



**UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN
ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA**

PROGRESS REPORT

January to April 2020

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Sl. No	ADOPTED VILLAGES	TALUKA (BLOCK)	DISTRICT
1.	Bakeswar	Bishnupur I	South 24 Parganas
2.	Magurkhali		
3.	Raghabpur		
4.	Shalpokur		
5.	Debipur		

List of Activities

Title of the Activity 1: NETWORKING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Need of the Activity: To network with important stake holders for smooth implementation of VDP in the adopted villages.

Brief Description:

- On 6th January 2020 the progress report of UBA was submitted to the local MLA. The MLA's office appreciated the work done and assured all possible assistance for future endeavors.
- On 9th January 2020, the resource map for Debipur village through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was prepared with the support of panchayat members and village elders.
- 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. An action plan was formulated on how to engage SHG members in implementing organic farming, waste management and water conservation projects.
- On 28th January 2020, a meeting with Kulerdari Gram Panchayat Pradhan and with panchayat members of Bakeswar village (under Panakua panchayat) 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 suggested the College meet the Joint Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development as they were promoting model villages free of plastics.

- On 27th February, a meeting was held with the GP and village representatives of Shalpokur village to motivate them to initiate organic farming in their village.
- On 28th February 2020, the UBA coordinator met Ms. Sonali Dutta Roy, Joint Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development to discuss about waste management and organic farming in the adopted villages. 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 Shalpokur village with the SHG group 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 UBA Coordinator 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 5.1: UBA Coordinator with Jhanjra High School Headmaster



Figure 5.2: UBA Coordinator with Panchayat Representatives of Debipur Village



Figure 5.3: UBA Coordinator with the Panchayat Reps. of Bakeswar village



Figure 5.4: With Dr. Pritam Nandi, ADA of Bishnupur I



Figure 5.5: VDP meeting at Debipur



Figure 5.6: VDP meeting at Shalpur



Figure 5.7: UBA Coordinator conducting a meeting with panchayat members and village contact persons in Shalpur village

Title of the Activity 2: UBA REGIONAL WORKSHOP AT IIT KHARAGPUR

Need of the Activity: Response to invitation from RCA and providing opportunity to the students to know and become actively involved in UBA

Brief Description:

On 18th February 2020, five students (three from main campus and two from Raghapur campus) along with Ma'am Cheryl Francis, Ma'am Sucheta Mukherjee and Ma'am Shrawani Jha 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).



Figure 6.1: UBA core team of St. Xavier's College with the resource person from IIT Delhi

Title of the Activity 3: Xaverian Astronomical Society and NSS Collaboration: An Entry Point for promoting UBA initiatives in local government school

Need of the Activity: To create an opportunity to work with local government school

Brief Description:

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. 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.

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. The second session was based on making models with simple materials provided. The workshop ended with an interactive question- answer session in which the students solved worksheets and discussed what they learnt while making the models.

As a future plan, the students of JHS will be invited for three days Prayas camp (village to college) to be held at the end of June 2020. 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.



Figure 7.1: Need assessment session



Figure 7.2: XAS members with JHS children



Figure 7.3: JHS teacher expressing his gratitude

Title of the Activity 4: TOGETHER TRANSFORMING LIVES – CELEBRATING WOMEN’S DAY: (POSTPONED DUE TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC)

Need of the Activity: Launching of organic farming with the SHG women as an alternative livelihood option.

Brief Description:

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. Kasturi Sarkar 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 14th March, the College decided to **postpone this programme till the situation gets back to normal.**

Title of the Activity 5: COVID-19 RELIEF OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COLLEGE

Need of the Activity: To support our adopted villages to cope with the current pandemic situation

Brief Description:

COVID-19 Relief work was organized by St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) through the Raghampur campus (rural campus). About 2000 families, spreading across ten villages, including the UBA villages, were sponsored by the College. The distributions began from 27th March 2020 and completed on 18th April 2020. On 7th April, UBA Coordinator visited two adopted villages - Debipur and Shalpur and distributed relief materials to about 100 families with the help of local support.

In the Raghampur campus, the long relief work was carried out by the 36 village volunteers from Raghampur area for packing and distributing relief materials. The Panchayat Pradhan of Panuka Panchayat, Kulerdari Panchayat and many Panchayat members and the Nepalgunj Police Force helped the initiatives and supported with all the necessary logistics.

Photo galleria of the relief operations in the villages and from the rural campus



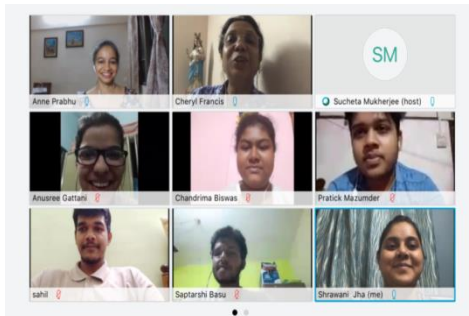
Title of the Activity 6: REACHING OUT TO OUR UBA CORE GROUP OF STUDENTS

Need of the Activity: To stay connected and motivate the student volunteers

Brief Description:

During normal circumstances, this UBA group is engaged in social activities spread across five villages per week, apart from coordinating in house activities and programmes throughout the year. This core group consists of students belonging to various social and economic backgrounds.

We provided an opportunity to these students to share their difficulties and struggles and also provided them with counseling sessions as and when required.



Interaction with the core team members



Core Team students observing World Yoga Day

Next Action Plan

Sl. No	Awaiting guidelines and return of normalcy
1.	Due to this pandemic situation VDP for Debipur village is on hold. All activities will be resumed based on the recommendations and guidelines of the Central and State Governments and by the College administration.
