

# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for the  
month of July  
2020*

## COVID – 19 Essentials for the Village Children

The Department of Social Work: NSS and UBA mobilised some essential items (such as hand sanitisers, soaps, masks and biscuits) for the village children. On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the staff went to college to segregate the essential items for Debipur village. 300 pieces of each item was sourced from various benevolent benefactors. It was decided that 100 children (5 to 16 years of age) from each of the three villages (Debipur, Nurshikdarchowk and Shalpokur) will receive each of the above listed products. The village contact persons will prepare name lists of the children and a date will be decided when the staff and NSS students will go to the village for not just distribution of the items but also create awareness about COVID-19. Keeping the safety of all concerned stakeholders as well as maintaining government directives it was decided that children will come in 5 groups to collect the items. Parents of children who are below 10 years of age will come to collect the items.

To discuss the above and to identify a place for distribution and awareness campaign, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020, Prof. Cheryl Francis and Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee went to Debipur village for a consultation with the village contact person and panchayat representatives. The villagers welcomed this initiative by the College and assured full co-operation from them. The following persons attended the meeting – (i) Prof. Cheryl Francis; (ii) Ms. Uma Majhi (Village contact person); (iii) Ms. Shiulita Majhi (a resident of Debipur village and a final year Education department student); (iv) Mr. Anal Karali (Panchayat member); (v) Mr. Johan Dolui; (vi) Mr. Mithu Mondal and (vii) Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee.

However, with the extension of lockdown and the rise of COVID cases in and around the village, the awareness campaign and individual distribution was not possible. Nonetheless, on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, Prof. Cheryl Francis went to Debipur and handed over the items to Ms. Uma Majhi (village contact person) to distribute among the children individually. A similar initiative will be undertaken next month for Nurshikdarchowk and Shalpokur villages.



Figure 1: Consultation with villagers regarding distribution of COVID-19 essential items for children



Figure 2: Handing over the essential items to Uma Majhi for distribution among children of Debipur

## Visit to Kakdwip

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020, a team from St. Xavier's College Kolkata led by the Principal Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, along with other Fathers, staff and Alumni members left for the third visit to a cyclone shelter at Narayanpur No 4 Jetty of Kakdwip Police Station in the Sunderbans district in South 24 Parghanas for distribution of relief materials to the Amphan Cyclone victims.

Mr. Sudip Singh, Inspector In charge of Kakdwip Police Station helped the College to identify the location. Fr. Principal assured the beneficiaries that St. Xavier's would continue to provide all possible support to the affected people of the area. He also affirmed that students from this area were welcome to study in the College and that the College would bear all their educational expenses. The people of the area were overwhelmed and the women present expressed their desire to visit the college once situation got back to normal



Figure 1: Fr. Principal addressing the people



Figure 4: The women expressing their desire to visit College



Figure 5: A senior citizen narrates his experience of the cyclone



Figure 6: Learning from one another washing of hands

## Tele-conference with UBA NCI and RCI

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, a teleconference was facilitated by IIT Kharagpur (UBA Regional Coordinating Agency) between IIT Delhi (UBA National Coordinating Agency), IIT Kharagpur and Department of Social Work: NSS and UBA of St.Xavier's College. During the hour long conference call, the staff were able to discuss about the following issues faced by St. Xavier's College as a Participating Institution (PI):

1. The auto generated report of Debipur and Shalpur missing from the PI Dashboard.
2. UBA website, the report of Shalpur is incomplete and the graphs are missing.
3. When we tried to print the report of Debipur, due to html format, half of the graphs/tables and also the analysis portion was missing.
4. When we are trying to upload the survey data, the submit button is missing.
5. After uploading the survey data successfully, on a later date it later shows that the data is not completed
6. Proposal submitted to produce hand sanitisers.

IIT Delhi staff assured that the technical issues of the reporting portal will be resolved soon. Regarding the proposal, the College was encouraged to submit a revised proposal where the capacity of the villagers will be built to produce hand sanitisers in the village itself. The Department of Social Work is exploring partnership with like-minded organisations to take this initiative forward.

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