

# Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

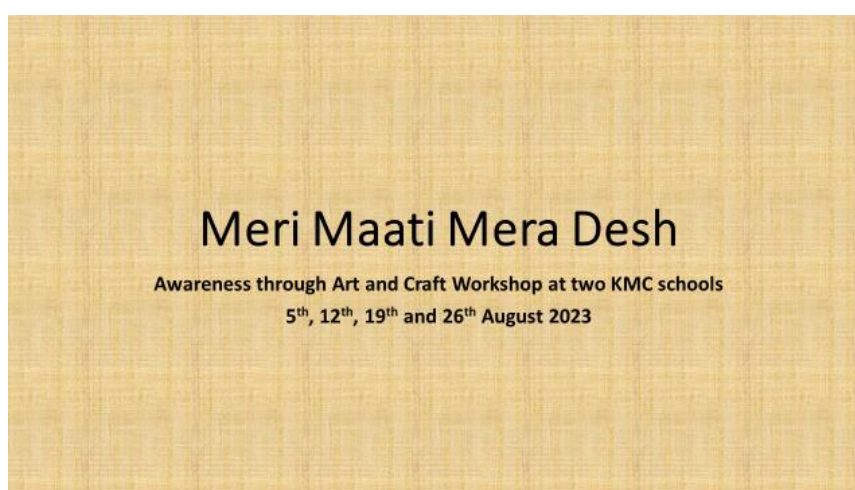
*Report for  
the month  
of August  
2023*

On the occasion of **Meri Maati Mera Desh**, the NSS Unit I of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata organised the below mentioned activities.

### i. Awareness through Art and Craft Workshop at two KMC schools

#### MERI MAATI MERA DESH

On **5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023**, the NSS volunteers from Animation and Multimedia department conducted art and craft workshops focusing on the theme of '**Meri Maati, Mera Desh**'. On **5<sup>th</sup> August**, the workshop focused on conserving our national animal – **the tiger**. The children were taught to draw and paint tigers in their natural habitats. The volunteers made the children aware about conserving mangrove forest and royal Bengal tigers in the Sunderaban region. They also created awareness on the impact of climate change on tigers. On **12<sup>th</sup> August**, the children learnt to make the National Flag for the volunteers. The children enjoyed making the flags and using the same for Independence Day. On **19<sup>th</sup> August**, the NSS volunteers focused on the national bird – **peacock**. The children learnt why peacock is considered as our national bird and learnt about the unique features of the bird. Adrija De, a volunteer beautifully summed up her experience, *"Visiting Bal Siksha Sadan was an eye-opening and emotionally charged experience. We educated them about our National Bird and we also shared facts about the bird's unique characteristics, and helped them draw those which fostered an engaging learning atmosphere. We also shared information about Dengue and encouraged them to spread knowledge within their families and neighborhoods contributing to the broader goal of minimizing dengue transmission. In short, their enthusiasm and openness to the creative process were both heartwarming and inspiring."* The volunteers at the end of the session, conducted dengue awareness programme as well for the children. On **26<sup>th</sup> August**, the workshop was only held in Bal Shiksha Sadan (as the children of Sree Gandhi Vidya Mandir was having exams) and the volunteers celebrated Raksha Bandhan with the children. The children were taught how to make rachis, which they would use to tie for their family members. A total of **126 volunteers** and **210 children** participated in the workshop this month.





Learning all about the National Animal – the tiger on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023



Little patriots making the National Flag on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023





Learning all about our National Bird on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023



Celebrating Raksha Bandhan at Bal Shiksha Sadan school on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023



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## ii. Blood Donation Camp

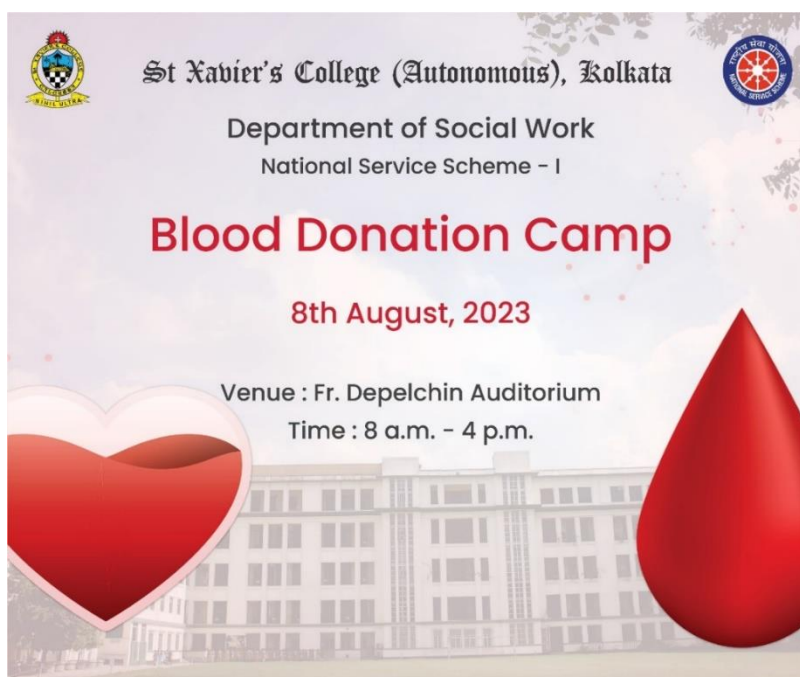
### “THE VEIN TO VEIN CONNECTION”

The annual Blood Donation Camp was organised by NSS Unit I, on the 8th of August 2023, in collaboration with the Association of Voluntary Blood Donors, Bhoruka Blood Bank and Cancer Hospital, Thakurpukur, in which 540 units of blood were collected between 8 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. There were a total of 7 blood banks. The refreshments were sponsored by the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Midtown and St. Xavier’s College (Calcutta) Alumni Association.

The Blood Donation Camp began with a brief inauguration by Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, along with the Vice Principals. Fr. Principal shared the background of Blood Donation camps in the College over the years. He appreciated and motivated the students and NSS Members for their hard work put in throughout the year. In order to encourage the donors Fr. Principal visited the camp venue along with all the Core Committee members of the College during the day, which was very reassuring.

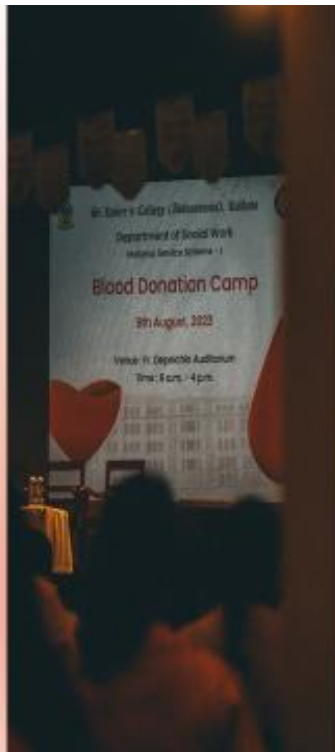
Due to the pandemic, this camp was organised after a gap of three years. About **100 volunteers** lead by the NSS Board Members helped to make this camp a grand success. The planning for the camp began almost one month ahead. The volunteers were divided into different committees – Attendance, Registration, Security, Food, Certificates, Doctor’s Assistant and TLC (Tender, Loving Care). Each committee was headed by a coordinator. The volunteers underwent a series of training sessions and each committee was guided on their responsibilities. The volunteers worked extremely hard and ensured that the whole camp was organised in a systemic and well-coordinated manner.

It was more than 10 hours that day, the volunteers had put it and one could see how tired they were, but the joy on their faces helped to overcome that tiredness and with smiles and a feel good factor, everyone dispersed with one slogan, **“Once a Xaverian, Always a Xaverian”!**





**Inaugural session of the Blood Donation Camp 2023**



**Fr. Principal, Vice Principals and faculty members – the motivating force behind the camp**





Enthusiastic donors from the Commerce Morning department beginning the camp



"We are One in the Spirit..."





**The true spirit of a Xavierian!!!**



**NSS Volunteers on their toes....**







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### iii. 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 **13<sup>th</sup> 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**



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#### iv. 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 **20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023** in Shalpur, Nurshikdarchowk and Bakeswar villages in which a total of **87 volunteers** and **246 children** participated.

On **20<sup>th</sup> August 2023**, the programme took place in **Shalpur 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 **27<sup>th</sup> 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 Kalahriday who reaffirmed the pledge of the two institutions (Kalahriday and St. Xavier’s College), *“We at Kalahriday 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.

# Meri Maati Mera Desh

Observing Independence Day at  
Shalpokur, Nurshikdarchowk and Bakeswar villages  
On 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Celebration at Shalpokur village on  
20<sup>th</sup> 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



Cultural programme by the children and volunteers





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



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







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 27<sup>th</sup> 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

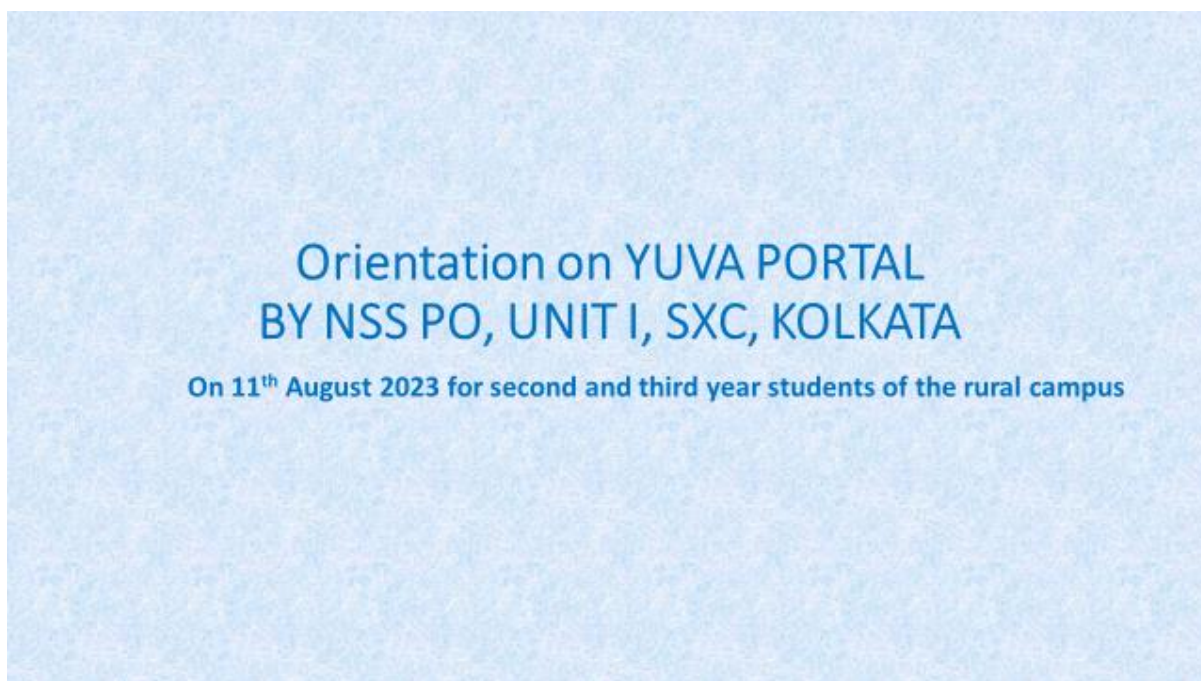


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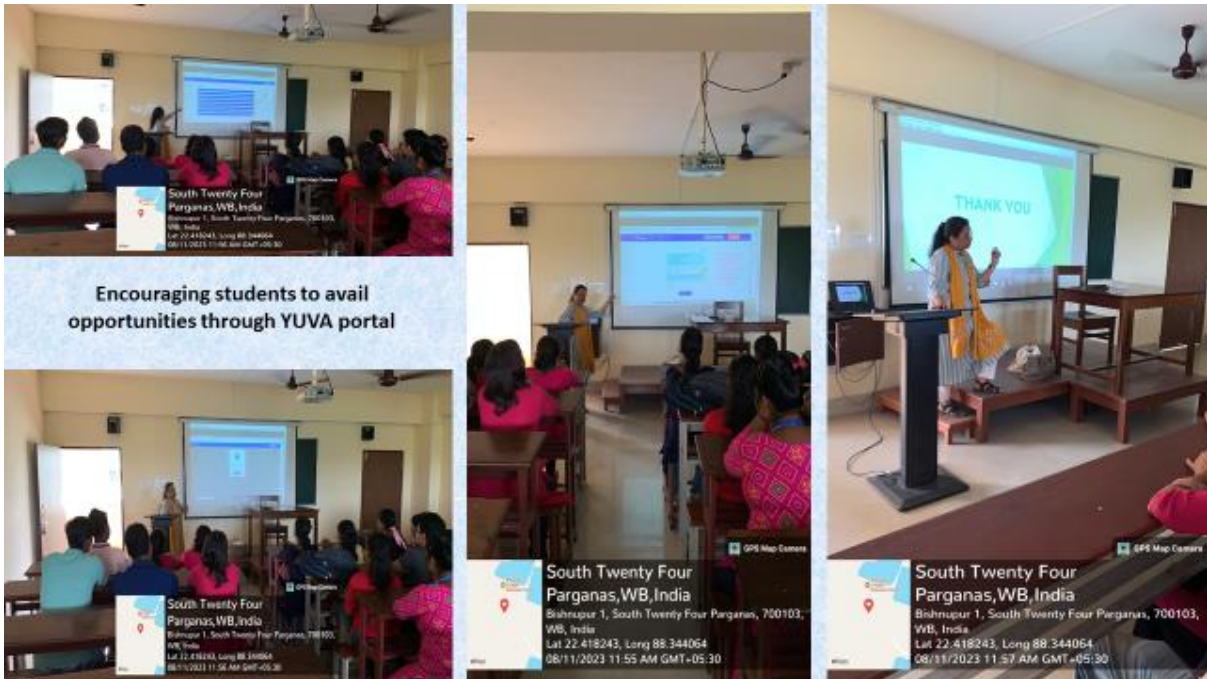


**v. Orientation on YUVA**

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the NSS Unit I Programme Officer – Ma'am Cheryl Francis, conducted an orientation workshop for all semester III and V students of the rural campus on how to register and avail opportunities through the YUVA portal. A follow-up workshop for students who already enrolled in the portal was conducted to encourage them to apply for internships and events. The orientations took place in two slots with 50 students in each slot. Hence around **100 students attended the orientation**. Till date 118 students from both campuses have been approved in the YUVA portal.



Explaining the importance of YUVA portal to the rural students of the College



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vi. **Observation of Raksha Bandhan at Oral School for Deaf Children**

*“It's often said that happiness is a choice and one can choose it by giving.”*

On **13<sup>th</sup> August 2023**, **13 students** from the Sociology department celebrated Raksha Bandhan at Oral School for the Deaf Children. The event commenced with an introductory speech on Rakhi as an occasion of love and bonding shared between people across communities in our country representing the country's diversity. This was followed by a dance performance on the song *Bam Bam Bole*.

It was a very emotional moment for the volunteers to see the **47 children**, although couldn't speak, expressed great joy through their smiles when they received Rakhis on their hands by their didis and dadas. The Rakhi tying ceremony was followed by distribution of sweets to all the volunteers. The program concluded with a drawing competition for the children on the theme of '**Raksha Bandhan**' where they, through their drawings, depicted the essence of Raksha Bandhan.

The event was quite overwhelming for the volunteers, as shared by Mayuraksha Dey *“We keep on lamenting about how life is full of hustle for us, but going there each one of us felt an aura of peace. I learned the true meaning of the festivity today from the children, how through mere gestures of love and gratitude we can conquer the world. Whenever from now onwards I will think of Rakhi I will remember each of their faces. I wish to carry forward this responsibility of sharing gratitude and love with them forever”*.





Getting to know each other  
Tying the rakhis



Performing a dance for the children  
Young children flaunting their rakhis



Arranging the rakhis  
All participants together for a click



Children eagerly await their turn



**Drawing  
competition with  
the theme of  
Raksha Bandhan**



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