



**UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN  
ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA**

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**JANUARY - MARCH 2025**

UBA Coordinator's Name: Miss Cheryl Francis

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Sl. No	ADOPTED VILLAGES	TALUKA (BLOCK)	DISTRICT
1.	Bakeswar	Bishnupur I	South 24 Parganas
2.	Magurkhali		
3.	Raghabpur		
4.	Shalpukur		
5.	Debipur		

**LIST OF ACTIVITIES**

**TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 1:** National Youth Day – *“Be Fearless, Be Inspired, & Be the Best Version of Yourself”*

**Objective:**

1. To inspire students to embody fearlessness, self-belief, compassion, and dedication to nation-building, while promoting active community engagement and reflection on Swamiji's philosophy.

**Brief Description**

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 110 students from NSS Units I and II of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, in collaboration with the UBA Cell, celebrated the 163<sup>rd</sup> birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda at the College's rural campus. The National Youth Day theme for this year was *“Be Fearless, Be Inspired, & Be the Best Version of Yourself.”* The day began with a rally through network villages, emphasizing Swami Vivekananda's life and teachings. The rally culminated at Nepalgunj Haat, a prominent local market, where students, along with members of the Panakua Panchayat and Nepalgunj Haat, paid homage to Swami Vivekananda.

During the ceremony, Shri Bholanath Sardar, Pradhan of Panakua Gram Panchayat, expressed his joy at the students' participation, wishing everyone a Happy Youth Day and encouraging them to find inspiration in Swamiji's life. Ms. Cheryl Francis, UBA coordinator highlighted the critical role of youth in nation-building. She urged students to reflect on Swamiji's teachings and



strive to elevate the country. The celebration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony by students from both units.

Back at the rural campus, students participated in an engaging quiz on Swamiji's life and teachings, which provided an opportunity to reflect on his messages and incorporate them into their lives. The National Youth Day ceremony was presided over by Father Principal, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, and attended by dignitaries including Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, Vice Principal of the rural campus, Ms. Cheryl Francis, Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee, and Prof. Tuhin Chitrakar. The event began with a tribute to Swamiji by dignitaries and student representatives. Father Principal emphasized the transformative power of education in shaping character, building confidence, and sharpening skills. He encouraged students to internalize Swamiji's teachings and act as catalysts for positive change, contributing to a developed India.

The program featured reflections by three students on Swamiji's teachings. Shivam Chatterjee, a commerce student, spoke about fear and strength, emphasizing the role of self-belief and resilience in overcoming fear. He quoted Swamiji's words, *"If you think yourselves strong, strong you will be,"* and highlighted the importance of self-awareness and perseverance. Alina Matthew, another commerce student, reflected on faith and religion, underscoring Swamiji's vision of mutual respect and harmony transcending religious boundaries. Amal T. Joseph, a political science student, connected Swamiji's teachings to the NSS motto, *"Not Me, But You,"* advocating for a compassionate and equitable society. The day concluded on a positive note, with students embracing Swamiji's principles of courage, self-belief, focus, and compassion, leaving inspired to apply these values in their daily lives.

#### **Impact:**

1. The programme fostered a deepened understanding and appreciation of Swami Vivekananda's life among the 110 participating students, enhancing their awareness of the role of youth in shaping society.
2. The rally and interactions with local community leaders promoted grassroots engagement.
3. Student reflections and interactive activities reinforced the relevance of Swamiji's teachings in contemporary life, encouraging participants to internalize his messages of strength, harmony, and service.

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA**  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK- NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME - UNIT I & II

In collaboration with **UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN Cell**

IS OBSERVING  
**NATIONAL YOUTH DAY**

ON THE OCCASION OF  
**163RD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S YOUTH ICON  
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**

**'Be Fearless, Be Inspired & Be the Best Version of Yourself'**

**VIKSI BHARAT** 12th January 2025 at Raghobpur Campus, 9:00 a.m. onwards

MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH WILL BE DELIVERED BY  
**Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ  
Principal  
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata**





## Rally to Nepalgunj Haat



## Paying homage to Swami Vivekananda at Nepalgunj Haat



A Quiz on  
Swami  
Vivekananda



Sharing on  
the teachings  
of Swami  
Vivekananda







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## **TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 2: Digital literacy for youth at Nurshikdarchowk village in association with UBA**

### **Objective:**

1. To educate rural youth about digital literacy, focusing on online safety, cyber fraud prevention, and responsible internet usage through an engaging, theatre-based awareness session.

### **Brief Description**

On **19<sup>th</sup> January 2025**, around **15 volunteers** (mostly from Xaverian Theatre Society) conducted an awareness session on digital literacy for **50 rural youth** of Nurshikdarchowk village in association with UBA. Using an engaging skit, they educated the children on online threats, financial fraud, and safe internet practices. Their performance highlighted common digital risks, such as cyber fraud and data privacy breaches, in a simplified and interactive manner. Through storytelling and role-playing, the volunteers demonstrated how to identify online scams and take precautions to stay safe.

This initiative aimed to equip rural youth with essential knowledge, empowering them to navigate the digital world responsibly. By combining theatre with education, the volunteers successfully raised awareness, ensuring these young minds are better prepared to protect themselves online. Their efforts contribute to fostering a culture of digital safety in rural communities.

### **Impact:**

1. The initiative fostered a foundational awareness of digital responsibility in the community, contributing to the development of a safer and more informed digital environment in rural areas.





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### **TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 3: Shishu Mela – “Every Child Matters – Building an Inclusive Generation”**

#### **Objective:**

1. To foster inclusivity and social awareness among college students by engaging with children from disadvantaged backgrounds and special needs institutions.
2. To create a joyful, empowering environment where every child feels valued, included, and motivated to dream of a brighter future through educational exposure.

#### **Brief Description**

**“Every Child Matters – Building an Inclusive Generation”** .... resounded at St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Kolkata on **23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025** welcoming almost **700 children** from **11 different NGOs** (Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, Bodhana, Asha Niketan, Oral School for Deaf Children, New Age Society for All, Society for Indian Children’s Welfare (SICW), Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT), Destiny Foundation, Navjeevan Home for Girls, Calcutta Muslim Orphanage for Boys, Calcutta Muslim Orphanage for Girls) and **three adopted villages** (Hogulkuria, Shalpurkur and Nurshikdarchowk), **two neighbourhood KMC schools** (Bal Shiksha Sadan and Shree Gandhi Vidya Mandir), **Our Lady Queen of the Mission afternoon School and St. Xavier’s Collegiate School – Social Project**. Shishu Mela, the flagship event at St. Xavier’s College, organized by the NSS, reiterated the commitment that every Xavierian carries within – to stand by the disadvantaged sections of our society, especially children.

College Principal, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ was overwhelmed to see the big field transform into a mela ground wearing a festive look, despite the prediction of thunderstorm and heavy rain. In his address Father told the children, **“Aamra aajke khub khushi karon tomra ekhane eshecho. Eta tomader baarir moto. Adando korbe ar bhobhishote ei College e porte ashbe tomader didi dada der moto”** (We are very happy today because you all have come to our campus. We want you to feel at home and enjoy here and in future you will come to study here like your das and didis). Fr. Rector along with Fr. Principal, Vice Principals, Faculty and Alumni members declared the Shishu Mela open by releasing balloons and adding value to this extension and outreach activity.

Over **250 College students** from **18 UG departments** ensured the safety, security, and entertainment of these children inside the campus. There were stall games, sports activity, art corner, and a live stage and the children just enjoyed themselves, won prizes and most importantly bonded with the College didis and das, motivating one other. The children went back with goddie bags, food packets and a lot of smiles. One student of Bodhona, an NGO for especially abled children, waved goodbye saying, **“Agami bhochor aabar achbo”**, (Next year we will come again), which made everyone emotional. **“We have so much, and we are so privileged, yet we complain and keep wanting more, but see how happy these children are with so little to survive,”** shared an emotional outgoing student volunteer.

The theme, **“Every Child Matters – building an Inclusive Generation”** came full circle at St. Xavier’s where we showcased our belief in this mega event. We are grateful to all our well-wishers and benefactors who supported us in this noble cause.

#### **Testimonials from the Carnival**

**“This is my first time at St. Xavier’s College. I played a lot of games and won a lot of prizes. I want to come for Shishu Mela every year.”** – Soumya Bharti, a seven-year-old girl from Queen of the Mission afternoon School.



***“The moment the teachers at Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) shared about Shishu Mela, I enrolled my son’s name. Here each and every child was welcomed by the students with a lot of love and care. My son enjoyed the Mela, especially the Art Corner.”*** – Subhojit Sil’s mother from IICP.

***“A special word of thanks to Cheryl ma’am for inviting Society for Indian Children’s Welfare (SICW) for Shishu Mela every year. All our children enjoyed the Mela and there was one child who travelled from Nadia to be part of this Mela. Thanks to the NSS department for giving so much joy to the children.”*** – Shilu Pathak, Education Coordinator, SICW

***“Didi, ei dekho ami notun jaama pore eshechi Shishu Mela teh. Amar favourite Mela eta. Ami aaj stage eh uthe naach korbo. Ami proti bochor January maash thekei wait kori Shishu Mela teh aasshar joinno.”*** (Didi, see I am wearing new clothes for Shishu Mela. This is my favourite Mela. Today I will be going up on stage to dance. Every January I eagerly wait to participate in Shishu Mela) – Kuheli Haldar, from Asha Niketan

***“Jerokom kono uthshob er jonno shara bochor amra wait kori, sherokome ami shara bochor wait kori kokhon Shishu Mela teh jaowar daakh paabo. Aaj ami onek dada didi der dekhlam, jara amader gram eh giyechilo bibhinno awareness session korte. Ami khub eee khushi holam jokhon tara amake naam dhore dekhe jigeshe korlo ami Kemon achi. Amio ekdin dada didider moton ei college eh porte ashbo.”*** – (Just like we eagerly await festivities, I wait for Shishu Mela. Today I met many *dadas* and *didis* who had gone to our village to conduct various awareness sessions. I was so happy when some of them called me by my name and asked me how I was doing. One day, I will study in this college just like them) Disha Mondal from Nurshikdarchowk village

***“Participating in Shishu Mela has been very emotional and personal for me. I was assigned duty with IICP children and I got an opportunity to relive the time I had spent with my late sister (who was special child). I am glad to be part of this celebration that promotes inclusivity and acknowledges the uniqueness of each and every child.”*** – Krish R Mansukhani, Commerce Morning

### **Impact**

1. Strengthened emotional and social bonds between college students and marginalized children, promoting empathy, mutual respect, and community engagement.
2. Encouraged aspirations among participating children to pursue higher education and feel a sense of belonging, as evidenced by their eagerness to return and dreams of studying at the college









**Children arrive at the College for the Mela**



**Children gather under the shamiana for the inaugural programme**





**Inaugural ceremony of Shishu Mela 2025**



**NSS team with the dignitaries on stage**





**Release of balloons – Declaring Shishu Mela open**



**Fr. Principal and other dignitaries at the Mela**







**Children enjoying a variety of activities during the Mela**



**Fun, Fun and more Fun for all the children**







Children enjoying sports activities during the Mela



'Every child matters – building an inclusive generation'







**Distribution of juices, goodie bags and lunch boxes for all participants of Shishu Mela**



**Children leaving the campus with their goodie bags, food packets, ice cream cups and sweet memories**



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## **TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 4: Celebrating International Women's Day - 'For All Women and Girls – Rights...Equality...Empowerment'**

### **Objective:**

1. To celebrate and empower rural women by fostering awareness on health rights, equality, and self-worth through interactive learning and cultural engagement.
2. To educate women on tuberculosis—its symptoms, treatment, and the importance of de-stigmatizing the disease—through expert-led sessions.

### **Brief Description**

On **16<sup>th</sup> March 2025**, the NSS department celebrated Women's Day at Shalpur village with **100 rural** women from Shalpur, Debipur and Nurshikdarchowk villages and **45 NSS volunteers**. The theme for the celebration was Women...Just Be... **'For All Women and Girls – Rights...Equality...Empowerment'**.

The department also organised an interactive awareness session on tuberculosis, in association with Bengal Tuberculosis Association. The resource person for the session was Dr. Ashim Kumar Majumdar who explained in depth about tuberculosis, its symptoms, how it spreads, ways to mitigate it and above all to not attach stigma to this disease. Dr. Majumdar made the session interesting by sharing his personal experiences with patients and their family members. The input session concluded with a brief Q & A session. The awareness session ended on the note, **"Tuberculosis mane mrityu noi, chikitsa korle chare"** (Tuberculosis doesn't mean death, with timely cure it gets better).

After a short break, the student volunteers put up cultural performances for the women. A blend of songs, dances and recitations kept the women entertained who responded with rounds of applause. A couple of games were held next in which the village women took part with enthusiasm. The venue echoed with laughter of the women as they actively engaged in the games with a competitive spirit.

During the feedback session, the women shared how fruitful the day was for them. Uma Maji from Debipur shared, **"Amra shikha pelam eta (tuberculosis) lukiye rakhar jinis noi, samne aante pari. Eii nari dibose ja sikha pelam tar jonno amra kritoggo."** (We learned today that tuberculosis isn't something to be kept hidden, we can bring it to light. We are grateful for the lessons we got to know today on the occasion of women's day). Nilima Dolui from Shalpur village added, **"Jokha hole durre shoriye rekhe debo, seta korbo na. shothek chikitsa korabo arrr shustho thaakbo"**. (We tend to isolate tuberculosis patients, we won't do that anymore. We will seek proper treatment and stay well). While Jayati Nath of Nurshikdarchok cheerfully added, **"Eki routine theke aaj ke ektu onno korom anondo pelam"** (it was a good break from the mundane routine). Janhavi Acharya, a first-year Biotechnology student shared, **"Apnader hashi mukh, bhalobasha tai amader aajker khub boro paona. Apnarai asol hero"**. (Your smiles and love have made our day. You all are the real heroes).

The women received lunch boxes and goodie bags as they left the ground, each to their own houses after a day filled with new learnings, enjoyment and joyous smiles.

### **Impact**

1. Enhanced awareness among rural women about tuberculosis, leading to a shift in attitudes from fear and stigma to informed acceptance and willingness to seek treatment.
2. Created a safe, festive space that uplifted the mental and emotional well-being of rural women, reinforcing their sense of agency and value in the community.





**St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  
NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME - UNIT I  
UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN



IS OBSERVING

**Women's Day 2025**



**WOMEN...JUST BE..**

16th March 2025

Venue: Shalpurkur

Time: 10.00 am onwards

**"For All Women and Girls -  
Rights... Equality... Empowerment..."**



**St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  
NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME - UNIT I  
UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN



IS CONDUCTING



**TUBERCULOSIS  
AWARENESS SESSION**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

**BENGAL TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION**



AT

**SHALPUKUR VILLAGE**

ON

**16TH MARCH 2025**





**Dr. Ashim Kumar Majumdar conducting an interactive awareness session on tuberculosis at Shalpokur village**



**Women and NSS volunteers attending the awareness session**







Q & A session



Women's Day celebration at Shalpurkur village







**Cultural programme for the rural women by NSS volunteers**



**Women enjoying the games**







**Women receiving goodie bags and food packets**



**A day well spent!**

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## TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 5: Anti-tobacco Awareness

### Objective:

1. To educate students on the dangers of tobacco consumption and encourage them to become advocates for a tobacco-free society.
2. To engage youth in creative expression through a poster competition, reinforcing anti-tobacco messaging and awareness.

### Brief Description

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the rural campus, in collaboration with the South 24 Parganas Health and Family Welfare Samiti, organized an Anti-Tobacco Awareness Campaign. The event aimed to educate students on the harmful effects of tobacco and promote a tobacco-free society. Distinguished guests from the Department of Health and Family Welfare — Dr. Srikanta Chakraborty, Dr. Mouli Gupta, Dr. Sushmita Jha, and Mr. Prasenjit Bera — led an insightful awareness session. They discussed the health risks of tobacco use and shared preventive strategies. Students engaged actively during the interactive discussion.

A poster competition followed, where over 30 students showcased creative and impactful messages. Winners were recognized for their efforts. With 100 students participating, the campaign raised awareness and inspired youth to take a stand against tobacco.

### Impact

1. Increased awareness among students about the health hazards of tobacco, leading to more informed choices and potential peer influence against its use.
2. Empowered students to participate in public health advocacy through active dialogue and creative campaigns, fostering long-term behavioural change.



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### **Next Action Plan – April to June 2025**

<b>Sl. no.</b>	<b>Activity to be conducted</b>
1.	Observe World Environment Day – 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
2.	Observe International Day of Yoga – 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2025
3.	Organise Prayas Camp (Village to College initiative) – 19 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025

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