

## **Title of the Practice : Sabuj Mon (The informal school for the children)**

### **The Objectives:**

The objective of this informal school is to organize remedial classes for the students of college adopted slum in Bagmari area, Kolkata.

### **The Context:**

There has been a long demand from the NSS volunteers to run a school for the children of the adopted slum at Bagmari. Finally, it did materialize on 20th March, 2018 when the then Principal Dr. Arpita Mukerji inaugurated the informal school- Sabuj Mon at the college playground at Bagmari. About 30 students were enrolled. Most of the children were aged between 5 to 13 years. They were distributed uniform with NSS Logo, school bag, drawing books, colour box, pens, and other stationary items. The inauguration was funded through UGC-CPE grant.

### **The Practice:**

The school mostly organizes remedial classes for the students on Tuesday (4:30 pm onwards) and Saturday (3 pm onwards ) every week . The classes are mainly taken by undergraduate students of college under the supervision of teaching faculties. These under privileged children come from destitute families. Therefore, serving nutritious food to them is also urgently required . Dr. Birendra Singh, Programme Officer of NSS and teacher of Physical Education Sri Samir Roy, look after these needs. The children are usually served hot milk and snacks after their classes. The children are also encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities. Professors of the Teacher Education Department, Dr. Shreya Sen and Dr. Saheli Chowdhuri started music classes. Painting and colouring are favourite activities of these children. A student of History Department Mr. Jitaditya Chakraborty, the Secretary of the students' Drama Club conducted a drama workshop for a month. On May 05, 2018 the children put up a performance of their play on Air pollution on the Bagmari ground. Teachers, students, and parents of the performers were present in the ground to cheer the performances. The children are given new clothes before Durga Puja and woollens during winters. The teachers of the college contribute throughout the year to run this informal school. The children are also entertained by magic show and other programmes organized by college in between. The college teachers regularly visit the ground on the days of remedial classes and also on the special occasions. The teachers also constantly give financial support to fulfil the special needs of these children such as house repairing , medical help etc.

In 2020, during pandemic situation the family members of these children lost their jobs and they had to undergo through a tough and crisis period. The college teachers continuously supported these families by providing them rice, potatoes, cooking oil, pulses during the entire lockdown period. Sri Samir Roy and some non-teaching staffs of the college took

endeavour to support the children's family during pandemic situation with the help of college teachers who generously donated for this noble cause.

**The Evidence of Success:**

In 2020 Rabin Patra, a student of remedial class, qualified school final Madhyamik examination and is now pursuing his Higher Secondary study in Shyambazar AV school. Another student Deep Das is in class ten and he will appear in Madhyamik examination in 2022. Two more students will appear in Madhyamik in 2023. All these children are supported by Sabuj Mon to carry out their studies.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

A number of girl students dropped out school and discontinued their study. Many children due to socio economic reasons had to give up their studies and got engaged in different kind of works to earn their living. A lot of difficulties have been faced to run the classes due to pandemic situation.