

Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

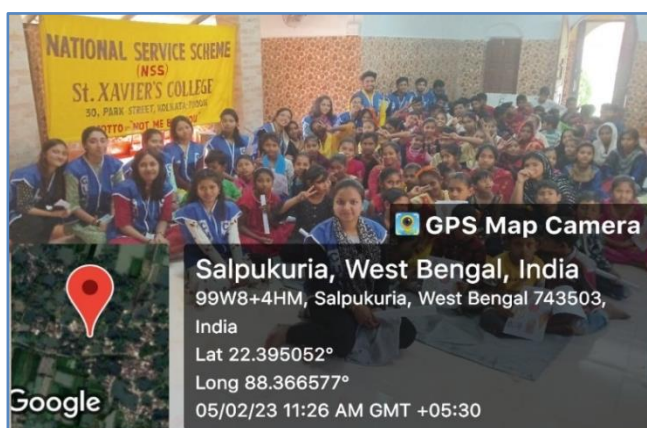
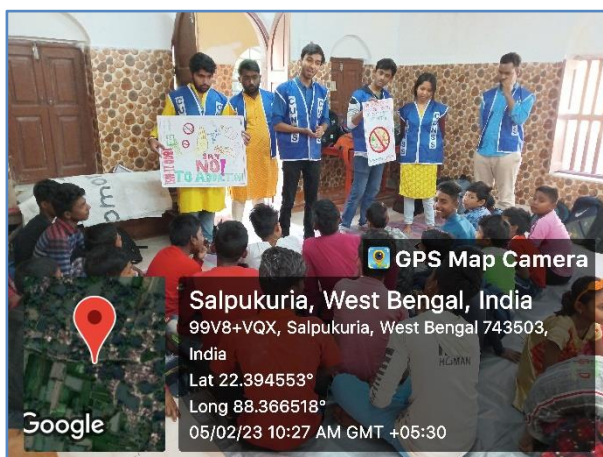
*Report for
the month
of February
2023*

National Service Scheme – Unit I (Main campus)

Awareness session on Health and Hygiene

The NSS department organised an awareness session on health and hygiene in Shalpokur village on **5th February, 2023** conducted by **18 NSS volunteers** (11 from NSS Unit I and 7 from NSS Unit II). Around 75 children attended the session which focussed on menstrual hygiene for girls above 12 years of age; on drug, phone and alcohol addiction for boys above 12 years of age, and personal hygiene session for children below the age of 12 years. The session came to a close with cultural performances by both the volunteers as well as by the children.

Children and volunteers during the session



Awareness session on Menstrual Hygiene

On 10th February 2023, 26 NSS volunteers held an awareness session on menstrual hygiene for about 30 students of ABWU. The volunteers with the help of charts explained about the menstrual cycle, hygiene practices related to it and overall food habits for healthy living. The students and volunteers were divided into smaller groups which helped them to have an in-depth discussion around the superstitions and stigma associated with menstruation. At the end of the discussion, the students were encouraged to share about the various challenges they faced during the cycle and how they mitigated the same.

Interactive session underway at ABWU



Shishu Mela is back at St. Xavier's

Shishu Mela, the flagship event of St. Xavier's College under the aegis of the National Service Scheme (NSS), was declared open on 19th February 2023 by the Rector, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ as the Chief Guest. Dr. Debarati Das, the NSS Programme Coordinator of Calcutta University graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

College Principal Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ was overwhelmed to see the campus filled with children from 13 different NGOs (four NGOs comprising of special children) and two villages, after a gap of two years. Father, in his address, expressed joy and encouraged the children to feel at home. The children's applaud echoed louder when Fr. Principal welcomed them to continue their higher education at St. Xavier's. He stated, *"tomra boro hoye ei college e porte asbe"* (When you grow up you must come and study in this College).

Throughout the year, the college students go to various villages and slum communities to conduct awareness sessions and literacy programmes. The volunteers also conduct art & craft workshop, soft skills and leadership training for the high school students in the villages. This year the volunteers focused on Child Rights and Child Protection, human trafficking, domestic violence, menstrual hygiene, cyber-crime and other important topics. Girl child has always been the focus of our attention as most of the exploitation is faced by them. Once a year all these children are brought together for this Mela which witnessed a participation of more than 600 children today. We are happy that for this Shishu Mela there were 369 girls and 233 boys.

About 250 college volunteers from 18 UG departments put up games stalls for the children and the tumble tossers added more fun to the Mela. All this would not have been possible without the hard work put in by the NSS team. The Shishu Mela was declared open by the Chief Guest with the release of balloons.

This event is an outcome of the love and affection that the Xaverians have towards the less privileged and extended Xaverian family. This Mela will surely bring about mutual satisfaction and learning and the Xaverians will continue to lead from the front when it comes to serving the Society.

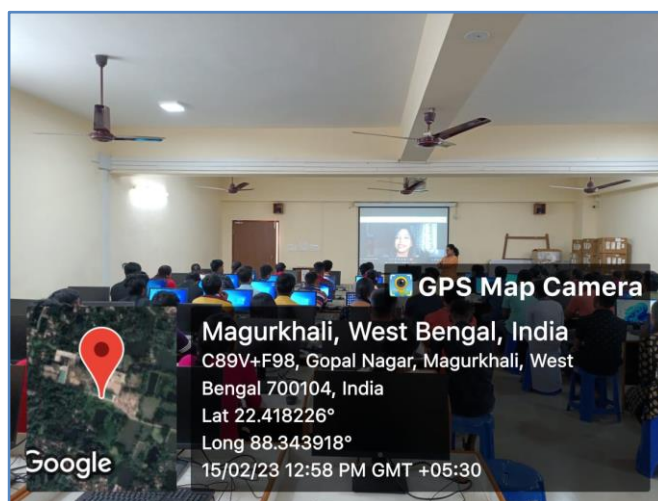




National Service Scheme – Unit II (Rural campus)

NSS Orientation

There was an orientation seminar for NSS volunteers from first year to make them aware of the ideology of NSS, to understand the aims and objectives of NSS, to motivate and encourage them and obviously to showcase the new rules and regulations of NSS. Dr. Indrani Ghosh, Programme Coordinator of Diamond Harbour Women's University was the speaker of this session. The introduction of NSS was given in the initial stage of orientation followed by the aims and objectives of the same. The speaker explained the impact of the NSS in the society. The talk was really motivating and inspirational as well as informative. A total of **80 students participated** in this orientation which was held on **15th February 2023**.



Community Engagement Programme

The NSS Unit II of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata has very broad scope to work for rural development as this unit is situated in Raghobpur, which is the rural campus of this college. So it was very important to have a pilot survey before any kind of community development programme. In order to do that, NSS Unit II arranged a community engagement programme on **15th February 2023** with the representatives of the community from our three adopted villages. There were **7 representatives from Debipur, 4 from Raghobpur and 1 from Magurkhali**. The discussion took an effective shape, as the representatives suggested the possible fields of developmental work. They clearly stated the need and requirements of various sectors. And we decided to meet those requirements through our developmental work and special camps from the platform of NSS.



Observing National Science Day

National Science Day is celebrated in India on February 28 each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman on 28 February 1928. For his discovery, Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. This year, the theme of national science day 2023 was '**Global Science for Global Wellbeing**', which reflects the nation's increasing international visibility and significance. NSS Unit II had organised a special one-day science awareness camp for the local school students in collaboration with NCC and Kolkata Nivedita Shakti to celebrate this day. **47 school students** from three local schools (St. Paul's High School, Balarampur M N Vidyamandir, Jhanjhra High School) joined this camp with their teachers from 11.00 am onwards. After the welcome address of the Vice-Principal, Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, Dr. Reeta Bhattacharya presided over the session. Eminent scientist Dr. Shampa Das portrayed the life of the famous scientist C V Raman. This heart touching talk was followed by a science quiz session, which was mastered by Ms. Soma Ray, teacher of Mathematics in St. Xavier's School, Kolkata. Students enjoyed it to the brim as there were many prizes for them to inspire. At the end there was a special screening session for students, and they watched a documentary on the life C V Raman.