

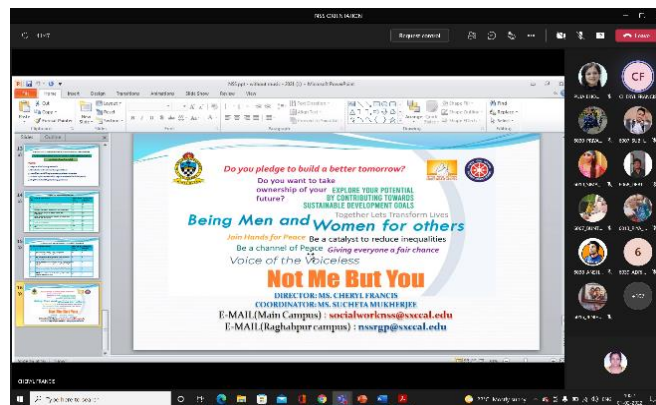
# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for  
the month  
of February  
2022*

## National Service Scheme – Unit I & II

### I. Orientation for first years of the rural campus:

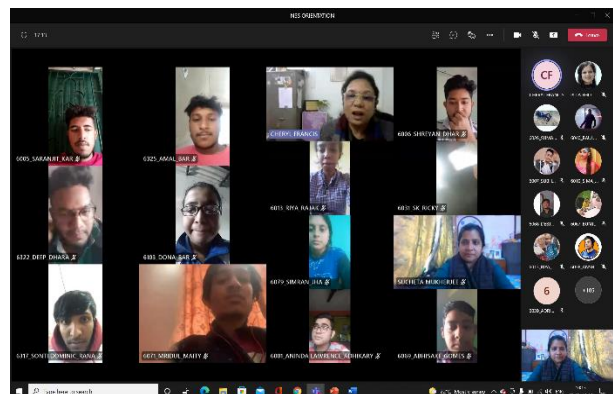
On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022, around 120 students of Raghbapur campus, across departments, attended an orientation on social outreach activities and the compulsory social credits which they would have to complete. The interactive session was hosted by Prof. Puja Bhowmick. Ma'am Cheryl Francis began by sharing with the students the rich legacy of NSS at St. Xavier's College. She explained about the two central government projects, namely NSS and UBA which the department has been implementing over the years. She encouraged the students to go beyond their social credit requirement and serve the society for the benefit of the marginalised sections. Ma'am Sucheta Mukherjee gave tangible examples on how the students could reach out in their neighbourhood especially during this pandemic. She then explained how the students should keep their social work records. Towards the end, the students got an opportunity to clear their doubts and interact with the staff.



Motivating students to be change makers



Student interacting during the session



Group picture at the end of the session

## II. Coordination meeting:

- i. **Meeting with Chairperson of West Bengal Commission for Women:** On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Ma'am Cheryl Francis along with Ms. Sujata Pakrashi Lahahi, met Mrs. Leena Gangopadhyay, the Chairperson of West Bengal Commission for Women and invited her to be the Chief Guest for Women's Day celebration. Ms. Cheryl gave a brief background of the works undertaken by the college in the villages. Mrs. Leena Gangopadhyay accepted the invitation and assured her presence.



- ii. **Meeting with Vice Principal of Raghampur campus:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> February Ma'am Cheryl Francis and Ma'am Sucheta Mukherjee had a meeting with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, SJ to discuss about – (i) Women's Day programme; (ii) resumption of Village Education Programme in the villages from the next semester; (iii) imparting skill training to the rural women and (iv) social credit related matters of Raghampur students.
- iii. **Meeting with women from adopted villages:** On 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the staff held meetings with SHG members of Debipur, Shalpur, Raghampur and Magurkhali villages to mobilise participants for the women's day programme to be held in March. Besides this, the staff mobilised women from Bakeswar and Nurshikdarchowk villages through telephone calls.

## III. Interactive session on 'Dignity of Life: From Womb to Tomb'

A virtual awareness session on "Dignity of Life – from Womb to Tomb" was conducted from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for semester VI students. The objective of the session was to create awareness among the youth that Life in all its form has dignity and that the youth have a major role to play to ensure that dignity of Life. Over 1000 students participated in the sessions. Below is an overview of the number of students who participated in the sessions:

Sl. No.	Department	No. of students
1.	COMA	362
2.	CMEA	318
3.	BMS	72
4.	B.SC	204
5.	B.A	97
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1053</b>

To set the tone for the session, a quiz questionnaire was shared with the participants, who realized that there was need for them to increase their knowledge on current social issues.

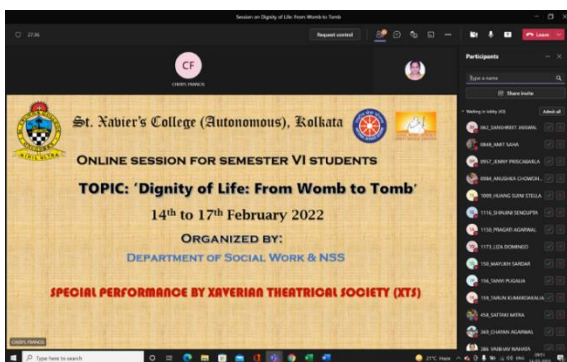
The session began with a PPT presentation which depicted various forms of life which was devoid of dignity. The participants were shown pictures, some disturbing, and were asked to comment on each picture. It was an interactive session. The pictures ranged from life in the

womb and how life, especially during this pandemic was lost and how those who died could not have a dignified burial or cremation. Some pictures also showed children working in brick kilns, manual scavengers, domestic workers, mentally challenged kept chained and the like.

The participants were asked to point out pictures that caught their attention. A few pointed out manual scavenging, child labour and mentally challenged in chain. However, it was interesting to note that some participants wanted to discuss on life in the womb. But due to time constraints, it was not possible to discuss only one topic. It was clear that there was a difference of opinion on life inside the womb and that young people must be given an opportunity to discuss this topic at length for the sake of clarity. The presentation concluded by asking young people to stand for Peace and Dignity of life, something that our world is in need of.

Following this was a presentation by the XTS members. They made a video on how young people could play a role in saving somebody's life and dignity. It began with a song and then a voice play depicting various stages of life and how the 'doing good' chain which was begun by an individual was continued by others.

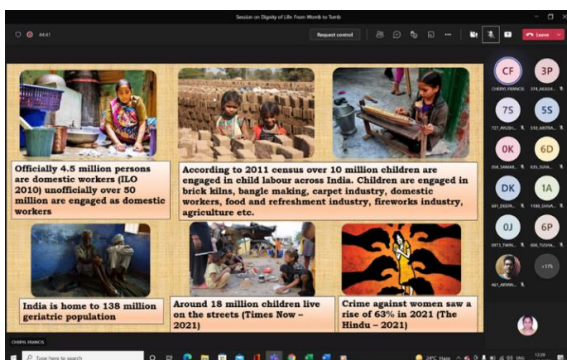
The session concluded with a feedback form once again circulated to the participants. It was observed that the participants enjoyed the session and as some said, *"It was indeed an eye opener"*.



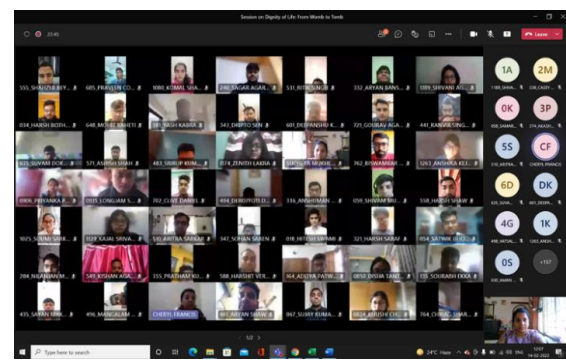
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Radio play by XTS



Explaining the life cycle of dignity of life



Group picture during the session



### I. Coordination meetings

- i. **Meeting with women from adopted villages:** On 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, a meeting was conducted with the SGH group leaders of Debipur (16 women), Shalpokur (20 women), Magurkhali and Raghampur (8 for both) villages respectively. The objective was to mobilize the women for participating in the Women's Day celebration scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022. This apart, the women were also encouraged to make use of the opportunities given by the Government for various training programmes. A need assessment was also conducted to understand the kind of training the women were interested in taking up. It was learnt that most women did not want to take up pisciculture training as they said that the men were more into pisciculture than women. So instead, they wanted to undergo training which they would be able to take up, considering their household responsibilities, like sewing, sanitary making etc. The younger ones were interested in beautician course. Ms. Cheryl communicated to the women that it would take some more time to set up a training unit at the rural campus. Meanwhile, capacity building and awareness sessions would be conducted for these SHG groups. For example, capacity building sessions would include training on how to schedule a meeting, preparing Agenda, writing minutes, taking attendance of all members, maintaining account book and the like. Awareness sessions would include legal aid awareness, awareness on government schemes for women etc. The women were happy and expressed their desire to receive such trainings which would make them more confident to manage the SHG groups well. It was decided that after the Women's Day celebration, such sessions would begin.



Addressing the women from Debipur village



Group picture with the women from Shalpokur

- ii. **Meeting with Director of Seva Kendra:** On 11th February 2022, Ms. Cheryl Francis visited Seva Kendra Calcutta to see the possibilities of collaborating with the organization to conduct trainings for the SHG women in the adopted villages. The Director of SKC, Fr. Antony Rodricks personally took Ms. Francis around the various trainings that were in progress, especially for women. This visit gave an idea as to the kind of trainings that could be given to the women so that it becomes an alternative livelihood option. However, it was felt that a training unit could begin at the Raghampur campus and important trainings could be conducted in collaboration with vocational training institutes or government departments so that the trainees could be placed well or would be assisted to start on their own.

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