

# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for  
the month  
of  
April 2021*

## ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- i. Departmental meetings:** The department staff had 10 virtual meetings this month. In these meetings the team discussed the challenges they faced and brainstormed on various mitigation measures. Forthcoming rural activities as well as online activities for students were discussed during the meetings.
- ii. Meeting with Vice Principal, Raghampur campus:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, a department meeting was held with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J – Vice Principal of Raghampur campus. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss how best the department can help Raghampur campus semester VI students complete their requisite social credit hours. Father Vice Principal was also briefed about the progress of work so far in the adopted villages. Father Johnson Padiyara, S.J. appreciated the hard work the department had put in during the pandemic and congratulated Ms. Cheryl Francis for her tireless hard work for the development of rural people.
- iii. Submission of social credits of students:** On 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April, the department submitted the second and third list respectively, of students (semester-VI) who completed their social credits to their respective Vice-Principals' offices. Around 377 students from across various departments have completed their social credits this month.

## COORDINATION AND NETWORKING MEETINGS

The department staff initiated a number of coordination and networking meetings with various stakeholders. The details of such meetings are enumerated below:

- i. Establishing contact with Fisheries department:** On 12<sup>th</sup> April, the department was able to establish contact with Assistant Director of Fisheries, Mr. Sabyasachi Bandhopadhyay and had an informal discussion on how SHG members from the adopted villages can be trained to undertake pisciculture. Given the current pandemic situation, it was mutually decided that once situation improves, a formal meeting will be held to discuss how the training programme will be rolled out in the adopted villages.
- ii. Meeting with DRCSC:** A series of virtual meetings were held with Mr Tapas Mondal of DRCSC to discuss how the next phase of training will be held in the midst of raging second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was decided that all follow-up meetings will be held virtually. In-person visit can be planned in the beginning of June if the pandemic situation improves.
- iii. Meeting with Raghampur alumnus:** During the department meeting with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. , he suggested that the department may get in touch with Dibyendu Das, an alumnus of the college, who is into e-commerce and might be able to help with contacts that will benefit the SHG members who are engaged in organic compost making and organic kitchen gardening. On 27<sup>th</sup> April, a virtual meeting was held with Dibyendu Das to understand his area of work and expertise. It was decided that an in-person meeting will be held once the pandemic situation improves, to see avenues of collaborations.

- i. Upload of UBA sheets:** Out of 843 survey sheets of Bakeswar, 723 were uploaded in the previous months. This month 100 survey sheets of Bakeswar village were uploaded on the UBA portal. In the next few days, the remaining 20 sheets will be uploaded. With this, out of 5 villages, the survey data of 4 villages will be completely uploaded on the portal. The department will start uploading 277 survey data of Raghampur village next month.
- ii. Virtual follow-up and monitoring of the organic kitchen garden for Shalpokur SHG members:** Around 25 women underwent training on organic kitchen gardening on 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The trainers from Development Research Communication and Service Centre (DRCSC) provided in-depth training to the women about the various steps involved in nurturing a nutritious kitchen garden (for detailed report, please refer to the monthly report of March 2021).

This month around 8 tele-conferences were held with village contact persons and members of the core team to follow-up and monitor the progress of kitchen gardening in Shalpokur village. During these telephonic conferences, the women were encouraged to continue the organic gardening and organic compost making. The women appreciated the handholding support that was given to them.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, a follow-up monitoring visit was scheduled to further provide hand-holding support to the women. However, due to the raging second wave of the pandemic and political unrest in adjoining villages, it was decided to call off the in-person follow-up and monitoring visit. Nonetheless, the department arranged for virtual follow-up and monitoring visit, to ensure the women were able to implement their learning properly and timely. With the help of Richard Sarkar (a former student of Raghampur campus), the staff scheduled a WhatsApp video call with the women (around ten women were present) and connected with the trainer, Mr. Asim Adhikary as well. The women eagerly showed the compost pit, the bed, and some of the vegetable plants that they planted during the training last month. The trainer then further instructed and guided the women on the steps to be followed thereafter. The trainees even got an opportunity to clear their doubts, which gave them more clarity.

This is the first time that the women underwent such a virtual interaction with the department staff and with the resource person as well. The women were very excited to have this online interactive session. Nilima Dolui, the village contact person gleefully expressed, *“Ma’am, kaal amar natni ke bolchilam toder toh online class cholche, agamikaal amader jaibochaas niye online training hobe, amara oonekkichu shikbo toder moton”*. (Ma’am, yesterday I told my granddaughter, “as you were having your classes online, tomorrow we will also be having online training on organic farming, we too will learn a lot like you”).

The resource person and Ms. Cheryl Francis appreciated the dedication of the women and encouraged them to continue the good work that they started. Once the second wave subsides and the political situation improves, in-person visit would be scheduled. During the visit, the women will get to know the various details of sowing before the monsoon sets in.

## PHOTO GALLERY



**Online follow-up training session with the trainees in Shalpukur village**



**Hands-on training underway**



**Trainees in front of the organic compost**



**Virtual Department meeting with Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J., Vice Principal**