

**Providing livelihood opportunities for the rural marginalized
By St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata**

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) programme organized a Cycle Van distribution drive in collaboration with Rotary Club of Calcutta South Circle on 10th April 2024. The programme was held at the College's rural campus at Raghampur. Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, the Principal, handed over 16 Cycle vans including one motorized van to beneficiaries from 5 UBA adopted villages under Bishnupur Block I and 5 from other College adopted villages of South 24 Parghanas.

In his address to the beneficiaries Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ expressed his gratitude to the Rotary Club for their generosity and commitment over the years and for their collaboration with the Raghampur campus. To the beneficiaries he said, ***"Amra shudu student der porashonar khayal rakhi na, amra gramer shobar khayal rakhi. Ei van apanader poribarar arthonoitek abosta ektu bhalo rakbe."*** (We not only take care of students' academic needs but we also take care of the village community. These cycle vans will help your families financially). He further encouraged them to send their children to school and college and assured them of his full support in every way possible.

The President of the Rotary Club of Calcutta thanked St. Xavier's College for providing them the space to implement their social projects and thanked Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, SJ, Vice Principal of the Raghampur Campus for all his support.

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata is a Participating Institute of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, which is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Education (formerly Ministry of Human Resource Development). UBA is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development process by involving knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an inclusive India. Under the UBA programme, St. Xavier's College, since 2018 has been involved in a number of community engagement projects in its adopted villages for its overall development.

With the distribution of these cycle vans, St. Xavier's College has furthered the scope of livelihood opportunities to the beneficiaries who would now be able to substantiate their family income. This initiative of reaching out to the marginalized will surely continue and bring relief to more and more deserving families.
