



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

PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

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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: NSS Special Camp in collaboration with UBA Cell

Objective:

- i. To create awareness about digital space and its impact on the youth
- ii. To create awareness about ill-effects of single use plastics and the importance of waste management
- iii. Inculcate leadership and teamwork amongst the students and rural youth

Brief Description

The NSS Unit I of the college, in collaboration with the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Cell, conducted the residential NSS Special Camp 2024 from 24th to 30th October at its rural campus. The camp witnessed the participation of 42 volunteers and 45 youth from UBA network villages such as Debipur, Magurkhali, Raghabpur, Nurshikdarchowk, Shalpukur, and Bolorampur High School. The theme of the camp was "The Digital Generation: Strengths and Challenges."

The camp provided a platform for participants to critically examine how the internet shaped their lives, highlighting its potential benefits and challenges. Through interactive sessions, the volunteers and youth shared their online experiences, promoting peer learning and meaningful discussions. One of the sessions focused on 'Responsible Gender Expression in the Digital Era' which was facilitated by Destiny Foundation (an NGO). This session encouraged participants to explore myths and realities surrounding gender roles in the digital space. On another camp day, both the rural youth and the campers delved deep into the complexities of gender-based

violence, the deep influence of internet and ways to mitigate the same. the N volunteers discussed the strengths and challenges of digital generation with the rural youth and encouraged them to make their presentations, which was very encouraging.

The campers also undertook a **cleanliness drive** at Nepulgunge Haat and in Magurkhali and Bakeswar villages wherein they cleared single use plastics from the market place and village roads. A village exposure visit was organised as well in one of the network village of the College – Nurshikdarchowk, wherein campers got an idea about the rural realities and day to day struggles of the rural community. The volunteers spent quality time with the village children listening to them and encouraging them to continue their higher education.

Impact – The Camp significantly impacted all the stakeholders, fostering mutual growth and awareness. For the rural youth, the camp provided a platform to learn about critical issues such as digital literacy, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. The exposure to leadership, teamwork, and social responsibility left a lasting impression on the rural youth, motivating them to take proactive steps in their communities.

The cleanliness drives in Magurkhali & Bakeswar villages, and Nepalgunge Haat inspired behavioural change among villagers, encouraging them to adopt better waste management practices and reduce single-use plastics. For the volunteers, the camp was a transformative experience. Engaging with the marginalized sections of society enhanced their empathy, resilience, and problem-solving skills. Many volunteers expressed a newfound sense of responsibility and purpose, recognizing their role as changemakers in society.

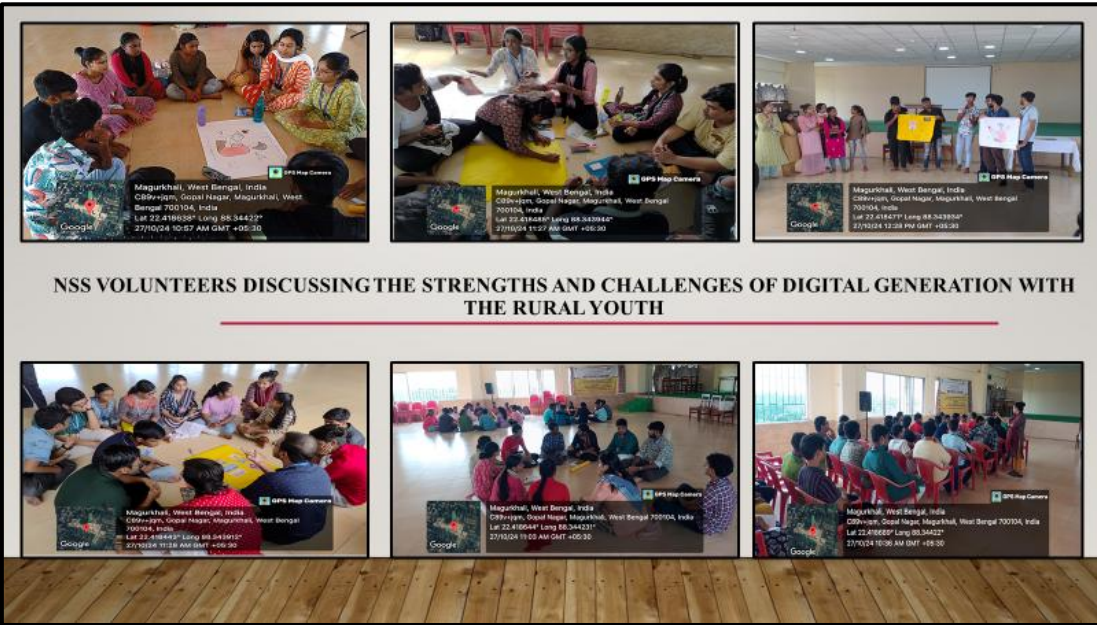
The event also strengthened ties between St. Xavier’s College and the local villages, promoting unity, harmony, and mutual respect. Overall, the camp served as a catalyst for personal growth, social awareness, and community development, leaving a meaningful and enduring impact on all involved.







THE CAMPERS UNDERTOOK A CLEANLINESS DRIVE IN MAGURKHALI AND BAKESWAR VILLAGES



NSS VOLUNTEERS DISCUSSING THE STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL GENERATION WITH THE RURAL YOUTH



CAMPERS ENGAGED IN A SPIRITUAL SESSION AND YOGA



DESTINY FOUNDATION TOOK A SESSION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND THE DEEP INFLUENCE OF INTERNET ON THE YOUTH



THE CAMPERS UNDERTOOK A CLEANLINESS DRIVE AT NEPALGUNGE HAAT AND CREATED AWARENESS ABOUT THE ILL EFFECTS OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC



NNS VOLUNTEERS INTERACTING WITH THE VILLAGE CHILDREN OF NURSHIKDARCHOWK



NSS VOLUNTEERS AND THE YOUTH SHARING ABOUT THEIR LEARNINGS FROM THE CAMP



NSS VOLUNTEERS SHARING KEY LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE CAMP AND THE IMPACT OF THE RURAL YOUTH ON THEM



UNITY DAY WALK: PROMOTING THE MESSAGE OF UNITY, PEACE, AND HARMONY AMONG THE PEOPLE





VALEDICTORY CEREMONY: CONCLUSION OF THE NSS SPECIAL CAMP 2024



SOME CANDID MOMENTS FROM THE CAMP



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TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 2: Children's Day celebration with rural children

Objective: To organize a fun day for the children

Brief Description

On 15th November, 33 volunteers organized Children's Day celebration at Bakeswar village for 40 rural children. The volunteers and children bonded over lively *adda* (casual conversations), engaging games, and vibrant cultural performances. The highlight of the day was the performance by two volunteers dressed as jokers, who brought an extra dose of joy and laughter to the celebration. The children participated enthusiastically in all activities, showcasing their talents alongside the volunteers.

Impact:

The celebration succeeded in spreading cheer and fostering a sense of togetherness. Both urban and rural children felt special and valued, while the volunteers gained a deeper understanding of the importance of creating joyful experiences for young minds.



Entertainment, games, and *adda* at Bakeswar village on 15th November 2024





TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 3: Network meeting with village contact persons of Debipur village

Objective: To network with the village contact persons for smooth implementation of UBA programme

Brief Description

On 22nd November 2024, the UBA Coordinator organized a pivotal network meeting with the key contact persons of Debipur village. This meeting marked a significant step toward strengthening community engagement and fostering youth-led initiatives in the village. The primary agenda was to discuss the establishment of dedicated youth groups in the village, envisioned as a driving force for positive change. These groups would be instrumental in spearheading awareness programs and grassroots projects focusing on critical issues such as environmental sustainability, digital literacy, gender equality, mental and physical health. It was discussed that a follow-up meeting will be held in the next quarter to take this initiative forward.

Impact – This meeting underlined the shared commitment of the UBA Cell and the village community to building a self-reliant and informed society.

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 4: Mentoring other UBA Participating Institute

Objective: To share the journey of UBA cell at St. Xavier’s College with the new PI

Brief Description

On 17th December 2024, a mentoring meeting was held between Prof. Cheryl Francis, the UBA Coordinator of St. Xavier’s College and Dr. Kundu, the UBA coordinator of Loreto College. During the meeting, Prof. Francis shared the rural development journey of the College under UBA and explained how faculty and students are continuously motivated to be part of this initiative.

Impact – The new PI became well versed with the UBA framework and ways to engage faculty and students for UBA programme.

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY 5: Let's Share and Care – Celebrating the joy of Christmas

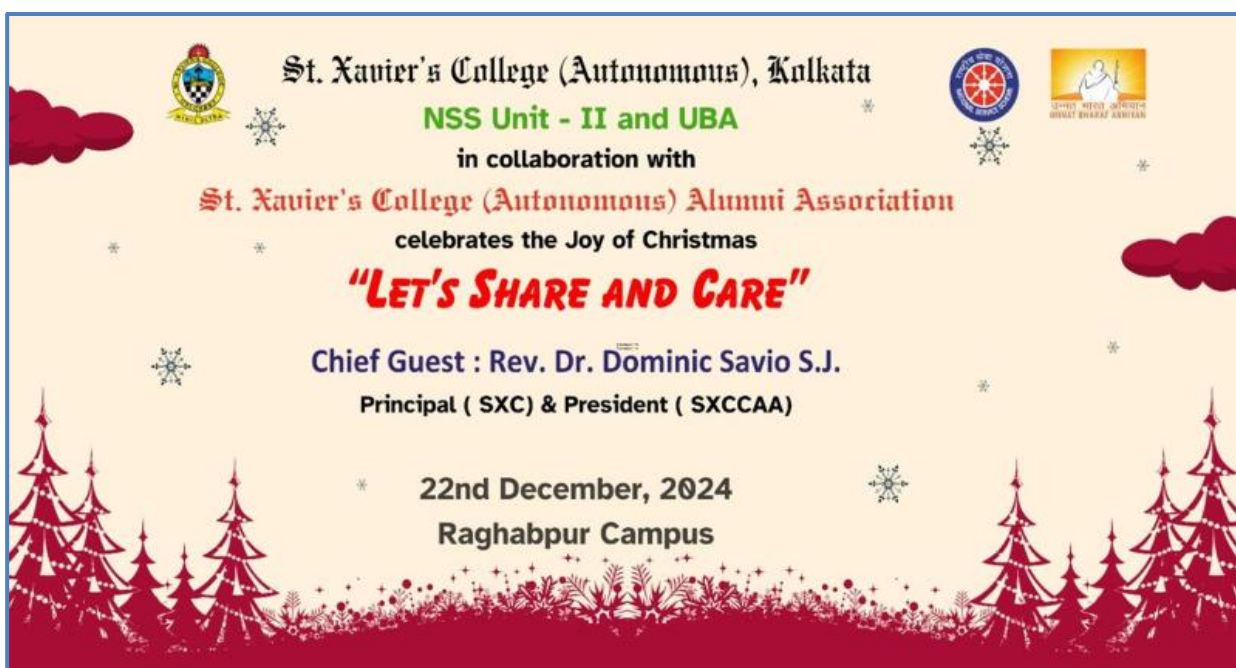
Objective: To uphold the spirit of caring and sharing

Brief Description

On **22nd December 2024**, the **UBA Cell** in collaboration with the **NSS Unit-II** and the **St. Xavier's College Alumni Association (SXCCAA)**, organized "**Let's Share and Care**" at the Raghampur Campus. This initiative, centered on fostering the spirit of sharing and community support, aimed at spreading joy and Christmas cheer among underprivileged children.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from **28 volunteers, 260 children** from the **network villages of Debipur, Raghampur, Magurkhali, and Bakeswar**, aged between 10 and 15 years. Specifically, 74 children came from Debipur, 73 each from Raghampur and Magurkhali, and 32 from Bakeswar. Goodie bags filled with Christmas gifts, courtesy of the SXCCAA, were distributed to all these children. In addition, **130 goodie bags** were distributed to the younger students of **Swapno Chhoya Model School**, located near **Pailan**, catering to children aged 3 to 9 years. Another **110 goodie bags** were distributed to primary school children of **Paikhala Primary School**.

Impact – The "Let's Share and Care" program brought joy and Christmas cheer to over 500 underprivileged children through gift distribution, fostering inclusivity and community spirit. It also encouraged volunteerism and highlighted the role of educational institutions in driving social impact.





Let's Share and Care programme at Paikhala village– Spreading Christmas cheer among the children



Let's Share and Care programme at the rural campus – Spreading Christmas cheer among the children





Fr. Principal, Fr. Vice Principals and other dignitaries handing over the goodie bags to the children



Spreading Christmas cheer at Swapno Chhoya Model School Pailan



Next Action Plan – January to March 2025

Sl. no.	Activity to be conducted
1.	To organise National Youth Day programme on 12 th January 2025 for the college students emphasising their role in nation-building.
2.	To organise annual carnival (Shishu Mela) for the rural children on 23 rd February 2025.
3.	To organise Women’s Day programme for the rural women of the network villages in March 2025
4.	To initiate Project Amader Pukur, Amader Pran (Our Pond, Our Life) in the network villages starting with one village at a time from January 2025 onwards. Objective: To clear ponds of plastic and other harmful waste that is detrimental to aquatic life.
