



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

PROGRESS REPORT

January – March 2022

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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: Coordination and networking:

Objective: To follow up on the activities planned with important stakeholders

Brief Description

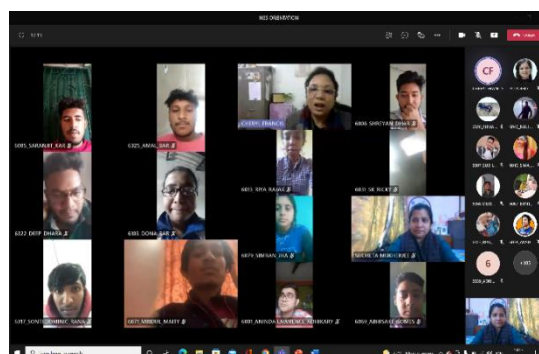
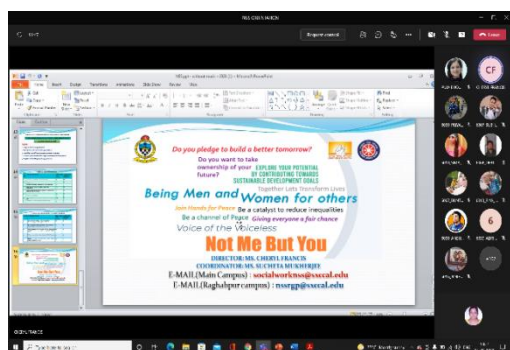
- i. Meeting with Vice Principal of Raghabpur campus:** On 27th January, a telephonic meeting was held with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. to discuss about UBA project. The meeting focussed on follow up with the BDO of Bishnupur Block I and discuss possible avenues for collaboration to take forward the activities under UBA. As a follow-up to this meeting, a strategy note on possible areas of collaboration with the BDO was submitted to the Vice Principal.
- ii. Coordination with SHG members of all adopted villages:** Around 2 telephonic calls were made with the SHG members of all adopted villages to touch base with them. During the calls, the staff enquired about the pandemic situation in the villages. Given the spread of COVID-19 in the adopted villages, it was decided to stall UBA related activities in the villages for the time being and resume once the situation improved.

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 2: Orientation for first year students of the rural campus on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan:

Objective: To create awareness about the UBA programme and its progress in the 5 adopted villages and the scope of student participation.

Brief Description

On 1st February 2022, around 120 students of Raghampur campus, across departments, attended an orientation on social outreach activities and the compulsory social credits which they would have to complete. The students were given an orientation and the progress about UBA which the college has been implementing since 2018, through PPT presentations. The students were encouraged to go beyond their social credit requirement and serve the society for the benefit of the marginalised sections. Towards the end, the students got an opportunity to clear their doubts and interact with the staff.



Orientations sessions in progress

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 3: Planning and networking with the West Bengal Commission for Women

Objective: To invite the Chairperson of the West Bengal Commission for Women as Chief Guest for celebrating International Women's Day for the SHG women of 5 adopted villages.

Brief Description

Coordination meetings:

- i. Meeting with Chairperson of West Bengal Commission for Women:** On 11th February 2022, the UBA Coordinator met Mrs. Leena Gangopadhyay, the Chairperson of West Bengal Commission for Women and invited her to be the Chief Guest for Women's Day celebration to be held on 13th March 2022 at the rural campus. Mrs. Gangopadhyay was given a brief background of the works undertaken by the college in the villages. Mrs. Gangopadhyay accepted the invitation and assured her presence.
- ii. Meeting with Vice Principal of Raghampur campus:** On 22nd February a meeting was organised with the vice principal of the rural campus on the following (i) Women's Day programme; (ii) resumption of Village Education Programme in the villages from the next semester; (iii) imparting skill training to the rural women. A detailed plan of action was made especially for the Women's Day celebration.
- iii. Meeting with women from adopted villages:** On 8th, 10th and 22nd February, the staff held meetings with SHG members of the 5 adopted villages to motivate and mobilise participants for the women's day programme to be held in March. This apart, the women were also encouraged to make use of the opportunities given by the Government for various training programmes.

- iv. A need assessment was conducted to understand the kind of training the women were interested in taking up. It was learnt that most women did not want to take up pisciculture training as they said that the men were more into pisciculture than women. Instead, they wanted to undergo training which they would be able to take up, considering their household responsibilities, like sewing, sanitary making etc. The younger ones were interested in beautician course.
- v. Meanwhile, capacity building and awareness sessions would be conducted for the SHG groups. For example, capacity building sessions would include training on how to schedule a meeting, preparing Agenda, writing minutes, taking attendance of all members, maintaining account book and the like. Awareness sessions would include legal aid awareness, awareness on government schemes for women etc. The women were happy and expressed their desire to receive such trainings which would make them more confident to manage the SHG groups well. It was decided that after the Women's Day celebration, such sessions would begin.



UBA coordinator with the Chairperson (middle)

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 4: International Women's Day Celebration

Objective: To bring together women from all the 5 villages together and up skill them so that they can earn and support their family as well as have an identity of their own.

Brief Description

International Women's Day was celebrated on 13th March 2022, for the women of 5 adopted villages, at the Raghampur campus. More than 150 women, who belong to the various SHGs under NRLM, joined the celebration, the theme being "Ei Akashe Aamar Mukti"

The Chief Guest for the programme was Mrs. Leena Gangopadhyay, Chairperson of the West Bengal Commission for Women. The Principal of the College, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, in his keynote address, mentioned the efforts and initiatives undertaken by the College to uphold the dignity of women, especially in the rural community. He reiterated the fact that St. Xavier's College was committed to bring about overall development of the villages and that the Raghampur campus was an example of that commitment. He said, "*More than 70% of students studying were females and that this rural campus was established with the objective of providing opportunities for higher education to the rural students especially girls.*" He assured the women present that there were several development projects which the college will begin soon, and which would help the village around this campus and in South

24 Parganas. ***“Our aim is to up skill our women so that they can earn and support their family as well as have an identity of their own”***, expressed the Principal.

Mrs. Leena Gangopadhyay, the Chief Guest, in her address, compared the Commission to an umbrella under which women from all walks of life were welcomed and nurtured. She said, ***“Each and every woman should be aware of their rights, and entitlements so that they can contribute towards building a strong and empowered society.”*** She cited examples of how the Commission helped women in distress and she expressed her desire to work closely with the college to conduct awareness sessions for the women of the rural areas.

To ensure the successful organisation of the Women’s Day programme several coordination meetings were conducted with for over a month beginning with permission from Fr. Principal and ensuring his presence, invitation to the Chief Guest, volunteer mobilization, women mobilization, cultural programme, Food arrangements and other logistics related to the venue.



Fr. Principal felicitating the Chief Guest



The Chief Guest joins to see the cultural performance



Cultural performance by the participants from the villages



TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 5: Follow up on compost making

Objective: To ensure that the SHG women who underwent training on compost making were able to make the compost on their own.

Brief Description

A meeting was conducted at Shalpokur village on 31st March 2022, with the women who had attended the in-depth training on compost making and organic kitchen garden in March 2021. The 15 women present, were encouraged to practice whatever they had learnt in their training. They shared that the compost which they had prepared last year, and were happy with the produce. However, they could not continue with the winter crops due to the following reasons: (a) Back-to-back rains, cyclones resulting in flooding (b) lack of commitment from other team members (c) Lack of availability of raw materials to prepare the compost. Nevertheless, the women have agreed to begin making the compost within a week.



The trainees who were motivated to begin compost making along with UBA coordinator (extreme right)

Next Action Plan

Sl. no.	Activity to be conducted
1.	Follow-up with the SHG members on the compost making
2.	To form core team among students and conduct orientation and leadership training to take forward all the activities
3.	Networking with all villages to prepare for implementation of village education programme
4.	To organise International Environment Day for students and village partners
4	To organise Yoga Day for village partners
