

# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for  
the month  
of March  
2023*

### i. Celebrating International Women’s Day

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, every year the NSS department gives a gift of knowledge, awareness or skill to the rural women with whom the department works closely all through the year. Hence, this year, on **4<sup>th</sup> March 2023**, the department organized an awareness session on Human Trafficking for the rural women of Shalpokur village. The objective was to create awareness among the women about human trafficking and how they as women have a role to play to stop this social evil. Around **75 women** (including 10 women from Debipur village) and **30 NSS** volunteers participated in this session.

Purnata, an NGO working on human trafficking was the resource team for this session. Along with the NGO, the NSS volunteers too prepared posters on the various forms of human trafficking and highlighted the various preventive measures one could undertake. After the session, the women shared how beneficial it was, as they were now aware about the various traps of trafficking. As Majida Laskar of Mesna SHG shared, *“Aaj ker session er por ami janlam ki bhabe ami shotorko thaakbo ei pacharkari der phad theke. Eto din bhabtam amader gram pacharkari der theke shurokhitoh, kintu aaj shei bhul bhanglo amar. Amra keu e shurokhito noi, amader shokol ke shob shomay shotorko thaakte hobe”* (After today’s session, I learnt how I can be alert and not fall in the trap of traffickers. All this while, I used to think our village was safe from traffickers, but today after the session, I realized we all were at risk, and we must be on their guard.)

It was a learning experience for the NSS volunteers as well, as they became teachers to women who were as old as their mothers and explained to them how one could be alert and stay safe from human trafficking. As Albin Akash of Commerce morning rightly shared, *“Really great experience. Literally made me think of the dimensions of life. Those smiling faces of women when they got a space to escape from the daily schedule made me think of my mother too...this visit made me reflect on life and really influenced my thoughts. I also got a lot of insights on human trafficking from this session.”*

However, the celebration part began after a break from the serious session where the women were made to play games like *Antakshari* and *Bombing the City* which all enjoyed a lot. The programme came to a close with community lunch for all and goodie bags for the women.





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**ii. Art and Craft workshop in collaboration with Department of Animation and Multimedia**

The NSS department in collaboration with the Department of Animation and Multimedia organised a series of art and craft workshop at two KMC schools, namely Bal Shiksha Sadan and Sri Gandhi Vidya Mandir on 4<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023. A total of 63 volunteers and 105 children participated in the workshop. The volunteers taught the children origami and how to make flower sticks and bouquets with paper. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves during the session as Rishika Mallick of class IV shared, *“Whole week, we eagerly wait for Saturdays, as we get to meet our bhaiyas and didis, who teach us art and craft. I love doing crafts. One day I too will study art and craft in St. Xavier’s College just like the didis studying there.”*







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**iii. NSS Board Declaration**

On **16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**, the new NSS Board declaration ceremony was held. The ceremony was presided over by the College principal, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, in the presence of the Vice-Principals - Rev. Dr. Peter Arockiam, SJ, and Rev. Dr. Joseph Kulandai, SJ as well as the IQAC Coordinator – Dr. P.P. Ghosh. Two students from the previous Board shared about their experience with NSS, which touched a chord in everyone’s heart. Deepak Kumar, a Board member shared, *“NSS is close to my heart. I am humbled to share that I was able to stop a child marriage in my village after I learnt all about child rights and human trafficking through the various sessions conducted by NSS. I not only stopped the marriage but motivated the parents to let the girl complete her school education and go on to do her higher education.”* On the other hand, Shreya Agarwal, another Board member shared, *“The first thing that pops up in my mind when I talk about NSS is ‘safe space’; For me personally, seeing someone smile because of the small efforts I put forth is more than enough to brighten my day”*. Upon hearing the students’ sharing, Fr. Principal opined, *“I am glad and moved that the students undergo such transformation at NSS. I encourage each one of you to carry forward the legacy of ‘Not Me, But You’ wherever you go. I am confident that your commitment, passion and compassion will touch many lives in the forthcoming years.”* He further shared about the rich legacy of NSS in the college over the years. He congratulated students for sacrificing their holidays and reaching out to underprivileged communities in both rural and urban areas. With such encouraging and motivating words, Fr. Principal declared the NSS Board of 2023-24 with Sayan Das of Commerce-Morning leading the team of seven students with the help of five advisors.



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#### iv. Science awareness programme at Calcutta Muslim Orphanage

On 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, around 29 NSS volunteers, mainly comprising of students from the Xavier's Astronomical Society (XAS), went to the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage for Girls to create awareness on science as a discipline among girls of classes 9 and 10. The event, 'Science for Women' involved briefing the children ((around 30) on the definition and importance of science and astronomy with the help of various informative charts, models and props (like the models of satellites, missiles, etc) that the volunteers had prepared. The volunteers even showed pictures of the recent lunar Occultation that they had taken the previous day from their laboratory.

As the event was conducted primarily to celebrate Women's Day, a special emphasis was given on the topic of 'Women in Science', where the volunteers spoke of the lesser known female luminaries of science and tried to make the young girls believe that they too could pursue the field if they wanted to. The volunteers also shared their personal experiences of being doubted by the society on their ability to study the subject

Moreover, the session became interactive as, the children were segregated into groups of 6 to discuss their problems with the volunteers. The girls thus, opened about the difficulties they face while studying the subject and how they often found it boring. The volunteers suggested relating what they learn in class to everyday activities and developing an inquisitiveness for knowing the reason behind all those occurrences as a solution to these problems.

The event ended with a feedback session where the children spoke of what they thought of the entire event and what they learnt from it. A class 10 student shared, *"Didira je amder jonno esheche, kotha boleche , science niye bujhiyeche setai sob thk boro pawa amder."* The event ended with the volunteers distributing some brochures to the children that contained information about government scholarships for young women who want to pursue science. Thus, one of the volunteers rightly described the event as *"an attempt to reduce the apprehension that young children, specially girls have towards science as a subject."*







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## National Service Scheme – Unit II (Rural campus)

### i. Karumela: A Special Handicrafts Fair by Local Women (Celebrating International Women's Day)

It was an initiative of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, Raghampur Campus to make the local women self-dependent. Initially they have been trained to make various commodities like soaps, chocolates, phenyl, candies and many more. This fair was held on **10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**, which was organized by the NSS Unit II of this college to provide a steady market base for these women. A total of **20 NSS volunteers, 110 college students, 120 school students and 100 village women participated in the Mela.**

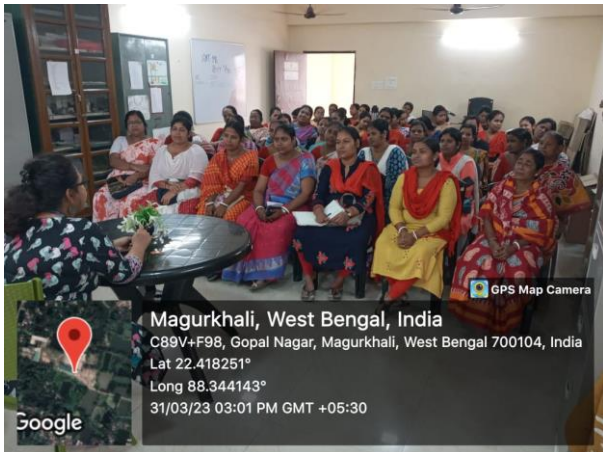


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ii. **Community engagement programme 2**

Second community engagement programme of the year 2023 of NSS Unit II, was held on **31<sup>st</sup> March. 49 women from the adopted villages** of this NSS unit have joined the session. The programme officer of NSS unit II informed them about the future plans of this unit. A series of training programmes will be scheduled for them after they submit their names for each. Besides, some of them requested if whether any course can be offered for them to develop their English communication skill. After the success of Karumela, handicrafts fair organized for the marketization of various products made by these village women, it has been decided that a permanent selling corner will be devoted for them as an emerging demand has been noticed for the products.



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