

# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for  
the month  
of August  
2021*

### Administrative activities

- i. **Departmental meetings:** The department staff had six virtual meetings this month. In these meetings the team discussed mainly about the implementation of various online activities for the students and rural development initiatives for the adopted villages. There were three department meetings that were held at the college campus as well.
- ii. **Meeting with Vice Principal of Raghampur campus:** On 19<sup>th</sup> August, a virtual meeting was held with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. to give him an update of outreach activities done in the last two months with both SHG members and students. Father appreciated the work undertaken by the staff and encouraged them to continue the same. He further appreciated the awareness sessions conducted by the staff for the students which were beneficial for the students. On 31<sup>st</sup> August, an in-person meeting was held with Fr. Vice Principal regarding an in-depth training on Pisciculture for the SHG women in Raghampur campus by the Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal which is scheduled next month.

### Importance of Independence Day for the Youth of Today

On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of our country, the department organised an interactive session for around 230 students from both the campuses. Below is a snapshot of the number of students who participated in the programme:

Sl. No.	Department	No. of students
1.	B.A	34
2.	B. Sc.	38
3.	CMEA	36
4.	COMA	36
5.	BMS	28
	<b>Total from main campus</b>	<b>172</b>
6.	HIST	08
7.	BAGG	22
8.	BNGA	16
9.	CMEA	61
	<b>Total from RGP campus</b>	<b>61</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>

Celebrating Independence Day 2021 on virtual mode was an experience that will always be remembered by over 200 students of the College. While the session began with singing the National Anthem with the National Flag in everyone's hand, it followed with an awareness quiz on India, which the students had to participate within a time limit of 15 minutes. Prior to the Quiz, Ma'am Cheryl Francis set the context of the session by sharing some of the thoughts of our former Governor Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi who addressed the students of Indus Valley School on the occasion of Independence Day. He stressed on three things - To practise Real Tolerance, i.e. to respect everyone and not just tolerate; The Right to Choose in Freedom and; to learn from our Past and not make the same mistake. Ma'am elaborated around these thoughts and then briefly mentioned the struggles our freedom fighters endured and the passion with which they fought for the country's freedom. She also urged the students to identify the current challenges and play a proactive role in making India a Country where, *"The mind is without fear and the head is held high."*

This was followed by an input and reflective session by Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee, wherein she helped the students identify major areas of concern even after 74 years of Independence. Some of the concerns highlighted were as follows:

- a. Child labour
- b. Child sexual abuse
- c. Domestic violence
- d. Malnutrition
- e. Climate change – Environment degradation

Ms. Sucheta, in her sharing, insisted that the Youth must be aware of the challenges and must not be silent spectators but express their concerns assertively. She posed some thought provoking questions that made the students to reflect, re-imagine and recreate.

This was followed by an open house session where students were given the opportunity to share their thoughts. Rajesh Patra of Commerce Morning began by saying, ***“Instead of always blaming the system and government, we the youth must enter the system and bring about positive change and make our country proud”***. While Samera Marcia Toppo of Mass Communication and Videography reminded everyone present, ***“While talking about independence and freedom let us not forget to respect the rights of the LGBTQIA”***. On the other hand, Arannya Dey, a B.A General student from Raghbapur campus, opined that ***“We the youth must act responsibly and become change makers”***.

Ma’am Cheryl Francis concluded the session by giving tangible examples which the students could readily implement being at home and thereby become a catalyst of change. The students also had an opportunity to fill a review/feedback form in which they reflected on where they want to see their country in the next decade and what their role would be in achieving it. Roshnee Das of Commerce Evening, shared that she wants her country to be a safe place for women. She also shared, ***“I want to start an NGO wherein I will educate boys to respect girls and I will teach martial art to girls so that they become fearless and protect themselves if anything untoward incident happens”***. The session came to a close with a concluding song ***Dhonno dhanne Pushpe bhora, amader ei boshundhora...*** beautifully sung by Shalini Sarkar from Sociology department.

From the feedback that the students gave, it was obvious that everyone enjoyed the session, especially the quiz section, thereby fulfilling the objective of making students aware about the role of youth in Nation building.

#### INPUT SESSIONS



#### GROUP DISCUSSIONS





Shalini Sarkar singing the concluding song Bappa Makal from RGP campus sharing his thoughts

### Role of Youth as Peacemakers

With the rise of conflicts all around us which are detrimental for both physical and emotional wellbeing, it is important that each one promotes peace. With the objective of making the students aware that they have an important role in preventing conflict, being a part of peace-making and being effective peace builders, a session on ‘Role of Youth as Peacemakers’ was conducted from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Around 1,100 students attended the session.

Below is a snapshot of the number of students:

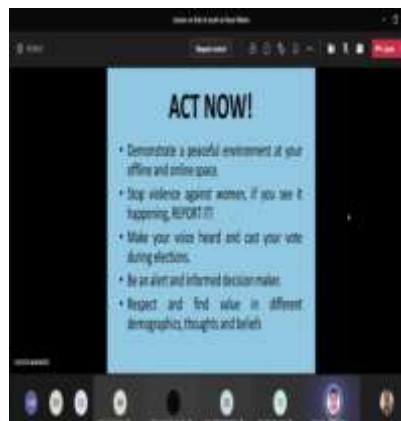
Sl. No.	Department	No. of students
1.	B.A	118
2.	B. Sc	323
3.	CMEA	241
4.	COMA	356
5.	BMS	54
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1092</b>

The session began with an indepth discussion on what the term ‘Peace’ meant to each student. Most of the students unanimously agreed that peace was not only the absence of war or conflict, it was also about well-being of all and the right of everyone to lead a life of dignity. This was followed by a short quiz on peace. Even though some students struggled to get the correct answer, most of them got the answers right and enjoyed participating in the quiz. The students opined that the quiz made them realise that they needed to be more aware about peace that is unfolding or eroding across the world.

During the input session, Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee, encouraged the students to make informed choices in their daily lives which would make them either ‘Peacemakers’ or ‘Troublemakers’. During the session, various forms of conflicts were explained and in-depth discussion took place around it. Throughout the session, the students were encouraged to promote a culture of peace in both their online and offline spaces. By the end of the session, the participants discussed various small steps they can undertake to promote peace and become peacemakers, ranging from snubbing hate speeches on social media to respecting each others religious or political beliefs. Deepanjali Prasad of Mathematics department reflected, *“I found the connection between social media and recruitment of younger people into extremist groups very insightful. It brings to mind the rise of ISIS, a few years ago when several young people left their own comfortable lives to join it. It was helpful to learn about NGO's that track any new policies so that they can voice their concerns or give their input. This is an important part of democracy and it would be great to be able to volunteer at an organization such as that. Today's session helped me recognize my own agency to create peace especially in my home and my immediate community”*. While Mayank Mohta of Commerce Morninging shared, *“It gave me a new perspective on the word "Peace" and how we can help bring it. Peace building, peace making and peace keeping were all new*

*terms which helped me better understand the concept of peace. I also learnt peace means wellbeing of all, not just absence of war”.*

As part of follow-up activity, each participant prepared an action plan for themselves which will help them to be proactive peacemakers in the coming days.



Students interacting during the session      Encouraging students to promote a culture of peace

### **‘Human Trafficking amidst pandemic –Role of Youth in Stopping the Same?’**

Given the high vulnerability of youth in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal to fall prey to human trafficking especially during the current pandemic, it was decided that a session on ‘Human Trafficking amidst pandemic – Role of youth in Stopping the Same’ will be held for all semester students of Raghobpur campus. Therefore, with the objective to make the students more aware about the issue and to equip them to spread awareness among their peers the session was conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021. Snapshot of participants are given below:

Sl. no.	Dept.	Sem-3	Sem.- 5	Sem.- 6(Batch 2021)	No. of participants
1	BNGA	13	10	--	23
2	BAGG	6	22	--	28
3	HIS	12	10	2	24
4	CMEA	1	28	1	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>105</b>

Ms. Sucheta Mukerjee (Coordinator of the Dept.) and Ms. Shrawani Jha (NSS Programme Officer, Raghobpur campus) were the resource persons for the session held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021 respectively. The session unfolded with brief introduction followed by a short quiz which was enjoyed by the students. During the session meaning, forms, impact of pandemic on human trafficking was discussed in details wherein participants also expressed their perspective through various first -hand experience. As Margarita Neha Campo a semester V student of Commerce department shared, *“In my neighbourhood itself I have seen children getting married during the pandemic as their families struggled to make ends meet”.*

The session focussed on making the students aware of simple yet effective steps youth can undertake to mitigate and stop human trafficking. The participants were also encouraged to share various helpline numbers and important guidelines provided to them during the session with their community members and peers using handmade posters and social media platforms. As Anirban Naskar a semester III student of History department said *“I am attending a session conducted by NSS dept. for the first time and it was very enlightening for me to know more about this topic and if and the least we can do is take*



*this forward and share the information with other individual and groups for greater information dissemination.”*

As a follow up activity, participants were asked to express their ideas and perspectives through some self- reflection questions given to them and also to prepare an informative poster focused on topic as a stepping stone in mitigating and stopping human trafficking. The session came to an end with a pledge to take action to stop human trafficking.



Group picture after the session

### Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – Progress Report

- i. **Upload of UBA sheets:** This month 70 survey sheets of Raghampur village were uploaded on the UBA portal.
- ii. **Orientation on Pisciculture for the SHG members of Debipur, Magurkhali and Shalpokur:** An Orientation Programme on Pisciculture was organized on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at the Raghampur campus for 33 Women SHG members of Debipur and Shalpokur villages. A few women from Magurkhali village also joined the orientation which was conducted by resource persons from the Department of Fisheries, Govt. of West Bengal, under the leadership of the ADF, South 24 Parganas. Below is a snapshot of the number of participants from each village:

Sl. No	Name of village	No. of participants	No. of Self Help Groups represented
1.	Debipur	15	3
2.	Magurkhali	5	1
3.	Shalpokur	13	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>

The resource team comprised of Mr. Sabyasachi Bandhopadyay, Additional Director of Fisheries, Ms. Joyoti Halder, Fishery Extension Officer, Bishnupur – I Development Block, who is also the NRLM nodal officer for the block and Mr. Subrato Ghosh, Fishery Extension Officer. The Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA, liaised with Additional Director since April 2021. The department staff visited Debipur, Magurkhali and Shalpokur villages and mobilised participants for this orientation programme.

At the beginning of the orientation programme, a needs assessment survey was undertaken that would enable the better in depth training for these SHG groups. The questionnaire was prepared based on the inputs and suggestions from the resource persons.

Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J., Vice Principal of Raghampur campus in his welcome address appreciated and thanked the resource team from the Department of Fisheries for conducting the orientation programme for the SHG women. Father Vice Principal then motivated the women to make use of the orientation programme to learn about various schemes, loan facilities pertaining to Pisciculture, importance and viability of Pisciculture in their respective villages. He concluded his address by encouraging the women to take up Pisciculture as an alternative livelihood option and said, ***“if you are eager to take Pisciculture up but do not have your own pond, do not worry, the college will lease a pond to the Self Help Group members so that they are able to take up Pisciculture as a vocation”***.

Ma'am Cheryl Francis, Director of Social Work & NSS and UBA coordinator, shared about the objectives of the orientation. She briefly explained how the SHG members could diversify their livelihood options which would ultimately result in the overall development of the village.

Mr. Subrato Ghosh, Fishery Extension Officer through a presentation explained various processes that were followed in Pisciculture, the various 'dos' and 'don'ts'; how Pisciculture proved to be lucrative and beneficial for SHGs across the state.

Mr. Sabyasachi Bandhopadhyay, Assistant Director of Fisheries, emphasised on – (i) how Pisciculture has become an employment opportunity for the youth; (ii) importance of community based Pisciculture; (iii) how it can help in addressing malnutrition among the families of the SHG members. He further appreciated the meaningful outreach work the college was engaged in and lauded the efforts of the department staff in the field.

After these input sessions, Ms Joyoti Halder, Fishery Extension Officer, Bishnupur – I Development Block, who is also the NRLM nodal officer for the block interacted with the women and explained the following in details:

- i. Various subsidy and schemes under the department of Fisheries
- ii. Importance of having the land documents in self or husband's name
- iii. Various detrimental effects of cultivating hybrid fishes
- iv. Ways to diversify if the family is already engaged in Pisciculture.

Ms. Nilima Dolui, SHG President and contact person from Shalpur village proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants. She thanked the college for always providing handholding support to the SHG members and for organising this orientation programme for the benefit of the whole village.

During an informal interaction with the women, Dipika Singh of Shalpur village thanked the college for organising the programme and said, ***“I cannot thank Cheryl Ma'am enough, I have gathered so much information from today's session. In today's session my key learning is that if we want we all can work for the development of our village”***. While Kobita Karali of Debipur shared, ***“I have always been keen to understand more about Pisciculture, today through this orientation I have a fair understanding of Pisciculture. I am looking forward to the in-depth training”***. After the end of the session, refreshment packets were given to the all present. While leaving the campus, Protima Ghoroi, from Magurkhali village said, ***“Our group requires a lot of handholding support, we are a new group, today while interacting with other SHG members we learnt quite a few things which we will implement in our group as well.***

As a follow-up to this orientation session, an in-depth training will be organised in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal. Around 15

telephonic coordination meetings were held this month with the SHG members of Debipur, Shalpokur and Magurkhali villages to mobilize women for the in-depth training. Further to this, around three village visits were undertaken to meet the SHG members and motivate them to undertake Pisciculture training and implement it as an alternative livelihood option.



Fr. Johnson Padiyara, SJ. welcoming the Resource persons



Mr. Sabyasachi Bandhopadhyay addressing the women



Ms. Joyoti Halder being felicitated



Resource person listening attentively to the women



### PROMOTING PEER LEARNING AMONG SHG GROUPS







Tea Time



The training Group

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