

# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for  
the month  
of  
December  
2021*

### **I. Departmental meetings:**

Around 2 department meetings were held this month to discuss about upcoming event of Let's Care and Share- Celebrating the joy of Christmas.

### **II. Observing World AIDS Day 2021 – Let's be more responsible!**

The ongoing pandemic, which fuelled disparity and disregard for human rights, allowed HIV to remain a global crisis affecting millions of people worldwide. The global community made considerable progress in the recent past, however, in 2020, according to World Health Organization, about 1,500,000 people were newly infected by HIV/AIDS worldwide. Therefore, on the occasion of World AIDS Day, the department organized an awareness session for semester V students of Raghobpur campus on 1st December 2021. The number was restricted to about 40 students and all COVID-19 protocols were followed.

To set the tone and prepare the students about the topic, the session was divided into two parts. In the first part, the department staff held group discussions with the participants on – (i) understanding and realizing the importance of taking informed decisions; (ii) being aware about health hazards such as HIV; (iii) pledge to disseminate awareness among family and peers. The students were divided into two group for this discussion. Ms. Cheryl Francis interacted with the boys while Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee interacted with the girl students. By the end of the session, the students had a clear idea about their responsibility to raise awareness and to be alert always. As Atoshree Purkait, of Bengali department shared, ***“From this interaction I realized how small steps such as ensuring the use of new syringe and destroying the same after use can go a long way in preventing the spread of HIV. It is my duty to always take informed decisions and encourage my friends to do the same. From this discussion I have also learnt that my decisions and actions will have ripple effect on my family as well, hence I must always act responsibly. ”***

The guest speaker, Dr. Rumeli Das, Assistant Director of Child In Need Institute (CINI), who has been working on HIV for the past two decades, started the second part of the session with a quiz to understand the level of awareness among the students. During her session, she focused on the following aspects: (i) overview about HIV/AIDS and statistics related to the same; (ii) identification and protection of vulnerable groups; (iii) ways of HIV transmission; (iv) preventive measures; (v) process of testing; (vi) treatment and care; (vii) stigma associated with the disease.

The students were then divided into smaller groups wherein each group had a real life case study to reflect upon. The students brainstormed and came up with apt course of action for each case study. At the end of the session, the students also got an opportunity to clear their doubts. The students submitted a feedback through which it was clear that the students had an increased level of awareness. As Rudrarup Sarkar, a commerce student rightly said, ***“Before attending the session, I had a vague idea about HIV, now I have a lot more clarity. Also I have learnt how HIV patients are stigmatized, I will try my best and share this learning with my friends, so that we youth can stop such discrimination.”***

The session came to close on a positive note with students pledging to spread HIV/AIDS awareness among their families and peers.



**Instructing the students to follow COVID protocols**



**Motivating to be responsible**



**Input session underway**



**Dr. Rumeli Das explaining in details**



**Students taking notes**



**Clarification of doubt**



**Sharing thoughts**



**Summing up**



**Students with the Dr. Das**



**Group picture**

### III. Let's Care and Share – Celebrating the joy of Christmas

The NSS reached out to the children of Bakeswar, Debipur, Magurkhali, Nurshikdarchowk, Raghampur and Shalpokur villages with the joy of Christmas this month. Keeping the pandemic situation in mind and maintaining COVID-19 protocols, the department reached out to the children in two phases. During the first phase, on 12<sup>th</sup> December, around 200 children in the age group of 14 to 17 years were invited to Raghampur campus. The second phase was held on 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December in Nurshikdarchowk, Debipur and Shalpokur villages respectively wherein another 200 children of the age group of 9 to 13 years participated.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, Raghampur campus resounded with the cheerful laughter of the children as they enjoyed themselves during the programme. The programme commenced with dances wherein children from Bakeswar, Debipur and Shalpokur villages performed. This was followed by a magic show and a talking doll show organised by the College Alumni Association. The children were pleasantly surprised when they saw an 8-year-old performing magic for them. Magic Queen Mimi stole the show with her dexterous magic performances and kept the audience rapt in awe. The talking doll show had the children roll in laughter and requested the performer, Mr. Pintu, for more.

Our principal, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, S.J. graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and was accompanied by Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. Vice Principal of Raghampur campus, Rev. Fr. Joseph Kulandai, S.J. Vice Principal of Commerce morning, Rev. Fr. Peter Arockiam, S.J. Vice Principal of Commerce evening, and Brother Chintamani, Infirmary-in-charge. The former and present secretaries of the Alumni Association were present too for this programme. It was indeed a pleasure for the department to commemorate 25 years of Father Principal's priesthood and dedicate the programme in his honour.

Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. on behalf of the college welcomed the children and congratulated Father Principal on his 25 years of priesthood. On behalf of all the villages, Mrs. Nilima Dolui from Shalpokur village and Mrs. Uma Majhi from Debipur village felicitated Fr. Principal on his silver jubilee of priesthood. Ma'am Cheryl Francis felicitated Father Principal on behalf of the department. Father Principal was overwhelmed by this gesture and shared, ***"My journey of priesthood was made meaningful by the love and support of all of you and the communities around us, and above all by the grace of the Almighty."*** Father Principal then continued, ***"Christmas means bringing God in our hearts. Let's celebrate Christmas together by sharing love and kindness with everyone"***. He further encouraged the children to study hard and take admission in St. Xavier's College for their higher education. He added, ***"Never worry about where the money will come from for you to study in this college, all you need to do is, study hard and rest the Fathers here will take care"***.

Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. on behalf of the college and all the villages, thanked Ma'am Cheryl Francis for her dedication, hard work, commitment and unparalleled leadership in taking forward the outreach work of the college to the marginalised sections of the society. Towards the end of the programme, all the village contact persons and some SHG members from the six villages were acknowledged for their hard work and cooperation. As a token of gratitude, on behalf of the college, Fr. Principal handed over some gifts to the women.

Ma'am Cheryl Francis, thanked all present and all who worked tirelessly to make the programme meaningful for the children. She especially thanked the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association for supporting this initiative. The children headed home gleefully with a gift bag and a food packet with the hope of pursuing their higher education in the college. This was rightly pointed out by Sushmita Patra, a class IX student from Debipur



village, as she shared, *“Amar ekhane eshe khub bhalo lagche, ami Father er kotha moton, khub bhalo kore pora kore, ei College ei porbo.”* (I am very happy to have participated in this programme. I will follow Father’s advice and study hard so that I can study in this College later).

The second phase saw participation of around 200 children from the three villages of Debipur, Shalpokur and Nurshidarchowk, who were encouraged to spread love, kindness and joy among each other. The children expressed their keenness to meet their ‘dada’s’ and ‘didi’s’ who helped them in their school curriculum during Village Education Programme. The SHG members and village contact persons assured full cooperation to the college for all forthcoming programmes. They also appreciated the efforts of the college in reaching out to the marginalised with education.

This year we were able to reach out to almost 400 children to Share & Care and let them know that they were the extended family of St. Xavier’s College and that we look forward to seeing them in college one day.



**Magic Show & Talking Doll show mesmerized the audience**



**Felicitation of Fr. Principal by village contact persons  
From Debipur & Shalpokur**



**Fr. Principal blessing the gift bags**



**Let's Care and share**



**Distribution of gift bags in progress**



**Felicitating Father Principal on behalf of NSS department**



**Christmas message by Fr. Principal**



**Felicitation of village contact persons of our adopted villages by Fr. Principal**





Let's Care & Share



Let's Care & Share: Christmas Celebration at Debipur, Shalpokur & Nurshidarchowk



Prayer song by children



Cultural Programme

## Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – Progress Report

In all the five adopted villages, the department, under NSS conducted ‘Let’s Care and Share – Celebrating the joy of Christmas’ – an annual programmes. This initiative helped the department to build rapport with the children and SHG members, which would facilitate smooth implementation of rural development activities in the future. Within the next three months the College would conduct meetings with the BDO and other important stakeholders to carry forward all initiatives under UBA. Since there had been a gap due to the pandemic in the past two years, in 2022 we hope to resume our educational initiative with the children of the villages so that the learning gap can be dealt with at the earliest.

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