

# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for  
the month  
of July 2022*

## National Service Scheme – Unit I

### I. NSS Board Declaration 2022- 2023 - The NSS Torch Bearers

Every year, a small team of dedicated volunteers are selected to be part of NSS Board, who tirelessly work round the year, planning and implementing various activities of the Department. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was not possible for the last two years. With lot of speculation and hard work, the department initiated forming this team from May 2022. Finally, on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 through a humble ceremony Father Principal declared the NSS Board of 2022-23 in the presence of two Vice Principals, one HOD and around 25 students from across departments. The ceremony commenced with a short prayer, invoking God's blessings on each one present. This was followed by a welcome address by the NSS Director. Father Principal motivated and encouraged the students by sharing the rich legacy of NSS at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. Father Principal further reminded the students, ***"The NSS Board has the responsibility of leading by doing. Your committed service for the underprivileged will motivate other students of this college to do something good for others."*** Father Principal then announced the NSS Board of 2022-23. Atreyee Set of Sociology department was declared the NSS President and Suryanghsu Narayan Biswas of Commerce morning was declared the Secretary.

Rev. Fr. Peter Arockiam SJ shared how he as a student of this college was highly inspired and motivated by outreach activities of NSS. He further shared how the life skills and experiences acquired by volunteering in NSS helped students to be sensitive and humane. Rev. Fr. Joseph Kolandai, further added that engaging in social work should always be an integral part of all our lives. Dr. Chandrani Biswas congratulated the new board and motivated them to do well. The ceremony came to a close with cake cutting and the usual Group Picture.



Fr. Principal sharing about rich legacy of NSS



Fr. Principal declaring the NSS Board 2022-23



NSS President delivering her acceptance speech



NSS Board with the dignitaries



Cake cutting ceremony



Group picture at the end of the ceremony



## NSS Board orientation

On 15<sup>th</sup> July, an orientation was held for the new Board. The orientation started with self-reflection and prayer. The students were guided to reflect upon themselves, their relation with the divine and purpose of their lives. The students were then oriented about the college policy on social credits, various rules and regulations of the NSS office and the expectations from the NSS Board. The students were explained about the two government flagship programmes that were implemented by the department – NSS and UBA. The students were encouraged to be creative and think of activities that could be conducted by NSS. In conclusion, the students were asked to share about their expectations from NSS, which they did.



NSS Board 2022-23 orientation underway

### **II. Coordination meeting with Ward Councillor of KMC Ward 63**

On 29<sup>th</sup> July, the department staff along with two NSS Board members met Mrs. Sushmita Bhattacharya Chatterjee, Ward Councillor of KMC Ward 63 to discuss about possible collaboration and volunteering opportunities for the students. The Councillor invited students to join a tree plantation drive at Rawdon Square on 30<sup>th</sup> July. She further gave contacts of two Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan schools under the Ward so that the college students can plan awareness sessions and age appropriate activities for them. She suggested students plan environment related awareness sessions on ill effects of plastics on the environment across Collin Street, Hungerford Street, Mirza Ghalib Street, Park Street and Shakespeare Sarani. She encouraged the students to reach out to the vulnerable sections of the society and help in their development. At the end of the meeting, the Councillor congratulated the College for encouraging students to be responsible, sensitive and humane citizens of the country.

The department staff decided to contact the schools and plan Raksha Bandhan and Independence Day celebration with the children in the month of August.

### III. Volunteering opportunities for students

Through NSS, students got some opportunities to volunteer for contemporary social issues. On 30<sup>th</sup> July, 11 volunteers participated in tree plantation drive organised by KMC Ward 63 at Rawdon Square. The volunteers planted around 50 trees (beetel nut trees, neem trees, coconut trees, mango trees etc) at the Square. Through handmade posters, the volunteers created awareness on the importance of nurturing and preserving the environment.



Volunteers during the drive



Awareness on ill-effects of plastics

Purnata, an organisation working on the issue of human trafficking in West Bengal, organised a curtain raiser event on 30<sup>th</sup> July at Ranuchaya Mancha, behind Rabindra Sadan on the occasion of World Day against Trafficking to create awareness on human trafficking. Around 36 volunteers participated in this event, through which they were made aware of different aspects of human trafficking and how they can raise their voice against this heinous crime.



Group picture at the end of the event



## National Service Scheme – Unit II

### I. Coordination meetings:

#### a. Coordination meetings with NGOs

From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022, the staff member visited 6 NGOs (namely, St. Joseph Rehabilitation Centre & Relief Service, Antara, Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute, Blind School, Asha Bari and Green View Old Age Home) to explore possible volunteering opportunities for the rural campus students. Most of the NGOs were willingly to accept students as volunteers. It was decided that the staff member would coordinate with the NGOs and take students for exposure visits and volunteering.

#### b. Meeting with Fr. Vice Principal

On 27<sup>th</sup> July, a meeting was scheduled with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, SJ to update him about the progress of the Unit. Possibilities were discussed about adopting the government school in Debipur village (near Molonga). It was decided that the staff would reach out to the local panchayat for necessary permissions and collaborations and report to Fr. Vice Principal for the way forward. It was further discussed that NSS Unit II would primarily work in Debipur, Magurkhali and Raghampur villages, while NSS Unit I would work in Bakeswar, Nurshikdarchowk and Shalpurkur villages.

#### c. Meeting with NSS Unit II staff

A series of meetings were held between the staff of NSS Unit I and Unit II to discuss and plan activities for Unit II. NSS Unit II staff was advised to find out about the Puja vacation dates so that NSS Puja Camp may be planned.

### II. Formation of NSS Board for NSS Unit II

This month the process of constituting NSS Board for NSS Unit II was initiated and interested students from semester III and V were invited to register themselves for the orientation and group interview. The orientation and group interview would take place next month after which the Board will be constituted.

## Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – Progress Report

### I. Coordination meetings with various stakeholders

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022, a series of coordination meetings were held with – (i) village contact persons of Bakeswar, Shalpurkur and Debipur villages; and (ii) Officials of Jhanjra High School.

#### i. Meeting with village contact persons –

##### a. Bakeswar Village

A meeting was conducted at Raghampur campus with the village contact person Mrs. Latika Makhal from Bakeswar about (i) Raksha Bandhan & Independence Day celebration at Bakeswar on 7<sup>th</sup> August and (ii) briefing about workshop on financial literacy for rural women on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022. She was happy to know about the celebration as the children were looking forward to meet their 'didis' and 'dadas' from St. Xavier's. She assured all cooperation and offered her house to conduct the programme for the children. Mrs. Latika Makhal was then briefed about the workshop on financial literacy and its objective, which was scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Raghampur campus. She expressed interest to bring around 10-11 women from Bakeswar village.

### **b. Shalpur village**

A meeting was held with Mrs. Nilima Dolui, the village contact person for Shalpur village to discuss – (i) workshop on financial literacy for rural women; (ii) income generation opportunity for rural women; (iii) follow-up of compost making; (iv) NSS puja camp; and (v) second-line leadership at Shalpur. This meeting was held at Raghapur campus.

Mrs. Nilima Dolui was briefed about the workshop to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> August at Raghapur campus on financial literacy for rural women. She was requested to mobilize around 20 women from Shalpur village, to which she willingly agreed. The staff members further discussed about income generation opportunity for the SHG women. Mrs. Dolui welcomed the idea and assured that she will discuss about it in the group's upcoming meeting. However, she shared that women will not be available to undertake any income generation activity during the harvest season. Mrs. Dolui shared with the team that the SHG women had started making compost, but unfortunately, soil was dumped over the compost site by labourers who were installing water pipeline for the anganwadi centre. Due to which the SHG members were unable to recover the compost. However, the women were motivated to start preparing the compost post monsoon, so that they can use it for the winter crops.

She was further briefed that there would be a camp in the month of October for which children from Shalpur village will be mobilised later. Mrs. Dolui was motivated and encouraged to prepare second line leadership in the village who would be instrumental in taking forward development work in the village. She agreed and shared that she already initiated the process.

### **c. Debipur**

A meeting with Mrs. Uma Majhi (village contact person of Debipur village) was held at Raghapur campus to discuss about the workshop on financial literacy for rural women to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Once the objective of the workshop was shared with her, she expressed that it would be a learning experience for the SHG members. She was requested to mobilise around 15 women from Debipur, to which she willingly agreed.

#### **ii. Meeting with Jhanjhra High School officials**

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022, the staff members went to Jhanjhra High School to discuss about possible collaboration with the school. The Headmaster and the Assistant Headmaster were present for this meeting. The staff members proposed that the College would adopt the school, wherein students from main campus would visit the school and take sessions on academics as well as co-curricular activities. The academic sessions would be done in consultation with the teachers and be aligned with the school syllabus. The positive impacts of the collaboration for both the children as well as for our college students were discussed at length. This collaboration if approved would commence from January 2023, the new academic year. It would be a yearlong collaboration. Both, the Headmaster and the Asst. Headmaster were pleased with the proposal and assured to place it before the school committee for final approval and intimate us about the same.

\*\*\*\*\*