

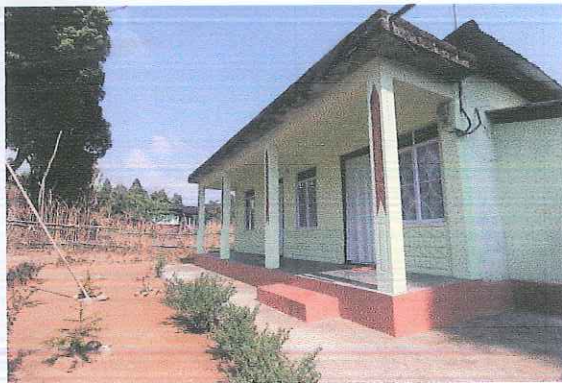
## Umthli Village



**An Office of the Village Durbar**

Umthli Village located in Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block in East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya is a village with about 300 households of tribal population belonging to the Khasi Scheduled Tribe. The main livelihood of the people is farming and vegetation as well as nonfarm activities mainly of construction works.

Umthli village has set itself a distinction of being the clean village, which has been possible due to the culture of the people. The practice of keeping one's own backyards and the surroundings clean is in born with the people.



**A village house**



**A house backyard**

A visit to the village will tell us how alive the village is in keeping itself clean. It is a litter and liquid waste free village. Waste baskets are seen along the roadsides and footpaths. Side drains and storm water drains are well constructed with proper slopes using funds from MNREGA.

To ensure maintenance of overall cleanliness in the village, the Executive committee of the Village Durbar adopts a routine exercise of cleaning the village once weekly on every Saturday from 7 am for 1 hour. No notices are served to the people but a wakeup call is given through the public address system installed in the entire village by replaying a special theme song composed for the purpose.



**Children merrily cleaning the village**

The special attraction is that children in particular are motivated to be alert and whenever they find some litter on the ground, they would pick them up, carry it to their own backyard where they dump them in their compost bins.

The responsibility of organising and monitoring the cleaning drives is entrusted by the Village Durbar to the local women organisation.

A study conducted on this initiative undertaken by the village reveals that inspite of no hard and fast rule binding the people to take part in the weekly cleaning drives, yet there no defaulters or absentee at all. There is maximum participation of the people.



**The Village Committee Members and the Village Headman inspecting the cleaning drives**

The secret of success lies on the integrity of the Village Durbar under the able leadership of the Village Headman who could command voluntary participation of all.