

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Care of the adopted fruit trees, Planting and distribution of fruit trees: The measures adopted as part of the "College to Community" activities of Mahishadal Girls' College

Date of the event: 17.07.2025

Venue of the event: Mirpur, a village adopted by the UBA Unit from Mahishadal Girls' College (an area under the jurisdiction of Suklarpur and Betkundu villages)

Time of the event: 9.30 am to 2.30 pm

Aim of the event:

- a. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on the village premises
- b. Care of the adopted fruit trees,
- c. Planting of fruit trees, and
- d. Distribution of the fruit trees to the villagers

Target area: Premises of two churches of Mirpur and families living in the area

Target population: Portuguese from the Mirpur area (part of the villages Suklarpur and Betkundu)

Organised by: Department of Anthropology, Mahishadal Girls' College

In collaboration with: UBA Unit of Mahishadal Girls' College

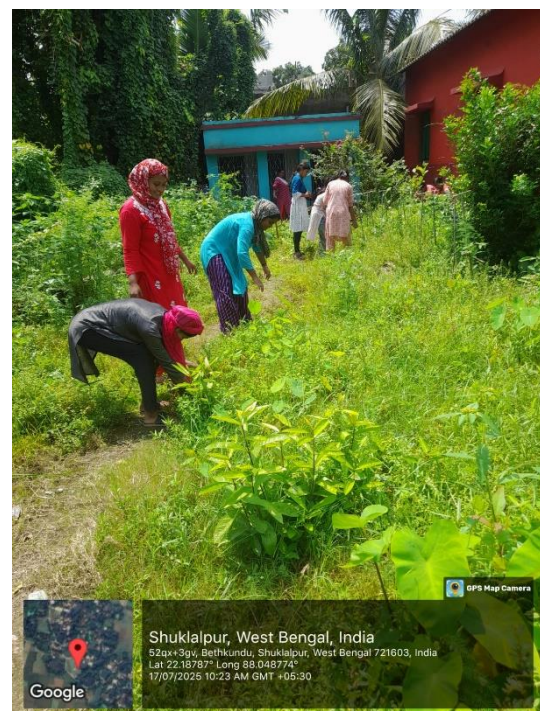
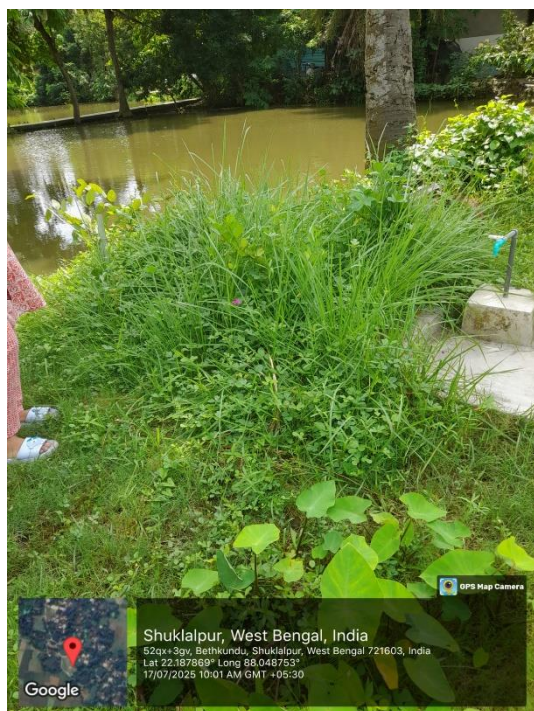
Number of participants:

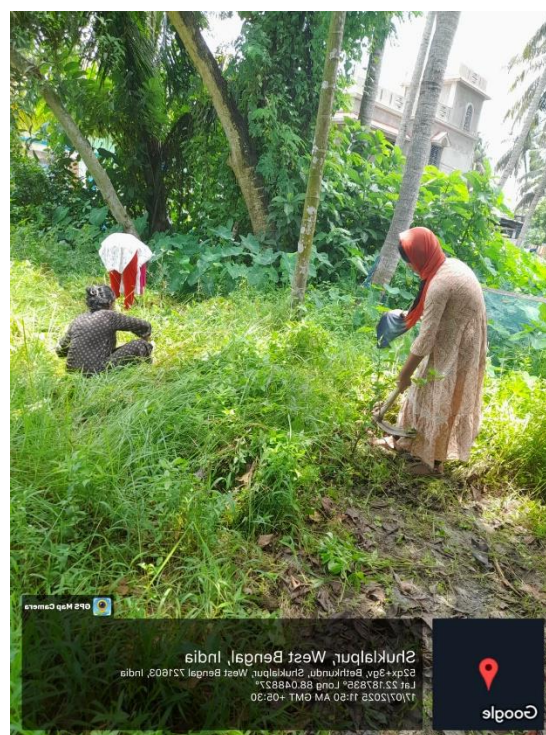
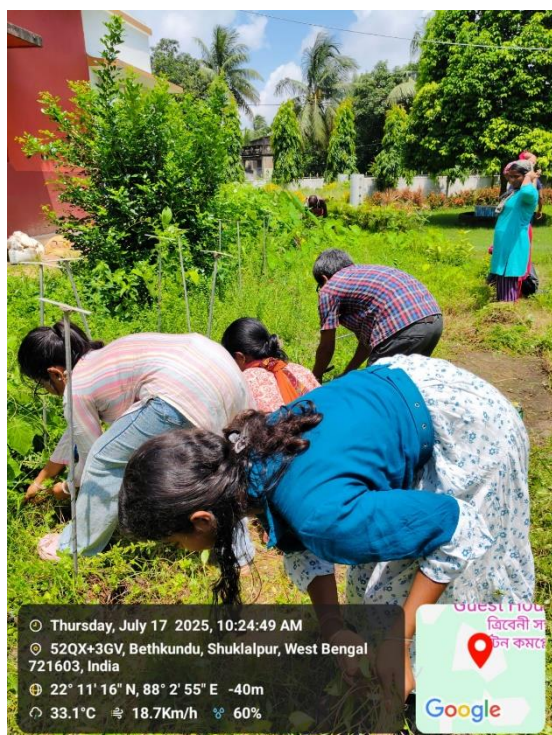
1. Students:
 - a. 10 students of 2nd semester
 - b. 7 students of the 6th semester
2. Teaching faculty: 1
3. Non-teaching faculty: 1
4. Villagers: 6
5. One guest, Mr. Puspendu Rout, a research scholar from the Department of History, Vidyasagar University, who is conducting his research on the Portuguese of Mirpur, was present throughout the programme. Sister Merlin, a leader of the Catholic Church in the village Swapan Tesra, former panchayat member of the Betkundu GP. Members of the local associations, male and female members of many families of the Portuguese. One out going students (6th semester) of Education department of Mahishadal Girls' College.

Details of the activities:

First phase of the programme: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

The students also clean the areas adjacent to the two churches to prevent mosquitoes, insects and snakes. This leads to a good health condition in the area. This is how the students have tried to implement the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan programme. Today, ten 2nd semester students participated in this clean-up drive which took place in the premises of two churches in Mirpur where we had planted the fruit trees. Apart from surviving the sweltering heat and bright sunshine, they were very active in this cleaning programme.





Cleaning of the church campus of Mirpur

Care of the adopted fruit trees:

With the help of the villagers, we planted some fruit trees on 15th August 2024 in the premise of two churches and in adjacent areas. After four months, we visited the area (31 January 2024) and carried out similar activities. These programmes are based on the idea of adapting the planted fruit trees and caring for them in a timely manner. At the same time, the villagers should be motivated to plant low-cost but highly effective fruit plants. This not only has health and nutritional significance, but is also of enormous socio-economic importance. Today (17.07.2025) the students removed the unwanted grasses, plants and shrubs from the areas planted with fruit trees and also new plantation areas. Both 2nd and 6th semester students took part. They then tilled the soil at a distance of one feet from the planted trees and applied a small amount of various organic and chemical fertilisers, which are listed in the table below:

Sl No	Name of the manure	Amount of manure (in grams) use per saplings
1	Bone dust	70
2	Horn dust	70
3	Single super phosphate	70
4	Murioto Patash	10
5	NPK (Nitroge-Phosphorus-Potash) – 10-26-26	15



Care of the of the adopted trees planted in the last year

Distribution and planting of fruit trees:

Today we have another programme, namely the distribution of fruit trees. This year, various types of lemon trees were distributed to the villagers. The authorities of the two churches play a very important role in determining the villagers for the distribution of fruit trees. The students personally planted the seedlings in the villagers' houses. The 2nd semester students participate in these plantings in the household chores of the villagers. The 6th semester students played an important role in the planting trees in the church premises.



Students planted fruit tree in the household premises of the villagers

Achievement:

The 6th semester students, who have already completed all the exams and various official formalities in the college, were highly motivated and asked the department to organise such a programme for the benefit of the community. They informed us that they, the 6th semester students, who have been carrying out numerous UBA activities in the village since 2023 and as part of their VU curriculum doing several field works in the area. They would like to collect their many fond memories with the residents of this village. To remember their sweet memories in the

village and preserve them for the future, they have planted two good quality Amrapali mango saplings in each church compound by sharing the cost themselves. When they visit the village in the future, they will feel nostalgic at the sight of two trees. This not only has a strong nutritional, ecological and social significance, but also a psychological one.

The 2nd semester students, who were initially not interested in visiting the village, gradually became motivated and personally bought one lemon tree sapling each from 'Mahishadal Rather Mela' and distributed it to the villagers who have the need of it. The students themselves planted their purchased lemon trees in the households of the selected villagers. This is very important for their health and nutrition. It also motivates them to interact more with the villagers, which helps them to socialise more and more. By conducting this kind of programme, a bond is created between the students and the villagers which ultimately helps them to become an ideal citizen of the nation.

Feedback from the villagers:

All the programmes conducted so far are highly appreciated by the villagers. Many of them helped with the labour in cleaning work. They asked us to conduct such initiatives more and more frequently. In some cases, we cannot fulfil all their wishes and requirements due to our financial constraints. We told them that the students should continue to organise such initiatives in the future also.