

Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for the
month of
February 2021*

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- i. **Departmental meetings:** The department staff had 9 virtual meetings this month and around 5 meetings in the campuses. These 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.
- ii. **Setting up of rural activity office at Raghampur:** Ms. Cheryl Francis spent a considerable amount of time in procuring rural activity related items and setting up the office for rural activities at the Raghampur campus with funds resourced from RUSA 2.0.
- iii. **Main Office Facelift:** The Office at the Main Campus underwent repair and painting. All thanks to Fr. Probal Gomes, campus Minister, for his support and cooperation. The office now looks well-groomed.

COORDINATION AND NETWORKING MEETINGS

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

- i. **Coordination and networking for orientation programme on organic kitchen gardening:** Around 4 coordination and networking meetings were held with the village contact persons of Shalpurkur village. The staff met and discussed at length about drawing up the attendee list for the orientation programme on 13th February. To ensure maximum participation and smooth implementation of the programme Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee had around 10 tele-conversations with the contact persons. The staff also held meetings with Dr. Dillip Swain from IIT Kharagpur (resource person) to understand the module of the orientation.
- ii. **Coordination and networking to initiate Village Education Programme (VEP) in Magurkhali village:** On 19th February 2021, the staff held a meeting with around 25 mothers and Panchayat Sabhapati to discuss about initiating Village Education Programme in Magurkhali village. Ms. Cheryl Francis explained to the mothers about the various rural initiatives undertaken by the college in adjoining villages. By the end of the meeting, the mothers requested the college to initiate VEP in Magurkhali village which they felt, would help their children not just in school curriculum but will also broaden their understanding about various contemporary issues. It was decided that the class timings may be kept from 9:30am to 12:30pm on Sundays and Ujjal Sangha, the local club, will be used as the venue for the classes. However, the VEP would begin only after normal functioning of the college. The village contact person of Magurkhali, Ms. Polly handed over a list of interested children to the staff.

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN – PROGRESS REPORT

i. **Orientation on organic kitchen gardening**

On 13th February, an orientation session on organic farming was held for the SHG women of Shalpurkur village. Around 70 women enthusiastically reached the venue to know about the benefits and importance of organic farming which was conducted by Dr. Dillip Kumar Swain of IIT Kharagpur. Dr. Swain explained how there was a rise in cancer and other related diseases as our food chain was polluted with pesticides/insecticides and chemical fertilizers. He emphasised the immediate need to take charge of our health by growing our own food organically. Even though Dr. Swain

oscillated between Oriya and Bengali, he had the rapt attention of the women. He elaborated some simple yet useful techniques of growing and nurturing kitchen garden and invited the women to visit IIT Kharagpur for cross learning. As the session neared end, quite a few expressed their willingness to undergo extensive training.

When Dipika Singh, an SHG member, was asked whether she learnt anything from the session, she cheerfully said, *“Aaj ami shiklam je amader shastha ebong amader porer projanmo r shashtha amaderi haathe. Amrashobai mile shustho, swanirbhar bhabyshoth gorbo”* (Today I learnt that the well being of our generation, as well as that of the next generation, lies in our hands. Together we all will build a healthy future). Dr. Swain before bidding goodbye to the villagers, congratulated the women for being determined to grow their own nutritious food.

It was announced that 25 women will be chosen with the help of village contact persons, for a detailed training on organic kitchen gardening to be organised the following month.

VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

- i. **ADDA SESSION:** Adda session on the **Importance of Youth Volunteering** was held on 8th and 9th February for third year students of both campuses. Youth volunteering was gaining momentum across the world, especially during the current pandemic situation. Prof. Zaid Al Baset was present for B.A students as a guest who encouraged the students to use volunteering as a tool to have positive effect on others, which in turn would have a snowballing effect on the society at large. This adda session was organised to give the students an opportunity to share their views/opinions and talk about their volunteering experience. Most of the participants shared how their volunteering experience not only helped them acquire new skills but have also played a role in shaping their personality. Some students shared how through their local clubs they reached out to marginalised families during the pandemic which helped them to understand that their small actions too could have an impact on others' lives. Divyanshu Agarwal of COMA, shared, *“I volunteered to teach some underprivileged children, to gather my social credits, but few days later, I realised I am helping the children understand and complete their school curriculum and they taught me how to find happiness in the smallest things. This experience had completely changed my outlook towards life.”* On the other hand, Anupama Mondal, shared that she wants to create awareness among her peers about the ill-effects of early marriage and the importance of education.

- ii. **HANDMADE POSTER COMPETITION**

- a) **International Mother Language Day:** Respecting and promoting mother language of all individuals is imperative for building inclusive societies and is an important tool for promoting peace across communities. To create awareness about this among our students as well as to pay tribute to the martyrs of *Bhasha Dibas*, a virtual handmade poster competition was organised for both the campus students. A total of 17 students (5 from main campus and 12 from RGP) participated in the competition. First, the students were oriented and made aware of the importance of mother language and the role they can play in preserving and promoting the same. The students let their imagination out on the paper and beautifully explained the essence of mother language individually. The students were encouraged to speak in their mother language during the session. Shubham Jha of CMSA through his poster aptly said, *“Mother language is like a seed in a child's life, which helps the child to reach*

his/her full potential". Most of the rural campus participants laid emphasis on how mother language needs to be nurtured just like the way a mother nurtures her child.

- b) **Promoting Organic Farming:** In an effort, to make students aware about the importance of organic farming and its direct effect on health and wellbeing, the department organised handmade poster competition on 28th February 2021. Around 20, third year students from the main campus, participated in the competition. At the beginning of the session, Ms. Cheryl Francis, briefed the students about the initiatives undertaken by the department regarding organic farming in some of the college adopted villages around the rural campus. The students were then given 45 minutes to make the poster and then explain the same. At the end of the session, the students were encouraged to start organic kitchen garden in a small scale in their balconies. Adrija Giri of STSA department rightly said, ***"Organic farming practices not only ensures safe consumption of various types of food, but it also protects our environment from harmful chemicals. Hence, organic farming must be encouraged and practiced."***

Table 1:
Overview of number of students department wise who participated in the virtual activities

SL. NO	DEPARTMENT	ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
1.	Commerce ó Morning	Adda session on Importance of Youth Volunteering	6
2.	Commerce ó Evening		6
3.	B.A		5
4.	B. Sc		4
5.	B.A. Bengali (RGP campus)		14
6.	B.A. History (RGP campus)		6
	TOTAL		41
7.	B. Sc	Handmade poster competition on International Mother Language Day	3
8.	Commerce-Evening		1
9.	Commerce-Morning		1
10.	B.A. Bengali (RGP campus)		10
11.	B.A. History (RGP campus)		2
	TOTAL		17
12.	B. Sc	Handmade poster competition on Promoting Organic Farming	8
13.	B.A		7
14.	Commerce-Evening		2
15.	Commerce-Morning		3
	TOTAL		20
GRAND TOTAL			78

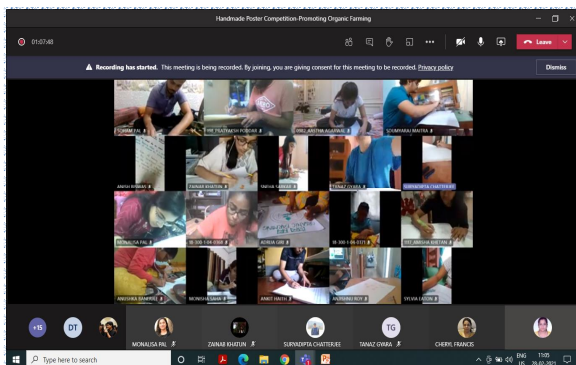
PHOTO GALLERY



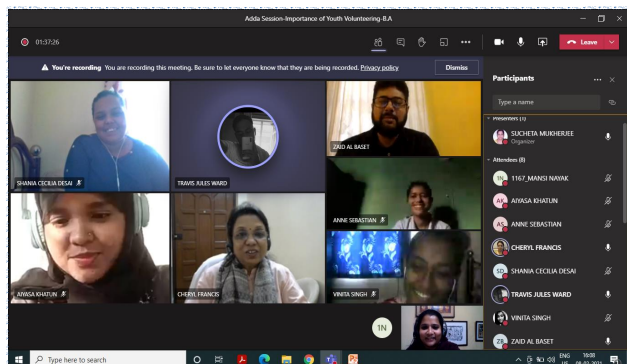
Ms. Cheryl Francis addressing the mothers' in Magurkhali village



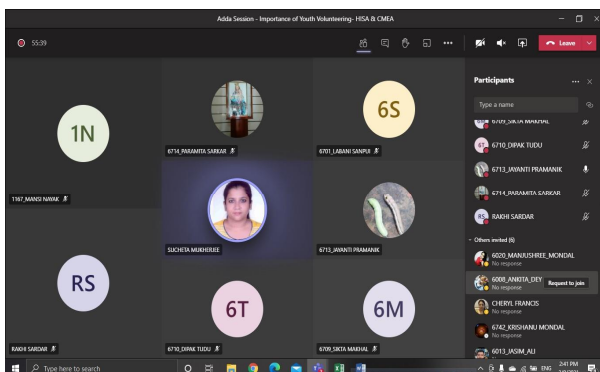
Virtual exhibition of students' posters on International Mother Language Day



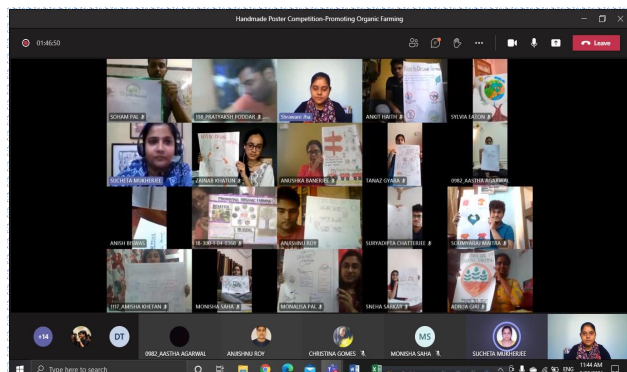
Students engrossed in making a poster on the importance of organic farming



Prof. Zaid Al Baset addressing the students during the session



Adda session with Raghobpur campus students



Promoting organic farming through posters
