



2
0
2
2

J
U
N
E

49 Years Of Dedicated Community Service

From the *Director's* desk



Environment and Seva Kendra Calcutta are closely linked. Everything that SKC stands and works for is directly related to Environment. The saying goes, "Little drops make the mighty Ocean". In the same way SKC's efforts and all activities are small contribution towards a greener and cleaner Environment. Our Projects align with our vision and mission moving society and communities towards a healthier and a better world. Our unique projects like Improve Cooking Stove (ICS), Natural Resource Management (NRM), and Children Led Disaster Risk Reduction (CLDRR), talk about SKC's Commitment towards Environment. In our very own campus, the 'Brishti Hall' is an exemplary instance of Rain water harvesting system. Our rooftop solar panel helping us reducing carbon foot print every day. SKC's unique concept of urban home garden sets an example of a greener campus. All these tells, how environment and SKC are closely connected. This is the very reason why 'Seva Kendra Calcutta has chosen World Environment Day as its commencement point for the preparation of the 50th Golden Jubilee celebration. As we start preparation for SKC's Golden Jubilee, we

recall the long tradition of SKC's commitment towards humanitarian causes, making the societies a better place in future. Ever since it's conception SKC has tirelessly worked for human dignity, strengthening the weak, showing direction to the vulnerable and marginalized communities for a brighter future. We remember all the visionary leaders, committed staff, generous benefactors, well-wishers, stakeholders and beneficiaries. Seva Kendra Calcutta's success stories is built on sacrifices, hard work and selfless efforts of all these individuals and many more. It is because of them, Seva Kendra Calcutta is able to continue its Vision and Mission, undeterred. As Seva Kendra Calcutta is preparing to enter into its Golden Jubilee year of service towards Humanity, it looks forward to achieve the goal where the communities are committed to work for a better environment. This is the moment to reflect and emerge with more concrete approaches to empower the communities, so that community can care for community and meet new challenges of today and in future.

Vision

A self-reliant society based on peace, love and justice, respecting the human dignity and natural environment.

Mission

Building of a Harmonious Society, based on Cultural Ethos, inspired by Spiritual Heritage, Socially and Environmentally sound through Participatory Process.

About

Seva Kendra Calcutta is the Relief and Development arm of the Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta.

Established in 1973, the organization has diversified fields of activities within the scope of social development and intermediate technologies. Seva Kendra Calcutta works in eight districts of West Bengal state. It is noted for its result oriented and professional team of staff and volunteers. Over the years it has built a network of support agencies through strategic partnerships.

A Word of Gratitude to Our Donors

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our donors for their generosity and overwhelming support especially during the Covid 19 pandemic and other natural calamities.



WORLD EARTH DAY

World Environment Day



World Environment Day Celebration at SKC & launching the preparatory phase for the Golden Jubilee

On the 7th of June 2022, Seva Kendra Calcutta observed the World Environment Day along with the stakeholders with a lot of enthusiasm. This event also launched the preparatory phase for the Golden jubilee celebration at Seva Kendra Calcutta. Fr. Anthony Rodrick, Director, Seva Kendra Calcutta, welcomed all the guests and also spoke about the urgency with which we need to preserve our environment. Fr. Dominic Gomes (Vicar General) was invited to give the welcome speech, where he elaborated on the importance of the environment and that it is a gift given by God to the human being to nurture human lives. Mr. AjoyChoudhuri presented a 15 minutes animated video based on "The Story of Stuff", which depicts the system which is in crisis and the exploitation of natural and human resources. The community members and staff presented a dance. After which, the song on Environment, "Humko Hai Jagna" was played to generate awareness of the need to protect the environment. This song is now on YouTube for all to see and make people aware and take action now. There were presentations by the project staff on how the community spread awareness through rallies, planting saplings, and producing solar products. To close the program, our Director and Vicar General planted a sapling on our campus.

SCD & CE Project



The Community Empowerment Project and Sustainable Community Development Project of Seva Kendra Calcutta organized an awareness rally on the need to protect the environment for future generations on 3rd June 2022 for World Environment Day, which was held on 5th of June 2022. The aim of the rally was to educate people and urge them to abstain from using plastic and keep the environment clean. The platform for the rally was created to take up the issues related to climate change and the environment with the motto of protection (of trees, water bodies, and natural resources), conservation (of environment, forests, nature), and correction (of lifestyle and use of plastics). The participants of the rally held placards that carried messages on the protection of the environment, biodiversity and issues that are affecting the environment. Around 500 people, including children, women, youth from different communities, stakeholders, and the Sergeant of Entally and Tangra Police Stations, participated in the rally. An auto campaign was also organized and covered the route from Ward no. 56,57, 58 & 66. Through this auto campaign, we were able to reach approximately 80,000 families.



Swadhina II & CLF Project



The Swadhina II (The Freedom) and CLF Project commemorated World Environment Day on June 5, 2022, at Swarupnagar Block in North 24 Parganas District. It was declared "People's Day by doing something good to take care of Mother Earth". Every year, World Environment Day is commemorated with a different theme. This year's theme was Water, Air Pollution, and Tree Preservation. The themes were applied by raising environmental awareness and responsibility among parents and students. Several awareness activities were organized based on safe environment, bicycle use, and groundwater recharge through miking. A drawing competition and 500 saplings were distributed to raise awareness. A short skit based on "Conservation of our Natural Resources to beat Air pollution" was performed to make the event a successful one.

Uttoran Project



Uttoran-3 project celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June in their project locations in 3no Borokhakri GP of Nayagram Block of Jhargram district of West Bengal by village level community orientation on save our Mother Earth from Pollution and organized rallies with the support of community volunteers and school students in their respective villages with slogan save mother earth from pollution and placard. Distributed 180 saplings to the community and 20 saplings to the school, students planted the saplings in their name with a tag and in the name of their retired school teacher at the school premises and swore an oath that they will take care of their own tree. With this the World Environment Day was concluded.



WORLD EARTH DAY

ICS Project



ICS project celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June in the project area Keshiary and Datan-1 Block of West Midnapore. The project itself is based on saving the environment from the fatal air pollution due to the kitchen smoke; it helps install Improved Cooking Stoves in households to prevent health hazards and from the pollution. It provided a positive change for the community, the event turned out to be an opportunity to showcase love to our Mother Earth. Our Mother Earth faces many problems such as pollution due to the increasing development of the industrial areas and the impact of climate change, the pollution of air, land and water, and the resulting loss of biodiversity. 50 saplings were distributed among the community, 350 saplings and 100 saplings respectively were distributed to Datan-1 block and Keshairy block for developing Mini Forests and 5 fruit saplings were planted by the school children in their name at their school. The motive to spread awareness among the community about the effects of climate change was fulfilled at the end with a note of realization among the community to save our earth.

Asha Ki Kiran



The World Environment Day, was celebrated on 5th June 2022 by the students of the Project 'Asha Ki Kiran' at SKC's Balihati Training and Research Center- Rupnarayanpur, in West Midnapore District, with the theme 'Only One Earth'. There was a Sit and Draw Competition and Recitation of slogans and poems on the theme to 'Save and heal our Planet Earth' by this young generation. Each child of this educational coaching center has put their best to portray their own message through their songs and drawings, it was indeed a very meaningful celebration.

NRM Project



The World Environment Day celebration 2022 was observed in 40 villages and in 9 GPs in the districts of West Midnapur and Jhargram, with the theme 'Only One Earth', and focusing on our role as the citizens of the Earth, to protect the environment and to encourage sustainable living through the small actions and initiatives of these rural inhabitants. The key events of the day were rallies with slogans and placards, songs composed in their local languages, a Climate Literacy program, distribution of 500 saplings and 500 Cotton bags with the message, 'say no to plastic and yes to cotton bags'. A total of 786 community members, 37 GP officials, and 84 students actively participated in the Celebration of the World Environment Day, to show their love, harmony, and deep concern for nature.

Celebration of World Environment Day at Bankisole



The Educational Project for the Tribal Children at Bankisole, implemented by Seva Kendra Calcutta in Jhargram Districts, for the first time, celebrated World Environment Day on 5th of June 2022, in this remote location. The theme of the celebration was 'Only One Earth'. Here it was observed as the 'People's Day for doing something good to take care of the Mother Earth. It was a local platform to show their love and concern for our Planet Earth. It was really a great to see how the Tribal children and their parents gathered around the Bankisole Community Center to participate in this great event by conducting various events like speeches and songs in their local languages, plantation program, and cotton bags distribution.



Father's Day Celebration



The Sustainable Community Development and Community Empowerment Project of Seva Kendra Calcutta organized a program on the 20th of June to celebrate Father's Day. The objective of the program was to realize and honor our father's contribution to the society. It is a day that celebrates fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the efforts of male parents towards their family and community. Through a video, skit, and dance, the participants understood the importance of their role in their families and also in the society. The event motivated and encouraged them to be a better father to their child and set an excellent example for the community. A total number of 80 participants took part in this celebration.

Covid 19 Response Relief Distribution for the Children



On the 24th of June 2022, Seva Kendra Calcutta along with the help of SAC organized relief work by providing some nutritional food and school kits to 120 school-going children which included a school bag, 2 notebooks, 1 packet of pencils and a Rubber, 1 Pencil box, 1 packet of Horlicks, 2 packets of Marigold biscuit, 2 Marble cakes, 2 Suji packets, 1 Sattu packet, 2 Packets of Dalia, 1 Glucon-D, 1 Soyabean packets for Solo-Bigha area ward number 11. Our staff also organized some programs for them before the distribution they interacted with the children through action songs, reciting a poem, motivational speeches and a puppet show on the importance of education. After the programme was over, the distribution of the kits took place for the children initiated by us to ensure that the kits would help these children in their studies and health who could not afford it. Due to the financial crisis in the family, children of Solo-Bigha had to leave their studies and become drop-outs and also suffered from malnutrition. These children did not have sufficient food to eat during the time of their dire need as well as school kits for their studies. After receiving the kits, the children were very happy and grateful to Seva Kendra Calcutta.

German Student's Visit to Seva Kendra Calcutta

On the 26th of June, 2022, a small group of 12 students accompanied by their 2 instructors came to visit Seva Kendra all the way from Germany to learn about the model of Seva Kendra Calcutta's daily functioning work and also about its activities and involvement with the communities.

They had the opportunity of visiting Nirmal Hriday Ashram, Kalighat which was founded by St. Mother Teresa, followed by a visit to the busy slum of Motijhil to learn more about the daily lives of communities and how Seva Kendra Calcutta has been engaged with them over the years. They were taken to a few houses and families residing at Motijhil, which was enriching and overwhelming



experience for them. They were later on briefed by our Director, Fr. Anthony Rodrick about the journey of Seva Kendra Calcutta over the years and the various thematic areas that it has worked for and still continues to do so. At the end of their brief visit the students promised to come back to Seva Kendra Calcutta, not only to learn more about it in depth but also to work for the marginalized and poor communities. They look forward to their next visit to Seva Kendra Calcutta.

Relief distribution for the differently abled people



Seva Kendra Calcutta in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Calcutta organized a relief distribution programme for the differently abled people on 25th of June, 2022. The people came from different areas included in wards 56 and 58. The people came from the most marginalized section of the society and were in a vulnerable condition. The voices of these people often remain unheard and the struggle they experience in their daily life remains unaddressed. A group of 22 youths supervised by Youth Director; Fr. Michael Biswas organized a cultural program for the people to make the day special for them. The objective was not only to distribute relief but also to bring encouragement and smile upon their faces. A total of 150 relief kits distributed among the people which contained some nutritional food kits for their healthy living. They were also very happy to interact with each other and got motivated to face all the difficulties and challenges in the coming days that would help them to move forward in life.

Certificate Distribution Programme



On 27 June 2022, Seva Kendra Calcutta has organized a Certificate Distribution Programme. For 57 students have successfully completed their 3 months' course from the Revelation Beauty And Wellness Academy and the Shrishti Tailoring Academy of Seva Kendra Calcutta. The certificates were distributed to 31 tailoring students and 26 beautician students. It was a great opportunity for all the students to receive their certificates. They are all very happy and excited, that the skill which they have learned will empower them and make them independent. Skill development programs aim to acknowledge the ability of the youth and women to extend their support by providing them with the proper guidance, infrastructure, opportunities, and encouragement that will help them achieve their ambitions. They were encouraged to motivate others, so that others can be benefited by these courses too.