

Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for the
month of
September 2020*

International Webinar Series to Commemorate 51 years of NSS in College

On the occasion of 51 years of NSS in the College, an international webinar series was organised on **Youth for Global Action** on 23rd and 24th September 2020. The two days webinar had the following themes:

- a) Day 1: 23rd September 2020: **Youth Volunteering: *Becoming Peace makers for social change resulting in development of Self & Others***
- b) Day 2: 24th September 2020: **Youth for Global Action: *Knowledge & Skill Enhancement for achieving SDGs***

The webinar was held on zoom platform and live streamed on Youtube Channel of the department. Below is a synopsis of the webinar

Youth Volunteering: *Becoming Peace makers for social change resulting in development of Self & Others*

On the first day of the webinar, Father Principal, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, S. J emphasized on the youth, their actions and responsibilities of social change. Father spoke passionately about the contributions of late Rev. Fr. Gerard Beckers, S. J. in pioneering outreach and social work activities in our college and involving the college students in the same. He also highlighted the role of Xavierians in community development and social activism and said, ***“The need of the hour is to build more equal, inclusive and resilient society. this can be possible if the youth of our nation come forward and become volunteers of peace and social cohesion”***.

The first resource speaker **Mr. Parthsarathi Changdar** (Lead CSR, Akzonobel, New Delhi, India) gave an insight into the **‘Importance of Youth Volunteering: Personal & Profession Growth’**. Following are the salient features of his presentation:

- A brief history of volunteering across the country from pre-Independence.
- Importance of volunteering and volunteer services and how it helps in personal development.
- Various forms of volunteering, with special focus on online volunteering during current pandemic situation.
- Youth volunteering with special focus on advocacy and project management.
- Shared various volunteering projects that the youth can be a part of.

The next speaker was **Ms. Berith Karasch** (Associate Peace Building Officer United Nations Peace Building Support Office, New York) who gave an insightful presentation on **‘Youth Volunteerism for Peace & Cohesion’**. Below are the main points discussed during the session:

- Youth as individuals to help contribute to society and promote Peace and Security.
- Addressing misconceptions of social cohesion through awareness and outreach programs (including policies).
- Focus on the positive effects of the youth's potential and intergenerational amalgamation

- Peace as a continuous process to ensure prevention from any possible conflict rather than restoration of peace after outbreak of conflict.
- Peace is imperative for ensuring sustainable development.

The sessions were followed by Question and Answer session, wherein the speakers passionately addressed questions raised by the participants. The first day of the webinar came to a close with Ms. Cheryl Francis's vote of thanks.

Youth for Global Action: Knowledge & Skill Enhancement for achieving SDGs

On the last day of the Webinar, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, S.J. in his keynote address, mentioned about importance of youth volunteering and youth engagement in realising Sustainable Development Goals. He also said, *“To transform the dreams to the reality the NSS is collaborating with the youth in building a knowledge base.”* He also emphasised on the role NSS can play in training and channelizing the energy and enthusiasm of the youth in social development and nation building. Addressing the Youth, he said, *“you as young adults have a significant role in ensuring, we meet our sustainable development goals by 2020”*. He also suggested various ways to do the same and gave tangible examples from the college's outreach programme, with special focus on *Prayas: College to Village, and Village to College* initiative, wherein, college students have been engaged spreading the light of education to the children of rural areas.

The first speaker of the day was **Mr. Morse C. Flores** (Human Rights Officer, United Nations of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva) who presented on **‘Skilling of youth globally for employment and SDGs’**. He started his presentation with a video presentation showing how engaged volunteering helped people specifically from minority communities in the COVID pandemic situation. The highlights of his presentation are as below:

- Link between education, skill, employment and acknowledging the presence of humanity in youth to fulfill the SDGs.
- Institutionalising the need for policies, programs, resources and their implementation for the benefit of the marginalised.
- Productive outcome through social solidarity among youth groups.
- Vocational training and promotion of voluntary services.
- Importance of community development and serving the marginalised who are always on the periphery.

Followed by this, the last speaker of the webinar was **Mr. Sam Sudheer Bandi**, Communication Officer, UNICEF Office, Chhattisgarh who presented on **‘Skilling of Youth in India for employment & meeting SDGs’**. Mr. Bandi covered the following points in his presentation:

- Youth as the Changemakers
- Engagement with the youth of India via communities and associations like the NSS for SDG related services.
- Skill enhancement training.
- Keeping the institutions of education and community as a tool and resource for growth and enhancement of society.
- Emphasied on **‘AAA’ approach meaning Awareness, Advocacy, and Action.**

The speakers then addressed pertinent questions raised by participants. The webinar came to a close with Ms. Cheryl Francis's vote of thanks. The response received from the participants both via Live Chat on YouTube and Review Form was quite overwhelming. Most of the participants responded that they would engage themselves in the educating and spreading awareness about the SDGs in their respective communities, uphold the dignity of a person and be committed to mitigate the challenges that comes forth and bring about positive change around them.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

1. Meeting between all Participating Institutions in West Bengal and UBA NCI and RCI

On 3rd September 2020, a meeting was scheduled between all Participating Institutions (PI) in West Bengal and UBA National Coordinating Institute – IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur. From our college, the meeting was attended by Ms. Cheryl Francis, Ms. Shrawani Jha and Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee. Dr. R. Banerjee (Head AGFE and RDC, IIT Kharagpur) delivered the welcome address in which she identified and emphasised on the scope of technology based interventions in rural development.

All the PIs were given an opportunity to update and share about the work they have done during pandemic and related future activities. During the deliberation, Dr. R. Banerjee requested all PIs to prepare a database of migrant workers who returned to their respective homes and the kind of work they were engaged in.

Ms. Cheryl Francis briefed everyone present about the work the College has been engaged in during the pandemic. She shared our plan of initiating organic farming in the adopted villages, which was well appreciated by IIT Kharagpur faculty. IIT Kharagpur faculty further assured all kinds of technical support for the successful implementation of organic farming.

Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee shared with IIT Delhi personnels about the technical problems the college faced with UBA reporting portal. We were assured that the technical glitches will soon be resolved by the team in delhi.

Overall, the meeting was good and IIT Kharagpur UBA members suggested that more in-depth one-to-one meeting will be organised in the future with all PIs so that UBA project is implemented well which will benefit the marginalised sections of the society.

2. Webinar on NEP hosted by UBA

On 16th September 2020, a National Webinar was organized by UBA on Creating Awareness about National Education Policy 2020.

Highlights of the opening session –

- Address by Minister of State - Youth Affairs & Sports
- NSS/NYKS/NCC/UBA to take the 'basic philosophy' of the National Education Policy 2020 to every corner of the country and to reach out to people living in remote areas of the country.

- Address by Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Minister of Education, described NEP's need, significance and expected impact on the education system of our country.
- The E- booklet on NEP 2020 Resource Material was launched and its content was described.

Highlights of the technical session -

- Presentation by Secretary on the 'Salient Features of NEP 2020 regarding School Education'.
- Basic features of NEP 2020.
- How the new policy will bring about a paradigm shift.
- How the policy will positively influence the entire education system.
- Emphasised the role of NSS/NYKS/NCC/UBA Volunteers in creating awareness about the Education Policy 2020 in both rural and urban areas
- Encouraged volunteers to spread the light of education amongst all

This was followed by a presentation by Secretary UGC on the Salient Features of NEP 2020 and possible impact of the NEP 2020 on higher education

- Role of technology
- Role of Indian Education System
- Role of volunteers

The webinar concluded with sharing of expected role of the Participating Institutes - academicians, coordinators and NSS/NYKS/NCC/UBA volunteers

- Disseminate NEP 2020 to Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies, parents, community.
- Explain the role of the teachers, parents and community
- During the pandemic –volunteer for teaching in local schools by contacting the school teachers and administration
- Assist at least one school teacher of your area to reach learning materials to the children who do not have any digital devices for online learning.
- Help achieve Foundational Literacy Goals by monitoring the learning competency of the child.
- Contribute in Adult Literacy
- Take Responsibility to educate adults of your family
- Volunteer in schools for career guidance and mentoring to students
- Become NEP Ambassadors
- Obtain feedback and ideas from the youth regarding the NEP 2020 and its implementation.

Follow up activities instructed by UBA:

- Post the Webinar the UBA officials have asked all institutions to conduct a Webinar to Create Awareness about the National Education Policy using the E- resources provided by them in our adopted villages, and other beneficiaries. They have also emphasized on the involvement of volunteers of both NSS and NCC, in disseminating the awareness, along with role of the faculty members and other academicians in conducting such Webinar.
- They have also suggested ways to generate awareness about the NEP 2020 other than conducting webinars. They are as follows:
 - ✓ Circulation of E-book via mass email.
 - ✓ To conduct quiz to sensitize

- ✓ Poster making competition or via displaying relevant posters
- ✓ Conference calling to village school heads and talking about the policy
- ✓ Circulation through other activities as well.

3. Upload of survey sheets

Around 24 survey sheets have been uploaded in September 2020.

4. Meetings scheduled to take forward UBA project

- Meeting with village contact person of Debipur village was scheduled on 30th September 2020. It was decided that a focussed group discussion with SHG women will be held soon to understand the needs of the SHG women.
- A meeting with the children's group will be scheduled as well to understand the needs of the children so that relevant interventions can be planned.
- Meeting with Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. (Vice-Principal, Raghampur campus) was held on 30th September and the following were discussed – (i) Webinar to be held on NEP for adjoining rural schools; (ii) Meeting to be held with village contact persons of Raghampur, Bakeswar and Magurkhali villages; and (iii) Orientation to be held for first year students.

Meeting with Raghampur Board members

On 11th September 2020, a short meeting was scheduled with the Raghampur campus board members. The following key points were discussed during the meeting:

- Ms. Cheryl Francis shared with the students, how the closure of schools (due to the current pandemic situation) and most of the rural children not having the luxury of online classes, rural adolescent girls stand at the risk of not returning to school.
- She encouraged and motivated the RGP students to take education to the rural children and keep them engaged through various teaching-learning methods so that children continue with their education once the pandemic is over.
- Ms. Francis shared that remedial classes with select few children will resume soon both in-person (maintaining all COVID protocols) as well as virtually and urged the students to take lead role in it.
- Inspired and motivated, the board members expressed their willingness to participate in the said activities and bring about positive change in the lives of the children.

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