

‘COVID Appropriate Behaviours and Myths & Misconceptions about Vaccinations’
- *Preparing the young brigade to fight COVID*

With the increased virulence of COVID-19 and the impending third wave in our country, the Department of Social Work: NSS and UBA organised a Talk on **‘COVID Appropriate Behaviours and Myths & Misconceptions about Vaccinations’- *Preparing the young brigade to fight COVID*** on 1st July 2021. Around 80 students from both the campuses attended the Talk.

Dr. Bibek Maulik, a consultant paediatrician and neonatologist currently attached to District Hospital Howrah as Specialist Medical Officer-in-charge of Department of Paediatrics was the resource speaker for the session. Dr. Maulik has been treating COVID patients of all age groups since the onset of the pandemic. As the Talk coincided with Doctor’s Day Ma’am Cheryl Francis, in her welcome address thanked Dr. Maulik and the medical fraternity for their tireless work during the pandemic, Dr. Maulik acknowledged the wishes and said, ***“For the medical fraternity today is also a martyr’s day, as during the second wave alone, we lost 700 doctors to this deadly virus. These doctors lost their lives while treating their COVID patients”***.

Dr. Maulik divided his Talk into 3 major parts: (i) COVID appropriate behaviour; (ii) COVID appropriate behaviour if infected by the virus and the course of action that needs to be implemented; and (iii) importance and urgency to get vaccinated. During the session, the Dr. Maulik stressed on the fact that, ***“It is a war we are fighting against this virus and the youth have a major role to play which will ensure victory”***. He shared a number of his personal experiences while dealing with Covid patients and their family members. He mentioned a number of Dos and Don’ts during the session such as, -

- a. Mask-up.
- b. Not attend or organise parties.
- c. Avoid mass gathering.
- d. Not be complacent after taking the first dose but follow all the COVID appropriate behaviours.
- e. Create awareness, especially among rural people about COVID appropriate behaviour and the importance of vaccination.

The session was made interactive and students got the opportunity to clarify their doubts. At the end of the session, during a quick feedback, Akash Sarkar, a semester VI commerce student from Raghobpur campus, said that this Talk greatly helped him. He said, ***“A couple of months back my whole family got infected and now when it is time to get ourselves vaccinated, I discouraged my family from getting vaccinated thinking we do not need it as we already have antibodies. After today’s session, I realised how wrong I was. Today itself I will go to the concerned authority in my locality and get ourselves registered for the vaccination.”*** While Debajan Basu, a semester IV computer science student from main campus, was happy to have learnt how he could help to check the spread of the virus, ***“Many of my neighbours are still reluctant to get their vaccination, I will create awareness among them by making posters and telling them how important it was to get vaccinated to have a victory over the virus”***.

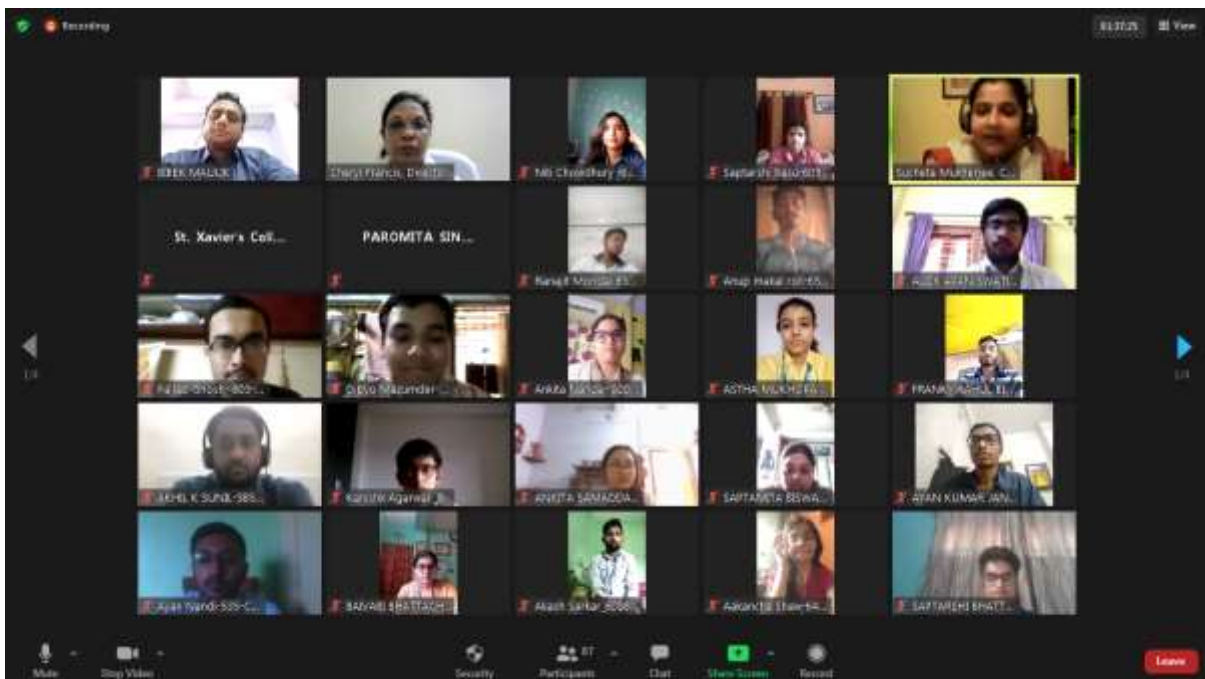
In conclusion Ma’am Cheryl Francis encouraged the students by saying, ***“We all are aware of this war like situation and it is the responsibility of every citizen to play their role in combating this deadly virus. Let us not depend only on doctors, on governments, on NGOs and other individuals and institutions. We all have to come forward and fight this war together and the best way is to begin from oneself. Let’s pledge to maintain COVID appropriate behaviour and get vaccinated”***. She also encouraged the students to take leadership in spreading this awareness among all sections of our society beginning from our families and neighbourhood.



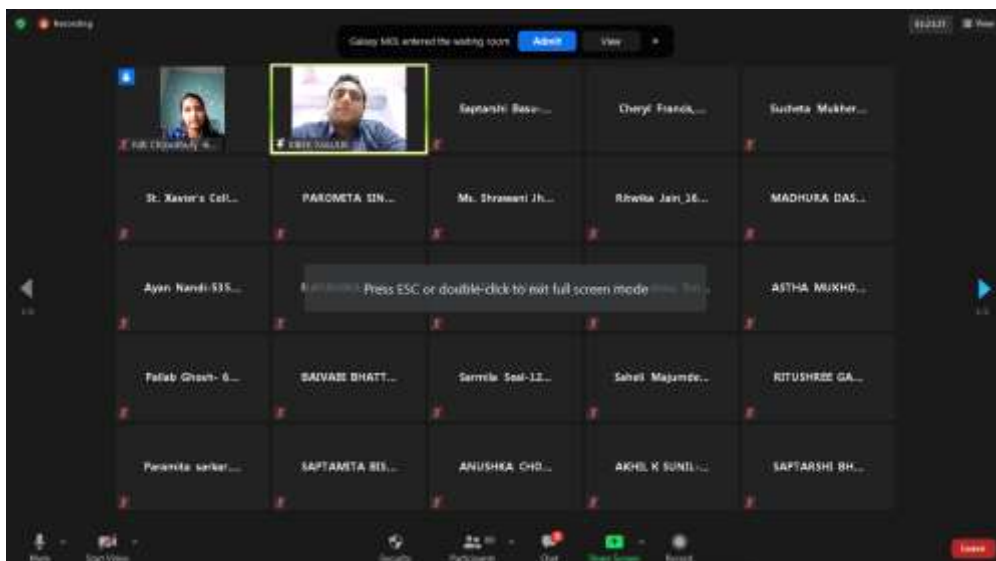
The poster



Dr. Maulik addressing the students



Student sharing during the feedback session



A student asking a question to the Doctor