



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

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**October – December 2021**

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

**LIST OF ACTIVITIES**

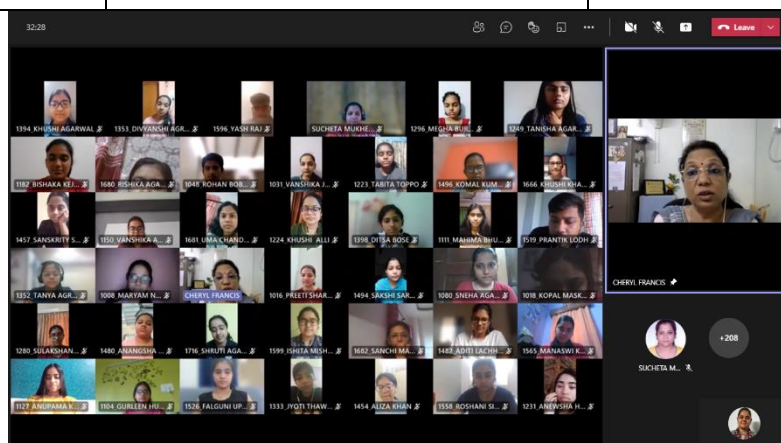
**TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 1: ORIENTATION ABOUT UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS**

**Objective:** To orient the students about the UBA projects and motivate them to participate in the same.

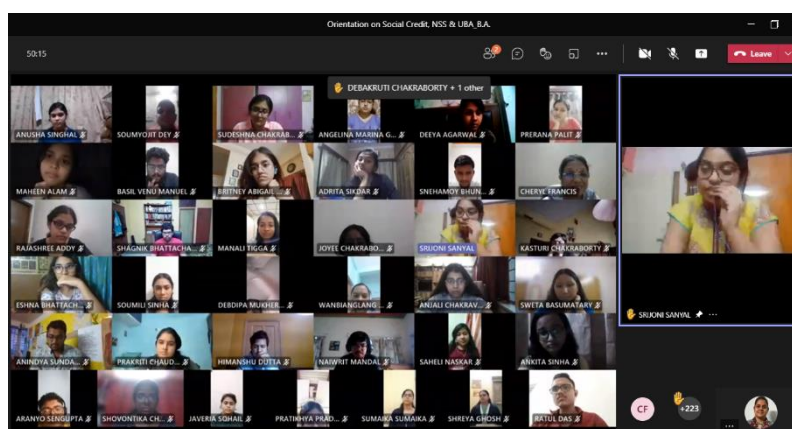
**Brief Description:** On 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October, an in-depth orientation was conducted for more than 1400 first year students on UBA projects. During the session the students were oriented about the various projects related to UBA and the initiatives undertaken by the college as a Participating Institute by Ms. Cheryl Francis (UBA Coordinator). They were also encouraged to participate in such activities and contribute their bit in rural development by utilizing their skills and enhancing the same in process.

Below is a snapshot of the participants:

Sl. No.	Date	Department	No. of students
1.	4 <sup>th</sup> October	Commerce- Morning	325
2.	5 <sup>th</sup> October	Commerce – Evening	486
3.	5 <sup>th</sup> October	B.A	224
4.	8 <sup>th</sup> October	B. Sc	204
5.	9 <sup>th</sup> October	B.Sc	178
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1417</b>



Ms. Cheryl Francis interacting with students during the session



A student sharing her thoughts during the session

## **TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 2: ‘CHILDREN FOR ENVIRONMENT’ - CELEBRATING CHILDREN’S DAY 2021.**

**Objective: To celebrate children’s day with focus on environment**

### **Brief Description:**

The ongoing pandemic impacted almost everyone in its stride and it is the Children who were the hardest hit. With schools closed for over 18 months and children cooped up at home with no scope of meaningful engagement, this year’s Children’s Day had to be a time of joy for children from adjoining villages. Following all COVID-19 protocols, the department organised a *Sit and Draw Competition* with the theme *Children for Environment* on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for a limited number of children from classes V to X from three adopted villages of Bakeswar, Magurkhali and Raghampur. These children were mobilised through the SHG groups with whom the department closely worked. They were happy and felt involved. They took the responsibility of bringing the children and taking them back to their respective homes.

The usually quiet Raghampur campus became alive with the incessant laughter and chatter of about 65 children. Around eight volunteers from Raghampur campus were present too. The children were divided into three groups according to their classes and given topics for the competition. The three topics were: (i) Group 1 (Classes V and VI) – **Our Environment**; (ii) Group 2 (Classes VII and VIII) - **Life under water**; and (iii) Group 3 (Classes IX and X) - **Save Environment**. All the children were provided a drawing kit for the competition.

Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J.’s (Vice-Principal of Raghampur campus) in his message for the children encouraged them to be obedient to elders, enjoy playtime with friends and continue with their education. Father, also told the children that in the near future they will be called to the campus more frequently for a time of learning and joyful engagement with the students of the College. Ma’am Cheryl Francis thanked the five SHG members (from the aforementioned villages) for their hard work and support in mobilising the children.

Before the close of the programme, Rohit Makal, a class V student of Bakeswar village shared, *“Amar drawing korte khub bhalolage, aaj St. Xavier’s College eh escheami je ei drawing competition eh bhagniteparechi tar jonnoamikhubkhusi. Ami aroesteh chai college eh aar dada didi der sathealaapkorte chai”* (I love to draw, I am very happy to come to St Xavier’s College today and participate in this drawing competition. I want to come to College more often and spend time with *dada* and *didis*). On the other hand, Neha Rong a class X student from Magurkhali village shared, *“Aaj drawing kortekorte, amiaroswachetanholam je amaderprotekerdaietto ache amaderporibeshrokhakorar”*. (While drawing I became aware that we all have our responsibility to safeguard our environment). The programme came to a close with a promise that all will meet soon in the campus with more such activities for the children. Besides the drawing kit, the children also got two food packets before they left the campus.

It was an emotional day for the staff, as they met the children after a long period of time. The smiles on their faces and the ray of hope in their eyes to get back to school motivated the staff to further organise such events for small groups of children in the coming months.



Looking forward to an exciting day



Children awaiting their turn



The inauguration in progress



Fr. Johnson Padiyara S.J. welcoming the children



Volunteers getting the children prepared



Get Set Go



Drawing session in progress



This is my take



Let's save our environment



Showcasing their talents



Prize Distribution Ceremony

Sharing their experience



The Final take

The smile says it all



**This is my take**



**The Prize Winners**



**The Panoramic view**

### **TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 3: 'LET'S CARE & SHARE' - CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WITH ADOPTED VILLAGES**

**Objective:** To celebrate the festive season with children from adopted villages.

#### **Brief Description:**

In all the adopted villages (including 5 UBA villages), the department, under NSS conducted 'Let's Care and Share – Celebrating the joy of Christmas' – an annual programme. Keeping the pandemic situation in mind and maintaining COVID-19 protocols, the department reached out to the children in two phases. During the first phase, on 12<sup>th</sup> December, around 200 children (in the age group of 14 to 17 years) from Bakeswar, Debipur, Nurshikdarchowk, Raghampur and Shalpokur were invited to Raghampur campus. The second phase was held on 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December in Nurshikdarchowk, Debipur and Shalpokur villages respectively wherein another 200 children of the age group of 9 to 13 years participated.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, the rural campus in Raghampur resounded with the cheerful laughter of the children as they enjoyed themselves during the programme. The programme commenced with dances wherein children from Bakeswar, Debipur and Shalpokur villages performed. This was followed by a magic show and a talking doll show organised by the College Alumni Association. The children were pleasantly surprised when they saw an 8-year-old performing magic for them. Magic Queen Mimi stole the show with her dexterous magic performances and kept the audience rapt in awe. The talking doll show had the children roll in laughter and requested the performer, Mr. Pintu, for more.

Our principal, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, S.J. graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and was accompanied by Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J., Vice Principal of Raghampur campus and other administrative staff of the College. The Vice Principal, on behalf of the college welcomed the children along with all the other dignitaries. Father Principal in his address said, ***“Christmas means bringing God in our hearts. Let's celebrate Christmas together by sharing love and kindness with everyone”***. He further encouraged the children to study hard and take admission in St. Xavier's College for their higher education. Towards the end of the programme, all the village contact persons and some SHG members from the six villages were acknowledged for their hard work and cooperation. As a token of gratitude, on behalf of the college, Fr. Principal handed over some gifts to the women.

Ma'am Cheryl Francis (the UBA Coordinator), thanked all present and all who worked tirelessly to make the programme meaningful for the children. She especially thanked the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association for supporting this initiative. The children headed home gleefully with a gift bag and a food packet with the hope of pursuing their higher education in the college. This was rightly pointed out by Sushmita Patra, a class IX student from Debipur village, as she shared, ***“Amar ekhane eshe khub bhalo lagche, ami Father er kotha moton, khub bhalo kore pora kore, ei College ei porbo.”(I am very happy to have participated in this programme. I will follow Father's advice and study hard so that I can study in this College later).***

The second phase saw participation of around 200 children from the three villages of Debipur, Nurshikdarchowk and Shalpokur who were encouraged to spread love, kindness and joy among each other. The children expressed their keenness to meet their 'dada's' and

'*didi's*' who helped them in their school curriculum during Village Education Programme pre-pandemic. The SHG members and village contact persons assured full cooperation to the college for all forthcoming programmes. They also appreciated the efforts of the college in reaching out to the marginalised with education.

This year we were able to reach out to almost 400 children to Share & Care and let them know that they were the extended family of St. Xavier's College and that we look forward to seeing them in college one day.

This initiative helped the department to build rapport with the children and SHG members, which would facilitate smooth implementation of rural development activities in the future. Within the next three months the College would conduct meetings with the BDO and other important stakeholders to carry forward all initiatives under UBA. Since there had been a gap due to the pandemic in the past two years, in 2022 we hope to resume our educational initiative with the children of the villages so that the learning gap can be dealt with at the earliest.



**Beginning the day with a word of prayer**



**Welcome Address by Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara S.J.**



**Cultural Programme by the children**



**Magic Show & Talking Doll show mesmerized the audience**





**Fr. Principal blessing the gift bags**



**Let's Care and share**



**Distribution of gift bags in progress**



**Felicitating Father Principal on behalf of NSS department**



**Christmas message by Fr. Principal**



**Felicitation of village contact persons of our adopted villages by Fr. Principal**





Let's Care & Share



**Let's Care & Share: Christmas Celebration at Debipur, Shalpokur & Nurshidarchowk**



Prayer song by children



Cultural Programme

**Next Action Plan**

<b>Sl. no.</b>	<b>Activity to be conducted</b>
<b>1.</b>	Follow-up with the SHG members of the training programme on organic kitchen garden conducted in Shalpokur village will be continued along with preparation of organic compost making for next season. All activities will be implemented based on the COVID situation.
<b>2.</b>	Networking with stakeholders of Bakeswar, Magurkhali & Raghampur villages to be continued to initiate the VDP - Village Education Programme. All activities will be implemented based on the COVID situation.
<b>3.</b>	Need-Based training will be planned and conducted for capacity building of the SHG members of the adopted villages. All activities will be implemented based on the COVID situation.

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