



St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai

2023 – 2024 & 2024 - 2025

1.4. Community anti-poverty programmes

1.4.1 Local start-up assistance

NIRDP Programme (17-18 August, 2023)

UBA Coordinator Dr.M.Johnson Gritto attended the workshop cum training on “**Converging with Government Programmes for Community Out-reach Activities by Higher Education Institution**” held at during **17-18 August, 2023** at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

Convergence Possibilities under Pradhan Mantri Sampada Yojana for Participating Institutions' in Tamil Nadu

(29.08.2023)

UBA Coordinator Dr.M.Johnson Gritto has participated in the Orientation Workshop on “**Convergence Possibilities under Pradhan Mantri Sampada Yojana for Participating Institutions' in Tamil Nadu**” organized by Regional Coordinating Institute – Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu on **29.08.2023**.

Orientation Workshop on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Localization of Sustainable Development Goals for the Coordinators of Tirunelveli and Thenkasi Districts.

(27.9.2023)

The Regional Coordinating Institute, UBA, GRI, Gandhigram and UBA, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai jointly organized a District level Orientation Workshop on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Localization of Sustainable Development Goals for the Coordinators of Tirunelveli and Thenkasi Districts on **27.9.2023** at St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai. The following UBA Participating Institutions participated in this workshop.

- 1) PSN College of Engineering & Technology
- 2) RV Reha Polytechnic College
- 3) Sarah Tucker College
- 4) Sri Sarada College for Women
- 5) St. Xavier's College
- 6) Vyasa Arts and Science Women's College (Thenkasi)

Dr.M.Johnson Gritto, UBA Coordinator, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, welcomed the gatherings. He stated that St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, has been working under UBA in five villages viz., Keelpattam, Nachankulam, Thruvai, Thoothukuli and Seithungnallur and explained the various schemes implemented in these villages. Rev Fr. Dr. S.Maryadass, Principal, St.Xaveir's College, Palayamkottai offered his felicitations.

Prof. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, UBA, inaugurated the programme. He stated that all the Coordinators need to synchronize UBA programmes with LSDGs. The UBA Gram Panchayats in Tirunelveli and Thenikas Districts have selected themes under LSDGs viz., Healthy Village, Water Sufficient Village, Clean and Green Village, and Self-sufficient infrastructure in the village. Hence, the UBA Coordinators must facilitate the Gram Panchayats to achieve the selected themes under LSDGs by contributing to local targets and indicators. Mr. S. Senthil kumar, Assistant Director, KVIC Divisional Office, Madurai, explained the schemes and programmes for promoting rural enterprises in UBA Gram Panchayats. He also answered the queries raised by participants on the role of UBA in promoting rural industries.

Mr. G. Simiyon, Assistant Director, Branch MSME, DFO, Madurai and Tirunelveli, explained the role of MSME in promoting self-employment among youth and women. He also explained the procedures for promoting area-based micro, small, and medium enterprises in Tirunelveli and Thenkasi Districts.

Mrs. G. Jerrina Bubby, Assistant Director, MSME, DFO, Tirunelveli, explained women's role in developing MSME. She also called the attention of UBA Coordinators on the need for

involving women in development. Finally, she explained the importance of registering the Udhyaam portal.

The UBA Coordinators, who participated in the program shared their experiences in community engagement in UBA villages. At the end of this workshop, the following decisions were made.

- (1) All the UBA Coordinators in Tirunelveli and Thenkasi should plan for the achievement of Goals and Targets set for LSDGs.
- (2) Based on the schemes and programs of India and State Government ideas, UBA Coordinators need to plan to promote self-employment programs for youth and women.
- (3) All the Coordinators should ensure the UBA programs provide definite takeaways for Students, Faculty Members, Colleges, and Gram Panchayats.

Ms.D.Saranya, Executive Committee Member, UBA, St.Xavier's College coordinated the programme. The workshop came to end at 1.30 pm with vote of thanks by Mr.Venketaksh, Executive Committee Member, UBA, St.Xavier's College.



A Stakeholders Meeting for Advancing Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in UBA Villages

A meeting of Stakeholders for advancing LSDGs in Tharuvai village, Tirunelveli District, was organized on the afternoon of 27.9.2023. Mrs.K.Gowri Lakshmi, President of Tharuvai Gram Panchayat, delivered a welcome address. Prof. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, explained the importance of the involvement of all the stakeholders in advancing LSDGs. He pointed out that ensuring decent work through Financial Inclusion of all the families is the need of the hour. Hence, the participation of MSME, DFO Tirunelveli, and KVIC Divisional Office, Madurai, officials have become essential in this meeting. He requested all the participants to clarify their doubts about promoting rural enterprises. Mr.S.Senthil Kumar, Assistant Director, KVIC, Divisional Office, Madurai, interacted with the participants to explore the present level of employment and income at Tharuvai Gram Panchayat. Also, he explained the schemes of the KVIC in the promotion of rural enterprises and the procedures involved in availing assistance under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

Mrs.G.Jerina Bubby, Assistant Director, MSME, DFO, Tirunelveli, shared the experiences of successful women entrepreneurs in the Southern District of Tamil Nadu. Mr. G. Simiyon, Assistant Director, DFO, Tirunelveli, assured the participants to provide all support to avail support under various schemes to promote self-employment in Tharuvai Gram Panchayat.

About eighty-six youth and women who were interested in engaging in self-employment participated in this program. Dr. M. Johnson Gritto, UBA Coordinator, Coordinated the entire proceedings of this stakeholder meeting. At the end of the meeting, Dr. M. Johnson Gritto enrolled the names and other details of the participants who required support under MSME and KVIC. Finally, Dr.L.Arul Jose, UBA Executive Committee Member, proposed a vote of thanks, and the meeting ended by 5 pm.

A meeting of Stakeholders for advancing LSDGs in Tharuvai village, Tirunelveli District was organized on the afternoon of 27.9.2023. Mrs.K.Gowri Lakshmi, President, Tharuvai Gram Panchayat delivered welcome address. Prof.K.Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, explained the importance of the involvement of all the stakeholders in advancing LSDGs. He pointed out that ensuring decent work through Financial Inclusion of all the families is the need of the hour. Hence the participation of

officials from MSME, DFO Tirunelveli and KVIC Divisional Office, Madurai have become important in this meeting. He requested all the participants to clarify their doubts for promoting rural enterprises. Mr.S.Senthil kumar, Assistant Director, KVIC, Divisional Office, Madurai interacted with the participants to explore the present level of employment and income at Tharuvai Gram Panchayat. There after he explained the schemes of the KVIC in the promotion of rural enterprises. Especially he explained the procedures involved in availing assistance under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

Mrs.G.Jerina Bubby, Assistant Director, MSME, DFO, Tirunelveli shared the experiences of successful women entrepreneurs in southern District of Tamil Nadu. Mr.G.Simiyon Assistant Director, DFO, Tirunelveli assured the participants to provide all support to avail support under various schemes to promote self employment in Tharuvai Gram Panchayat.

About eighty six youth and women who were interested to engage in self employment participated in this programme. Dr.M.Johnson Gritto UBA Coordinator Coordinated entire proceedings of this stakeholder meeting. At the end of the meeting Dr.M.Johnson Gritto enrolled the name and other details of the participants who were in need of support under MSME and KVIC. Finally Dr.L.Arun Jose, UBA Executive Committee Member proposed vote of thanks and the meeting came to end by 5 pm.



Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: Strategies to work with Rural Communities through Participatory Approach

(20th & 21st November 2023)

UBA Coordinator Dr.M.Johnson Gritto has participated in the Orientation Workshop on **“Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: Strategies to work with Rural Communities through Participatory Approach”** organized by Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, NCI, IIT, Delhi, Yojak, Pune, RCI, UBA, Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), Gandhigram and Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekaram, Kanniyakumari Dis, Tamil Nadu held on **20th & 21st November 2023**.

UBA Coordinator Dr.M.Johnson Gritto has participated in **“Two days Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on handholding Support to Village Panchayats on preparation and Implementation of Village panchayat Development Plan (VPDP)”** held from **25.11.2023 to 26.11.2023** at SIRD&PR Maraimalai Nagar.

Two day workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals and Panchayat Development Index

(04.12.2023 to 05.12.2023)

UBA Coordinator Dr.M.Johnson Gritto has participated in **“Two day workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals and Panchayat Development Index”** organized by Regional Coordinating institute –Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), in collaboration with State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Maraimalai Nagar on **04.12.2023 to 05.12.2023**.

An Awareness Campaign on Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme” (PMEGP)

(January 10, 2024)

STAND & UBA, in collaboration with Divisional Office Khadi & Village Industries Commission (Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India), organised “**An Awareness Campaign on Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme” (PMEGP)** for STAND village people on January 10, 2024, at Kadambankulam village. More than 100 members participated in the programme. Presidential address given by Rev.Fr.Dr. V. Henry Jerome, S.J., Rector, St.Xavier’s Institutes, A keynote address was presented by Shri R.P. Asokan, Divisional Director, Khadi & Village Industries Commission, Madurai, and felicitation was given by Rev.Fr.Dr.S.Arul Ravi, S.J. Director of the STAND programme. The following members were given special addresses in the programme: Mrs.Nagajothi, AE, DIC, Tirunelveli; Mrs. Jerina Bubby, Assistant Director, MSME; and Shri. S. Varavaraj, Director, Entrepreneurship Guidance Cell, Tirunelveli. Shri S. Senthilkumar, Assistant Director, KVIC, Madurai, delivered welcome address, and **finally, Dr. M. Johnson Gritto, UBA Coordinator, proposed a vote of thanks.** **The meeting came to an end by 1 p.m.**



GramSabha Meeting (26.01.2024)

UBA Coordinator **Dr. M. Johnson Gritto** and **Dr.L. Arun Jose**, a UBA executive member, participated in the Gramme Sabha Meeting conducted on January 26, 2024, at Tharuvai Village Panchayat. President Mrs.Gowrilakshmi, Vice- President, and Clerk Mr.Esakkimuthu organised the meeting. Various plans to be implemented in the adopted villages were discussed in the meeting. The following things were discussed in the meeting: To upload VPDP in the year 2024–25 and list out the low-cost and no-cost activities based on the **9 LSDG** themes.



Empowering UBA institutions Coordinators: Workshop to identify Low-cost/No-Cost strategies for Sustainable Development (15.02.2024)

UBA Coordinator Dr.M.Johnson Gritto has participated in the workshop “ **Empowering UBA institutions Coordinators: Workshop to identify Low-cost/No-Cost strategies for Sustainable Development**” Organized by Regional Coordinating Institute- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), in collaboration with State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu on **15.02.2024**.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)

St.Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai, organised the “Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) for UBA service village people with the support of the Government of India, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Tirunelveli, and the Regional Coordinating Institute, Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), Gandhigram. Presidential address given by Rev.Fr. Henry Jerome, S.J., Rector of Xavierian’s Institutions; citations given by Rev.Fr. Dr. G. Pushparaj, S.J.; Dr. S. Mariadoss, S.J., Principal, St.Xavier’s College; and Rev.Fr. S. Arulravi, S.J., Vice-Principal of our college. The inaguaral address was given by Dr.K.Ravichandran, Professor and Regional Coordinator, UBA, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram. In the technical session, Mr.Ganesan Manikandan, District Manager, Lead Bank, delivered the lecture on the topic of the role of banks for entrepreneurship development, as did Mr.Mahalingam, FLC, and Mr.Siva Baarathi, District Coordinator, EdII-TN Tirunelveli. NIC was delivered. More than 65 village people attended the meeting.





Group photo with Govt officials and Village peoples. (Village peoples from Maavadi Village and Nanjankulam Village)



Eye Camp



Games conducted for Village children



**Road safety awareness programme conducted in South Vettiyanpanthi village,
Nochikulam Village Panchayat**

On March 17, 2024, the following programmes were conducted in the Nochikulam Village Panchayat:

1. 50 tree sapling plantations
2. An anti-drug awareness rally was conducted.
3. A free eye camp was conducted (35 village old people got benefits).
4. Games conducted for village school-going children
5. A road safety and traffic rules awareness programme was conducted for village youth.
6. Prize distributions.

Meeting held at Block Development Office, Nanguneri, Tirunelveli District regarding the development of Aspirational Block – Nanguneri

Prof. K. Ravichandran explained the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), the flagship programme of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the role of the UBA Cell at St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, in developing Gram Panchayats. He stated that UBA Cell at St. Xavier's College has been involved in providing handholding support to selected Gram Panchayats in the preparation and implementation of Development Plans towards the localization of SDGs under the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. Mrs.V.Yamuna explained the profile of Nanguneri Block and the initiatives taken by the Tirunelveli District Administration for the development of the Gram Panchayats in this Block. The increasing incidence of school dropouts is one of the major problems in this area, she added. Mr. Rajeswaran narrated the industrial profile of the Block, which provides employment opportunities to the people. Mr. G. Simiyon explained the schemes of the Ministry of MSME and the possibilities of getting support under CSR for the development of Nanguneri Block. Dr. M. Johnson Gritto shared his experiences in preparing the Gram Panchayat Development Plans of the selected Gram Panchayats.

The members had a detailed discussion on the socio-economic profile of the Gram Panchayats in Nanguneri Block based on the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) for the year 2024-25. The importance of developing the Gram Panchayats according to the indicators of the Aspirational Development Block and the Localization of SDGs was analyzed.

After detailed discussions, the following decisions were arrived.

| Sl.No | Decisions | Action Points | Action to be taken |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Considering the importance of Bird Sanctuary, it was decided | Through Biodiversity Survey, People's Biodiversity Register of Koonthankulam Village will be | Dr.M.Johnson Gritto UBA Coordinator |

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|---|---|--|---|
| | to update the Biodiversity Register of Koonthankulam Village | updated with the support of Officials of the Forest Department, Village Administration, Youth and student volunteers | |
| 2 | It was decided to develop Illankulam as Model Village as per the Aspirational Block Programme and LSDGs through: 1) Implementation of Low-cost / No-cost activities 2) Skill training for promoting self employment opportunities 3) Convergence of Government schemes and programmes 4) Dovetail support under CSR | A meeting with Gram Panchayat leaders / Youth / SHGs will be arranged to make the people as stakeholders of the programme and prepare Plan of Action As entry point activity and to enlist the support of villagers, the following skill training programmes are planned. 1. Skill Training: (1) Mushroom Cultivation (2) Preparation of organic manure 2. Skill Training: One Day Hands on Training on Production of Seaweed Based Plant Growth Promoters and Edible Coating Blends at the Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), Gandhigram to the selected farmers / SHGs / youth of Illankulam village 3. Skill Training: Practical Visit to Dairy Unit at Madurai to the selected farmers / SHGs / youth of Illankulam village Dovetail support under CSR and implementation of MSME schemes for self employment Preparation of Model Village Plan for Illankulam village <i>(The Plan will be prepared after the village level meeting)</i> | Mrs.V. Yamuna BDO Mr.Rajeswaran BDO Dr.M.Johnson Gritto UBA Coordinator <i>(During July 2024)</i> Mrs.V. Yamuna BDO will depute the candidates for training Prof.K.Ravichandran Regional Coordinator, UBA <i>(During July 2024)</i> Mrs.V. Yamuna BDO will depute the candidates for training Mr. G. Simiyon Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME <i>(During July 2024)</i> Mr. G. Simiyon Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME Prof.K.Ravichandran Regional Coordinator, UBA Dr.M.Johnson Gritto UBA Coordinator |

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| 3 | It was decided to explain the Development Plans and get suggestions and support from District Administration | Meeting with District Collector, Tirunelveli District | Mrs. V.Yamuna BDO <i>(During third week of July 2024)</i> |
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Best Participation Institution Award

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), has been honored with the Best Institution Award by the Regional Coordinating Institute, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul. Additionally, Dr. M. Johnson Gritto received the Best Coordinator Award from the same institute. Among the 158 Higher Education Institutions in the Southern Region of Tamil Nadu, only 18 colleges were shortlisted for the Best Institution Award, and our college was proud to be one of the recipients.



Best participation Institution and Best Coordinator award



MoU sign with Gandhigram Rural Institute



St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, has signed an MoU with the Regional Coordinating Institute, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul, to collaborate on rural development initiatives under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan flagship program. As part of this agreement, the college carries out village development activities with the support of GRI, which provides the necessary resources. The objectives of this MoU is to establish collaboration between both the parties and jointly undertake the following activities.

- a) Development and execution of joint projects that support rural, tribal and farming communities in the areas that may include:
 - 1) Rural & Agricultural Development
 - 2) Rural Energy Systems
 - 3) Agricultural Value Chains
 - 4) Agribusiness
 - 5) Rural Craft and Artisans Development & Rural Industrialization and Entrepreneurship Development
 - 6) Rural health, Sanitation & Solid Waste Management
 - 7) Liquid Waste Management
 - 8) Rural Infrastructure
 - 9) Water Resource Management
 - 10) Sustainable Agriculture System
 - 11) Capacity Building ,Strategy for Convergence and Implementation of Various Government Schemes
 - 12) Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Start-ups and Digital Knowhow
 - 13) Curriculum Reforms and Educational Institutions Social Responsibility
 - 14) School Education
 - 15) Empowering Women and Youth
- b) Organizing Capacity Development Training Programmes / Internships in areas of mutual strength for UBA Coordinators, Students, officials, elected representatives,

- farmers and entrepreneurs in villages / rural clusters as agreed between both the parties in the theme (s) mentioned above (a)
- c) Involvement of students in the efforts made w.r.t terms and conditions of this MoU is mandatory.
 - d) Organizing Seminars and Workshops particularly on contemporary Policy related issues of mutual interest on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
 - e) Undertake Collaborative Evidence based Policy Research on themes mentioned in (a) above or any other mutually agreed theme (s);
 - f) Promoting faculty/researcher exchange, based on mutually agreed norms and related to Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
 - g) Any other new areas that could be mutually agreed upon keeping in view the expertise available with both the organizations.

MoU sign with Sarada Krishna Homeopathic Medical College

On September 6, 2024 (Friday), an MoU was signed between St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District - 627002, and Sarada Krishna Homeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, Kanyakumari District - 629191. This memorandum aims to foster collaboration between the two institutions and jointly pursue the following activities:

- To organize screening and awareness medical camps in UBA service villages.
- For Sarada Krishna Homeopathic Medical College to assist in identifying plant species and creating a map of these plants.
- To provide internship opportunities for St. Xavier's College students focusing on pharmacology.
- To support St. Xavier's College student projects and research in the fields of pharmacology and phytochemistry.

In presence of Dr.K.Ravichandran, Senior Professor and Regional Coordinator, UBA, GRI (DTBU), Dindigul, Dr.K.Mohan, Chairman, Sarada Krishna Homeopathic Medical College and Dr.N.V.Suganthan, Principal, Sarada Krishna Homeopathic Medical College.



Ilangulam Village Meeting

On Friday, September 6, 2024, a meeting was held in Ilangulam Village, Nanguneri Block, Tirunelveli District. Nanguneri Block, identified as an Aspirational Block, is a key area for development efforts by the St. Xavier's College UBA team. Ilangulam Village Panchayat was chosen as the initial site for development work under the UBA.

The meeting, attended by Dr. K. Ravichandran, Senior Professor and Regional Coordinator of UBA at GRI (DTBU), Dindigul, and Mrs. V.Yamuna, BDO of Nanguneri Block, was organized by Dr. M. Johnson Gritto, Coordinator of UBA at St. Xavier's College. Mrs. V.Yamuna explained the purpose and objectives of the meeting, while Prof. K. Ravichandran discussed Government schemes, training programmes, and the support provided by UBA-Participating Institutions. He also elaborated on self-employment opportunities for income generation and the assistance available from GRI. Thirty three women from Self-Help Groups

(SHGs) participated in the meeting and discussed about the livelihood opportunities and challenges in Ilangulam village with the experts. Based on these interactions, several activities and training programmes are planned for the future.

The following members from SHGs were selected as leaders to oversee the follow-up of these programmes:

- 1) S. Avudayammal – responsible for the tailoring training
- 2) M. Mathavi – in charge of school education
- 3) K. Rajathi – responsible for rural health
- 4) F. Jespa – in charge of rural employment and skill training

The SHGs, already organized into groups of 15 members and trained in tailoring, require further training in Aari work and support with machinery, as well as assistance with marketing. Additionally, some members expressed interest in training in cake and biscuit manufacturing.

Mr. V. Isravel Prabhakaran (President), Mr. A. Viji (Vice-President), Mr. T. Veerasingh (Ward Member), Mr. Arulraj Darwin, Mr. Jerush Isaac, and Mr. P. Rasalayan (Retired Sub-Inspector) participated in the meeting and shared their perspectives. The Panchayat President requested support for the construction of a water check dam, upgrading the Primary Health Centre (PHC) to a hospital, and establishing a Government Arts and Science College. Since Ilangulam Village serves as a central hub for over many number of surrounding villages, these initiatives would benefit the entire region. Mrs.V. Yamuna, BDO of Nanguneri Block assured to take all these requirements of the village to the perusal of District Administration. Mr. V. Isravel Prabhakaran concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks.





Minutes of Advisory Committee Meeting

The UBA advisory committee meeting took place on September 18, 2024, Wednesday at 12.30 P.M. It began with a prayer, followed by a welcome address from Dr. M. Johnson Gritto, the Coordinator. Rev. Fr. Dr. Aruldass S.J. was introduced as the new Director of UBA for the 2024-2025 academic year, and new executive members were appointed by the management: Mr. D. Antony Samy, Dr. P. Shenbagaraj, Dr. S. Tamiliniyan, Mr. S. Vijay, and Ms. H. Karthika. The Coordinator provided an overview of UBA activities, both past and present. Dr. L. Arun Jose shared insights from his experience at the NIRDP workshop in Hyderabad, along with his views on UBA. Rev. Fr. Dr. Aruldass S.J. also discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional Coordinating Institute in Gandhigram, Dindigul, and St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai. Various topics were addressed during the meeting.

1. To conduct UBA volunteers orientation program.
2. SEG proposal preparation
3. To initiate Nutrigarden in our UBA service villages
4. To conduct medical camp in our service villages



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18/09/24 01:05 PM GMT +05:30

GPS Map Camera

Advisory committee meeting

The UBA advisory committee meeting took place on September 27, 2024 (Friday) at 2:30 PM.

The agenda included:

1. Preparation of the SEG proposal.
2. Determining participants for the two-day project proposal development workshop on Rural Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Development at Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul.

UBA Director Rev. Fr. Dr. S. Aruldass S.J. and Rev. Fr. M. Berchmans S.J. participated in the meeting and provided valuable insights for preparing the SEG proposal in various areas. Attendees included Dr. Anna Venus, Dr. L. Arun Jose, Dr. Maria Francis Jeffrey Bose, Dr. Pandikumar, Dr. Mutheeswaran, and Ms. Karthika, who engaged actively in discussions. It was agreed to prepare over 10 proposals to be submitted before October 5, 2024. Additionally, it was confirmed that Dr. M. Johnson Gritto would attend the Gandhigram workshop.



Advisory committee meeting

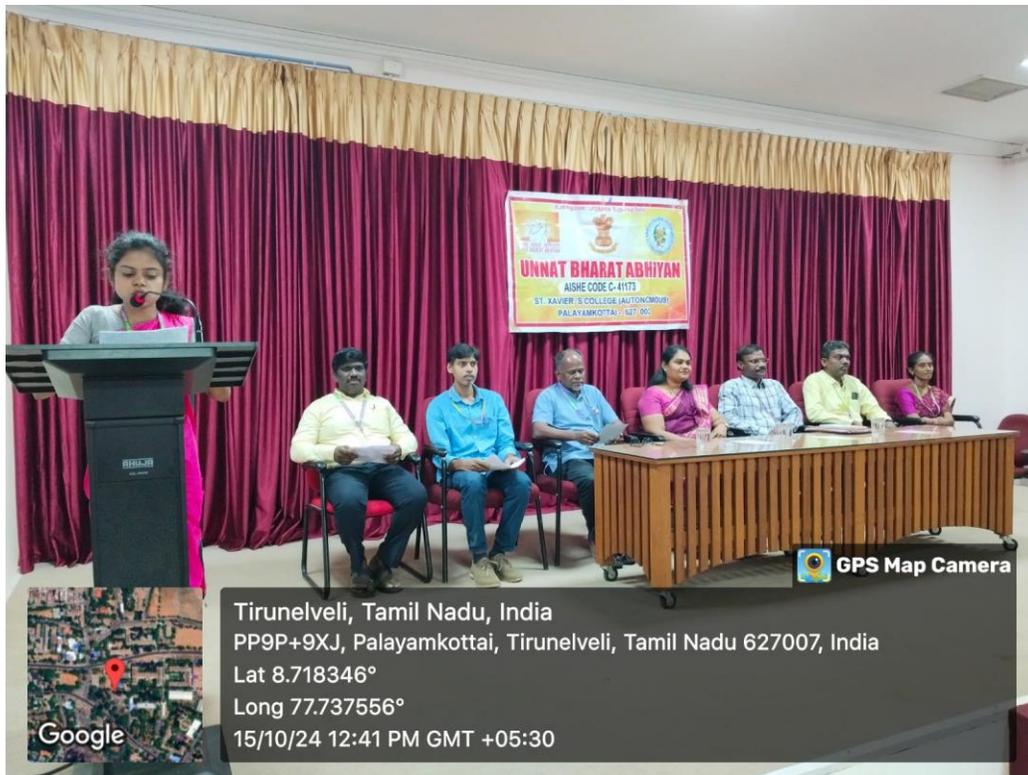


On October 10, 2024, an advisory committee meeting was held in the residency meeting hall, presided over by Rev. Fr. Aruldass S.J., Director of UBA. All executive members attended the meeting, where Dr. M. Johnson Gritto, Coordinator of UBA, provided a briefing on the agenda.

1. To prepare SEG project proposal
2. To conduct UBA volunteers orientation program
3. To attend the Gram Sabha meeting
4. To conduct the medical camp at Maavadi village

UBA Volunteers Orientation Programme

On October 15, 2024, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, organized an orientation program for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) volunteers. Dr. N. N. Krishnaveni, the UBA Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Computer Science, served as the resource person. She delivered a lecture on "UBA Activities in Higher Education Institutions and the Role of UBA Volunteers in Community Engagement." The program was attended by a total of 73 UBA volunteers and 8 staff members.





Grama Sabha Meeting:



On November 23, 2024, Dr. M. Johnson Gritto, Coordinator of UBA, participated in the Grama Sabha meeting at Tharuvai, one of the UBA-adopted villages. During the meeting, he engaged with the villagers, discussed the implementation of mushroom projects, and identified a suitable location for constructing a mushroom shed. Additionally, plans for preparing the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) for the 2025-2026 year were also deliberated.

Advisory committee meeting:

On January 10, 2025, an advisory committee meeting was held in the residency meeting hall, presided over by Rev. Fr. Aruldass S.J., Director of UBA. All executive members attended the meeting, where Dr. M. Johnson Gritto, Coordinator of UBA, provided a briefing on the agenda.

1. To organize Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) at Naguneri
2. To organize Rural Women training programme
3. To attend the Gram Sabha meeting at January 26, 2025



Medical Camp

A medical camp was organized in the villages of Maavadi and Ayupkan Puram in collaboration with Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekaram, Nagercoil. A team of doctors from SKHMC provided consultations, diagnosing various health conditions such as anemia, blood pressure issues, and other ailments among the local residents. A total of 87 villagers received medical advice and necessary medications during the camp.





Mushroom Cultivation training Programme conducted:

In Tharuvai village, a mushroom cultivation training program was conducted, with 10 SHG women members actively participating. They regularly prepared mushroom beds, resulting in the creation and inoculation of 80 mushroom beds, which were closely monitored. After 20 days, the mushrooms were harvested regularly and sold locally. In total, they harvested 30 kg of mushrooms and earned Rs. 7,500. Now, they are ready to advance to the next level of cultivation. They have reinvested the earnings and gained confidence to further promote mushroom cultivation.





Mushroom value Added Product training:

After successfully cultivating mushrooms, a training program on value-added products was organized. This included training on mushroom soup preparation, mushroom picking, making mushroom pakoda, and mushroom soap making.









Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP-SC)

12.02.2025, Nanguneri

The **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP-SC)** was successfully organized by the Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Tirunelveli, in association with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, the Regional Co-ordinating Institute (UBA) Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), Dindigul, and the Block Development Office, Nanguneri Aspirational Block under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu. The event took place on **12th February 2025** at the **Meeting Hall, BDO Office, Nanguneri**, from **9:00 AM to 4:30 PM**.

The programme commenced with an inaugural session, beginning with a prayer song and a welcome address by **Dr. M. Johnson Gritto**, Co-ordinator, UBA, SXC. A special address was given by **Dr. K. Ravichandran**, Senior Professor and Regional Co-ordinator, GRI, Dindigul.

The felicitation session saw the participation of key dignitaries, including **Mrs. Y. Yamuna**, Commissioner of Nanguneri Panchayat Union, **Rev. Fr. Dr. Aruldoss, S.J.**, The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Mr. G. Simiyon**.

Following the inauguration, **Technical Session I** covered various topics essential to entrepreneurship. **Mr. S. Murugan**, General Manager (VAC), DIC, Tirunelveli, provided insights into the **MSME Schemes of the Government of Tamil Nadu**. **Mr. V. Baskaran**, General Manager & Deputy Collector, THADCO Ltd., Tirunelveli, presented details on **THADCO Schemes**, while **Mr. G. Simiyon** elaborated on **MSME Schemes & Udhayam Registration**, explaining the process and benefits for aspiring entrepreneurs.

After a **lunch break**, **Technical Session II** continued with more specialized topics. **Mr. Rajkumar**, Managing Director of Yaar Solutions, Tenkasi, introduced participants to **Digital Marketing for Rural Products**, emphasizing the role of technology in modern business strategies. The session concluded with inspiring **Success Stories** from **Mr. JC Jose Prakash. A.**, CEO of Sun Herbal Products, **Mrs. R. Subhapiya**, CEO of M/s. KAABAAY, Tenkasi, and **Smt. Ajithra**, Entrepreneur at M/s. Aji Foods, Tenkasi, who shared their journeys, challenges, and triumphs in the field of entrepreneurship.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by **Ms. H. Karthika**, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, and participants. **Dr. S. Tamiliniyan** served as the Master of Ceremony, bringing the programme to a close with the **National Anthem**.

The **organizing committee** played a crucial role in ensuring the success of the event. Led by **Mr. G. Simiyon**, Assistant Director, Branch MSME-DFO, Tirunelveli, it included **Dr. M. Johnson Gritto** (Co-ordinator), **Dr. S. Tamiliniyan**, **Mr. D. Antonysamy**, **Dr. P. Shenbagaraj**, **Dr. L. Arun Jose**, **Mrs. R. Muthu**, **Mr. S. Vijay**, and **Ms. H. Karthika** as executive members.

In conclusion, the **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP-SC)** successfully provided participants with essential knowledge on entrepreneurship, government schemes, financial planning, digital marketing, and real-life success stories. The interactive sessions and expert presentations were well-received, equipping attendees with valuable insights and resources to embark on their entrepreneurial journey.



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Nanguneri, Tamil Nadu, India
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Nanguneri, Tamil Nadu, India
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Training Programme for Rural Women Entrepreneurs on Making Cup Sambirani, Dhoop Sambirani & Chalk Pieces

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, in collaboration with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and Student Training and Action for Neighborhood Development (STAND), organized a **Training Programme for Rural Women Entrepreneurs on Making Cup Sambirani, Dhoop Sambirani & Chalk Pieces**. The programme aimed to empower rural women by providing them with skills in small-scale entrepreneurship, thereby enhancing their economic independence and livelihood opportunities.

The programme commenced with a **prayer song**, followed by a **Welcome Address** delivered by **Dr. M. Johnson Gritto**, Coordinator of UBA at St. Xavier's College. The **Presidential Address** was delivered by **Rev. Fr. Dr. Godwin Rufus, S.J.**, Principal of St. Xavier's College, who emphasized the importance of skill-based training for rural women and encouraged them to utilize the opportunity for self-sustenance and economic growth. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries who felicitated the occasion with their inspiring words:

- **Rev. Fr. Dr. S. Arul Ravi, S.J.**, Director of STAND, St. Xavier's College
- **Rev. Fr. Dr. Aruldoss, S.J.**, Director of UBA, St. Xavier's College
- **Rev. Fr. Dr. Anthony Samy, S.J.**, Deputy Director of STAND, St. Xavier's College

The training programme was facilitated by **Dr. N.N. Krishnaveni**, a Women Scientist (WoS – Kiran IPR) and Assistant Professor in Computer Science at Holy Cross Home Science College, Thoothukudi. She provided insights into the importance of entrepreneurship and guided the participants on various aspects of small-scale manufacturing.

The practical training was conducted by **Mrs. Sangeetha** and **Mrs. Nandhini**, entrepreneurs from Thulir Sambirani, Sinthalakarai. They provided hands-on demonstrations on the preparation of **Cup Sambirani, Dhoop Sambirani, and Chalk Pieces**, allowing participants to gain firsthand experience in the process.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by **Mr. Sudalai**, Coordinator of STAND, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, facilitators, trainers, and participants for making the event a success.

Conclusion

The Training Programme for Rural Women Entrepreneurs was a resounding success, equipping participants with valuable skills and knowledge. The initiative underscored the importance of empowering women through entrepreneurship and fostering sustainable livelihoods. The participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and showed enthusiasm in utilizing their newly acquired skills to generate income and support their families. The event reaffirmed St. Xavier's College's commitment to community development and skill-based empowerment.





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