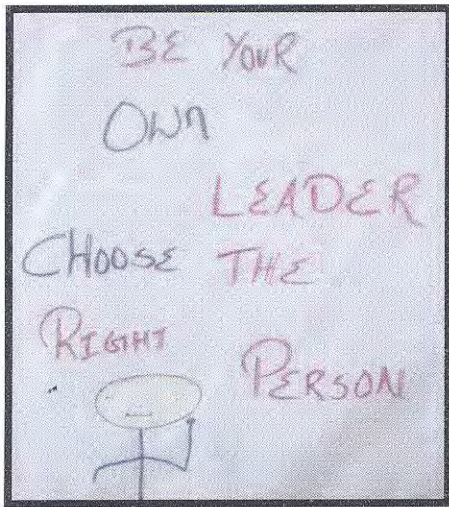
Preparations before the conduct of poll in the schools:

With the ideas grabbed from the BRIDGE workshop, the Democracy club co-ordinators in the school seemed much active with the preparation for the conduct of student government elections in their respective school.

Students were already briefed by their club co-ordinators on the poll procedures, though not practically but theoretically. Students were therefore seen much matured on what was actually happening during the actual poll day.

Democracy clubs in the schools have come up with many innovative ideas like hanging banners, writing quotations related to democracy and elections, and also with the candidate manifestos pasted on the walls for the voters (or students) to have a glance at their nominees towards electing a capable leader for the school.





Student nominees had their manifestos written in their own simple words sharing about their past experiences, capacity and their promises if they are to be elected as a leader. Each school had their own piece of idea.

Some school even came up with election schedule pasted on the democracy club board, thus notifying the dates for Nomination, Campaign period, Freezing period, Poll day and Cooling period, where some also came up with common forum for better understanding of the voters towards their candidates.



མིའི་ལྷན་ཁྲུན་གྱི་
ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི།
གཞུང་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ།



NAME: JIGME
CHODEN
CLASS: IX 'A'
VILLAGE: GANGK-
HAR

འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ།
 1. འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ། འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ།
 2. འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ། འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ།
 3. འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ། འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ།
 4. འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ། འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ།
 5. འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ། འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ།
 6. འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ། འཇུག་པའི་ཁྲིའི་འོག་ལ་མཇུག་གི་ཕྱོག་ལ།

Kuzu to my trusted friends and teachers. I don't have experience like other captains, but I have little experience about being captain in last year. I took responsibility as Taag House captain. At that time, I served with equality and justy. This year also if I success to be captain. I will respect to teachers or elders and care younger ones. I will carry my duty with full of cooperation with all students and teachers. If you all think I have able capable to be a captain, please vote for me.

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME

"VOTE FOR ME"

CRUNG HOUSE

NOMINEE

PLEDGES

Equal opportunities to all the members.
 Promote name & fame of the house.
 Maintain strong bond of cooperation among the members.

EXPERIENCE

I served as a class captain from class 7-9 and I have some experiences like initiating voluntary works.

Taag House

Cast a vote for Mr. Chelen Dorji

EXPERIENCES

- Served as school captain at Jomshang C.P.S
- As house captain, cultural and scout captain at Udrong Lower Secondary School.
- Prayer captain at B.M.S.

AIMS

- Provide justice among the students
- Empower equal rights and opportunity
- Bring good agriculture products.

Candidate for School Captain



Tenzin



Sangay Tenzin



Koles Dorji

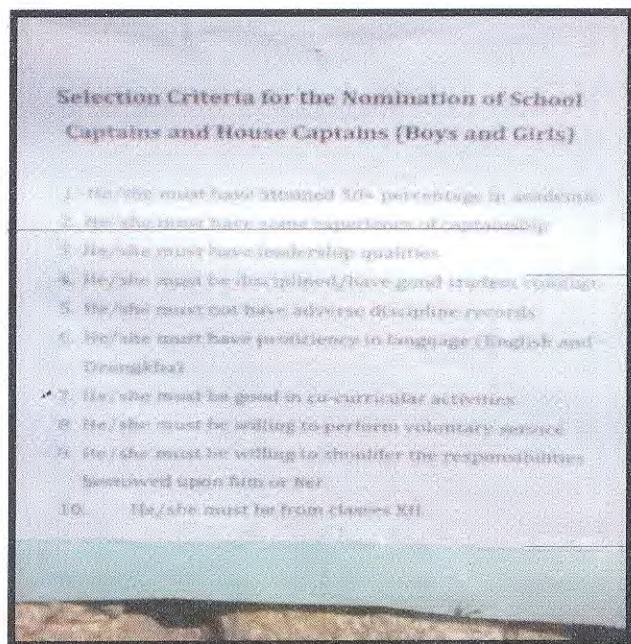


Koles Dorji

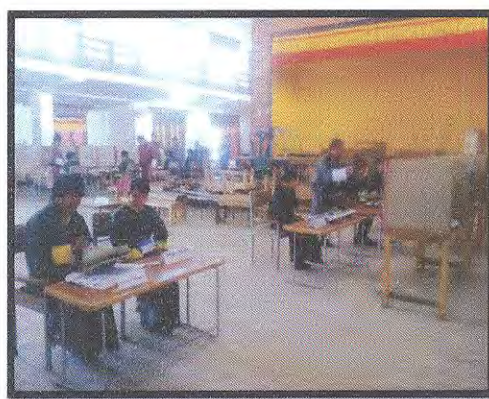
CAPTAINS ELECTION 2014

→ YOUR voice your vote on your side

→ **Respect and protect our rights**

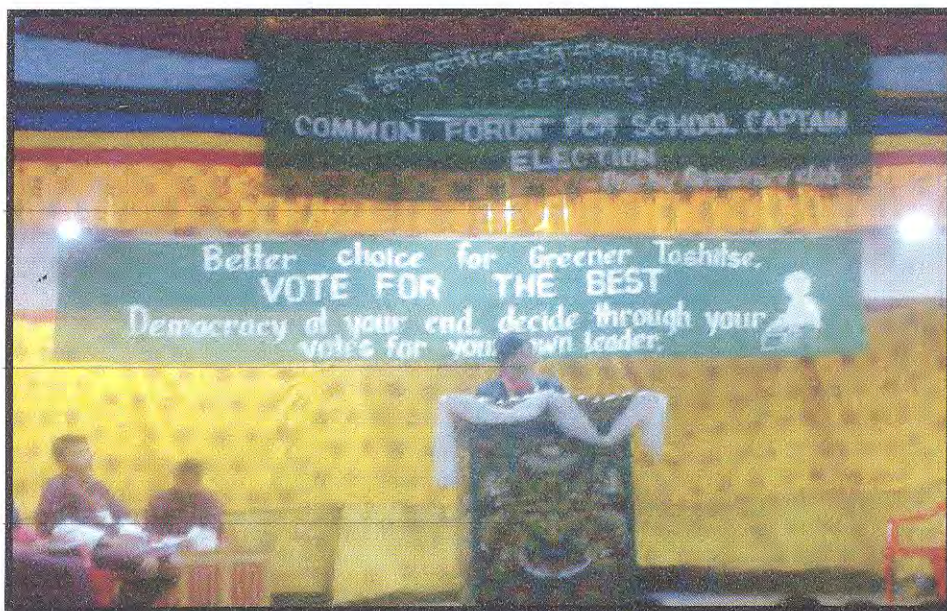


Polling stations were already set up before the day of poll and the students were also well briefed about the poll day, on where and when to vote.



Some schools even came up with student campaigning and arranging the common orums for the student nominees. Each nominee has his/her part of promises and experiences to share with his school mates. With

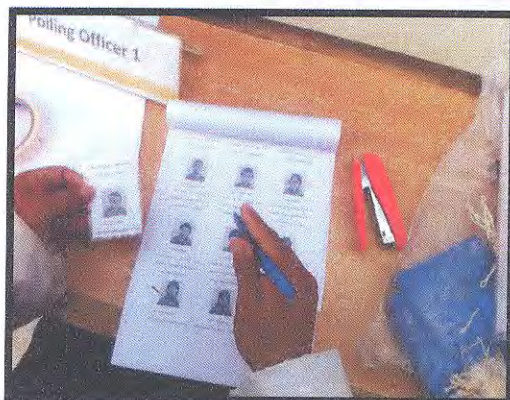
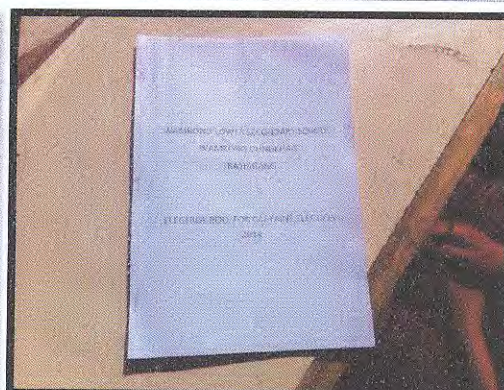
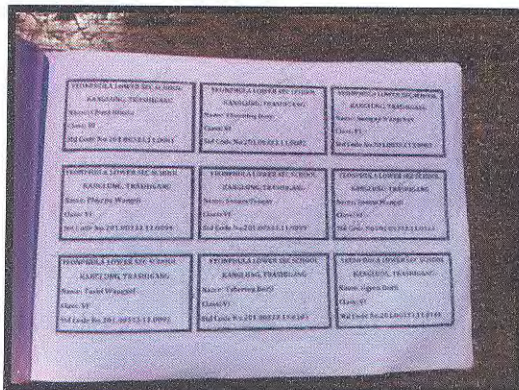
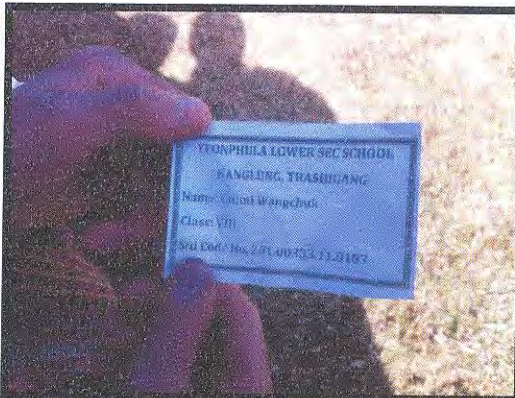
such responsibility and initiative taken by the school democracy clubs, students seemed more aware about the electoral processes.



Students were also issued with their student identity card (student voter) card initiated by the respective school's club coordinators with guidance and support from the Dzongkhag election sector.

Along with the voter cards, voter register were also have been maintained. Some schools had their voter register of the entire school in one booklet, while some had it in 'Houses' and for some voter register were maintained class wise, as per their convenience.

Despite of the limited time, the club coordinators came up with every possible idea that they could do towards preparation for student elections in their respective schools. Therefore, most schools chose to have temporary voter cards and registers owing to the limited time since the reopening of the schools.



Preparations before the conduct of poll from the election office:



While schools were in the process of poll day preparation, the Dzongkhag election office also was in due process towards school elections. From printing of polling official's card to student identity cards for those schools whose student's voter photo identity cards were ready, the election office made it a point that every requirement that the schools made was fulfilled.

Processing of temporary voter cards and electoral rolls were recommended to those schools where voter card and electoral roll design was not ready. Some schools also wanted their student candidate to have candidate identity cards from the date of campaign till the poll day, which was overlooked by the election office and issued to those whoever desired.

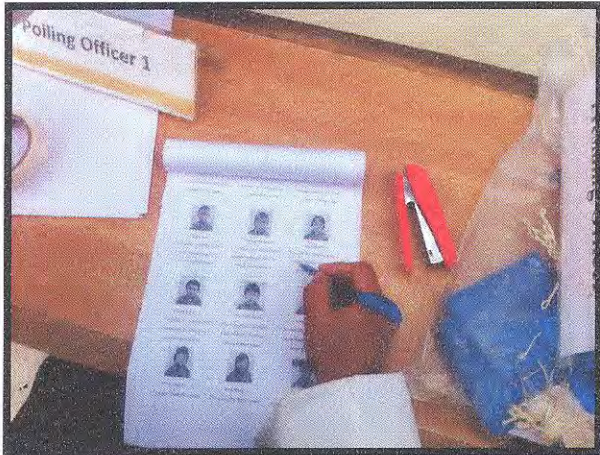
Candidate lists along with their photos of schools were forwarded to election office, through which the election office prepared the EVM template prior the school poll day.

Ranging from two to fifty numbers of EVM, different schools had their own requirement as per their convenience.

Schools having less number of student strength chose to have only two EVM, one each for boy and girl captains (the individual securing the highest vote is elected as the school captain while the rest are elected as house captains as per the required number), though most chose to have a machine each for every captainship, thus leading to higher number of required voting machines.

Sherubtse College had the highest number of EVM requirement for their elections with fifty voting machines requires in a single poll day.

Preparation of voting machines and transportations were pre arranged by the election office prior to the poll with EVM templates pasted and candidate settings already done, though in Sherubtse College, everything was carried out by the democracy club members with election team just having to observe the process.

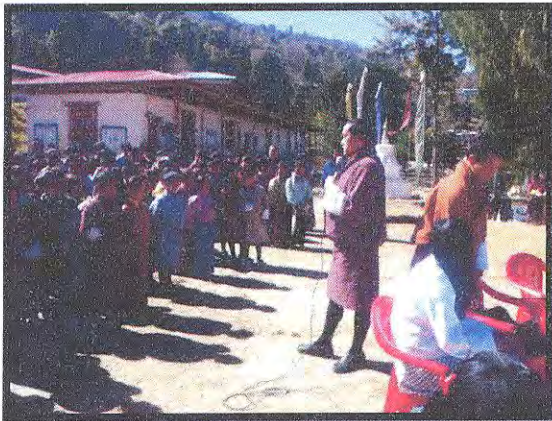


(Trekking towards Merag and Sagteng)

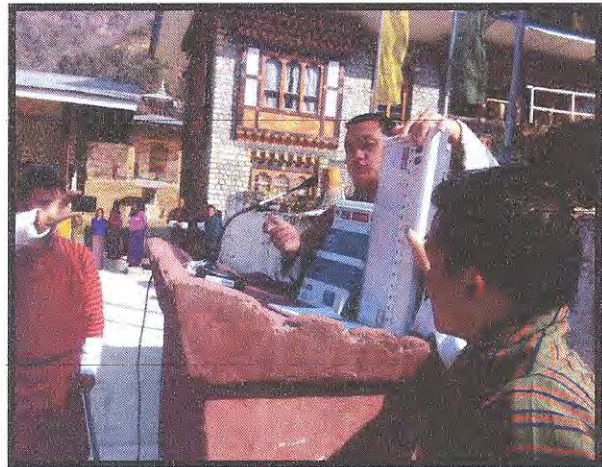
Poll Day

The poll day in the schools started with the election officials delivering voter information speech to the students regarding the following topics;

1. Brief note on Democracy,
2. Poll procedures,
3. E-Roll, Inclusion and Exclusion in E-Roll, brief information about the Biometric system, etc.
4. Secrecy of vote and its importance,
5. Merits of voting, etc.
6. Demonstration of EVM, their reliability and advantages,



Students were well briefed about the poll procedure and on the functioning of Electronic Voting Machine with demonstration for their better understanding. Mock poll was also conducted before commencing for the poll.

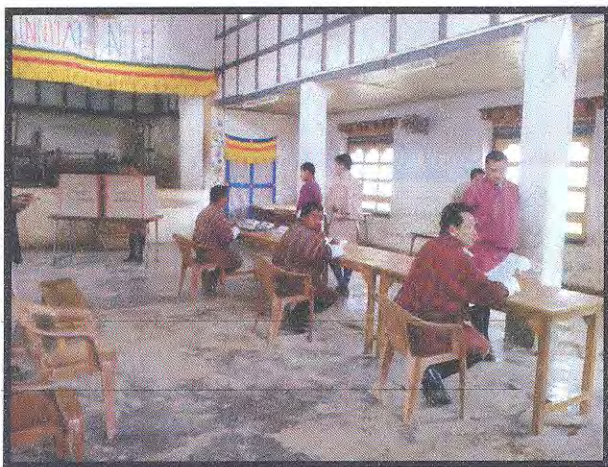


While some schools had teachers as the polling officials, most had democracy club members as the polling officials. In the case of Sherubtse College, they also had students designated as Returning Officers and National Observers.

Students showed great interest in learning about the EVM and their output as polling officials was also a great success with zero error in most cases.



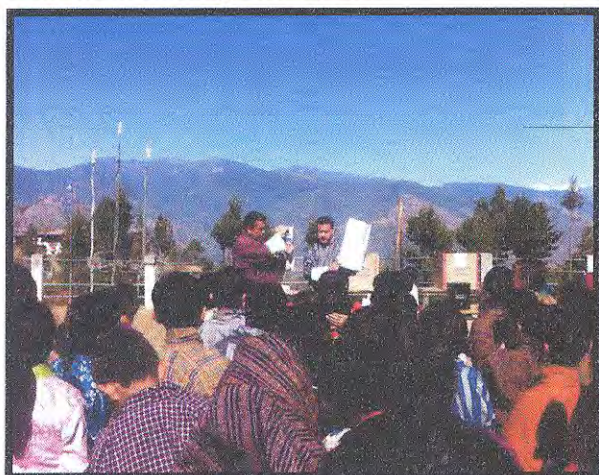
Polling stations were also accordingly set up as per their conveniences.





After commencement of the actual poll, everyone was gathered in the ground or inside the hall, which ever convenient and then their most awaited election result was then declared.

While discussing about the result with the school faculty, all the schools had the same answer that the result was what they predicted and expected. School faculty also appreciated over the matured sense of the students in electing their leaders.



The poll day then ended with a photo session with the elected student leaders along with the teachers and school Principal.



Observations

After visiting seventeen schools for the student body election, the election office drew the following observations:

1. Schools showed great interest in having and functioning of democracy clubs.
2. Students acquired broader sense of knowledge in democracy related fields.
3. Organizing common forum and manifesto presentation students increased their capacity in speaking and facing crowd.
4. Democracy club coordinators played key role in their schools in disbursing information related to democracy and election to the students.
5. Students acquired broader understanding related to functioning and reliability of electronic voting machine.
6. Students now know the importance of taking part in elections.

TRASHI DELEK