

**WORKING OF UN-VOLUNTEERS  
IN INDIA AND MALAYSIA  
(1971-1991)**

**THESIS SUBMITTED TO MANIPUR UNIVERSITY  
FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

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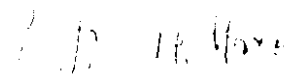
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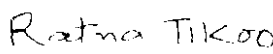
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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr. Salam Dhanachandra Singh, a Ph.D. Scholar of the Department of Political Science, Manipur University has been working under my supervision on "Working of UN-Volunteers in India and Malaysia (1971-1991)". To my knowledge no work on this topic has been undertaken by any scholar so far at this or any other University and in that way it constitutes an original work.

I recommend that this Thesis be sent to the Examiners for evaluation.

  
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The dissertation titled "Working of UN-volunteers in India and Malaysia (1971-1991)" is essentially concerned with the working of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in India and some other Asian countries working under UNV Asia Regional Project with its regional headquarters in Malaysia. Obviously, the headquarters in Malaysia play an important role in carrying forward the grassroots developmental activities in the Asian region. All operational transactions of the UNV regional programmes are carried out through the regional project office in Malaysia. As such, the dissertation focuses on exploring the creative roles played by the UNV Field workers of Asia under the UNV Regional Project of Malaysia to improve the socio-economic conditions of underprivileged sections of society in the Asian region. The period from 1971 to 1991 was taken for studies as from the 1st January 1971, the UNV Programme was launched and in 1991, the 20th Anniversary of UNV Programme was celebrated throughout the world. In this study, India is taken specifically as the number of Indian UNV Field workers were substantially higher than that of other Asian countries. The total number of Indian UNV Field workers as well as UNV specialists was nearly 442. As such, the number of socio-economic projects undertaken by them reflected their major contributions for promoting the socio-economic development at the grassroots level in the Asian region.

The dissertation has been divided into seven chapters in order to carry forward a systematic study of the United Nations Volunteers programme in Asia. The first chapter deals with the historical background of the United

Nations Volunteers programme. The UN had adopted different resolutions in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to establish an international volunteers group within the framework of the United Nations. The UN wanted to use services of the volunteers to achieve its goal of peace through the promotion of developmental activities in the backward/underdeveloped and developing countries. Therefore, the UN General Assembly consulted different UN specialised agencies, its member countries, different Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) to establish an international volunteers group within the UN system. Finally, the UN General Assembly passed its Resolution No.2659(XXV) in December 1970 to establish the United Nations Volunteers(UNVs) programme which began its operation from the 1st January 1971.

The second chapter deals with the different stages of development of the UNV organisational structure, its administrative units, classification of UN volunteers, etc. The overall supervisory responsibility of the UNV programme was given to the general administrative unit of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UN General Assembly appointed one UNV Executive Coordinator to look after the organisational management of the UNV programme. In 1976, the UN General Assembly established another group of UN volunteers namely the UNV-DDS Volunteers or UNV Field workers to work directly with the grassroots villagers. The UNVs were recruited generally on contractual basis for two years and were assigned different socio-economic developmental projects in different backward countries. These UN volunteers were paid a Monthly Living Allowance

(MLA). The UN recruited the UN Volunteers from different countries in consultation with their national governments.

The third chapter deals with the socio-economic activities in India undertaken by the UNV-Field workers who came from different Asian countries. During the period from 1979 to 1991, twenty one UNV Field workers from different Asian countries worked in India for the socio-economic development of Indian villagers. Their developmental activities were related to imparting vocational training for creation of self employment, promotion of agricultural and veterinary projects, health and sanitation programme, women empowerment schemes, child health care projects, local resource mobilization for developmental activities, creation of community infrastructures through involvement of local people, etc. In order to conduct these socio-economic developmental activities, the UNV Field workers mobilized funds from different international funding agencies over and above, from the resources made by local governments and non-governmental organisations.

The fourth chapter deals with the socio-economic activities in seven Asian countries which were undertaken by the Asian UNV Field workers under the UNV Asia Regional Project of Malaysia. Under this regional project, many Asian UNV Field workers carried forward different socio-economic developmental projects for the improvement of Asian villagers during the period from 1979 to 1991. The Asian UNV Field workers promoted different socio-economic activities in the Asian region which were related to the promotion of kitchen gardens, establishment of fish farming and animal

husbandry projects, rearing of chickens, construction of low cost latrines and soakage pits, introduction of low land area farming technology and slopping agricultural land technology. In addition to these activities, the UNV Field workers also carried out some projects related to the construction of village library, village science club building, village community hall and inter-village approach roads etc. As such, large numbers of Asian villagers got benefited through socio-economic developmental projects undertaken by the Asian UNV Field workers.

The fifth chapter deals with the important roles played by the local co-workers who assisted in the developmental activities of the UNV-DDS Field workers. In order to achieve the developmental goals of the United Nations in Asia by utilising the services of their UNV Field workers, the UN assigned many UNV Field workers to carry forward different grassroots developmental works in the Asian region. At the initial stage of the UNV Field worker's developmental works, the local co-workers taught them local language, introduced Field workers to local communities and local authorities and guided them to organise village meetings, etc. These local workers included village chiefs, community leaders, youth club members, self-help groups and officials of the host governments. As such, the local co-workers played an important role in the implementation of socio-economic developmental works of the UNV Field workers in Asia.

The sixth chapter highlights the achievements made by different UNV Field workers in Asia for the improvement of socio-economic conditions of Asian villagers. Under the UNV Asia Regional Project of Malaysia, the Asian

UNV Field workers seemed to have achieved major success in the following developmental related areas namely animal husbandry projects, agricultural activities, indigenous technologies, primary health care system, family planning programme, vocational training, sports and cultural activities, marketing support, fund mobilisation schemes, project formulation and programme evaluation. For achieving these socio-economic developmental goals, the Asian UNV Field workers mobilized local resources. Besides mobilisation of resources, the UNV Field workers were to a major extent, able to mobilize a total amount of US\$ 417,668 from different international funding agencies namely Norwegian Aid for Development (NORAD), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Trickle-Up Programme (TUP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) etc.. As such, under the UNV Regional Project of Asia, the Asian UNV Field workers contributed a lot to improve the socio-economic life of the underprivileged section of the Asian people by launching different community developmental programmes during the period from 1979 to 1991.

The seventh chapter is the concluding chapter. It brings together the findings of the chapters. Besides, this highlights some of the problems faced by the UNV Field workers while implementing different socio-economic developmental works in the field. Some suggestions are put forward to suggest ways of solving some of these problems and improving the working of the UNV Field workers while they carry forward their developmental works in the Asian countries.

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**The 24/01/01.....2000.**

*A. Dhanachandra Singh*  
**(Salam Dhanachandra Singh)**

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