

## NSS SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

The National Service Scheme Unit of Loreto College, Kolkata has organized 21 activities from May 2023- May 2024 under the guidance of Society Staff Advisors and overwhelming support from over 400 student volunteers. The Unit began its tenure by organizing a series of activities to celebrate World Environment Day 2023.

The first segment involved a ‘Campus and Canteen Clean Up’ activity conducted on May 27, 2023 within the college campus in keeping with the World Environment Day theme #BeatPlasticPollution. This was followed by an ‘Oath Taking Ceremony’ organized on June 3, 2023. The college Principal, Sr. Dr. Christine Coutinho, the society Staff Advisors, the Student Council, and other students came together to recite a pledge that advocated the goals and aims of Mission LiFE and focused on the reduction of single-use plastic usage, the judicious utilization of natural resources, and the conscious minimization of carbon emissions and wastage. ‘No Plastic Day’ campaign was conducted as the college canteen used paper plates to serve food. Processed food items packed in plastic such as chips, biscuits, and soft drinks were made unavailable. Students were also encouraged to bring their own steel cutlery from home as the canteen did not provide plastic cutlery. Some students even carried metal water bottles to promote the message of sustainability. The final segment was held in collaboration with the Department of B.Ed. and the W. E. Nature Society. A documentary screening was organized on June 17, 2023 in the college hall. The documentary showcased the problem of plastic pollution in oceans as well as various possible solutions. Around 80 volunteers along with the society Staff Advisors attended the screening and gained valuable insights into this pressing environmental issue. At the end of the activity, okra seeds were distributed among the students. All four activities instilled in the students a sense of responsible citizenship and commitment to the Mission LiFE movement under India’s G-20 Presidency.



The Unit celebrated the 9th International Yoga Day on June 21, 2023 where volunteers were instructed to send pictures of themselves in different yoga poses along with their friends or family members. The second segment unfolded with 10 NSS volunteers showcasing rejuvenating asanas such as Padahasthasana, Chakrasana, and Hanumanasana. Around 60 volunteers who witnessed the event were deeply inspired as they watched their peers perform the asanas with confidence and grace. The last segment consisted of the Yoga Pledge with the vow to adopt a healthy lifestyle by including Yoga in one's daily schedule and encouraging family and friends to do the same.



The Unit organized programmes under the “Meri Maati Mera Desh” initiative to celebrate “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” in the institution following the instructions provided by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. The event was carried out in four segments. On August 3, 2023, the NSS Society observed Kargil Vijay Diwas through a special programme entitled “Maati Ka Naman, Veeron Ka Vandhan.” Colonel Ratnesh Kumar Singh, a distinguished member of the Indian Armed Forces and a Shaurya Chakra Awardee, was invited to the college and felicitated by the Principal, Sr. Dr. Christine Coutinho, and the Academic and Administrative Officer, Mrs. Sharmila Mitra Deb. Colonel Singh also shared his experiences in the Indian Army during the past 21 years and inspired the NSS volunteers by stating that even the smallest initiatives that are carried out with sincerity and integrity can be regarded as a form of service to the nation. The entire audience took the Panch Pran Pledge introduced by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, affirming each citizen's commitment to the country. The third segment of the event involved the planting of a sapling to mark the importance of conserving the soil and

greenery of the nation. The sapling planting segment was part of a larger drive conducted on July 26, 2023, when 25 NSS volunteers residing in different areas of West Bengal formed an “Amrit Vatika” by planting 75 saplings of Tulsi, Ashwagandha, and Neem to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. In the final segment, all the volunteers were informed about the YUVA Portal, an initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.



The Unit conducted a Quiz Competition on August 29, 2023 on the occasion of National Sports Day for the first time to celebrate the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. The event was organized in keeping with this year’s theme: “Sports as an enabler for a fit and inclusive society.” The programme ended with the participants and the audience collectively taking “The Fit India Pledge” that was introduced by the Prime Minister of India in 2019.



National Service Scheme Day or NSS Day is celebrated every year on the 24th day of September to mark the introduction of the scheme across the country. The Unit observed the day on September 23, 2023 by arranging for a Shramdaan Activity (physical efforts towards community welfare). A group of 10 volunteers visited St. Joseph's Old Age Home located at AJC Bose Road, Kolkata to offer their services to the elderly. The volunteers served meals to the elderly residents of the Home and assisted the staff in accomplishing daily chores such as washing and drying plates. The visit to the Home and the interactions with the amiable residents and staff members proved to be a fulfilling experience for the volunteers and fostered their sense of social responsibility and empathy.



The Unit organized a talk on September 27, 2023 to spread awareness on dengue and malaria and to encourage students to adopt suitable precautionary measures. The talk was led by Dr. Ramsha Sahir Ansari with around 80 NSS volunteers. Dr. Ansari lucidly explained the symptoms of



malaria and dengue, treatment methods, preventive measures, and other relevant information which was followed by an interactive session.

The Unit organized a series of clean-up drives in collaboration with Bhoomi Foundation in the month of September, 2023 to celebrate World Cleanup Day (September 16, 2023). Over a span of three days, more than 120 NSS volunteers participated in this clean-up drive, held on September 16th, 23rd and 30th, 2023. All the volunteers contributed by cleaning areas such as Park Street, Camac Street, Mirza Ghalib Street, and William Jones Sarani. Their ceaseless efforts in cleaning the adjoining areas despite extreme weather conditions indicated their dedication and enthusiasm towards the betterment of community life.

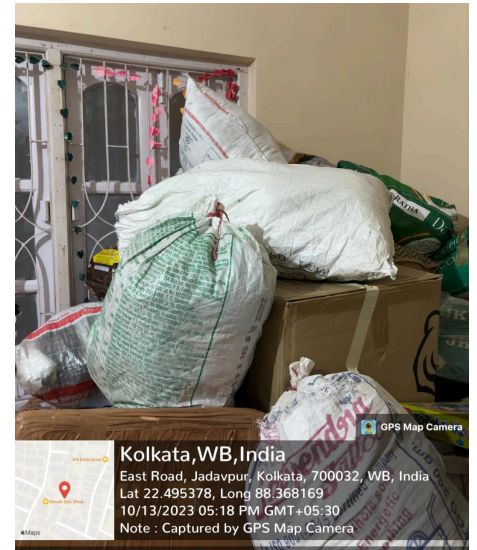
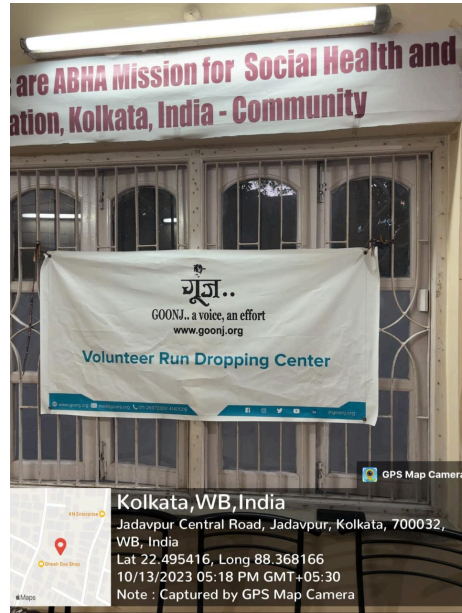


The Unit organized one hour of Shramdaan for Swacchata on October 1, 2023 as part of a nationwide effort towards a “Garbage Free India.” A group of 9 volunteers gathered at 10 AM at their hostel residence and collectively washed plates, wiped tables and floors, and cleaned the bathrooms. This activity enabled the volunteers to realize that cleanliness must be a shared responsibility. Following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, the Shramdaan activity helped to raise



awareness about the significance of cleanliness for good health and the importance of voluntary community participation in making “Garbage Free India” a reality.

The Unit in collaboration with the Social Service Society of the College organized “Joy of Giving Week” from October 2 to 13, 2023. All students of Loreto College generously donated items such as clothes, shoes, utensils, and toys, which were then handed over to the Goonj Foundation, Jadavpur. It proved to be an enriching experience for all the volunteers.



The Unit took the initiative of spreading awareness and joy during the festive season. On October 13, 2023, a group of 11 NSS volunteers visited Bal Shiksha Sadan, a Government Primary School located at Mother Teresa Sarani, Kolkata, to spread awareness regarding the significance of Yoga in our daily lives. The activity ended with the distribution of stationery items donated by the faculty members of the college. The volunteers were immensely pleased to have the opportunity to spread happiness among the children.



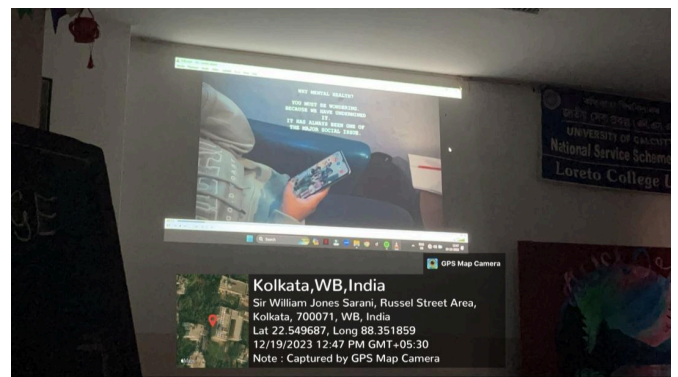
On October 16, 2023, three volunteers from the Unit participated in the Khadi Mahotsav Rally organized by the National Service Scheme Unit of Calcutta University. The rally began at the Calcutta University campus and ended at Scottish Church College. Approximately 50 volunteers from NSS Units of various colleges and universities in the city participated in this rally. The keynote speaker Mr. Gautam Majumder, representative of the Khadi Movement, began the seminar by talking about the initiative of making Khadi Mahotsav a pan-India event. The NSS Coordinators of Calcutta University, Professor Debarati Das and Professor Sritama Das, also spoke to the volunteers about the importance of Khadi. The speakers elaborated on the Prime Minister's campaign to make India Atmanirbhar, to follow the policy of "Vocal for Local" and "Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion," and to promote start-up initiatives involving Khadi and Gram Udyog Bhavan.



On December 1, 2023, the Unit observed World AIDS Day by organizing a talk to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS and dispel common myths associated with the disease. The talk was led by Dr. Yusra Mohiuddin and all the NSS volunteers of the college were invited to attend the talk. The talk enlightened the volunteers about the key difference between HIV and AIDS, the risk factors involved in the spread of the virus, and the available methods of prevention and treatment. The volunteers also took a pledge on December 4, 2023, through which they affirmed their commitment to educating themselves and others about HIV/AIDS in order to combat stigma, encourage testing, and work collectively towards the goal of HIV prevention.



The Unit conceptualized an event called "Socioscope" during Samagam 2024- the inter-college fest of Loreto College. The theme of the event was making a short film on any relevant social issue. Several colleges participated in this event that was judged by a renowned film director Mr. Abhijit Guha .The participating colleges showcased many relevant issues of the current time. Jadavpur University emerged as the winner while Loreto College bagged the runners up place.





The Annual Special Camp organized by the NSS unit of the college was held between January 8 and 15, 2024. After a preliminary survey, the unit decided to conduct the camp for the slum areas in and around Ramesh Mitra Road in Bhawanipore (Ward 72), Kolkata. The camp was held in the Children's Park within the larger Ladies' Park on Ramesh Mitra Road.

Apart from imparting basic lessons on Mathematics, English Grammar, Spoken English, and Social Etiquette, the NSS volunteers also organized awareness camps focusing on Dengue-Malaria, Human Trafficking, Hygiene, and Menstrual Hygiene. Mosquito repellents, sanitary napkins, exercise books, pens, pencils, crayon boxes, and chocolates were distributed in the slum areas. As a corollary to the Human Trafficking awareness camp, basic self-defense training was given to the children, especially the older girls, many of whom are students of the Adarsh Hindi High School situated close to the Park. The highlight of the camp was the National Youth Day celebration on January 12, 2024, when the children participated in a storytelling session and heard stories and anecdotes from the lives of inspirational figures from Bengal. A few students also enacted scenes from Swami Vivekananda's life. This was followed by a yoga session. As a continuation of the Youth Day celebration, an origami workshop was organized on January 13, followed by a sit-and-draw competition. Prizes were given out at the end of the competition.



The Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE) Cell in association with the NSS Unit visited Ramkrishna Old Age Home Trust located in Hari Ghosh Street, Shyambazar on 13th January 2024. Six volunteers of the college escorted by a professor provided voluntary service at the Home by interacting with the residents and asking them about their regular activities. They helped the staff serve tea to the elderly and also discussed the things they engage in during their leisure time.



In accordance with the directives of the UGC and the Central and State governments, the Department of Political Science and the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of the College organized an Ethical Voting Awareness Programme on March 6, 2024. This initiative targeted first-time voters among the undergraduate, B.Ed., and postgraduate students of the college. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by our Principal, Sr. Nirmala. Dr. Subhasree Basu (NSS Programme Officer) proceeded to articulate the primary objectives of the programme. A presentation on the fundamentals of electoral procedure was then delivered by Sayoni Choudhuri Patra (Head of the Department of Political Science). Subsequently, Advocate Andolan Sarkar engaged the students in an interactive session on the significance of electoral rights in India. The event proved to be highly informative for the attending students, providing a detailed insight into the importance of voting in a multi-party democracy like India. The students were also encouraged to take the First-Time Voters' Pledge and to create reels and upload selfies

on social media to promote voter awareness, following the recommendations of the Government of India.



The Unit in collaboration with Samobeto, a non-profit organization visited Jwalaberia Adibasi F. P. School located in South 24 Parganas on March 16, 2024. A team of 8 volunteers visited the school to engage and interact with around 60 students in the age group of 3–6. Various kinds of learning and interactive activities were conducted and the children also showcased their talents enthusiastically by reciting poems, singing, and dancing.



A group of 21 volunteers from the NSS Unit and Social Service Society of the college visited Bal Shiksha Sadan School on March 20, 2024 on the occasion of World Happiness Day. The

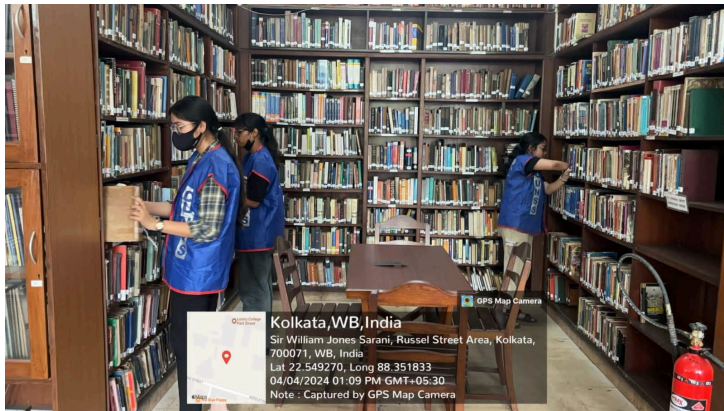


volunteers conducted activities such as the recitation of poems, singing, and dancing. Refreshments were also distributed among the students.

The Regional Directorate of NSS, Kolkata and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India in collaboration with the NSS Unit of Calcutta University organized an inter-college Elocution Competition for the "Yuva Samvad: India@2047". The theme of the event was "India's Panch Pran - A Youth Dialogue". The event was held at Charuchandra College on 21st March, 2024. 2 NSS volunteers from the Unit participated and secured 1st runners up and special mention.



The Unit organized a cleaning drive in the college library and common room on 4th April, 2024. This drive helped the students to appreciate the daily efforts of the facility staff in keeping the library and common room clean.



The W.E. Nature Society of the college in collaboration with the Unit organized a two- day mega event on 18th and 19th April 2024 to commemorate Earth Day. On Day 1 around 60 final year students actively participated and on Day 2, 8 schools all around the city were invited to our college to participate. All the schools demonstrated the eco- friendly objects that they had made and were applauded for their efforts.



The Blood Donation Camp, held on May 14th , 2024, was a collaborative effort between the Social Service Society and the Unit . The camp was held by the West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donation Association. It saw the participation of 48 donors from various departments and years. The donors underwent a thorough health check-up and were under the constant care of healthcare professionals throughout the camp.

