

MERI MAATI MERA DESH

Tree Plantation Drive in collaboration with KMC Ward 143 (Diamond Park – Joka)

The Tree Plantation Drive, organized by National Service Scheme (NSS), Unit I of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, marked a significant step towards environmental conservation and community engagement. This initiative aimed to promote the importance of trees in maintaining a sustainable ecosystem and fostering a sense of responsibility among individuals towards the environment.

As part of the *“Meri Maati, Mera Desh”*, the drive took place on **13th August 2023** from **10:30 a.m.** onwards. Around **40 NSS volunteers, 30 children** from **Save the Children Home, Thakurpukur** and around **50 residents of Ward 143** participated in this drive. The participants planted a total of **40 saplings** in Diamond Park, which is situated adjacent to the ward office. The planting of 40 saplings significantly contributed towards local green cover, promoting biodiversity, enhancing air quality, and mitigating the effects of climate change. The Drive highlighted the importance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges.

The ward councillor, Mrs. Christina Biswas thanked the College for collaborating with her ward to undertake the tree plantation drive. She lauded the College's commitment in **creating men and women for others**. She further shared, *“I have seen the students of St. Xavier's College go to rural areas to teach underprivileged children, to create awareness on various social issues. I am glad that Ma'am Cheryl Francis took this initiative to collaborate with our Ward and sensitise our residents and school children on the importance of planting trees around us”*. The Ward Councillor further requested the College to send Xaverians to the Ward to conduct more such awareness programmes for children and residents alike.

Through charts, the NSS volunteers created awareness on environment issues for the residents and school children. After the awareness, the children shared, *“Aaj dada didi ra khub shundor kore amader shekhalo ki bhabe amra gaach bachabo aar shushto thaakbo”* (Today the *dada didis* have very nicely explained to us how we can save trees and stay well). The awareness session also benefitted the NSS volunteers as rightly pointed out by Suraj Kumar Keshri, a BMS student, *“As I did not know Bengali, I was very apprehensive to explain the charts to the children in Hindi, but I was surprised to see the children understanding and interacting which boosted my confidence. Also while preparing the chart, I too learnt a lot on the importance of trees to our environment.”*

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks to the Ward Councillor for this collaboration and the NSS would continue with more awareness activities in various KMC wards in future.



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



National Service Scheme Unit - I
in collaboration with
KMC WARD 143



MERI MAATI MERA DESH
TREE PLANTATION DRIVE

ON THE OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

13th August 2023, 10:30 a.m. at Diamond Park, Joka



NSS volunteers gather at Diamond Park



Final briefing before the plantation drive



Volunteers showcasing the charts on afforestation



With the Ward Councillor-Ma'am Christina Biswas



Felicitating the Ward Councillor



The participants of tree plantation



NSS volunteers conducting an awareness session





Children handing over small plants to the NSS volunteers



NSS volunteers walk towards the tree plantation site



Ward councillor Mrs. Christina Biswas with the NSS team



NSS volunteers planting saplings in the Ward park

NSS Volunteers engaged in the tree plantation drive



The final touch!!





Some glimpses of the certificates received by the NSS volunteers from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports


