

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN REPORT

Submitted by Participating Institution – St. Xavier's College
(Autonomous), Kolkata

Jan-April 2020

Networking for implementation of village development plan continues

- On 6th January 2020 a meeting with MLA was scheduled to brief him about the progress made in UBA project and to share the Village Development Plan (VDP). MLA was unavailable due to an emergency. However, his office was briefed and the progress report of UBA submitted. The MLA's office appreciated the work done so far by the College and assured all possible assistance for future endeavors.
- On 9th January 2020, NSS staff and students through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) prepared the village resource map for Debipur village. During the exercise, the panchayat members and village elders were extremely cooperative.
- On 15th January 2020, a meeting with GP members and village representatives of Debipur village was held to discuss the VDP and the implementation plan of the same. At the end of the meeting, an action plan was formulated on how to engage SHG members in implementing organic farming, waste management and water conservation projects with the participation of NSS volunteers.
- On 20th January 2020, a meeting with the Headmistress of Elokeshi Oikotan Balika Vidyalaya was scheduled to discuss potential partnership with the school. Since the Headmistress was unavailable for the meeting, she sent word that after consultation with the school staff members she would contact the College to take forward the potential partnership.
- On 28th January 2020, a meeting with Kulerdari Gram Panchayat Pradhan and with panchayat members of Bakeswar village (under Panakuapanchayat) was held to strengthen association with Gram Panchayat, to initiate supplementary education center at Bakeswar village.
- On 24th February 2020, the department organized village meeting with Self Help Group (SHG) women to discuss the village development implementation plan for Debipur village. Dr. Asim Mondal, from Kalyani University was also present to give an overview about organic farming to almost 50 women present.
- On 25th February 2020, a meeting was held with Dr. T. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer of the Waste Management Cell, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal to discuss ways of disposing off plastics in the adopted villages. He appreciated the awareness campaigns the College students organized in the adopted villages in 2019. He suggested the College meet the Joint Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development as they were promoting model villages free of plastics. He already briefed the Joint Secretary about the outreach work the College has undertaken in the past.
- On 27th February, a meeting was held with the GP and village representatives of Shalpakur village to motivate them to initiate organic farming in their village.
- On 28th February 2020, the College met Ms. Sonali Dutta Roy, Joint Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development to discuss about waste management and organic farming in the adopted villages. Ms. Roy appreciated the pro-activeness of the College in reaching out to the underprivileged sections of the society. She suggested that the students could create awareness on 100% waste segregation in the villages, which would further contribute in encouraging women to compost and take up organic farming. Ms. Roy suggested that the Agriculture Development Office of the block should be contacted for handholding support and training regarding organic farming for the rural women. She assured of all possible support from her department in the future as well.

- On 2nd March, a meeting was held with Dr. Pritam Nandi, Assistant Director of Agriculture-Bishnupur, Block I, to discuss about implementing organic farming in the adopted villages. Dr Nandi assured of all possible support from his department to the college for implementing organic farming.
- On 2nd March, a meeting was held in Shalpukur village with the SHG and other women to initiate organic farming. More than 50 women attended the meeting. They were motivated to undertake organic farming in their respective households and then eventually scale-it up at the community level as an alternative livelihood option.
- On 4th March, the College met the Director of Seva Kendra Calcutta, an NGO, to discuss potential technical partnership for organic farming in the adopted villages. SKC agreed to be technical partner for one year wherein they would visit the villages and provide handholding support to the SHG members to set up organic farming in their households.



Figure 1.1: UBA Coordinator Prof. Cheryl Francis (third from left) meeting Jhanjra High School Headmaster (extreme right)



Figure 1.2: UBA Coordinator Prof. Cheryl Francis (on left side) meeting Panchayat Representatives of Debipur Village



Figure 1.3: UBA Coordinator Prof Cheryl Francis (extreme right) meeting the Panchayat Representatives of Bakeswar village



Figure 1.4: UBA Coordinator Prof Cheryl Francis meeting Dr.Pritam Nandi, ADA of Bishnupur I



Figure 1.5: UBA coordinator Prof. Cheryl Francis conducting VDP meeting at Debipur village



Figure 1.6: UBA Coordinator Prof. Cheryl Francis conducting VDP meeting at Shalpakur village



Figure 1.7: UBA Coordinator Prof. Cheryl Francis conducting a meeting with panchayat member (fourth from right) and village contact persons in Shalpakur village

UBA regional workshop at IIT Kharagpur



Figure 2.1: UBA core team of St.Xavier's College with the resource person from IIT Delhi

On 18th February 2020, five students (three from main campus and two from Raghampur campus) along with Ma'am Cheryl Francis, Ma'am Sucheta Mukherjee and Ma'am ShrawaniJha attended a regional workshop in IIT Kharagpur. This was the first time that students were also invited to attend the workshop. The students were able to grasp the essence of UBA and understood the expanse of work involved. The five students who attended the workshop will be the student leaders to take the project forward in the villages. The workshop was facilitated by IIT Delhi (National Coordinating Agency).

XAS and NSS collaboration: An entry point for UBA initiatives



Figure 3.1: Xaverians undertake a need assessment session



Figure 3.2: XAS members with Jhanjra school children

A breakthrough was made on 14th March with Jhanjra High School (JHS), situated in South 24 Parganas and within our UBA area of operation. The objective was to adopt a Government School and build rapport with the students so that a long term relationship can be built between the College and this School. This would motivate the school students to dream big and pursue higher education. Gradually more activities including awareness campaigns, trainings, workshops on important matters like waste management, water conservation, organic farming etc. could be introduced.

The first activity was a need assessment in the form of an interactive session with the students of Xaverian Astronomical Society (XAS) and about 35 students of standard X of JHS, held in JHS campus on 7th February 2020. The objective of this session was to determine their knowledge level related to Science which would help in planning sessions for them during their visit to the College. On the basis of this session, a three-hour workshop was organized on 14th March 2020 for 36 JHS students accompanied by two of their teachers, in the College and conducted by the XAS students.



Figure 3.3: Representative of Jhanjra High School expressing his gratitude during the closing ceremony of the workshop

The inaugural ceremony began with a prayer. In his inaugural address Dr. Shibaji Banerjee, the Assistant Director of the Fr. Eugene Lafont Observatory, shared the objectives of forming the XAS and the history of the Observatory. Thereafter, Ms. Cheryl Francis, the Director of the Department of Social Work and NSS, thanked the Headmaster of JHS for accepting this invitation and talked about the need for this collaborated effort. She motivated the JHS students to study well and become a Xaverian. She said, *“If you do well, you can also become a Xaverian like your “dadas” and “didis”*. She appreciated the students of XAS for their coordinated endeavor towards social outreach.

This was followed by a workshop in which all the students took part with zeal. They were grouped in six. In the first session, the XAS members explained few astronomical facts and phenomena to the students through audio-visual presentations. Scientific models related to astronomy were exhibited and the mechanisms behind those were demonstrated in detail keeping scope for clarifications.

To give the students a hands-on experience and to bring out the scientists in them, each group was provided with all the necessary equipment and information to build their own working models. The workshop ended with an interactive question- answer session in which the students solved worksheets and discussed what they learnt while making the models. Eagerness to learn and know dominated their spirits and what added to the day's impetus was a visit to the Fr. Eugene Lafont Observatory. Dr. Shibaji Banerjee and Mr. Bappaditya Manna demonstrated the instrumental capabilities of the Observatory. The students were delighted as they looked through the telescope and saw faraway objects resolved sharply right in front of them. Besides the Main Dome, the students also visited the Solar Observatory, where the measurement of the solar constant was explained.

In the closing ceremony, Dr. Suparna Roychowdhury, Chief Mentor of XAS, encapsulated the importance as well as the consequences of the event, and concluded by thanking the faculty, the XAS and NSS and the guests for the day, for their active efforts and participation in this initiative. The two teachers who came along with the children were extremely awestruck by the hospitality they experienced in the College. One of the teachers said, *"We have taken our children out a few times for competitions etc., but we have never seen such care and affection which our children received in this College. We thank the organisers and the College administration for this lifetime experience. We invite you to our School to conduct programmes at regular intervals so that more students benefit from this partnership."*

One of the students shared her experience of the day where she expressed her joy and gratitude to the College for this exposure. *"I will always remember this experience and share it with my friends who could not make it today,"* she said. Shaashwat Saraff, the Secretary of XAS, shared his collective hope to see many more such initiatives in the future.

The students of JHS belong to rural backgrounds and mostly from the disadvantaged sections. This exposure was an overwhelming opportunity and experience for them. They thanked the College for providing this platform which encouraged learning and mutual respect among all.

As a future plan, the Department of Social work under UBA will invite the students of JHS for three days Prayas camp (village to college) to be held at the end of June 2020 in the Raghampur campus. Workshops will be conducted on waste management, water conservation, organic farming etc. This apart, the students will be taken for City tour & College tour. This would motivate the students to perform better in their academics as well as become leaders in their own school and community to bring about social change.

Together Transforming Lives – in celebrating Women's Day: (Postponed)

This year, it was decided to celebrate Women's Day on 15th March 2020 in Raghampur campus with the theme '**Together Transforming Lives**'. Around 150 rural women and 100 students (from both main and Raghampur campus) were to participate in the event. On this day, the department planned to launch organic farming through SHG members in the adopted villages under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. Dr. Nandi (ADA of Bishnupur I) was invited as Chief

Guest and his team was supposed to take a session on organic farming and Dr.KasturiSarkar of Microbiology department was supposed to take a session on mother and child health on that day. The volunteers of both the campuses were oriented about the programme on 12th& 13th March respectively, and they were looking forward to a time of learning and fun with the rural women. However, as a precautionary measure to check the spread of COVID-19 and directive from the Central and State Government to avoid mass gathering, on 14h March, the College decided to **postpone this programme till the situation got back to normal**.

Covid-19 relief operation undertaken by the College

COVID-19 Relief work was organized by St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata from the main as well as the rural campus. The College Principal Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, organized the relief operations within the city as well as in the villages. At the Park Street Campus, Fr. Principal along with the Vice Principals distributed relief materials on 10th& 12th April to about 500 families consisting of rickshaw pullers, families from the nearby slums and to the families of the evening and night school children. About 300 PPE kits were distributed to the doctors and health workers of a charity hospital with support from the College Alumni Association.

In our adopted villages, COVID-19 Relief operation work was organized through the rural campus at Raghobpur. In all, 1920 families, spreading across ten villages, including the UBA villages, were sponsored by the College. The distributions began from 27th March 2020. On 7th April, UBA Coordinator, Prof. Cheryl Francis along with UBA Cell member (invitee) Mr. Bobby Biswas, visited two adopted villages - Debipur and Shalpur and distributed relief materials to about 100 families. The 6 days long relief work was carried out by about 40 volunteers from the villages around the rural campus for packing and distributing relief materials. The Nepalgunj Police Force helped the initiatives and supported with all the necessary logistics.

A core team consisting of Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, College Principal, Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J., Vice Principal of Raghobpur campus, Prof. Cheryl Francis, UBA Coordinator, Mr. SanjibKoner, the Secretary of Alumni Association, Mr. DilipMondol, Local MLA, Mr. Bobby Biswas, UBA Cell member (invitee), Mr. Bholanath Sardar, Panchayat Pradhan, Panakua GP, and Mrs. Rita Naskar, Panchayat Pradhan, Kulerdari GP were responsible to plan and implement the relief operations maintaining social distancing protocol.

Photo Galleria of the Relief Operation



Distribution of relief materials from the main campus

Awareness on social distancing, personal hygiene at Shalpurkur (Left)



Distribution outside Debipur village (right)



Distribution of relief materials at Shalpukur village



Village people waiting at the RGP Campus to receive relief material, maintaining social distancing protocol

Media appraisal for the Relief operation undertaken by the St. Xavier's Collage, Kolkata.



Report published in The Times of India newspaper

THE TELEGRAPH, CALCUTTA, SUNDAY 11 APRIL 2010

METRO

Xavier's gives free ration to poor

PARVATHI

Parvathi, the headmistress of St Xavier's Convent, says a group of poor children are not getting their ration.

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Children being distributed at St Xavier's Convent, Parvathi.

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Parvathi, the headmistress of St Xavier's Convent, says a group of poor children are not getting their ration.

City misses Easter goodies

REPORT BY PARVATHI

Calcutta: The city is missing out on the Easter goodies. The children of the poor are not getting their ration. She says that the children of the poor are not getting their ration. She says that the children of the poor are not getting their ration.

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Children being distributed at St Xavier's Convent, Parvathi.

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Report published in The Telegraph India E-Paper



কলকাতা

কলকাতায় সেন্ট জেভিয়ার্স-এ অন্যভাবে পালিত হল গুড ফ্রাইডে

📅 April 10, 2020 👤 BANGA NEWS 💬 Comments Off

জ্যোতির্ময় দত্ত, কলকাতাঃ পূণ্য শুক্রবার বা গুড ফ্রাইডে এক পবিত্র দিন, কারণ এই দিনে জগতের ত্রাণকর্তা প্রভু যীশু খৃষ্ট সমগ্র মানব জাতির পরিত্রাণের জন্য জীবন উৎসর্গ করেছিলেন। এই দিনটি তাই ত্যাগের মহিমা বহন করে আনে। তাই এই দিনের প্রকৃত

কলকাতা দর্পণ সেরা খবর রাজ্য কলকাতা

আরও পড়ুন



কলকাতা TV

রাতদিন সাতদিন

Breaking News



পুণ্য শুক্রবার বা গুড ফ্রাইডে এক পবিত্র দিন, কারণ এই দিনে জগতের ত্রাণকর্তা প্রভু যীশু খৃষ্ট সমগ্র মানব জাতির পরিত্রাণের জন্য জীবন উৎসর্গ করেছিলেন। এই দিনটি তাই ত্যাগের মহিমা বহন করে আনে। তাই এই দিনের প্রকৃত তাৎপর্য অনুযায়ী সেন্ট জেভিয়ার্স কলেজ কলকাতা প্রাক্তনী তাঁদের সভাপতি ও কলেজের অধ্যক্ষ রেভারেন্ড ফাদার ডমিনিক স্যাভিও এবং সেন্ট জেভিয়ার্স কলকাতার সর্বাধ্যক্ষ রেভারেন্ড



দক্ষিণবঙ্গ

লিড নিউজ

কলকাতার সেন্ট জেভিয়ার্সে অন্যভাবে পালিত হল গুড ফ্রাইডে

April 10, 2020 খাদ্য বিতরণ, গুড ফ্রাইডে, সেন্ট জেভিয়ার্স



পার্থ মুখার্জী, কলকাতা : পুণ্য শুক্রবার বা গুড ফ্রাইডে এক পবিত্র দিন, কারণ এই দিনে জগতের ত্রাণকর্তা প্রভু যীশু খৃষ্ট সমগ্র মানব জাতির পরিত্রাণের জন্য জীবন উৎসর্গ করেছিলেন। এই দিনটি তাই ত্যাগের মহিমা বহন

পিপিই বিতরণ

▶▶ সেন্ট জেভিয়ার্স কলেজের
প্রাক্তনী সংসদের উদ্যোগে
মল্লিকবাজারের কাছে শুক্রবার
একটি হাসপাতালের চিকিৎসক
ও স্বাস্থ্যকর্মীদের পিপিই তুলে
দিলেন কলেজের অধ্যক্ষ ডমিনিক
স্যাভিও। প্রাক্তনী সংসদের পক্ষে
জানানো হয়েছে, বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য
সংস্থা এবং সরকারি গাইডলাইন
মেনে তৈরি হয়েছে এই পিপিই।
এ ছাড়াও কলেজের রাঘবপুর
ক্যাম্পাসের পাশের আটটি গ্রামে
খাবার বিলি করা হয়েছে। দক্ষিণ
২৪ পরগনার ৩০০০ পরিবারকে
দেওয়া হয়েছে নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয়
জিনিস। কলেজের পক্ষ থেকে
মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর ত্রাণ তহবিলে ৪০ লক্ষ
টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে।

Personal gear from Xavier's alumni

DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: A Park Street hospital got 300 personal protection equipment sets at St Xavier's College on Friday.

Each single-use kit contained face shield, goggles, mask, gloves, a coverall gown and shoe cover.

"We need to stand by doctors and other frontline health service providers, who have been extending yeomen humanitarian service at this trying time. Our small effort will surely give a positive signal to that section of the society, which is trying to socially outcast this noble professionals," Father Dominic Savio, the principal of the college, said while distributing the kits.

Healthcare workers at government and private hospitals, even those who have not been in contact with Covid-19 patients, have been stigma-

tised in the city and elsewhere in Bengal. Officials of government and private hospital said

"These will be of great help, considering the pressure that our doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers are under. The stock should last over a week," Indranil Mukhopadhyay, vice-president of Mission of Mercy Hospital and Research Centre who collected the PPE gear, said.

The help was organised by the St Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association. "We procured the PPE from an authorised supplier. The gear confirms to the standards of the World Health Organisation and the Indian government," an organiser said.

"Doctors and healthcare workers are our saviours; so, we felt the urgency of empowering them," Sanjib Koner, honorary secretary of the alumni association, said.



सेंट जेवियर्स कालेज कलकत्ता एल्युमनी एसोसियेशन ने कोरोना वारियर्स को सलाम करते हुए एक निजी अस्पताल के डाक्टरों तथा स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों को 300 पीपीई प्रदान किया। इस मौके पर कालेज के प्रिंसिपल फादर डोमिनिक सेवियो तथा रेक्टर फादर जयराम वेल्सामी भी उपस्थित थे। मालूम रहे एल्युमनी एसोसियेशन ने मुख्यमंत्री राहत कोष में 40 लाख रुपये प्रदान किया है तथा गुड फ्राइडे तथा ईस्टर के मौके पर 500 जरूरतमंद परिवारों को राशन प्रदान किया। वहीं दक्षिण 24 परगना के रघुवरपुर गांव स्थित सेंट जेवियर्स कालेज परिसर में 16 गांवों के 3 हजार ग्रामीणों को भोजन के पैकेट प्रदान किया।

विश्वमित्र

আঁধার হবে ক্ষয়...



আরও খবর

» পাশে ও: ভিশন ইন্ডিয়া

লকডাউনে বিপন্নদের
ওয়ার্ল্ড ভিশন ইন্ডিয়া
হাজার ৩০ প্যাকেট
যোনকর্মা-সহ ৭০ পা
হয়েছে রেশন। ১১ হ
বেশি শিশুকে স্বাস্থ্যস
বারাসত জেলা পুলিশ
টাকা দিল উত্তর ২৪
পরিষদ। দলনেতা না
জানান স্যানিটাইজার,
কেনার জন্য দেওয়া হ
ভাতা বাবদ ২ লক্ষ ৯
মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর ত্রাণ তহবি

» হরিপাতে

হরিপাল স্টেশন বাজা
আটকে পড়েন মুর্শিদা
রাজমিস্ত্রি ও জোগাড়
কলেজের সামনে তাঁ
মাস্ক ইত্যাদি দিলেন
সরকার ও স্বরূপ মিত্র

For details please connect with the link given below:

<https://www.sxccal.edu/social-outreach-and-nss/#covid19>

Way Forward

The decision to formulate and implement further Plan of Action for UBA related developmental activities would be undertaken once College resumes, based on the recommendations and guidelines of the Government and Appropriate authorities of the College, as the strategies can only be formulated centred around the prioritised areas of work after normalcy of the prevailing situation. However, the UBA Cell members are in constant touch with the Village Representatives and Village contact persons to continue and all other stakeholders.

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