

# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for  
the month  
of  
November  
2021*

### I. Departmental meetings:

Around 10 department meetings were held this month to discuss about various upcoming events such as celebrating children's day, observing World AIDS Day and celebrating the joy of Christmas through 'Let's Care and Share'.

### II. Academic Audit:

On 12<sup>th</sup> November, Ma'am Cheryl Francis along with Prof. Ayon Chandra, Secretary, Academic Council, attended the meeting of the Academic Audit team at the Raghampur campus. On 13<sup>th</sup> November, the Audit team visited the NSS office in the main campus wherein Ma'am Cheryl Francis gave a brief overview of the department's activities and future plans. The team appreciated the meaningful outreach work that the department was engaged in and encouraged the staff members to continue the good work.

### III. Children for Environment:

The ongoing pandemic impacted almost everyone. However, it was the Children who were the hardest hit. With schools closed for over 18 months and children cooped up at home with no scope of meaningful engagement, this year's Children's Day had to be a time of joy for them. Keeping in mind the COVID-19 protocols, the department organised a **Sit and Draw Competition** with the theme '**Children for Environment**' on **14th November 2021** for a limited number of children from classes V to X from three adjoining villages of Bakeswar, Magurkhali and Raghampur. These children were mobilised through the SHG groups with whom the department closely works. They were happy and felt involved. They took the responsibility of bringing the children and taking them back to their respective homes.

On 14th November 2021, the usually quiet Raghampur campus became alive with the incessant laughter and chatter of about 65 children. Around 8 volunteers from Raghampur campus (5 pass out students and 3 semester V students) were present too. The children were divided into three groups according to their classes and given topics for the competition. The three topics were: (i) Group 1 (Classes V and VI) – **Our Environment**; (ii) Group 2 (Classes VII and VIII) - **Life under water**; and (iii) Group 3 (Classes IX and X) - **Save Environment**. All the children were provided a drawing kit for the competition.

Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J.'s (Vice-Principal of Raghampur campus) in his message for the children encouraged the children to be obedient to elders, enjoy playtime with friends and continue with their education. Father, assured the children that soon they could come more frequently to the campus for a time of learning and joyful engagement with the students of the College. He further thanked the department staff for their committed work. Ma'am Cheryl Francis briefly explained to the children about the Sit and Draw competition that was organised for the children and thanked the five SHG members (from the aforementioned villages) for their hard work and support in mobilising the children.

Before the close of the programme, Rohit Makal, a class V student of Bakeswar village shared, *"Amar drawing korte khub bhalo lage, aaj St. Xavier's College e esche ami je ei drawing competition e bhag nitparechi tar jonno ami khub khushi. Ami aro asteh chai college eh aar dada didi der sathe alaap korte chai"* (I love to draw, I am very happy to come to St Xavier's College today and participate in this drawing competition. I want to come to College more often and spend time with dadas and didis). On the other hand, Neha Rong a class X student from Magurkhali village shared, *"Aaj drawing korte korte, ami aro swachetan holam je amader protek er daietto ache amader poribesh rokha korar"*. (While drawing I became aware that we all have a responsibility to safeguard our environment). The programme came to a close with a promise that all will meet soon in the campus with more such activities for the

children. Besides the drawing kit, the children also got two food packets before they left the campus.

It was an emotional day for the staff, as they met the children after a long period of time. The smiles on their faces and the ray of hope in their eyes to get back to school motivated the staff to further organise such events for small groups of children in the coming months.



Looking forward to an exciting day



Fr. Johnson Padiyara S.J. welcoming the child



Get Set Go



Let's save our environment



Showcasing their talent



Sharing their experience



Prize winners



Final take

### **I. Coordination and networking meetings:**

- i. **Meeting with Vice Principal of Raghampur campus:** The department staff had meetings with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. on 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November to discuss about children's day and Christmas celebrations. With the guidance and help from Father Vice Principal, the staff were able to mobilize children from Raghampur village. The department was also able to establish contact with SHG members of Raghampur village.
- ii. **Meeting with SHG members of Bakeswar and Magurkhali:** On 8<sup>th</sup> November, a meeting was held with the village contact persons of Bakeswar and Magurkhali villages to follow-up about mobilization of participants for children's day programme. Besides this in-person meeting, around five telephonic follow-up meetings were held which ensured the presence of children for the programme.
- iii. **Meeting with SHG members of Debipur village:** On 8<sup>th</sup> November, Ma'am Cheryl Francis visited Debipur and had a detailed discussion with the village contact person regarding mobilisation of children for 'Let's Care and Share' programme. Ms. Uma Majhi, the village contact person assured full cooperation for the said programme. On 29<sup>th</sup> November, a focused group discussion was held with about 10 SHG members to understand the needs of the SHG groups. The members shared that the government has initiated various training programmes for the SHG members and also provided various handholding support. During the meeting, Ma'am Cheryl Francis suggested that the department would provide capacity development trainings for the members from next year which was welcomed by the women. She also suggested that the SHG members would coordinate with the department to resume Village Education Programme (VEP) in the village. This suggestion was welcomed and appreciated by the women. Ma'am Sucheta Mukherjee, shared about the department's plan to conduct an analytical study on prevailing learning gap among the children of various classes due to the pandemic. The women welcomed this idea of the department and agreed to extend their cooperation for the same.
- iv. **Meeting with SHG members of Raghampur village:** A meeting was held with about 10 members of three Self Help Groups from Raghampur village on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The main objective was to give the SHG members a brief overview of our outreach work and establish rapport with them to take forward various rural development programmes in the village. Ma'am Cheryl Francis explained to the women that the department aims to build the capacity of all the SHG members in an effort to strengthen the groups. She further explained that when situation normalizes the College would initiate Village Education Programme (VEP) in the village. The children would be mobilized through the SHG members for the VEP. Towards the end of the meeting, the women were encouraged to share their thoughts. They shared that most of them were not aware of the various functions of the SHG members. They also expressed their willingness to undergo capacity building and livelihood generation trainings. It was decided that in January, the women will invite the department staff to address all the members of their respective groups. Thereafter various trainings and awareness sessions will be organized for the SHGs.





Discussion underway with RGP SHG women



Looking forward to a partnership



With the SHG members of Debipur village



### Overview of participants

Sl. No.	Activity	No. of Participants
1.	Children for environment	73
2.	Meeting with SHG members	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>

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