

Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for the
month of
January 2021*

Administrative activities

- a) **Virtual Departmental meetings:** The department staff had 10 virtual department meetings this month. The meetings were held to plan forthcoming rural initiatives in the adopted villages. Secondly, the meetings also focussed on forthcoming activities for our college students (especially current third years) to help them complete their social credit hours. Beside the virtual meetings, the staff also held department meetings in both the campuses as well.
- b) **RUSA fund for rural activities:** The department received some allotment from RUSA fund for rural activities last month. The department procured needs based gadgets and infrastructural amenities to strengthen the implementation of its rural activities.
- c) **Research assignments for third year students:** All the assignments were downloaded and sent for plagiarism check to Dr. Madhu Agnihotri. The first list consisting of names of students whose research assignments were accepted was published on the website on 14th January 2021, subsequently other lists were uploaded.

Coordination and networking meetings

The department staff initiated a number of coordination and networking meetings with village contact persons.

- a) **Meeting with SHG members in Shalpokur village:** A meeting was held with around 35 SHG members in Shalpokur village on 8th January 2021, to understand training needs of the members, to form youth groups in the village. Most of the members were keen to undertake organic kitchen gardening.
- b) **Meeting with SHG representatives from Bakeswar, Raghampur and Magurkhali villages:** On 15th January 2021, a preliminary meeting was held with the SHG representatives as well as Sampoorna Nari Kalyan Samiti, to discuss how Village Education Programme can be initiated and implemented in the said villages. The women expressed their willingness to cooperate with the College. It was decided that the women will prepare lists of children/youth who would be interested as well as benefit from the Village Education Programme. However, the VEP would begin only after normalcy returns.
- c) **Meeting with Secretary, Panakua Maitri Sangha:** On 21st January, a meeting was held with Mrs. Moumita Gazi, Secretary of Panakua Maitri Sangha to initiate various programmes for Self Help Groups under Panakua Gram Panchayat. Mrs Moumita Gazi will help identify SHGs who will be trained to undertake organic kitchen gardening initiatives.
- d) **Interactive session with Children from Bakeswar:** On 21st January, 14 children from Bakeswar village were invited for an interactive session in Raghampur campus. Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J., Vice Principal, of the Raghampur Campus, in his introductory speech motivated and urged the children to continue their education. The children expressed their desire to get supplementary education from the College. To discuss this further with the children as well as their parents, a follow-up meeting was held on 29th January in Bakeswar village itself. The said meeting was attended by 15 villagers, along with panchayat members and some children. A primary school has been identified as a potential place to conduct Village Education Programme. The school premises can be utilized after taking necessary permissions from the concerned authorities.

- e) **Meeting with Dr. Dillip Kumar Swain, IIT Kharagpur:** In continuation to the meeting held on 6th December 2020, another tele-conference was held with Dr. Swain on 22nd January, wherein it was decided that Dr. Swain will visit Shalpur village and conduct an orientation on organic farming for SHG members on 13th February 2021.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- a) **Workshop on Innovative Organic Farming Techniques & Marketing through FPO & Farm Gate:** Ms. Shrawani Jha, attended the said workshop which was organized by National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTR), Chandigarh from 20th to 22nd January 2021.

The three-day Workshop on Innovative Organic Farming Techniques & Marketing through FPO & Farm Gate organized by National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTR), Chandigarh began on 20th January 2021 with the inaugural address by **Dr. U.N. Roy**, UBA Coordinator, NITTR Chandigarh followed by the keynote speech by Prof. **V.K. Vijay**, National Coordinator, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, (UBA) wherein he shared in brief the vision and mission of formulation of UBA.

Learning from the session & Way forward

- Permaculture practices can be explored and similar models can be promoted at the adopted villages with the assistance of experts of the same, based on its viability.
- Digital marketing and selling strategies of agricultural produce from the adopted villages can be developed and implemented.
- More information and knowledge can be acquired on Farmer Producer Organisations operating in India along with its rules and guidelines and awareness campaigns on the same can be conducted for the farmers of the adopted villages.
- Students can be motivated to engaged themselves in agricultural practices and contribute to its development at individual and local level.

- b) **The networking and coordination meetings listed above are also applicable to take forward rural activities under UBA.**



Figure 1: Ma'am Cheryl Francis motivating SHG members of Shalpokur village to undertake organic farming



Figure 2: Coordination meeting with SHG representatives from Raghampur, Bakeswar and Magurkhali villages



Figure 3: Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. addressing children from Bakeswar village



Figure 4: Maám Cheryl Francis explaining about Village Education Programme to the Children



Figure 5: Meeting with villagers in Bakeswar village

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