

MERI MAATI MERA DESH

Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign – Observing Independence Day in adopted villages

Freedom and love, as manifested in brotherhood and common belonging always go together in a harmonious continuum. This idea was reinforced in a programme organised by the NSS department on **20th and 27th August 2023** in Shalpokur, Nurshikdarchowk and Bakeswar villages in which a total of **87 volunteers** and **246 children** participated.

On **20th August 2023**, the programme took place in **Shalpokur and Nurshikdarchowk** villages. The session started with storytelling, in which the volunteers shared stories of the freedom movement and our freedom fighters. Through these session, the volunteers explained that, it was the turn of the young generation to ensure that our country is free from all social evils. This was followed by group games and a cultural programme in which the volunteers and the children enjoyed together.

Disha Mondal from Nurshikdarchowk village shared, *“Amar dada didi der sathe shomoy katateh khub bhalo lage. Protek bar ami kichu notun sheekhi. Ehbar ami sheeklam, amdader chele meyeder modhe bheda bhed theke shadhinota paowa khub important.”* (I like to spend time with dadas and didis as every time I get to learn something new from them. This time, I learnt that we have to live together without any discrimination.) It was a time of learning and sharing for the volunteers as well.

The programme for Bakeswar village, took place at Kalahriday auditorium on **27th August 2023**. The event commenced at 10 am with a prayer song by the volunteers followed by an orientation by Fr. Shaju, S.J., the Director of Kalahridaya who reaffirmed the pledge of the two institutions (Kalahriday and St. Xavier’s College), *“We at Kalahridaya create new lives for the children of the village, something that is beautiful. The students from St. Xavier’s College have come here to make it more meaningful so take this opportunity to learn and enjoy with them”*. While Ma’am, Cheryl Francis, the NSS Director motivated the NSS volunteers, *“Each child sitting here has a story. Encourage them with your presence to not drop out from school and to continue their education at not just any college but St. Xavier’s”*.

This was followed with a short narration by the volunteers of how Raksha Bandhan was started by Rabindranath Tagore to foster a spirit of mutual belonging and harmony. This was followed by a number of games in which the children participated wholeheartedly. The cultural programme which began with the dance performance of the children and then the volunteers added colour to the event with their respective performances of elocution, skit, singing and dance. A special part of the event was marked by the Rakhi tying ceremony wherein the volunteers adorned the hands of the children with rakhis. The programme concluded with the singing of the National Anthem. The entire event solidified the commitment of the team to the NSS motto **“Not Me But You”**. At the end, the volunteers distributed refreshments to the children and bid goodbye with a wish to meet soon.

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Observing Independence Day at
Shalpukur, Nurshikdarchowk and Bakeswar villages
On 20th and 27th August 2023

**Celebration at Shalpukur village on
20th August 2023**



Volunteers and children interacting with each other



Ice-breaking session at the beginning of the program



A round of Introduction



Xaverians and children bond



Through charts the NSS volunteers talk about the freedom struggle and the freedom fighters





Cultural programme by the children and volunteers



Time to say goodbye....NSS volunteers hand over refreshments to the children



Celebration at Nurshikdarchowk village on 20th August 2023



A round of introduction – getting to know each other

Looking back on our freedom struggle and looking forward to nation building





Establishing new bonds – Xaverians and the little children



Time to showcase their talents to the *dadas* and *didis* of St. Xavier's College





Cultural programme put up by the NSS volunteers for the children



Jai Hind, Jai Bharat

Volunteers distributing refreshments at the end of the event



Till we meet again!



**Celebration at Bakeswar village on
27th August 2023**



Ma'am Cheryl Francis and Fr. Shaju addressing the children and volunteers



Inaugural session

Volunteers and Ma'am Cheryl Francis conducting games for the children



NSS volunteers enacting a skit for the children at Bakeswar village

NSS volunteers celebrating raksha bandhan with the children – establishing a lasting bond





Cultural performance put up by the NSS volunteers for the children

Children enjoying the performance



The participating group


