

Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for
the month
of
December
2022*

NSS in collaboration with rural outreach of NSSS

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata was the outreach partner of the National Space Science Symposium (NSSS). In an effort to take science to rural students and develop keen interest in astronomy, a seminar was organised for rural school students in the Raghampur campus on 5th December 2022. About 65 high school students from Jhanhira High School and St. Paul's High School along with two teachers per school participated in this interactive session. Dr. Tritha Pratim Das, Director, Science Programme Office, ISRO, Bangalore was the resource speaker for this event. Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, SJ (Vice Principal of Raghampur campus) in his inaugural speech, encouraged the children not to just study science but to enjoy the subject. He further spoke about famous Indian scientists and their incomparable work in the field of space science.

The session began with a talk on 'মহাকাশে ভারতবর্ষ' (India in Space). With the help of slides and pictures, Dr. T.P. Das made the session interesting and interactive. The participants got an opportunity to interact with the speaker and clarify their doubts. The session concluded with a solar observation through mobile telescope where the students, for the first time, got an opportunity to observe the sun closely. In the feedback session, the participants shared their learning and expressed their desire to attend more such sessions in future too. The teachers of the two schools were impressed with the programme.

The event was organised by the Department of Social Work & NSS in collaboration with the Outreach co-ordinator of NSSS, Dr. Sarbari Guha of the Physics department along with 11 volunteers from the department.

Session on India in Space



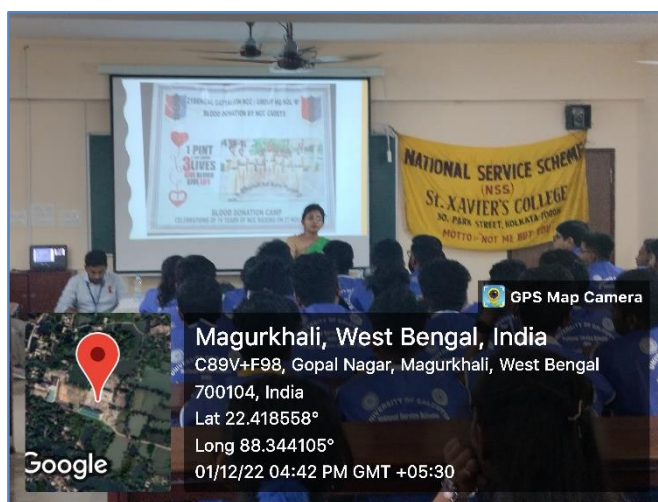


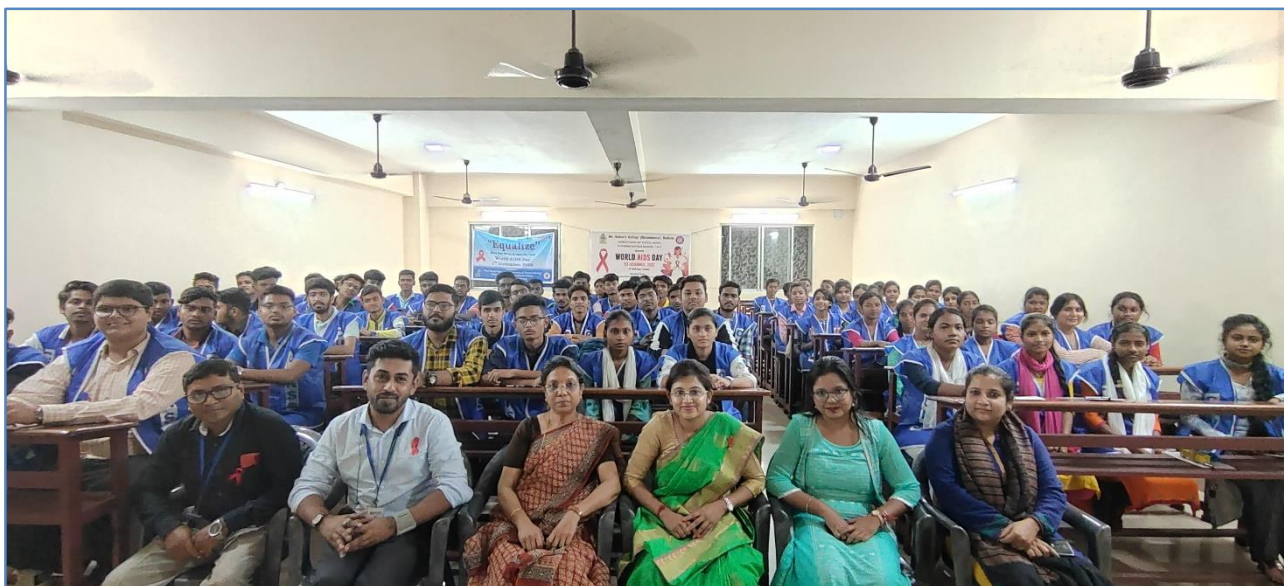
National Service Scheme – Unit II (Rural campus)

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for the community to spread awareness about the status of the illness and encourage its prevention, treatment and care all around. It brings together people from around the world to raise awareness and commemorate those who have died, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services. On 1st December 2022, the NSS Unit I and II in collaboration with the West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society (WBSAPCS) and SAATHI, an NGO, organized an awareness session for 80 college students in the Raghobpur campus. This session mainly focused on – (i) modes of HIV/AIDS transmission; (ii) stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and (iii) role of youth in combating HIV and the stigma around it and (iv) importance of blood donation camps. The resource team also shared about various initiatives WBSAPCS implemented engaging the youth, such as the Red Ribbon club. They encouraged the students to join the Red Ribbon Club and become master trainers to spread awareness among their peers.

It was an extremely informative session conducted with precision. The students got the opportunity to clarify their doubts and pledged to play their part as youth to combat this deadly virus.

Awareness session on HIV/AIDS underway





Special programme

‘Let’s Care and Share’

- Ushering in the season of love and peace

On 18th December 2022, the NSS Units I and II in collaboration with the Alumni Association reached out to around 470 children of Bakeswar, Debipur, Magurkhali, Nurshikdarchowk, Raghampur and Shalpukur villages with the joy of Christmas. Around 60 NSS volunteers welcomed the children at the Raghampur campus and ushered them to the college auditorium which was decorated by them with a lot of love and care. The programme commenced with cultural performances put up by the children representing each village, which was followed by foot tapping songs and dance performances put up by the volunteers.

Our principal, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and was accompanied by Rev. Dr. Peter Arockiam, SJ Vice Principal of Commerce evening and Business Administration, Rev. Dr. Joseph Kulandai, SJ Vice Principal of Commerce morning, Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara SJ, Vice Principal of the Raghampur campus, Rev. Fr. Anil Gomes, the Controller of Examinations, Mr. Firdausal Hasan, Secretary of the Alumni Association, Br. Chinta Moni and Mr. Bobby Biswas, a well-wisher and benefactor.

Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, on behalf of the College welcomed the guests and children to the programme. Father Principal in his address explained the significance of Christmas to the children. He said, ***“Boro din holo amader hriday boro korar shomoy. Amader char paashe jara ache tader sathe amader ja ache ta bhag kore naowar shomoy. Ei College er madhome tomra onek shujog shuvidha paabe ta bhalo kore kaaje lagate hobe. Aar shorbo prothome bhalo kore nijeder pora korte hobe.”*** (Christmas is the time to make our hearts big. To share whatever we have with others around us. Through this College, you all will get a lot of opportunities, make use of them and above all you all need to focus on your studies.)

At the end of the programme, all the children and the village contact persons received a goodie bag and food packet as they left the campus with smiling faces. Sayani Sardar, a class XI student from Nurshikdarchowk village rightly opined, *“Ei prothom ami ei campus eh elam, amar khubi bhalo lageche ei campus ta. Ami aboshyoi bhalo kore pora korbo, jaate ami ei college eh graduation korte paari. Aar aajker ei anusthan ti khubi bhalo legeche amar. Apnader shokol ke onek dhanyobad amader jonno eto byabostha korar jonno.”* (This is the first time I have come to this campus and I really liked it. I will surely study hard and come to this college for my graduation. I also enjoyed today's programme a lot. A big thank you to all for arranging this for us.)

In conclusion, Ms. Cheryl Francis, Director of Social Work & NSS, thanked Fr. Principal for his constant encouragement and support, the Vice Principals for their presence and the Alumni Association for being a strong support behind all outreach activities. She also extended her gratitude to all village leaders, NSS volunteers and the entire NSS Team for making the programme a grand success.

Celebrating Christmas cheer with the children



