

Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for
the month
of January
2023*

National Service Scheme – Unit I (Main campus)

National Youth Day 2023

The NSS Unit I observed National Youth Day on 10th and 11th January 2023. On **10th January** around **30 NSS Unit I volunteers** observed the 161st birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda with **70 children** of Bal Shiksha Sadan and Sri Gandhi Vidya Mandir (KMC schools under Ward 63). Through storytelling and quiz the volunteers shared about Swamiji's life with the children and encouraged them to start their new academic session with vigour and determination to acquire knowledge and wisdom. The volunteers engaged the children in games and fun and distributed goodie bags as they left. The children were overjoyed and requested the volunteers to visit them regularly.

On **11th January**, around **70 NSS Unit I volunteers** attended the adda session on '*My dream for India's future*'. The discussion began with an input session on Swamiji's message to the youth and his dream for India. The volunteers then discussed about the challenges that our country faced and how they as youth could play a positive and constructive role in nation building. Some of the concerns expressed by the youth were corruption, communalism and polarization, access to quality education, general and mental health and environment among others. In conclusion they suggested that the youth need to take up outreach activities more seriously and begin from their own homes, neighbourhood, college etc. They also mentioned that the youth could use social media more constructively and highlight some of these concerns to draw the attention of the concerned authority.

Observing the birth anniversary of Swamiji with the children of Bal Shiksha Sadan





NSS volunteers with the children of Sri Gandhi Vidya Mandir





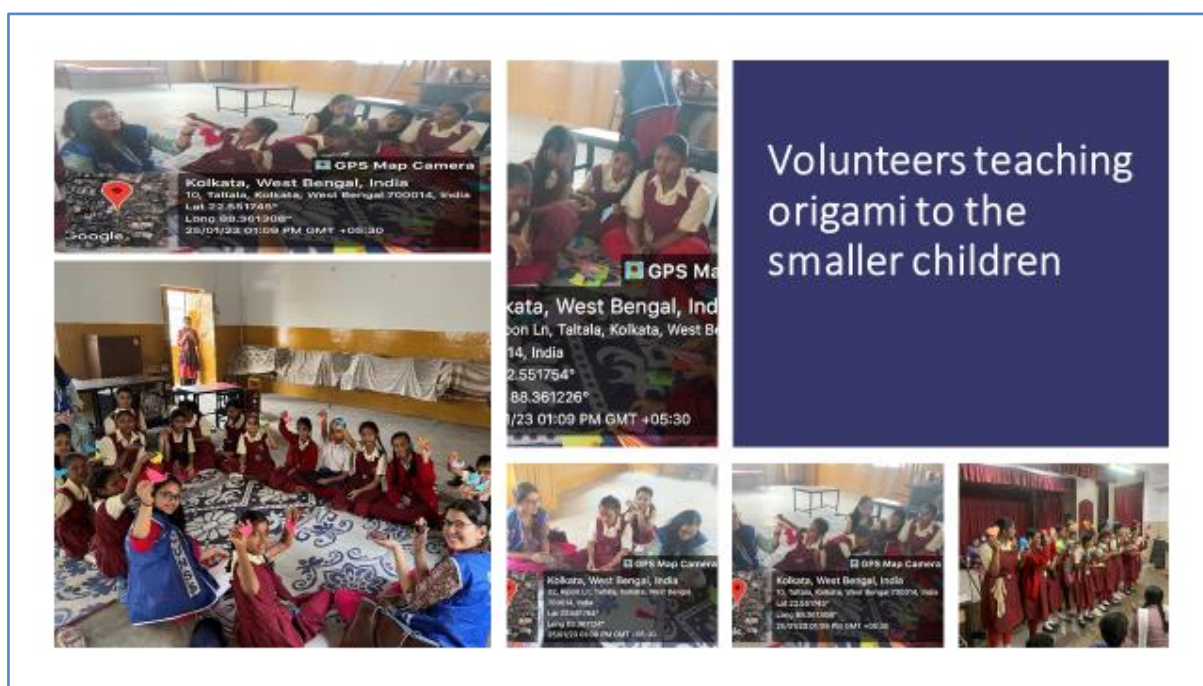
Adda session underway



Celebrating National Girl Child Day All Bengal Women's Union

To celebrate National Girl Child Day, the NSS department organised an exposure visit to All Bengal Women's Union (ABWU) on **25th January 2023 for about 50 NSS volunteers**. ABWU is a women's rights organization, providing shelter to disadvantaged women and girl children. The students were given an orientation about the organisation after which they got an opportunity to see the various units run by the organisation, such as, the education centres, production centre, old age home etc).

The volunteers interacted with around **40 middle and high school students**. The volunteers conducted an awareness session for the schoolgirls on the importance of girl child. The session focussed mainly on the importance of education. During the discussion, the volunteers and the girls discussed about major challenges like cybercrime, health & nutrition, child labour, gender bias, child trafficking, safety in public places etc. that they faced and how they could overcome them. The interactive session was very enriching for all the participants. As Drishti, a class X student of ABWU shared, *"Aaj ker agge amamni jatiyo konya shishu diwas er byapar eh kichui jantam na. Aaj St. Xavier's College er dada didi der shonge kichu khon time spend kore ami onek kichu shikhechi, beshes kore nijer upor confidence rakhte shikechi"*. (Today I got to know about National Girl Child Day, about which I never heard earlier. I learnt a lot today from the *dadas* and *didis* from St. Xavier's College. I learnt to have confidence on myself.) Another group of volunteers spent time with the younger children and conducted an art workshop where the children learnt art of origami. The exposure visit concluded with cultural performances put up by the volunteers.





Cultural performances put up by the volunteers for the children



Interactive session underway



Art and craft workshop at Sri Gandhi Vidya Mandir

On **28th January 2023**, the NSS in collaboration with the Department of Multimedia organised an art & craft workshop for the children of Sri Gandhi Vidya Mandir (a KMC school under Ward 63). **20 volunteers** helped about **20 children** to learn the art of making paper collage of various animals and birds which the children enjoyed. The joy however doubled when the volunteers decorated their small classroom with the craft made by the children. Through this workshop, the volunteers encouraged the children to attend school regularly. As the volunteers bid goodbye, the children asked their '*dadas and didis*' to visit them regularly and conduct various activities. It was a learning experience for the volunteers, as Ahanna Pal of the Multimedia department shared, *"It was an insightful experience for us and it was surprising to witness how quickly the children picked up the activity and were able to work with minimal guidance. These children are very intelligent and eager to learn and I wish to teach them more skills and activities shortly!"* Further, the teacher-in-charge of Sri Gandhi Vidya Mandir shared, *"It was a wonderful program and I hope this would motivate the children to attend school. We hope that the students of St. Xavier's College would visit our children more often and engage them in meaningful activities."*

Art & craft workshop at Sri Gandhi Vidya Mandir



The volunteers instructing the children before starting



The volunteers appreciating the children



Students engrossed in the workshop with much zeal and enthusiasm



The children and volunteers sharing the joy



Volunteers and children displaying their artwork in the classroom



The volunteers and the children all smiles after the workshop



All volunteer teachers proudly showing their students' work



National Service Scheme – Unit II (Rural campus)

On the occasion of National Youth Week celebration, **NSS Unit II** organised a seminar followed by a workshop, on 16th January 2023. The focus of the seminar was '**Mental Health Awareness**' among youth. Dr. Koumi Dutta, a faculty of Calcutta Medical College discussed the key points of navigating the challenges, coming from mental health disorder. The interactive session and presentation was named as '**Care to Cure: Listen to Endure**'. Total **89 students** were present. 6 professors, programme officer and field coordinator were also present. The expected outcome of this orientation was to make the students aware of the importance of mental health, which is directly correlated with physical health.

Mental health awareness session underway