



Autism Society West Bengal

Annual Report 2022-2023

Registration Details

Under the societies Act - (Registration No S/IL/13372 of 2002)

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment - NO. 312(com)

National Trust. NO – WAUT15510978715

Contact Details

Registered Office - 22 Anjuman Ara Begum Row, Kolkata 700033

Located at 147, Krishakpally, Barakhola, Mukundapur...

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER DIRECTOR

The year 2022 marked Autism Society West Bengal's 20 (twenty year) journey. Looking back on these twenty long years I realise how the organisation has grown and expanded along with the children for whom we started ASWB. Those young children are all young adults. When we first started our work centred around early intervention and parent training. ASWB started as a parent initiated not for profit organisation. Dikshan, the special school and Aarohan the Pre-vocational unit was set up. Soon ASWB felt that parent empowerment can change the trajectory of life for a young child newly diagnosed with autism and started intensive three-month parent & child training (PCT) with the child. ASWB always encouraged family participation and we would often get the grandparents undertaking PCT along with the parent(s). For families who could not spend three months another program ten days one to one hands-on interactive session with the parent started. Follow up programs were arranged as per need.

As services increased over the years ASWB has employed RCI professionals viz. special educators, clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and other administrative staff & housekeeping support staff. This year we have started our vocational pilot project PrintStudio@ASWB and the Baking unit. Over these years ASWB always kept a few seats free or gave concession to those who needed it. In 2022 we were fortunate to get foreign funding with which we started our Outreach work in rural and semi-rural areas of 24 Parganas (South). We believe all children have a right to education and there must be reasonable accommodations for those who need it. For education to play this role as 'an enabling right', it must be of high quality, available equitably, built to tackle discrimination and allow each child to flourish according to their own talents and interests.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pledging to "leave no one behind," is an ambitious plan of action of the international community towards a peaceful and prosperous world, where dignity of an individual person and equality among all is applied as the fundamental principle. Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) work is in sync with the SDGs Disability Inclusive 2030 Agenda and is committed towards creating and maintaining a structured learning environment for individuals with autism not only in the school premises but also creating the awareness about it in rural Bengal.

Indrani Basu,

Founder-Director, ASWB



Governing Body members during the 20-year Celebration on 29th December, 2022



ASWB Staff during the 20-year Celebration with Director and Secretary

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The **State Award** for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2022 in the category '**Outstanding Parents Organization**' was a morale booster for Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) who completed 20 years in this sector in December, 2022. ASWB has expanded the programs as the years went by as per the changing needs of the beneficiaries. In 2022-2023 too new programs were introduced. The 'Writing Enhancement program' was started in 2022. The Virtual classroom was an offshoot of the online classes during the pandemic. We have kept online counselling and other services open for those who prefer the online mode.

With the support of donors, the vocational unit, PrintStudio@ASWB was set up. Artwork by our students and trainees were selected and used by our parent volunteers and special educators who got trained to use the sublimation machinery. Cups and T-shirts with artwork printed on them are now being made regularly. In 2022 a fashion show was organised at ASWB where students, trainees and in some cases, parents walked down the ramp wearing T-shirts printed by this unit. The pilot project for another vocational unit started in 2022. Baking unit. Cakes and cookies are made but still now in limited quantity.

ASWB has always believed that every child diagnosed with autism is entitled to different teaching methods as per their learning styles. Awareness programs and knowledge dissemination about autism, parent empowerment about the strategies to help their child to learn are of paramount importance. During the pandemic ASWB conducted several online free services which is still continuing as our 'Reaching Out' program. We have seen children living in rural often miss out of these opportunities as intervention services are not available there. ASWB got foreign funding in October, 2022 to address this our Outreach work started. ASWB's rehabilitation professionals started work in 24 Parganas, South in association with both government and private schools.

After completing 20 years ASWB believes that the time has come to hear the views of persons with autism. From being a parent-initiated organisation, we are slowly creating platform for persons with autism to share their perspective as self-advocates. On 2nd April, 2022 during WAAD program there was a panel discussion by persons with autism. We want this trend to be the norm in future where neurodiversity will be welcome on all levels.

Dr. Mitu De, Secretary (Hony.)



ASWB received the State Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2022 in the category 'Outstanding Parents Organization.' Prize received by Dr. Mitu De, Secretary (Hony.) ASWB.



**Beneficiaries who came to ASWB, Mukundapur to avail different services
during 2022- 2023**

Name of the intervention service/ programme	No of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries availing Services at Concessional rates or for Free
Counselling	219	14
Dikshan	34	1
Consultation	58	3
Neuro-Psychiatrist Consultation	50	0
Classroom Behaviour	16	0
YAAR	191	191
Occupational Therapy	1207	36
10 days Parent Training	87	19
Hourly Intervention	482	42
3 Months Parent Training	78	5
School readiness	120	2
Writing Enhancement Programme	6	0
Virtual Classroom	18	0
Play Magix	94	0
Total	2660	313

Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) Governing Body Members

From September, 2022.

Sl. No.	Name	Post held in ASWB GB	Gender	Nationality	Occupation	Name of Father/ Husband	Residential Address
1.	Mrs. Roma Basu #	President	Female	Indian	Retired	Mr. A.K. Basu (Husband)	5C Wedderburn Road , Kolkata 700029
2.	Dr. Suparna Deb* (From Sept 2022)	Vice President	Female	Indian	Medical Practitioner	Dr. Sougata Deb	4A/17 Dharmatala Road , Kasba , Kolkata 700042

3.	Dr. Mitu De*	Secretary	Female	Indian	Professor	Dr. S. R. Dey (Husband)	A 7/5 Purbasha Housing Estate 160 Manicktala Main Road. Kolkata – 700054.
4.	Mrs. Mitasree Biswas *	Joint Secretary	Female	Indian	Health Service	Dr Abhijit Biswas (Husband)	29/3C, Chetla Central Road Kolkata -700027
5.	Mr. Sudip Ghosh*	Treasurer	Male	Indian	Service	Late Pranab Kanti Ghosh (Father)	Mohan Garden Murari 1/1,Kamalgachi Kolkata 700103
6.	Mr Amitabha Sankar Bhaduri* (From Sept 2022)	Member	Male	Indian	Service	Late Nirmalendu Bhaduri	F.No – 1B, Verdant, 336, N.S.C. Bose Road ,Kolkata700047
7.	Ms Argha Sur* (From Sept 2022)	Member	Female	Indian	House wife	Late Ranjit Sur	C 37,Jaysree Park,Behala, Manton, Kolkata - 700034.
8.	Mr. Ashoke Kumar Basu*#	Member	Male	Indian	Retired	Late Prabhat Kumar Basu (Father)	22 Anjuman Ara Begum Row, Kolkata -700033
9.	Mr. Arun Kumar Sarker*	Member	Male	Indian	Retired	Late Upendra Chandra Deb (Father)	159 , N.S.C Bose Road, Mo Avenue GovtHousing Estate, Flat K-5,Kolkata- 700040

* Being a parent led organization, most of the members of ASWB GB are parents of persons with autism

None of the governing body members are related to each other.
The governing body is elected every two years

ASWB Team of Teaching and Non -Teaching staff for the year 2022 -2023

1.	Chandrani Chakraborty	Academic In charge, Special educator & Coordinator Early Intervention Unit
2.	Shibani Biswas	Special Educator (till March, 2023)
3.	Pranabesh Bhunia	D Ed Coordinator & Special Educator
4.	Manoj Kumar Mahato	D Ed Faculty & Special Educator
5.	Binay Samanta	Special Educator
6.	Rajkumar Bera	Special Educator
7.	Piyali Chakraborty	D Ed Faculty & Special Educator
8.	Amrita Bhawal Barman	Special Educator
9.	Priyanka Saha	Special Educator
10.	Shampa Rani Sahoo	Special Educator
11.	Swati Dasgupta	Special Educator
12.	Sanjit Kumar Ghosh	Special Educator
13.	Jhuma Choudhury	Special Educator
14.	Babu Patra	Classroom Assistant
15.	Arpita Dutta	Psychologist, Special Educator & D. Ed Faculty
16.	Maitree Ahmed	Consultant Clinical Psychologist
17.	Dr Manisha Bhattacharjee	Clinical Psychologist (Till May, 2022)
18.	Writtwika Debta	Consultant Occupational Therapist (Joined Feb, 2023)
19.	Insana Konoki Mazumder	Occupational Therapist (Till March, 2023)
20.	Arpita Chatterjee	Project Coordinator
21.	Binita Chakraborty	Project Coordinator (Joined Dec, 2022)
22.	Piyali Chakraborty	Programme Coordinator (Joined Nov, 2022)
23.	Sangeeta Bandopadhyay	Special Educator (Joined Nov, 2022)
24.	Joyita Mongal	Special Educator (Joined Nov, 2022)

25.	Ruchira Dasgupta	Special Educator ((Joined Nov, 2022 up to March,2023)
26.	Tanusree Mondal	Special Educator (Joined Nov, 2022)
27.	Ankana Haldar	Programme coordinator (April, 2022 - Oct, 2022) Special Educator (Joined Nov, 2022)
28.	Shoubhik Kansabanik	Special Educator (Joined July, 2022)
29.	Debashis Chakraborty	Accounts Officer
30.	Nababrata Guha Roy	Accounts Assistant
31.	Shreya Bhattacharjee	Programme Coordinator (Joined Nov, 2022)
32.	Sefali Naskar	Care Giver/ Classroom helpers
33.	Bishaya Bayen	Care Giver/ Classroom helpers
34.	Mina Bibi	Care Giver/ Classroom helpers
35.	Nazma Bibi	Care Giver/ Classroom helpers
36.	Sabina Bibi	Care Giver/ Classroom helpers
37.	Mamoni Sardar	Care Givers/ Classroom helpers
38.	Sanowara Khaton	Care Givers/ Classroom helpers (Joined Nov, 2022)
39.	Lakshman Mondal	Gate keeper
40.	Joydeep Sarkar	Gate keeper
41.	Gosto Haldar	Security
42.	Gautam Haldar	Housekeeping Staff
43.	Abanti Paul	Clay work teacher
44.	Saptarshi Mukherjee	Music Teacher
45.	Dr Banhisikha Chaudhuri	Hony. Librarian
46.	Amitava Basu	Classroom Assistant

In 2022-2023 Autism Society West Bengal started some new programmes and initiatives.

A. Livelihood and Meaningful Engagement programme for young adults with Autism

Under the Livelihood and Meaningful Engagement Program Autism Society West Bengal started two pilot projects in 2022-2023.

Baking Unit: Pilot Project

The Aarohan unit started baking cookies and the occasional cake during these last three months. They put to good use the baking unit set up with the support of *Voith Paper Technology* (India) Ltd. This initiative is a trial of ASWB's livelihood skill development project. Young adults with ASD get different livelihood training with well-trained special educators. There are two units - print studios and bakery units, both the units established by a CSR initiative. Last few months trainees tried lots of new things in the production and selling process.

Twice a week we have our baking class where trainees make cookies of different varieties. As of now, we have vanilla cookies and chocolate coffee cookies. Trainees share their choices and give inputs in the production part. With a lot of trial and error the bakery unit is producing delicious cookies and we have started taking orders. The cookies are being sold out every week. We also had two exhibitions where cookies were sold like hot cakes. We have a vision to make this unit more marketable and enable our trainees to be more independent and employable. We also have plans to introduce more variants of cookies and cakes in the coming days.



Baking Cookies

PrintStudio@ASWB unit

This PrintStudio@ASWB Unit was set up with the support of *Voith Paper Technology* (India) Ltd. This initiative is another pilot initiative of ASWB's livelihood skill development project. Artwork by students of Dikshan Unit and trainees of Aarohan, the Pre-Vocational Unit is used to be printed on T-shirts and Mugs/Cups. The printing is done by a team of parent volunteers and selected special educators who got trained for this project. As these cups are customised some parents also place orders with pictures of their child or other family member.



Cups printed in the PrintStudio@ASWB unit

Artwork was used to be printed on T-shirts. We noticed that our students and trainees were very pleased when they wore T-shirts with their own artwork. So ASWB decided to organise two In-House fashion shows. It was simply amazing to see students/trainees with autism participating in the fashion show.

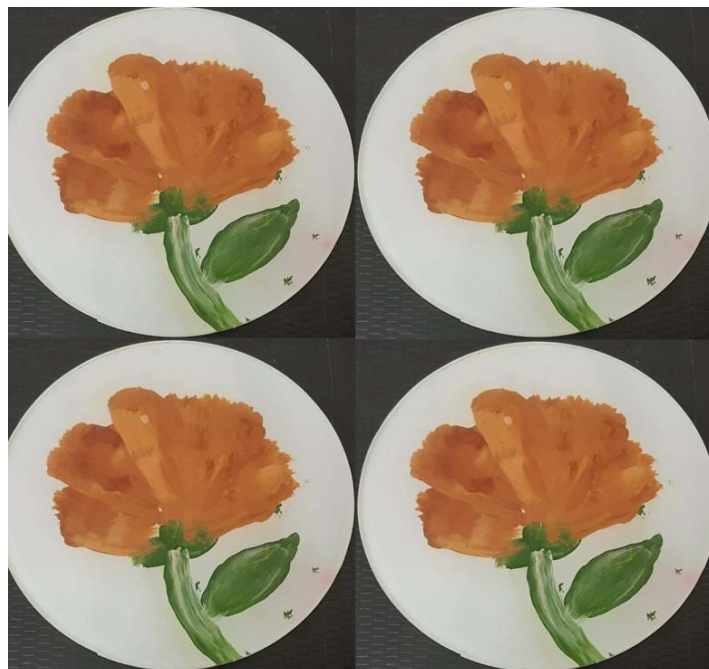


T-shirts printed with artwork by students/trainees of ASWB



Students participating in the fashion show at ASWB

The artwork on coasters is done directly by students and trainees (with support as per need).



Coasters with hand drawn artwork (with support as needed)

Paper with block prints are used to gift wrap these PrintStudio@ASWB products. Each gift is placed in a paper bag made by students and trainees following structured teaching methodology. A complimentary card is attached with each gift wrapped product.



PrintStudio@ASWB products with gift wrapping

We have also participated in exhibitions held during this period showcasing these PrintStudio@ASWB products.

Sharing exhibition details:

Sl.no	Exhibition Organized by	Venue	Date
1.	In-house exhibition of products during Agomoni programme	ASWB School premise	29th September, 2022
2.	In-house exhibition of products during Children's day celebration programme	ASWB School premise	14th November, 2022
3.	Exhibition at JLL industries	JLL Industries premise	November, 2022

B. Community based Outreach Programs: Awareness, Orientation and Screening Programs

Autism Society West Bengal has always believed in reaching out to more and more individuals – individuals who are in need of the services but unable to reach out to us because of their geographical location or economic condition or both. Keeping in view of these individuals, Autism Society West Bengal started its '**Reaching Out**' Programme. Some of these programmes were conducted online due to restriction imposed by lockdown. Since November, 2022 after ASWB received foreign funding we have started offline 'Reaching Out' programmes to accommodate more beneficiaries. Free services were offered to those identified with autism at ASWB, Mukundapur. During November, 2022 to March, 2023 we have organized **13** such reaching out programmes in districts and in Kolkata and reached out to **595** individuals. The details are provided below in a tabular format.

Nov. 2022 - March, 2023, Outreach Programs

<u>Sl. No</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Resource Organization</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Facilitator (Special Educator)</u>	<u>Coordinator/ Admin Staff</u>	<u>Total individuals/ families</u>
1	17/11	Civilian Welfare Foundation	Lansdown, Chakraberia	Arpaita Dutta	Binita Chakraborty, . Piyali Chakraborty	11
2	29/11	Roshni Youth Group	Raja Bazar	Arpaita Dutta & Joyita Mongal	Binita Chakraborty, Piyali Chakraborty	14
3	30/11	Society For Indian Children's Welfare Society (Jan Seva)	Kasba	Indrani Basu & Ruchira Dasgupta	Piyali Chakraborty	46
4	01/12	ALO (Alternative Livelihood Opportunities)	Laxmikantapur, South 24 Pgs.	Arpaita Dutta	Binita Chakraborty, Piyali Chakraborty	29
5	21/12	Bhetkipur Famili & Child Welfare Society (BFCWS)	Mathurapur, South 24 Pgs.	Sangeeta Bandapadhay & Binay Samanta	Binita Chakraborty, Piyali Chakraborty	18
6	20/01	Gopalpur ICDS	Vill - Gopalpur, Sonarpur, Ara Panch, 2 no. GP	Chandrani Chakraborty & Joyita Mongal	Binita Chakraborty, Piyali Chakraborty	52
7	10/02	Natagachi ICDS	Vill- Natagachi, Sonarpur, Ara Panch, 2 no. GP	Monoj Mahato & Amrita Bhawal	Binita Chakraborty, Piyali Chakraborty	39
8	14/02	Ramchandrapur ICDS	Vill - Ramchandrapur , Sonarpur, Ara Panch, 2 no. GP	Manoj Mahato	Binita Chakraborty, Piyali Chakraborty	41
9	15/02 & 16/02-	Institute of Handicapped & Backward People (IHBP)	Vill - Kalinagar, Nazat, Sandeshkhali 1, North 24 Pgs.	Pranabesh Bhunia, Binay Samanta	Binita Chakraborty, Piyali Chakraborty	20
10	01/03	Charon kobi Mukunda Das Junior High School	7, MukundapurMai n Rd.	Chandrani Chakraborty &	Piyali Chakraborty & Joyita Mongal	49

			Ramkrishna Palli, Nitai Nagar, Mukundapur, kol-99	. Binay Samanta		
11	09/03	Ara Panch Primary School	Ara Panch, Sonarpur, 2 no. GP	Chandrani Chakraborty, Sovik Kansabanik	Joyita Mongal, Piyali Chakraborty & Binita Chakraborty	55
12	28/03	Birla High School Mukundapur	Mukundapur	Indrani Basu, Dr. Mitu De, Arpaita Dutta	Ms. Binita Chakraborty, Ms. Piyali Chakraborty	51
13	29/03	Ara Panch Primary School	Ara Panch, Sonarpur, 2 no. GP	Maitree Ahmed, Piyali Chakraborty, Tanushree Mondal, Shoubhik Konsabanik	Binita Chakraborty, Piyali Chakraborty	170
					Total Individuals/ Families during Outreach program	595

Among the 595 individuals/families with whom interactive sessions took place during November, 2022 and March 2022 the ASWB Outreach Team could identify children/teenagers with developmental delays. The parents were counselled. Those children who seemed to be on the autism spectrum were offered free intervention services at ASWB premises at Mukundapur. However not all families could take up the offer of availing free services due to reasons like inability to take leave from work and come to ASWB, Mukundapur. For some the transport cost from their place of residence to Mukundapur was a big factor. However, few parents came to ASWB, Mukundapur to take the free intervention services.

Awareness/Orientation Programme in Kolkata

Civilian Welfare Foundation, Lansdowne, Chakraberia

An orientation for teachers in association with Civilian Welfare Foundation at Lansdowne, Chakraberia with Ms Arpaita Dutta (Clinical Psychologist, Special Educator & D.Ed Core Faculty, ASWB) along with Ms Binita Chakraborty (Project Coordinator, ASWB) and Ms Piyali Chakraborty (Programme Coordinator, ASWB). The session aimed to make aware teachers and facilitators working with children at Civilian Welfare Foundation about Autism and other Developmental Disabilities.



Collaboration of Roshni Youth Group and One Team One Dream Women's group at Raja Bazaar. Kolkata

An interactive Orientation program on autism Awareness was conducted by Autism Society West Bengal with the collaboration of Roshni Youth Group and One Team One Dream Women's group at Raja Bazaar. The main aim was to aware youth members as well as the mothers who visit this centre about Autism and other developmental disabilities. The session also shared information about how they can apply for different schemes avail for persons with disabilities, how one can apply for disability certificate etc. The session was facilitated by Ms Arpaita Dutta (Clinical Psychologist, Special Educator & D. Ed Core Faculty, ASWB) ,Ms Joyita Mangal(Special Educator, ASWB) along with Ms Binita Chakraborty(Project Coordinator, ASWB) and Ms Piyali Chakraborty (Programme Coordinator, ASWB)



At The Society of Indian Children's Welfare, Kasba

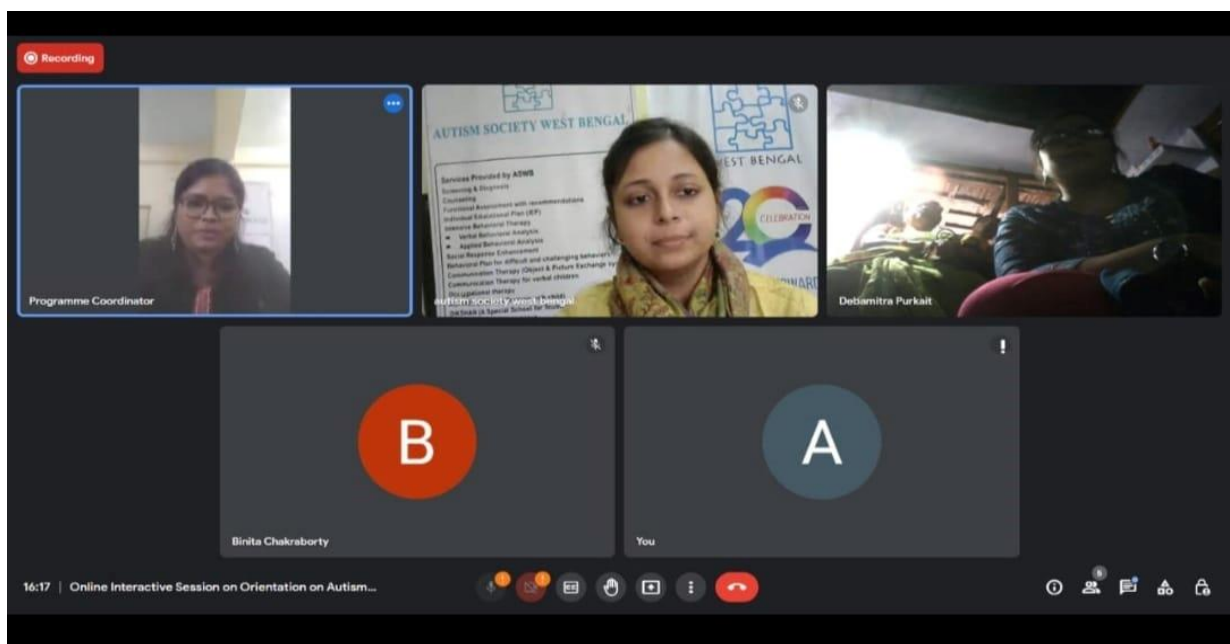
An interactive session on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at The Society of Indian Children's Welfare, Kasba, Kolkata was organized. Ms Indrani Basu, Founder – director, Autism Society West Bengal was invited as speaker. Ms Ruchira Dasgupta (Special Educator) along with Ms Piyali Chakraborty (Programme Coordinator) were also present during this interactive session.



Awareness/Orientation Programme in 24 Parganas South

Online orientation workshop with 'ALO,' (Alternative livelihood opportunities ALO)

Autism Society West Bengal Organized an online orientation workshop on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Google Meet with 'ALO,' (Alternative livelihood opportunities) which is a training Institute at Dayarampur (Laxmikantapur) in South 24 Parganas. ASWB Psychologist, Special Educator & D Ed Core Faculty Ms. Arpaita Datta was the resource person. This program was facilitated by ASWB Program Coordinator Ms. Piyali Chakraborty and Project Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty.



Outreach Program at Mathurapur, 24 Parganas (South) in collaboration with 'Bhetkipur Family & Child Welfare Society'

Autism Society West Bengal organized another Outreach Program at Mathurapur, 24 Parganas (South) in collaboration with 'Bhetkipur Family & Child Welfare Society' where special educators Binay Samanta and Sangeeta Bandopadhyay along with project coordinator Binita Chakraborty and programme coordinator Piyali Chakrabarty were present.



1st orientation programme at ICDS centre at Gopalpur centre, Sonarpur, 24 Parganas (South)

As part of our 'Reaching Out' programme, Autism Society West Bengal also collaborated with Integrated Child Development Schemes centres at South 24 Parganas especially at Sonarpur. The 1st orientation programme was organized at Gopalpur centre with Ms Chandrani Chakraborty(Special Educator& In-charge of Early Intervention Unit, ASWB), Ms Joyita Mangal (Special Educator, ASWB) along with Ms Binita Chakraborty (project coordinator, ASWB)and Piyali Chakrabarty (Programme coordinator, ASWB).



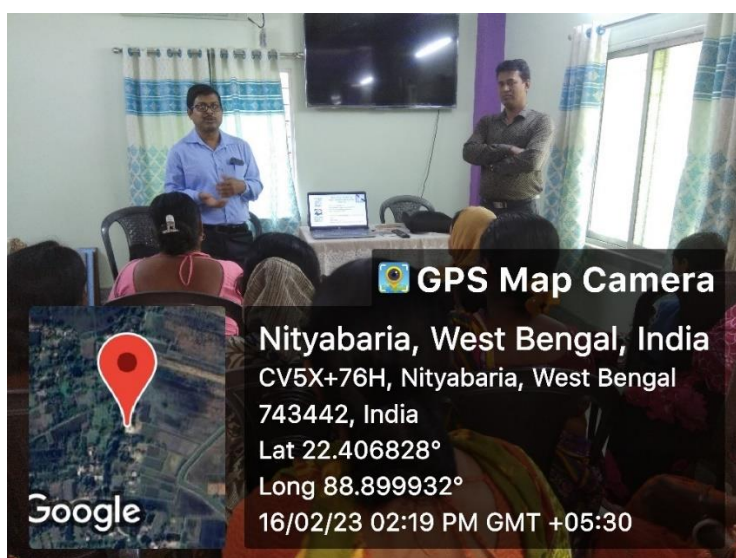
Orientation programmes were organized at Natagachi and Ramchandrapur ICDS centres.

Similar orientation programmes were organized at Natagachi and Ramchandrapur ICDS centres. Mr Manoj Kumar Mahato (Special educator & D.Ed core Faculty), Ms Amrita Bhawal (Special Educator, ASWB) with Ms Binita Chakraborty(project coordinator, ASWB)and Ms Piyali Chakraborty (Programme Coordinator, ASWB) were part of the orientation programmes.



Collaboration with Institute of Handicapped and Backward People, Nityaberia, 24 Parganas (South)

In 2019, Autism Society West Bengal collaborated with Institute of Handicapped and Backward People to support their centre at Nityaberia and organize orientation, awareness, screening and counselling sessions on Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities. Due to the pandemic we were unable to go there in 2020 & 2021. We were able to organize two days orientation session in February 2023, where Mr Pranabesh Bhunia (Special Educator & D.Ed training cocordinator, ASWB), Mr Binay Samanta(Special Educator), Ms Binita Chakraborty(Project Coordinator, ASWB) and Ms Piyali Chakraborty (Programme Coordinator, ASWB) were present.



Orientation session at Arapanch Primary School, Sonarpur, 24 Parganas South

Another orientation session has been conducting by ASWB at Arapanch Primary School. Special Educators from ASWB Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty & Mr. Souvik Kansabanik facilitated the session and Project Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty, Programme Coordinator Ms. Piyali Chakraborty & SPecial Educator Ms. Tanusree Mandol coordinating the session. Total 55 heads were participating the session. Parents, especially mothers of the students and all the teachers participated the session.

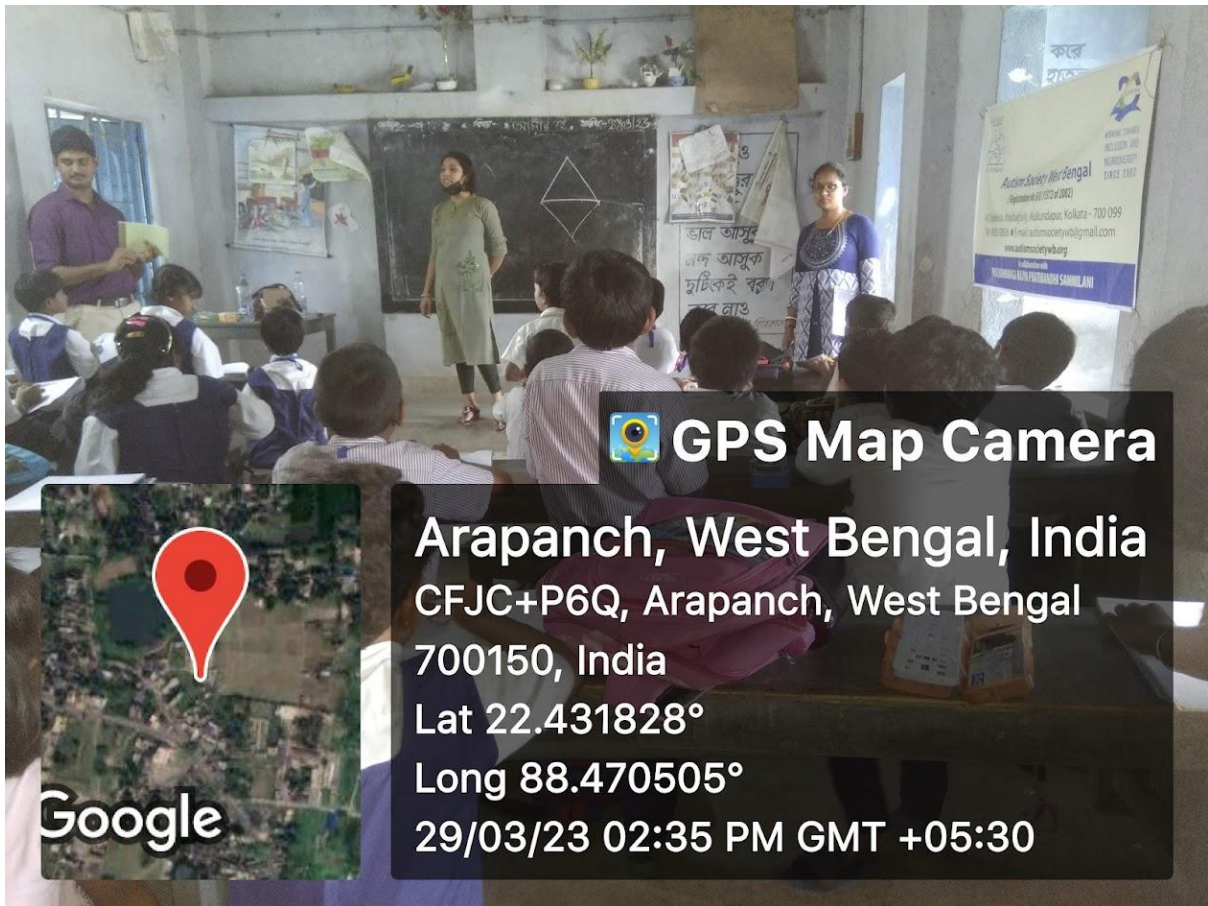


Individual screening & counselling and group assessment camp at Arapanch Primary School, Sonarpur 24 Parganas South

On 29th March, 2023 as a follow up programme a one day “**Individual screening & counselling and group assessment camp**” was organised at **Sonarpur Ara Panch Primary School**. Total 6 staffs from ASWB team organized the camp with the support of teachers of Ara Panch Primary School. Clinical psychologist Ms. Maitree Ahmed conducted the screening & counselling session with some students along with their parents. Special Educator. On the other side paralaly a group assessment sessions conducted in each class - (Pre-primary to Class IV) with the facilitation of Special D.Ed Faculty Ms. Piyali Chakraborty, Special Educator Mr. Souvik Kansabanik & Ms. Tanusree Mandol. The whole programme managed and coordinated by Programme Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty & Programme Coordinator Ms. Piyali Chakraborty. **Total 189 students, parents & teachers of this school participated in the programme.**







Awareness/Orientation Programme in Mukundapur,

Kolkata Ward no. 109.

We approached different govt., non-govt. Primary & high schools, also the Montessori schools for spreading awareness on ASD and other developmental disabilities.

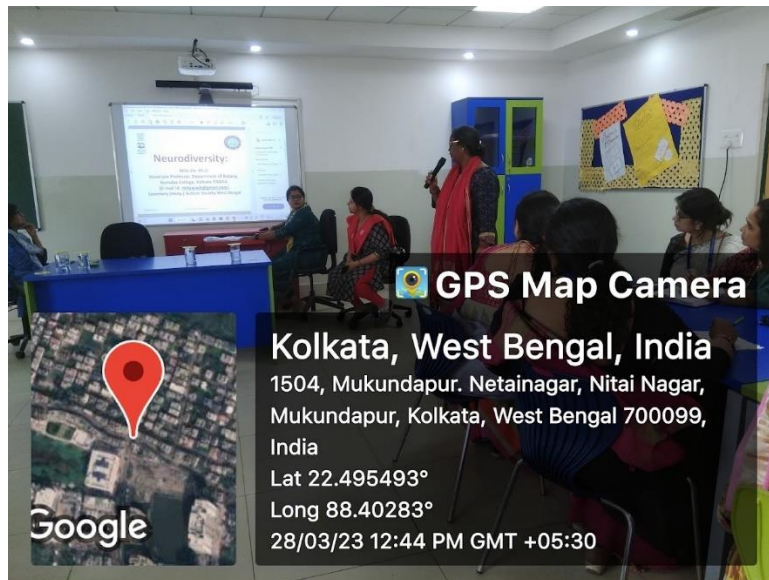
Orientation at Charon Kobi Mukunda Das High school, Mukundapur

ASWB started outreach orientation session at **Mukundapur, Kolkata Ward no. 109**. During the month of March, 2023 we have conducted an orientation session at **Charon Kobi Mukunda Das High school**. Two of our special educators Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty & Mr. Binay Samanta facilitated the session and Joyita Mongal (Special Educator), Piyali Chakraborty (Programme coordinator) coordinated the event on 1st March, 2023. Senior students and teachers were participating the session.

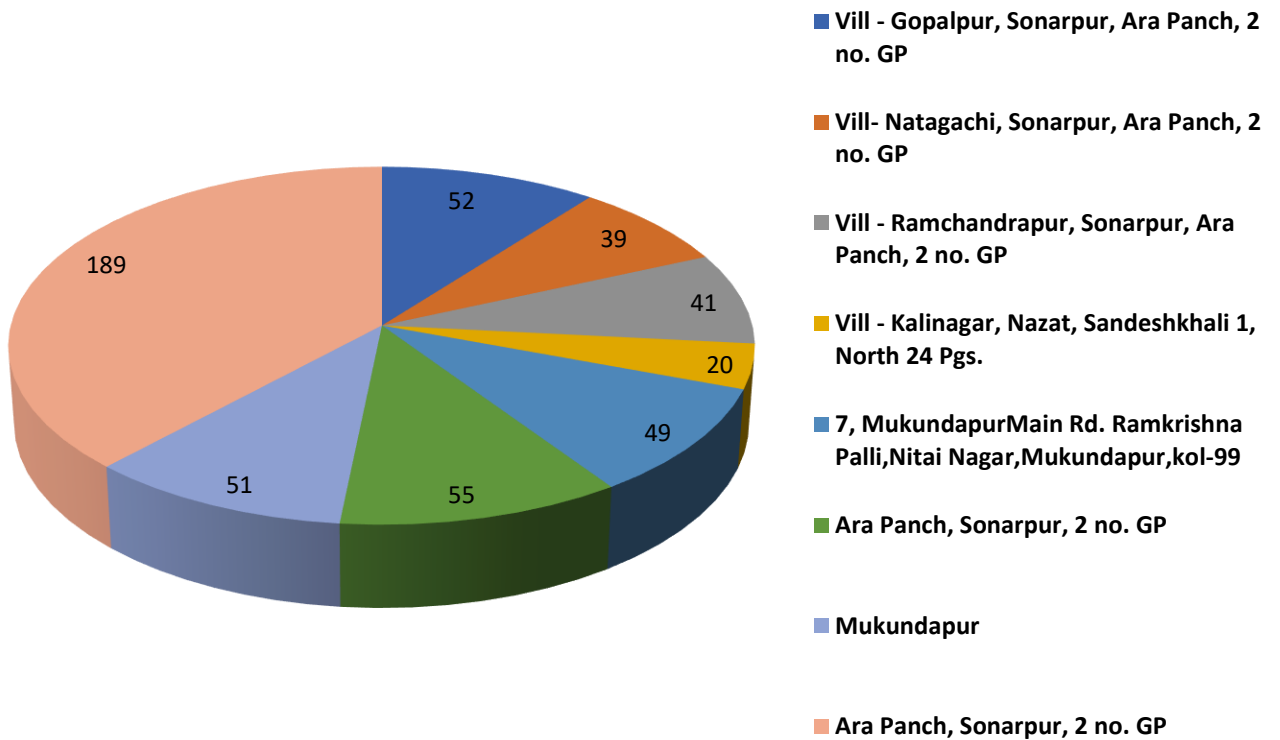


Orientation at Birla High school, Mukundapur

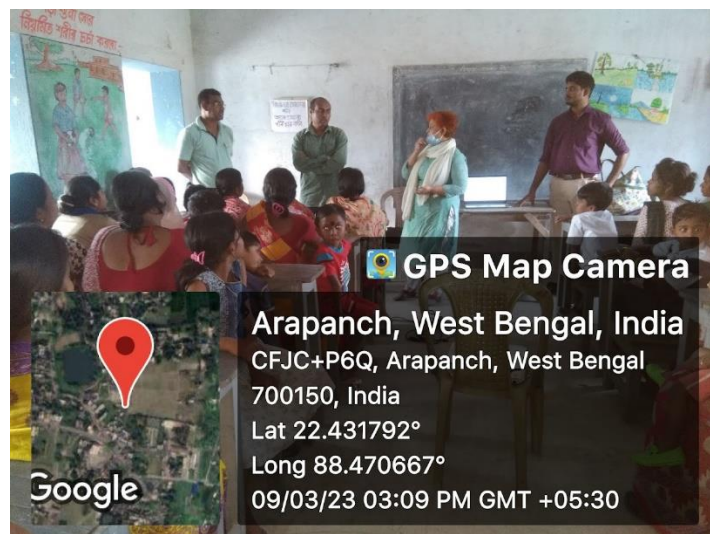
On 28th March, 2023 Team of 5 from ASWB conducted a teacher's **“Orientation on inclusion in mainstream school”** at Birla High School Mukundapur. Founder- Director of ASWB, Ms. Indrani Basu, Secretary of ASWB Dr. Mitu De & Core D.Ed faculty & Special Educator Ms. Arpaita Datta facilitated the session on different topics on inclusion at mainstream schools. Total 52 teachers participated in this interactive session. Project Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty & Programme Coordinator Ms. Piyali Chakraborty from ASWB coordinated the session.



Community based Awareness Orientation Session/ Screening Camp during January - March, 2023



Total 496 People (children, parents or other family members, school teachers, ICDS workers) **reached through Awareness Orientation Session & Screening Camp**



C. Writing Enhancement Programme

Autism Society West Bengal started Writing Enhancement programme for individuals with Autism every 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month.

This programme will not only help in developing writing skills but also it will help in developing gripping skills.




Hands on Teaching approach during the


writing Enhancement Session

D. Mental Wellness Session


Autism Society West Bengal started monthly Mental Wellness Session for young Adults. Renowned Psychologist Dr Prasanta Kumar Roy is the resource person. It provides a platform for young adults to share their anxiety, stress as well as discussion on topics that they think should be discussed.



You tell me: Workshop for Adults who have Autism



*Dr Prasanta Roy
Clinical Psychologist*



I will be at ASWB centre, Mukundapur, 9th April, 2022 at 3:30 pm.
What do you want to talk about ?
Friendship, Attraction, Romance or relationships in general?
Anxiety? Neuro-typical people?
Anything else?

For queries WhatsApp: 9038008536 or Email aswb.information@gmail.com
Autism Society West Bengal, 147, Krishakpally, Barakhola, Mukundapur, Kol - 700099



Workshops organized by ASWB

Date	Name of the workshop	Resource Person	Participants
23 rd & 24 th June, 2022	CRE Programme	Indrani Basu, Dr Mitu De, Chandrani Chakraborty, Arpaita Datta, Manoj Kumar Mahato, Dr Manisha Bhattacharya, Insana Konoki	Professionals from ASWB and other organizations
13 th August, 2022	How to shadow a student in a mainstream class	Indrani Basu	Professionals and parents
10 th November, 2022	Training classroom assistance/shadow in a mainstream school	Indrani Basu, Arpaita Datta & Chandrani Chakraborty	Professionals and parents
10 th December, 2022	Mental Health Issues in Person with Autism	Dr Prasanta Kumar Roy	Professionals and Persons with Autism

Workshop where ASWB Resource Persons were Invited

Date	Name of the workshop	Organized By	Resource Person	Participants
11 th April,2022	Accepting & Respecting Autism	Goodricke School	Indrani Basu	Professionals and parents
23 rd April,2022	Autism & Social Inclusion	Parivaar Bengal	Indrani Basu	Professionals and parents
16 th to 21 st September,2022	Workshop On Autism	FARE, Bangladesh	Indrani Basu & Chandrani Chakraborty	Professionals and parents
19 th & 20 th December,2022	International Conference on sustainable environment and health care	Lincoln University, Malaysia & WBSU	Dr Mitu De & Arpaita Datta	Professionals

Testimonials

Parent's Feedback (Harsha's Father - Mr. Jaganmangal Kanjilal):

When his child was 2 years 4 months old her wife and he identified some issues in their child's behaviour. Then they consulted with a doctor. That doctor suggested them to go to an organization called Autism Society West Bengal for further treatment. Initially they felt stressed and couldn't understand how to manage the cost of the treatment because their economical condition was not so good. When they come to the organization and talk to the special educators and other staff they feel relaxed. After that his child and both of them are going through different training programme last six months and especially after attending the occupational therapy (OT) sessions they learnt different exercises which they have been practicing with his child at home and also observed the improvement of their child after each OT session. He said that this association develops their awareness about autism and is very much sure that his child will do better in life

Parent's Feedback (Aniruddha's Mother - Ms. Joyoti Das):

Her child and she got several different kinds of training programme. Recently Her child and she completed 3 months Parent and child training. Through these training programmes she feels very satisfied and develops a confidence to face the world. As a single parent she experienced a lot of obstacles but after coming to this organization she found a place where she got a lot of support and learned different supporting mechanisms to help her child.

Parent's Feedback (Ishaan's Mother - Ms. Bula Mondal):

One of the mothers of a child from the sonarpur area participated in an Autism awareness session and shared that her son was 4 years old. He was diagnosed with Autism at a govt. hospital in Kolkata. As per the guidance of the doctor they have started therapy sessions at a private clinic at Kolkata but couldn't continue because of economic stringency. After attending the session she got to know about different services that were provided by the ASWB, free of cost. She was very pleased and came to the ASWB office. They have gone through counselling sessions, short term parent child training and will get a 3 months parent-child training programme from the month of may. In between that child got different interventions and therapy sessions from us. She was satisfied and relieved to receive all kinds of support. She shared that they can see the progress in their child behaviour and communication. Without the support of ASWB they couldn't get any services for their child.

Feedback of one of the ICDS In-charge (Ms. Kalyani Naskar):

One of the ICDS center In-charge in Sonarpur area, shared that this kind of awareness programme is very effective. As they provided health and education support to the children at grassroots level so they know there were parents of children with disabilities, especially those with developmental disabilities that don't have any proper information or awareness to support their children. She suggested we should organize more awareness programmes and screening & counselling sessions in different pockets of that community. Regular interventions will make the community people aware and take appropriate decisions for their children.

Feedback from the NGO representative (Ms. Debamitra Purkait):

One of the CBOs (Community Based Organization) situated at laxmikantapur, South 24 pargana district participated in an online orientation session, conducted by ASWB. This organization works for the community development and livelihood skill development for the community women. After attending this session all the CBOs representatives shared that though they have some other priorities they wanted to learn of Autism and other developmental disabilities. Some of them shared different situations while working with the children, parents at community level where they found that there were some children who had some learning and behavioural issues. They need some capacity building support for their staff. This kind of training will aware them to identify children with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

Feedback from School Head Teacher (Md. Zieaur Rahaman) :

ASWB conducted orientation sessions at different mainstream schools in Kolkata, South 24 Pargana districts. One of the government primary schools at Kolkata, ward no. 109 gave us the opportunity to conduct an awareness session. Head teacher of the school shared that this session was very informative and they learnt about Autism and other developmental disabilities. He also shared that there were many children who have learning difficulties, some others have behavioral issues so they need an intervention where experts from ASWB can diagnose and give some appropriate suggestions to them as well as to the parents for supporting those children. They need some suggestions for the teachers and parents which will provide long term support to the children.

Feedback from Parents of Early Intervention Unit

Sangeeta Roy Chowdhury, mother of Rushank Roy Chowdhury(Early Intervention, ASWB)

My son Rushank joined the early in a mainstream school. intervention programme at ASPIRES Unit. After teh programme his overall development has improved & his social interaction skills have also developed.I would like to take this opportunity to thank Team ASWB for their constant hard work & guidance towards my son in this programme. My son has been enrolled in a mainstream school now.

Feedback from Parents of School

Banti Das Saha, Sagnik Saha's mother (Dikshan, Special school)

It has been a wonderful experience to get enrolled in Dikshan – junior section. Sagnik has got an experience of how school atmosphere is. He got so many new friends with whom he can spend a good amount of time every day. The school has also helped Sagnik to understand instructions and how we should follow them. The school experience has helped in his overall development as Sagnik has learned play skills, sitting habit, eye contact and understanding. However, the online classes started by Autism Society West Bengal have also made him experience how digital learning can be fun too. She further stated that all the teachers here are very helpful and cooperative.

Testimonial from Self Advocate

Amitrajit (Rohan) Biswas, Graduate in Culinary Science from NSHM Knowledge campus and one of our active YAAR planning members

Last year, I got the Best Role Model award conferred by Department of Child Development, Women Development & Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. I was so happy and excited and couldn't believe that I was really got the award. I did face many challenges since my childhood days but I have overcome those and today I can proudly say that I am a graduate in Culinary Science from NSHM Knowledge campus.

Events of ASWB 2022 -2023

APRIL

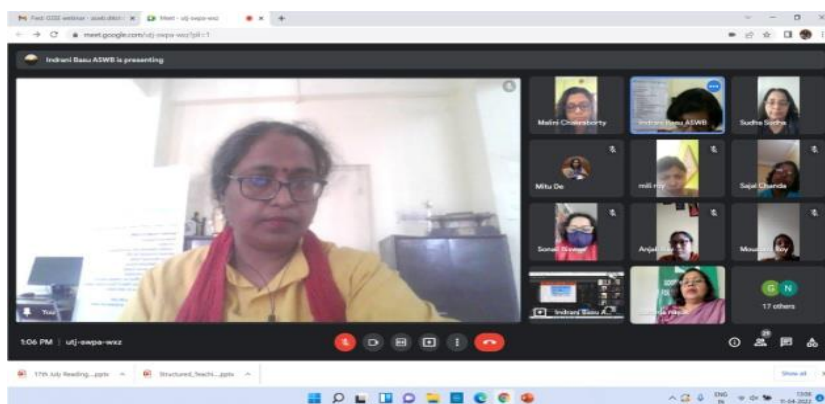
The Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal organized the Observance of World Autism Awareness Day in collaboration with Autism Society West Bengal on 2nd April, 2022 at Gyan Mancha, Sharing some pictures of the event.



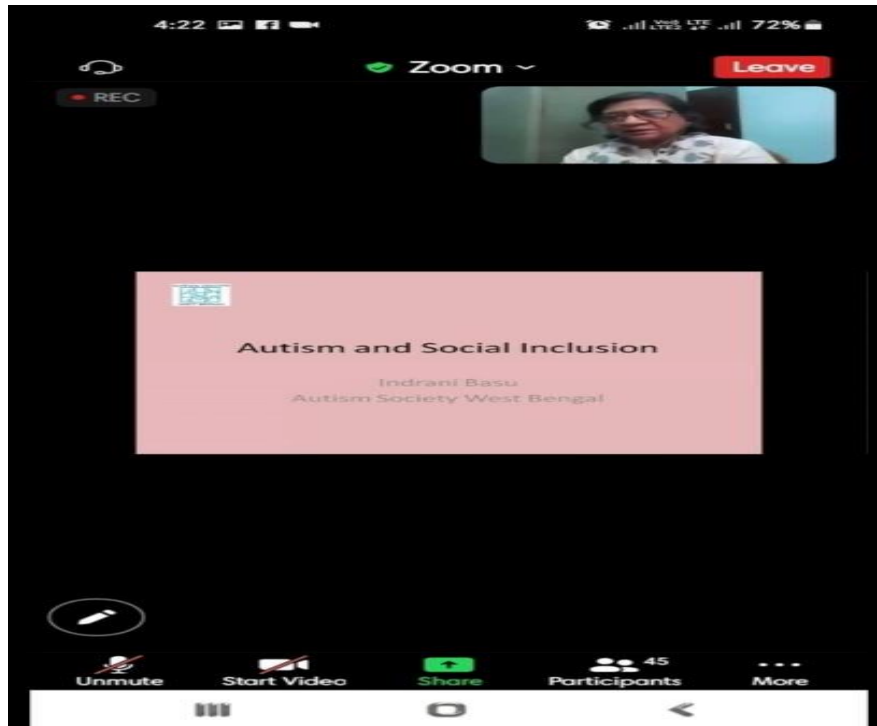
'Out of syllabus' where Autism Society West Bengal Founder Director Ms. Indrani Basu was invited to have a conversation with Dr. Manas Chakrabarti and RJ Arvind on 9th April, 2022



Goodricke School for Special Education, Siliguri, organised a Foundation Day Webinar on 11th April, 2022 in association with Autism Society West Bengal. Sharing some pictures. A special thanks to Susama Nayak for organizing this in April, the Autism Awareness Month. The talks were based on 'Accepting and Respecting Autism.'



ASWB Founder Director Ms. Indrani Basu Aswb was invited by Parivaar Bengal to give an online talk on 'Autism and Social Inclusion' on 23rd April, 2022 on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Month.



A promotional poster for a webinar. The background is dark blue. On the left, it says 'Celebrating World Autism Awareness Month' and features the Parivaar Bengal logo and name. Below that, it says 'Presents A National Webinar On : Autism and Social Inclusion'. It also lists 'Via: zoom' and 'YouTube LIVE'. At the bottom left, it says 'Follow us: https://www.facebook.com/parivaarbengal2018/'. On the right, there is a photo of Mrs. Indrani Basu, Founder Director of Autism Society West Bengal. At the bottom right, it says 'SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2022 4 PM'.

MAY

Rabindra Nazrul Jayanti was celebrated at Autism Society West Bengal on 13.05.2022



JUNE

Autism Society West Bengal D Ed Core Faculty Manoj Kumar Mahato and Arpaita Datta attended the meeting called by the Forum for Students with Disabilities on 5th June, 2022 at Jadavpur University.



In person YAAR after more than two long years. On 11th June, 2022 in ASWB premises, Mukundapur. Live music, songs, dance and snacks and 'adda' during that Saturday evening.





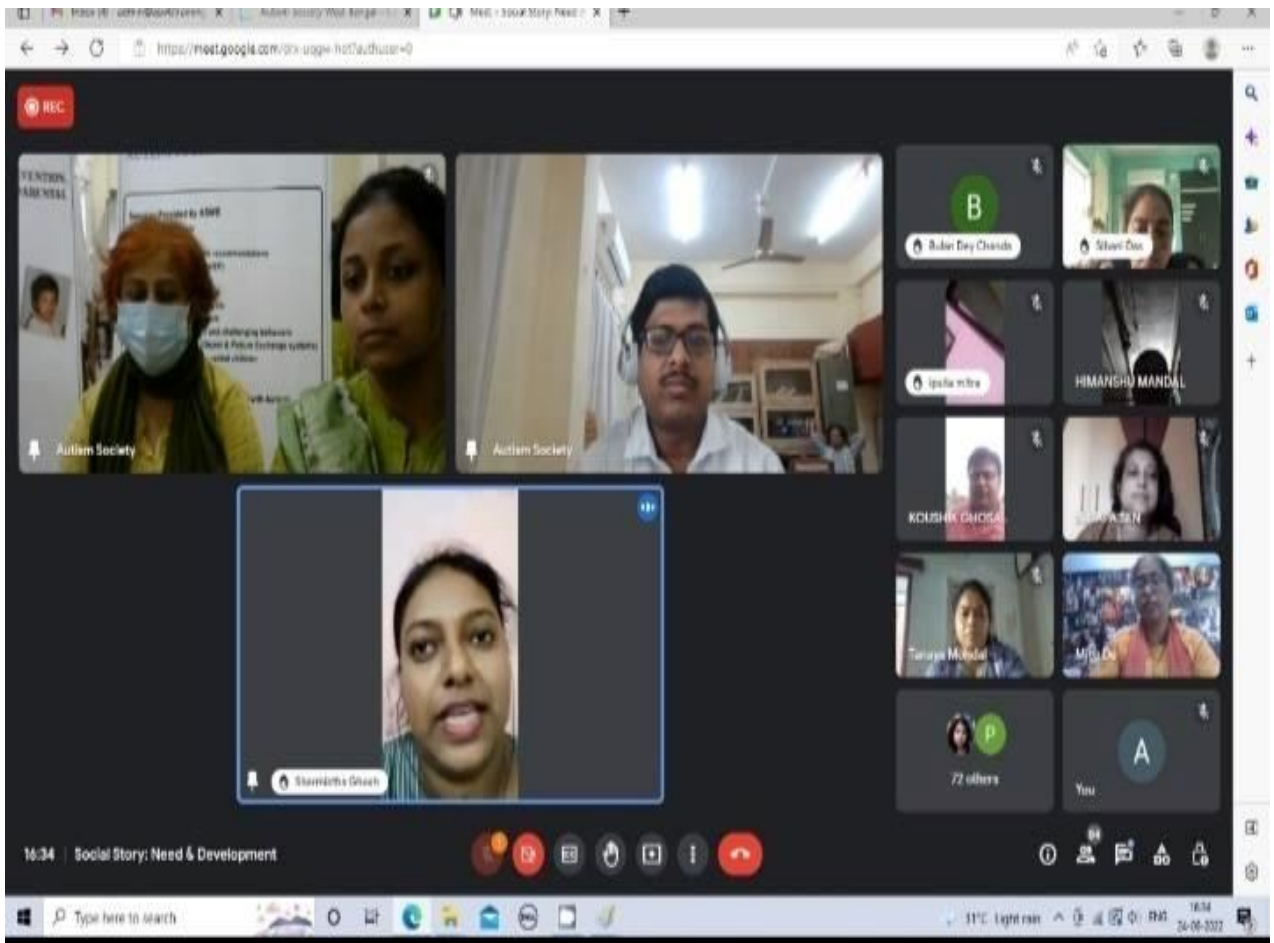
D Ed Final Practical Examination on 17th June, 2022





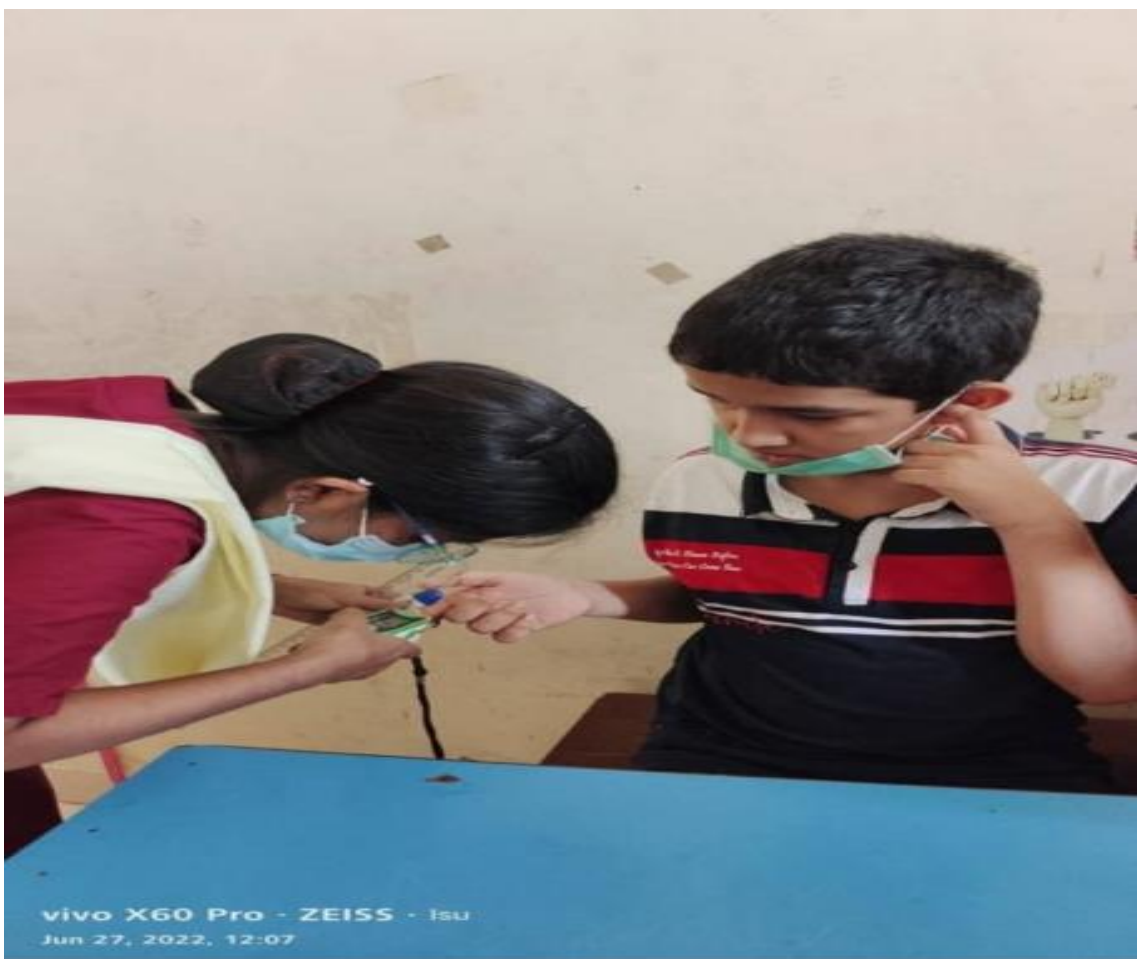
Autism Society West Bengal conducted two days online CRE programme on 23rd & 24th June, 2022. D Ed Core Faculty member Team Mr Manoj Kumar Mahato Ms Arpaita Dutta were resource persons. Other resource persons were Indrani Basu (founder –director, ASWB), Chandrani Chakraborty (Special Educator & Coordinator Parent Directed Intervention Training Program), Manisha Bhattacharya (Clinical Psychologist), Dr Mitu De (Hony Secretary, ASWB) and Insana Konoki (Occupational Therapist)





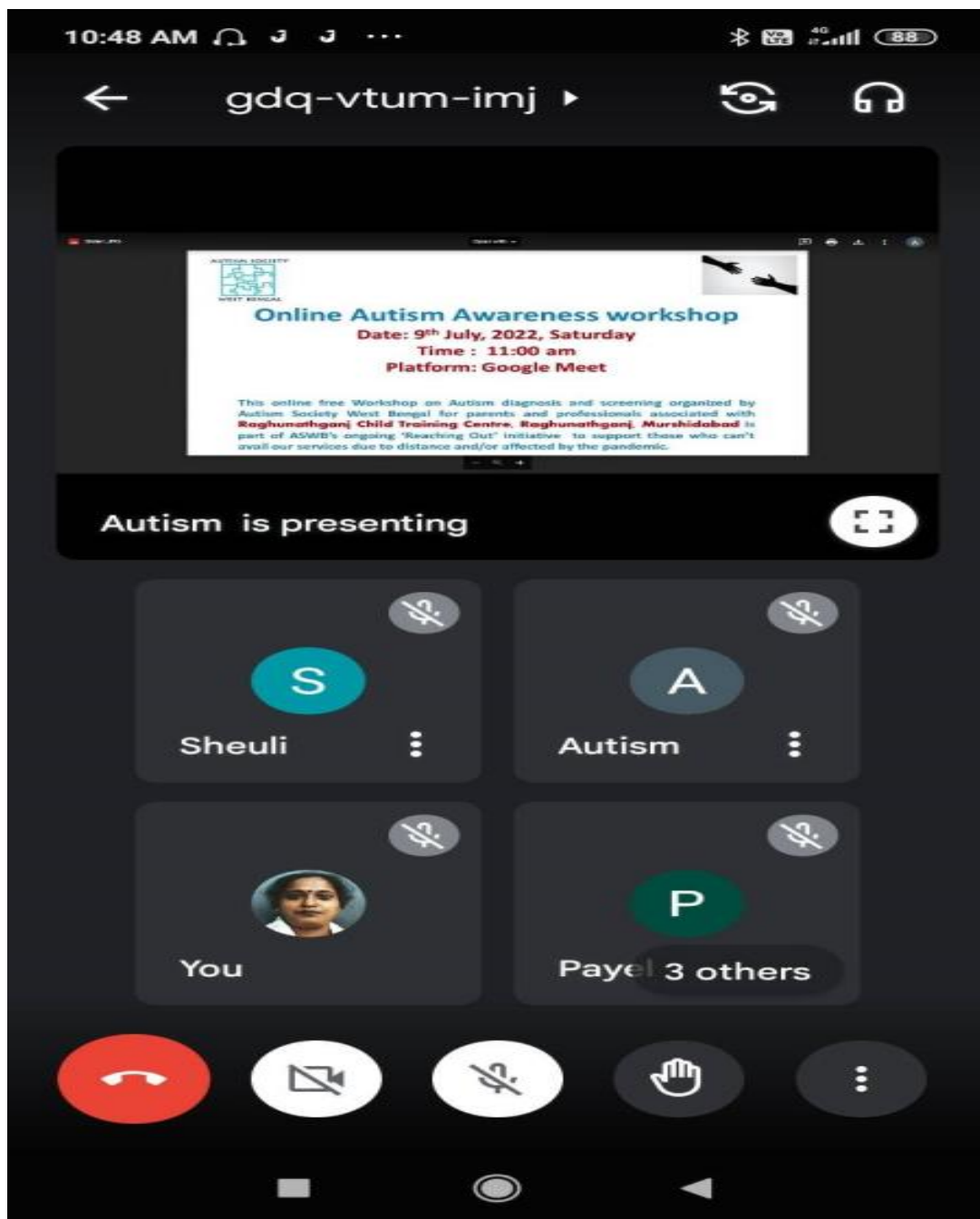
Aliah University 3rd year B. Sc. Nursing students visited Autism Society West Bengal on 27th & 28th June, 2022. We thank Aliah University for this initiative where basic health check up of ASWB students and trainees was conducted.






JULY

Autism Society West Bengal continues the 'Reaching Out' program that started during the pandemic. This time we reached out to the teachers and parents associated with Raghunathganj Child Training Centre, Raghunathganj, Murshidabad on 9th July. We have regularly conducted online autism awareness & parent training and empowerment programs (some free) for families who can't avail our services due to distance and/or those who were affected adversely due to the pandemic. The lockdown has taught us that intervention & training can't stop.



REC



Autism Spectrum Disorder

Arpaita Datta
Masters in Psychology, D.Ed Special Education (ASD).

D.Ed Core Faculty & Special Educator, Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB)




9th July, 2022 Autism Society West Bengal


Autism is presenting



Autism



Sheuli



You



Autism 8 others

12:30 PM

4G 67

gdq-vtum-imj

REC



Participant 1: N... (with a hand icon and a mute icon)

Participant 2: Autism (with a video call icon and a mute icon)

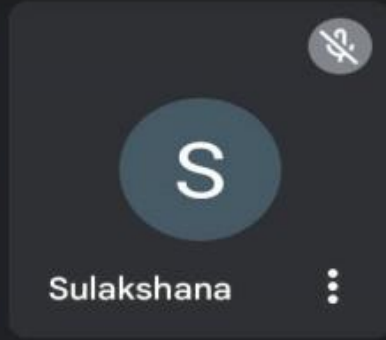
Participant 3: You (with a video call icon and a mute icon)

Participant 4: Meeting 9 others (with a video call icon and a mute icon)

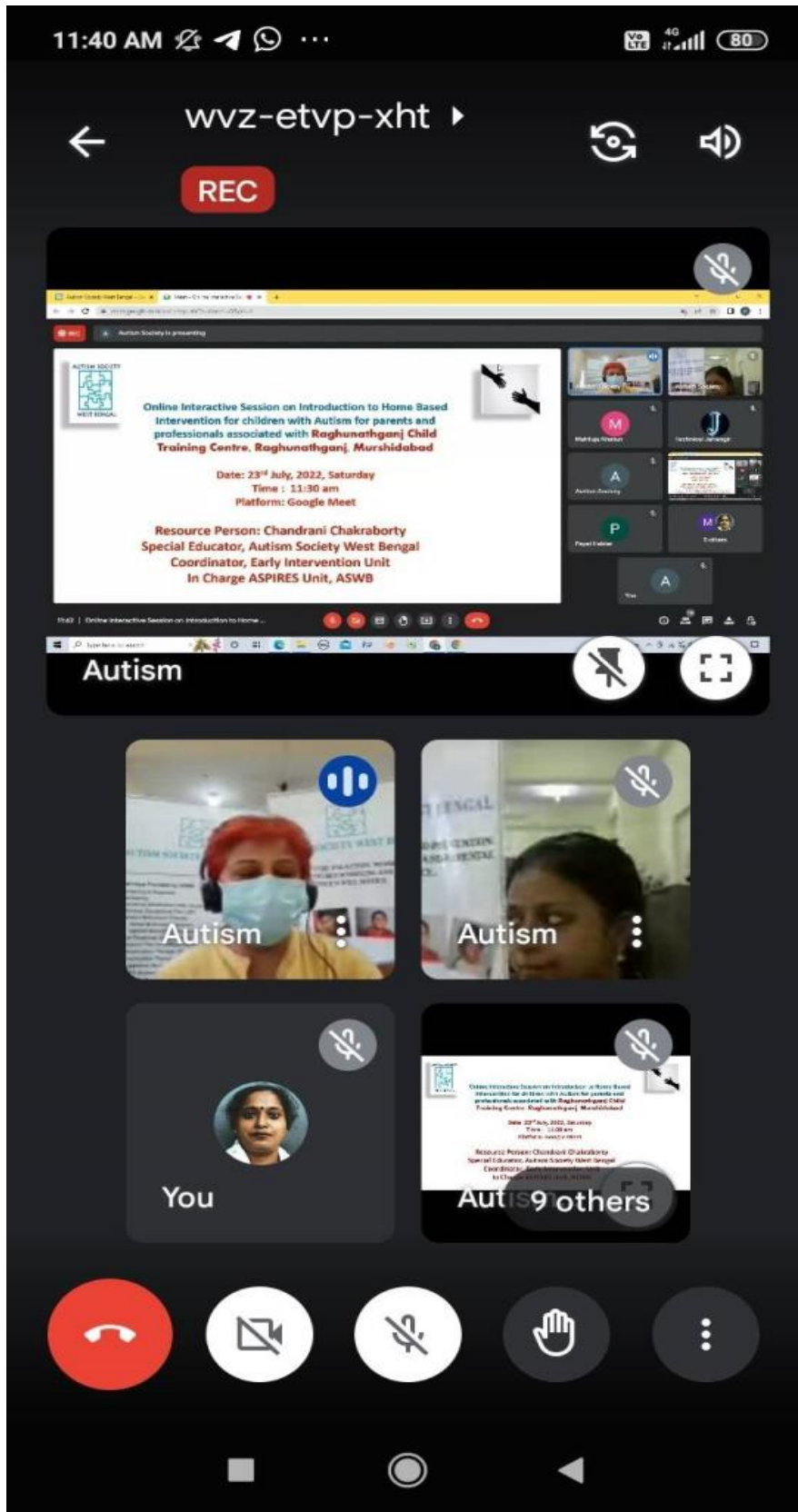
Bottom navigation bar: End call (red), Stop video (square), Mute (hand), Hand icon, More options (three dots)



REC



Second Online 'Reaching Out' program by ASWB held on 23rd July.

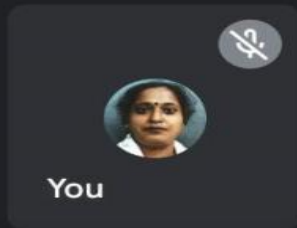


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REC



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REC



Autism

A

Autism

⋮

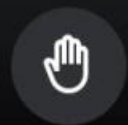
Autism...

⋮

You

Paye 3 others

P



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REC



Participants of YAAR Social Club celebrated belated World Music Day on 23rd July.



AUGUST

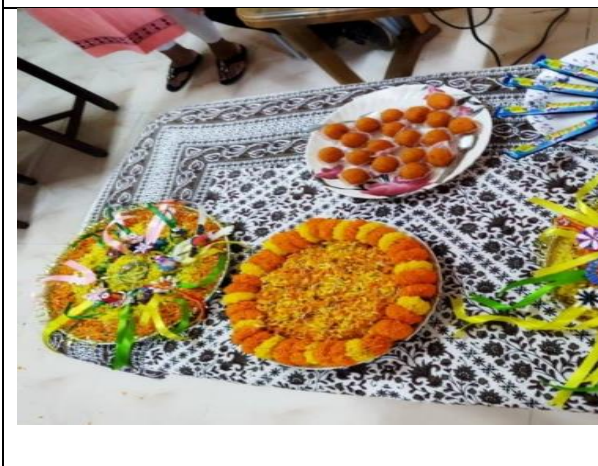
Abhishek Sarker trainee at the Aarohan unit of ASWB participating in an event organised by Atypical Advantage and Pepperfry on 5th August, 2022.



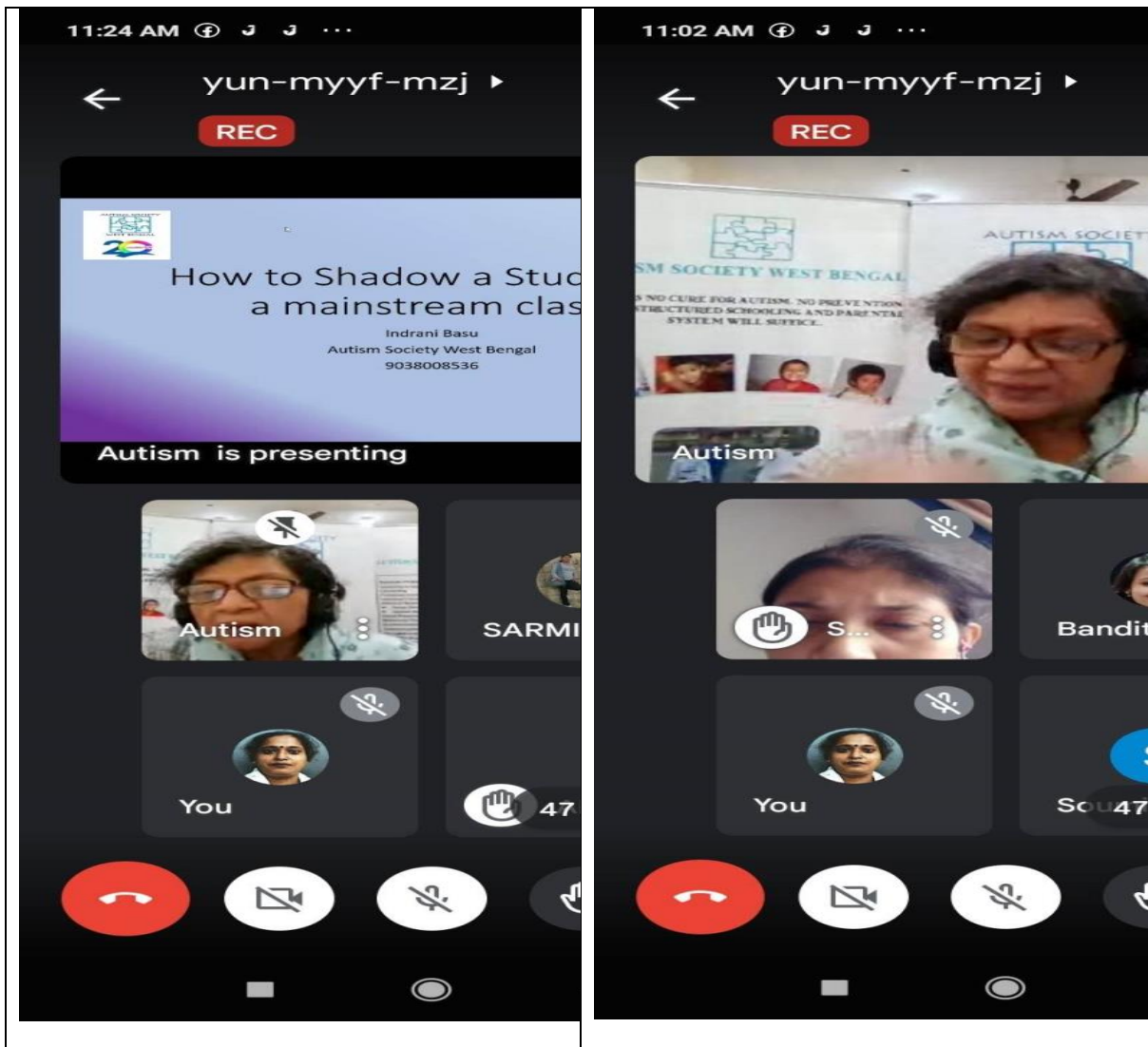
The Indian Museum organised a Rakhi making workshop for mainstream students & students with special needs. Special educators of ASWB Sampa Rani Sahoo, Amrita Bhawal and Intern Sangeeta Bandopadhyay were there as resource persons. Three students of the Dikshan Unit participated on 10th August, 2022.

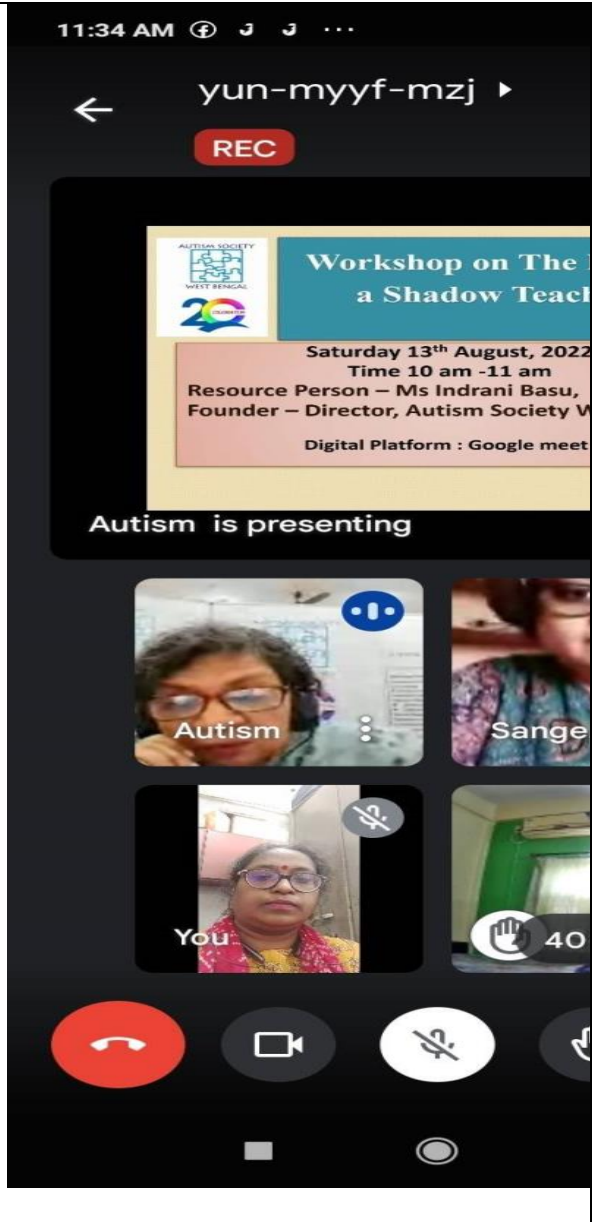
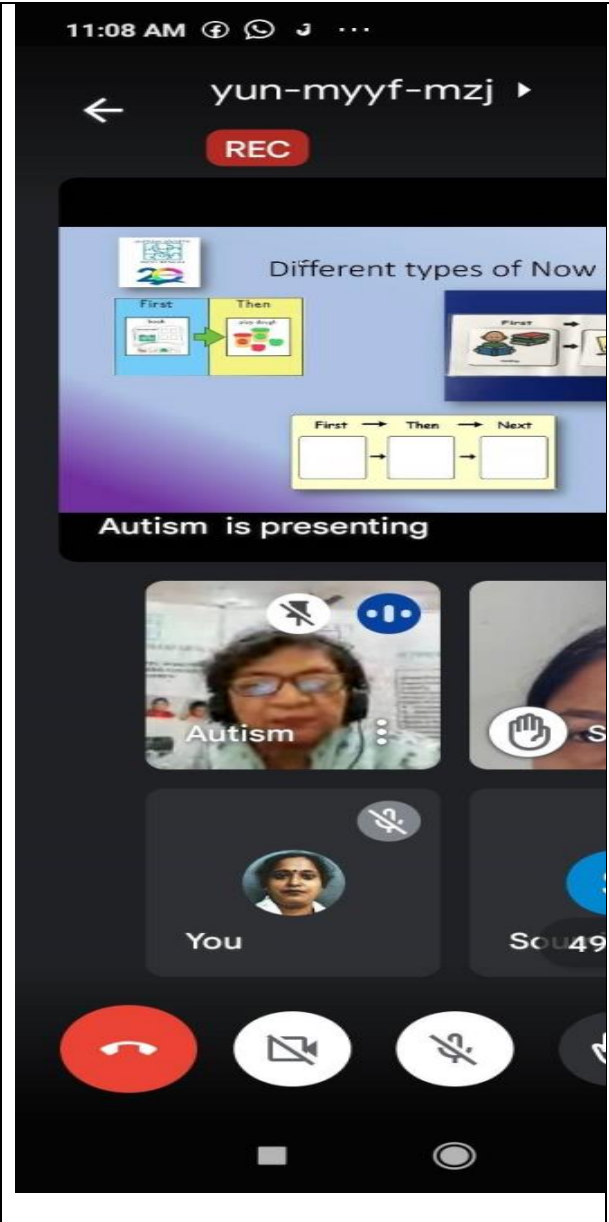


Glimpses of the Rakhi Utsav at ASWB on 11th August, 2022



Glimpses of workshop held on 13th August. Topic – How to shadow a Child in a mainstream class. Resource person Ms. Indrani Basu Founder Director of ASWB.





Independence Day celebration at ASWB on 15th August

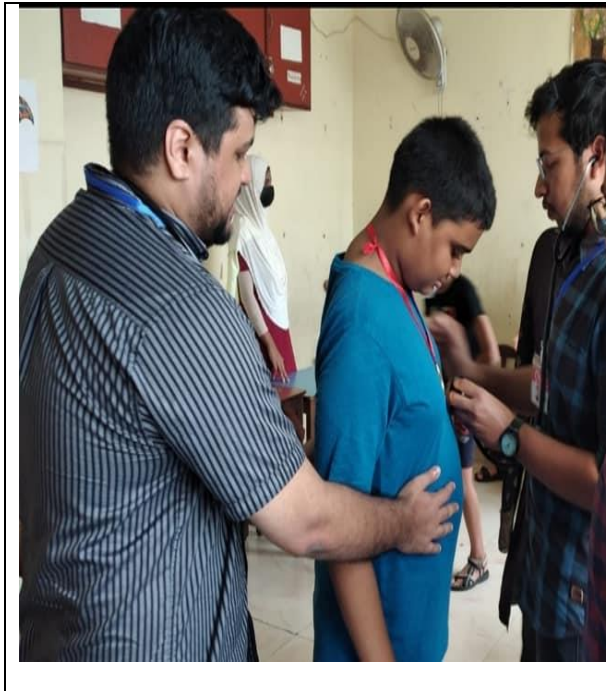


Social Club YAAR(Yaar Adults with Autism Reach Out) add was held on 27th August





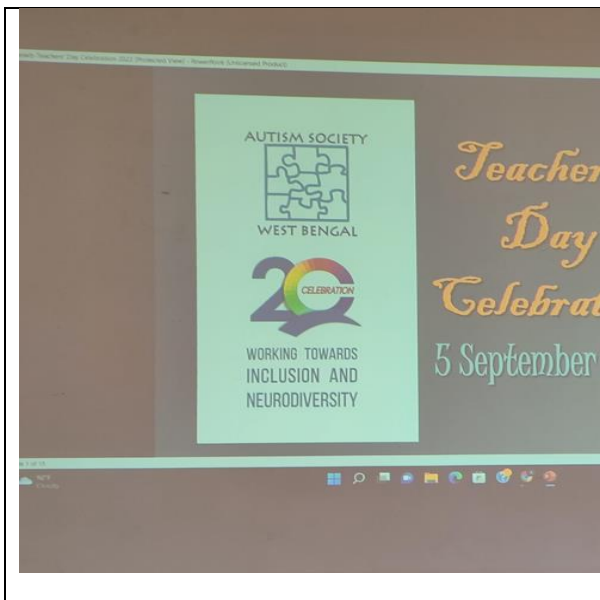
Free health check up was organized by 'Doctors For A Cause' organization and Aliah University Nursing department at ASWB on 26th August. They organized the free check-up for all the students, staff members as well as supporting staff members.





SEPTEMBER

Teachers' Day Celebration at ASWB on 5th September, 2022. Students of Early Intervention and Dikshan units & trainees of Aarohan unit gave cards to all special educators, staff, volunteers and management members. The entire program was organised by the students and Aarohan trainees & D Ed trainees and interns.





On 6th September, 2022 M.Sc 3rd semester students of Dept. of Applied Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University with two faculty members visited ASWB. They visited the Junior, Intermediate and the pre-vocational unit - Arohan. It was to give them an insight of how to bring their theoretical knowledge of therapies to practicals and applications. It was followed by an interactive session with the Core Faculty of the D Ed unit of ASWB. Ms. Arpaita Datta, Ms. Piyali Chakraborty, Mr Manoj Kumar Mahato, D.Ed Core faculty & Special Educator & Mr. Pranabesh Bhunia, Course Coordinator & D Ed Core Faculty were the resource persons for the session





Fashion Show @ASWB Curtain Raiser on 9th September. The T shirts were printed in the recently launched Print Studio unit of ASWB. Most of the T Shirts had artwork of students and trainees of Dikshan and Aarohan units of ASWB. The designing was done by the Creative Team headed by two parent volunteers Ms. Smriti Ghosh & Ms. Swati Mallik.





ASWB Director Ms. Indrani Basu and Special educator Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty were invited by FARE BD, Bangladesh as resource persons, 16th to 21st September.



Pre Puja 'Agamami' program was held at ASWB on 24th August. There was a Fashion show too where our students & trainees walked with their parents, siblings or friends. The D Ed

trainees and interns actively participated and organised this program along with the other ASWB staff.




OCTOBER

The participants of YAAR had a gala time on 22nd October. Everyone posed with the accessory that Amrita Bhawal had brought. Music and dance were great fun too followed by snacks and sweets on the occasion of meeting each other after Bijoya.



NOVEMBER

Workshop on Training classroom assistant and shadow in Mainstream schools organized by Autism Society West Bengal. Resource persons – Indrani Basu, Arpaita Dutta & Chandrani Chakraborty on 10th November. The workshop was organized as series of 2 weeks. At the end of two weeks, participants received a certificate of completion.



**Workshop on
'Training Classroom
Assistant/Shadow in
mainstream schools'.**

Training classroom support for students

Trainers:


Ms. Indrani Basu ,
Founder Director,
Autism Society West Bengal


Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty,
Coordinator, Early Intervention Unit,
Autism Society West Bengal

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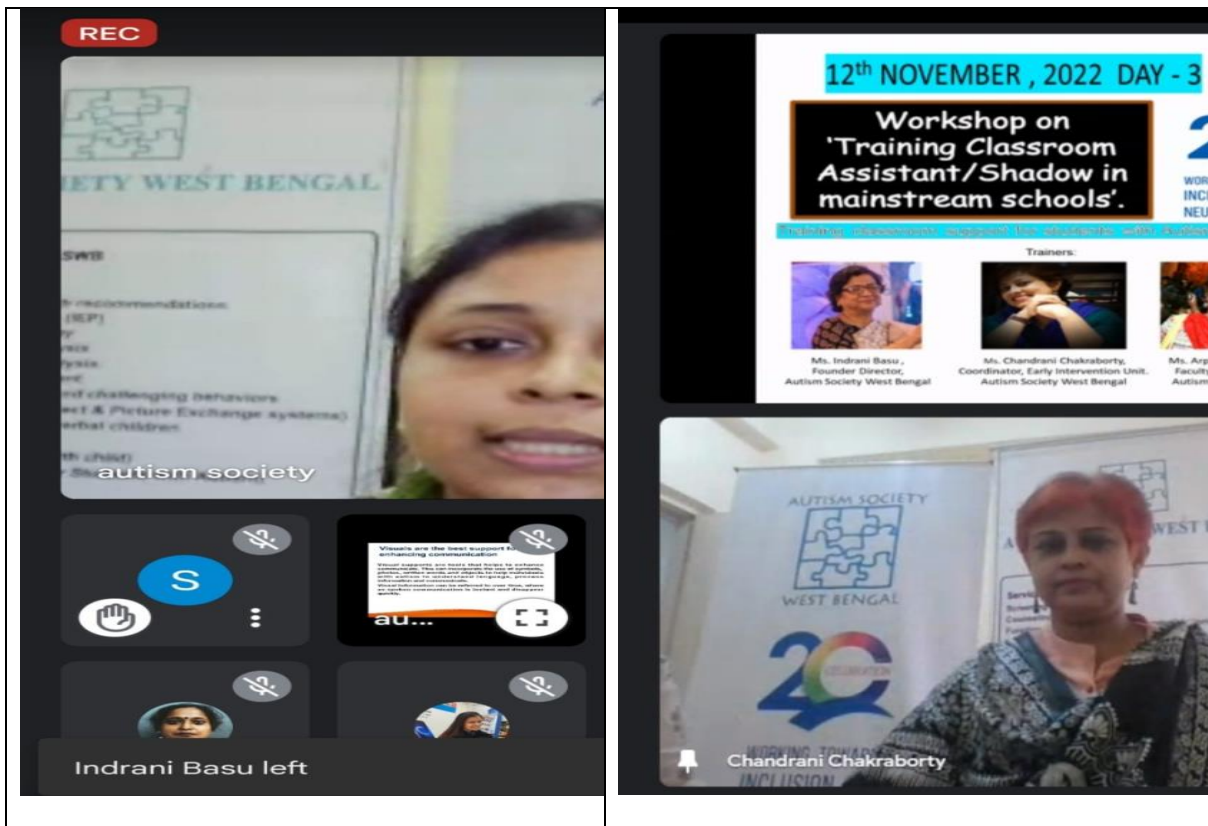
REC

Indrani

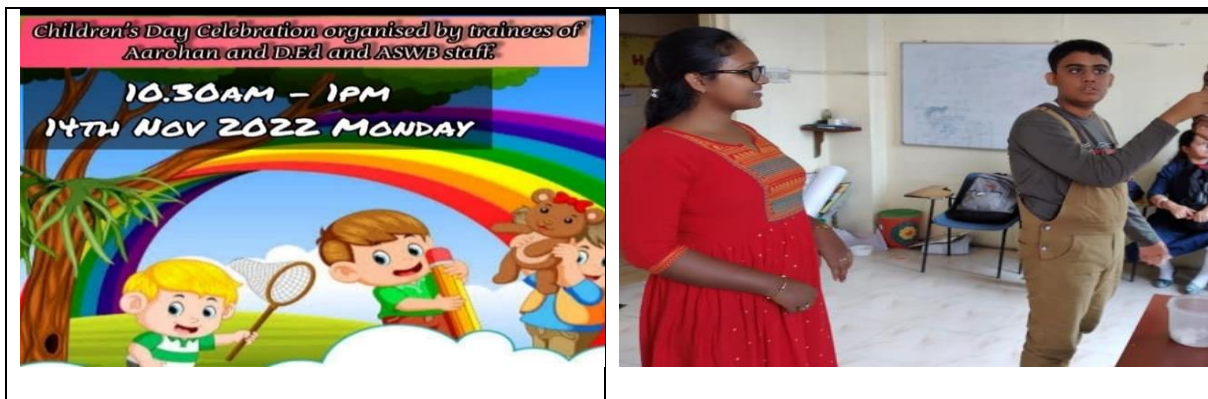
Sangee... ...

You ...

Apare...



Children's Day Celebration at ASWB on 14th November. A day full of fun for students.

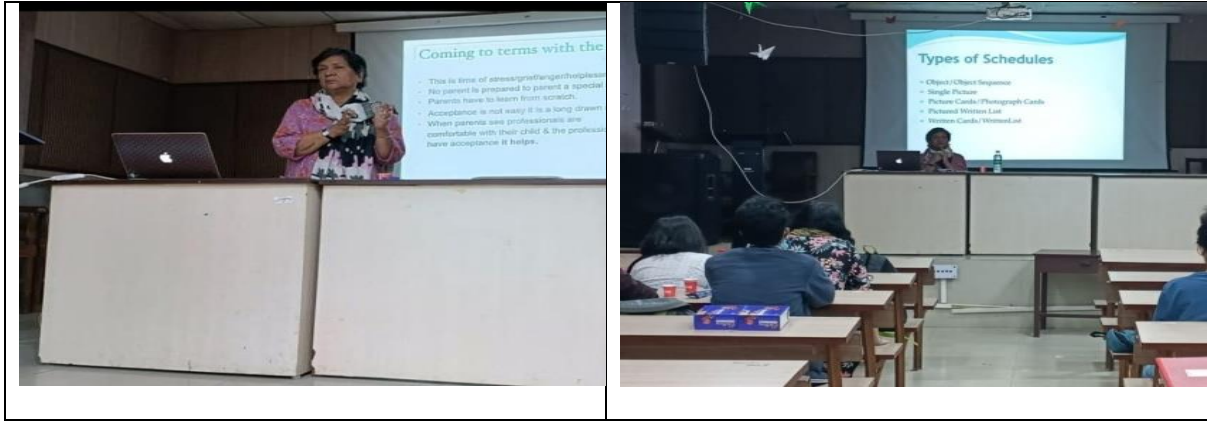




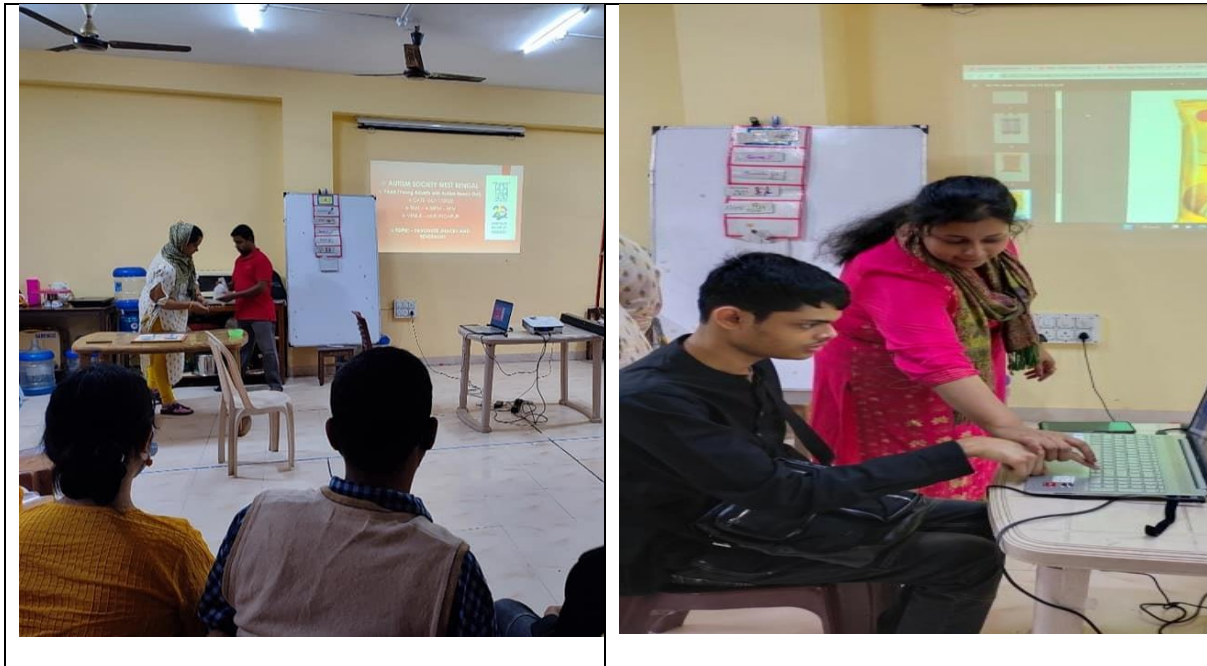
Aarohan trainees visited Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy on their 48th foundation day on 23th November.



On 24th November ASWB Director Ms. Indrani Basu took honorary classes for the M Phil students of Applied Psychology of Calcutta University.



Social Club YAAR(Young Adults with Autism Reach Out) on 26th November. Games, adda and snacks. Great combination for a fun filled evening.





Students and trainees of Autism Society West Bengal were invited by the Indian Navy to view a movie on 29th November, 2022. This was a part of the Navy Week celebration. Our students and trainees enjoyed a lot.





DECEMBER

Autism Society West Bengal received the 'Outstanding Parents Organization ' State Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2022 on 2nd December.



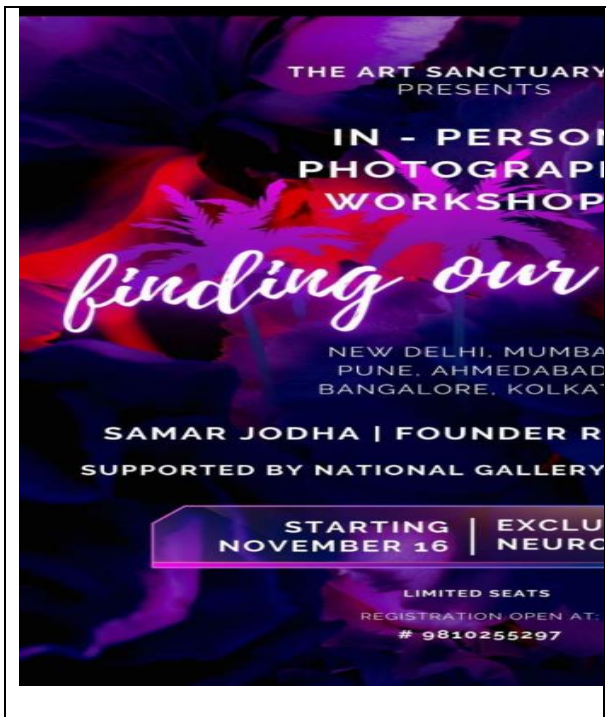


On International Day for Persons with Disabilities 3rd December, 2022 Autism Society West Bengal organized free intervention sessions for all.





In- person Photography workshop on 3rd & 4th December, 2022.





Dr Prasanta Roy spoke on 'Mental health issues in persons with Autism' on 10th December, 2022. This free online webinar was part of the 'Reaching Out' initiative of ASWB.



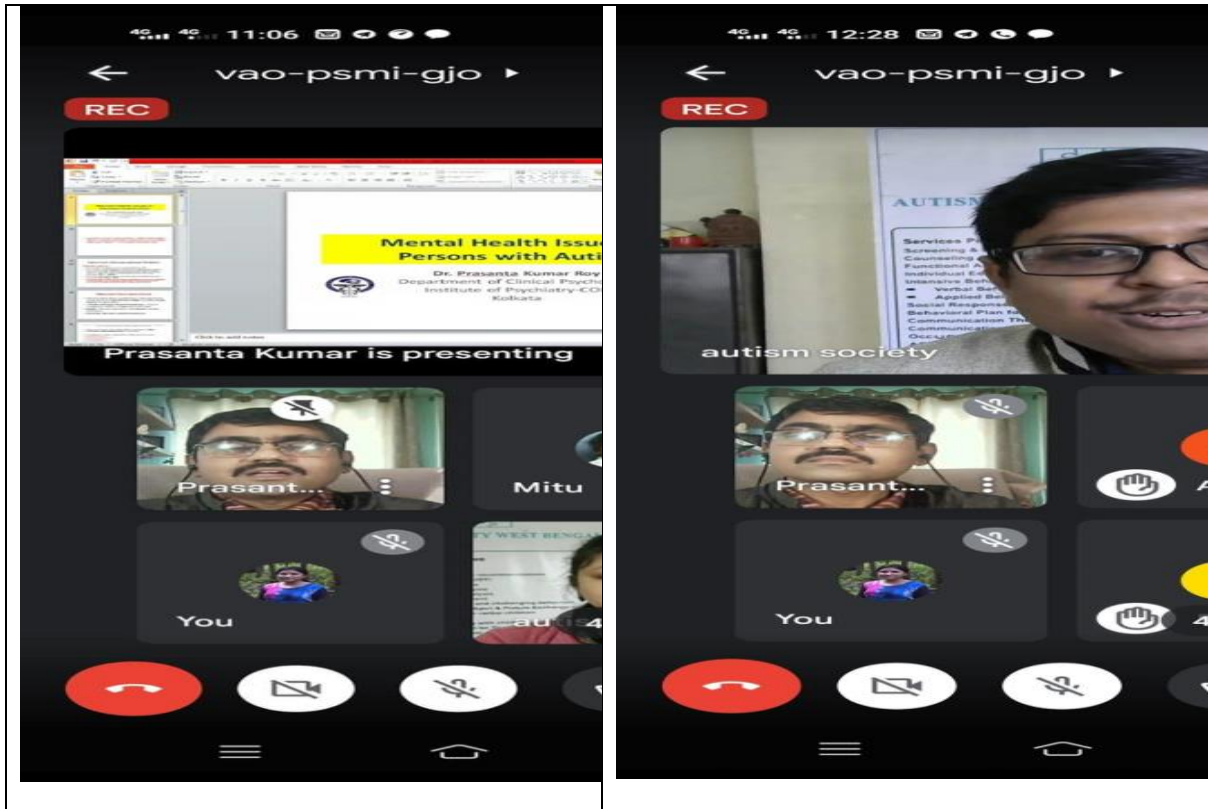
AUTISM SOCIETY WEST BENGAL
Free online webinar
on
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN PERSONS WITH AUTISM



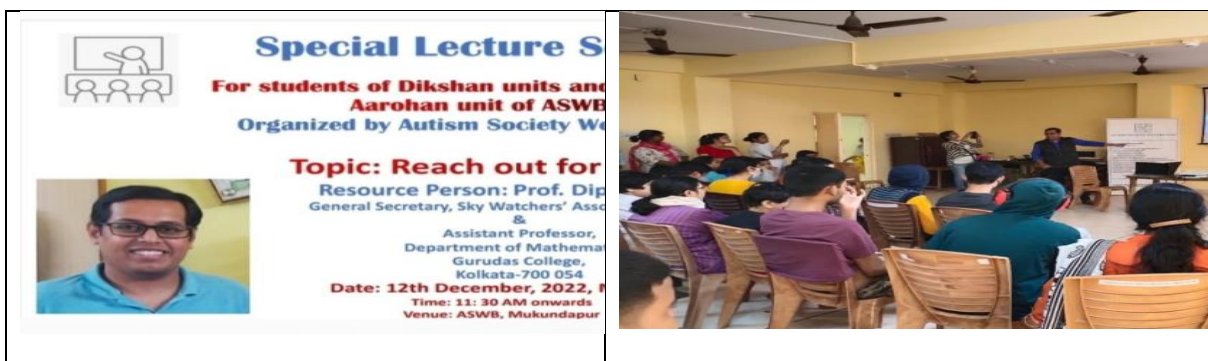
Resource Person: Dr. Prasanta Kumar Roy
Faculty & Head Department of Clinical Psychology
Institute of Psychiatry, a Centre of Excellence
Vice President (East), Clinical Psychology Society

Date: 10th December, 2022
Time: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Digital Platform: Google Meet





On 12th December, 2022 Dipankar Dey, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Gurudas College and General Secretary, Sky Watchers' Association, Kolkata gave a talk on 'Reach out for the Stars.' The students of the Dikshan unit and trainees of the Aarohan unit of Autism Society West Bengal were thrilled during the presentation.





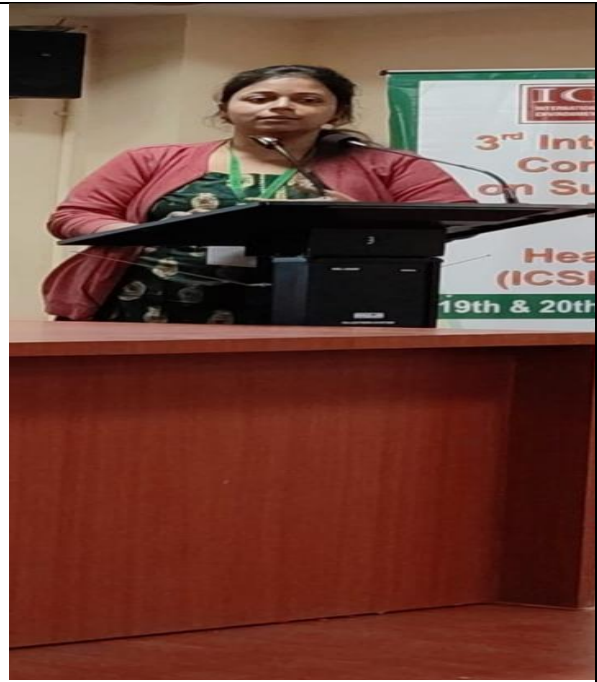
Students of Dikshan and trainees of Aarohan were delighted with Dr Subhadeep Sarker's presentation with such colourful photographs that were clicked and selected by him on 16th December, 2022.



Autism Society West Bengal conducted CRE program on 'Sex education and Life Skills Training' at Autism Society West Bengal on 17th & 18th December, 2022.



Three oral presentations during the 3rd International Conference on Sustainable Environment and Healthcare (ICSEH 2022) on 19th & 20th December, 2022. Autism Society West Bengal was represented by Arpaita Datta Psychologist and D Ed Core faculty and Secretary Dr Mitu De



Social Club members of YAAR celebrated Christmas on 24.12.2022

▶ AUTISM SOCIETY WEST BENGAL
▶ YAAR (Young Adults with Autism Reach C
▶ DATE -24/12/2022
▶ TIME – 4:00PM – 5:30PM
▶ VENUE – MUKUNDAPUR
▶ TOPIC – CHRISTMAS PARTY



JANUARY

10th January, 2023 the D Ed Practical examination was held at Autism Society West Bengal for the 1st year D ed trainees

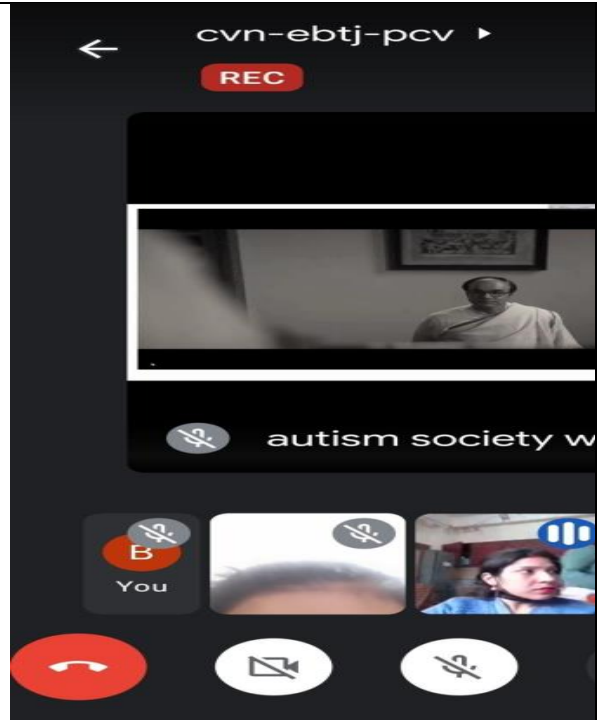
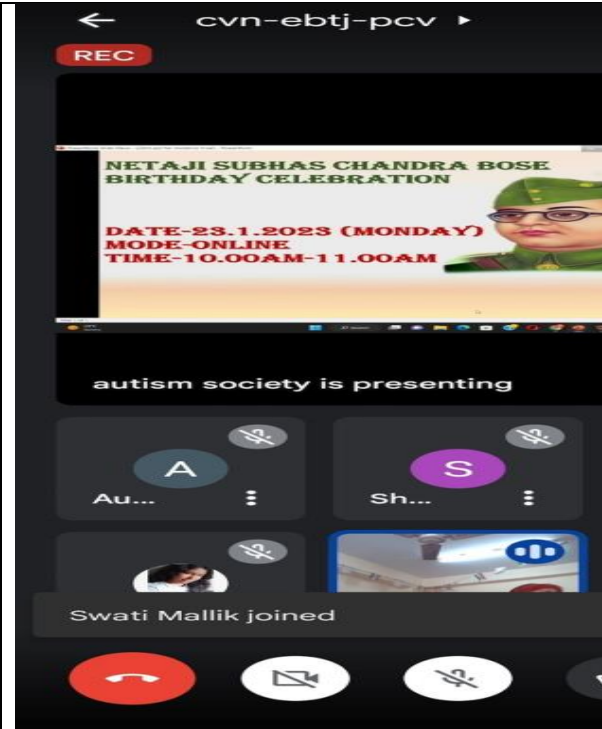




Students of Dikshan, trainees of Aarohan and D Ed units, teachers and staff pay homage to Swami Vivekananda on 12th January, 2023 on Vivekananda Jayanti.



Netaji Jayanti celebrated in blended mode on 23rd January, 2023 at Autism Society West Bengal.



Autism Society West Bengal staff, D Ed trainees and students participated in the Paschim Banga Rajya Pratibandhi Sammilani (PBRPS) Netaji Jayanti celebration on 23rd January, 2023.



Republic Day celebration at Autism Society West Bengal on 26th January, 2023.



ASWB celebrated Saraswati Puja on 26th January,2023



FEBRUARY

ASWB picnic on 4th February, 2023

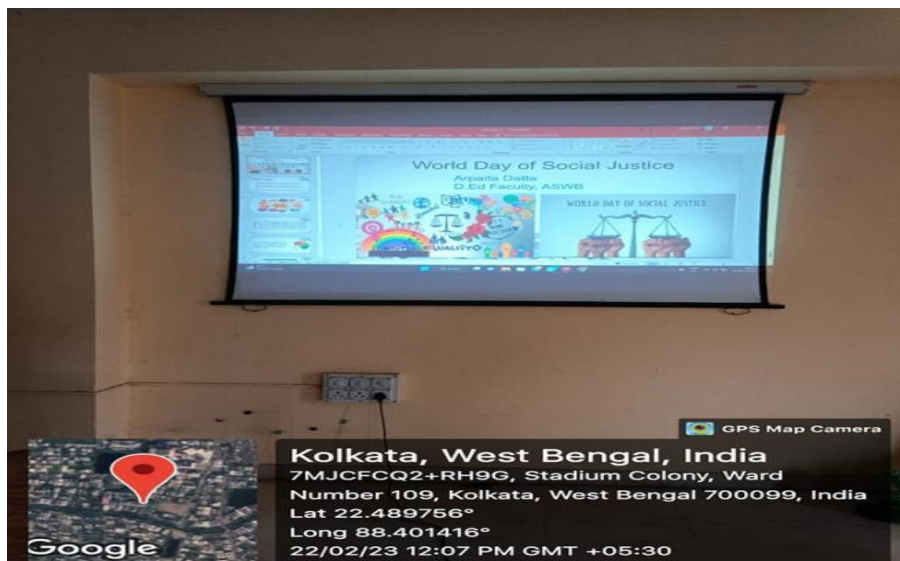
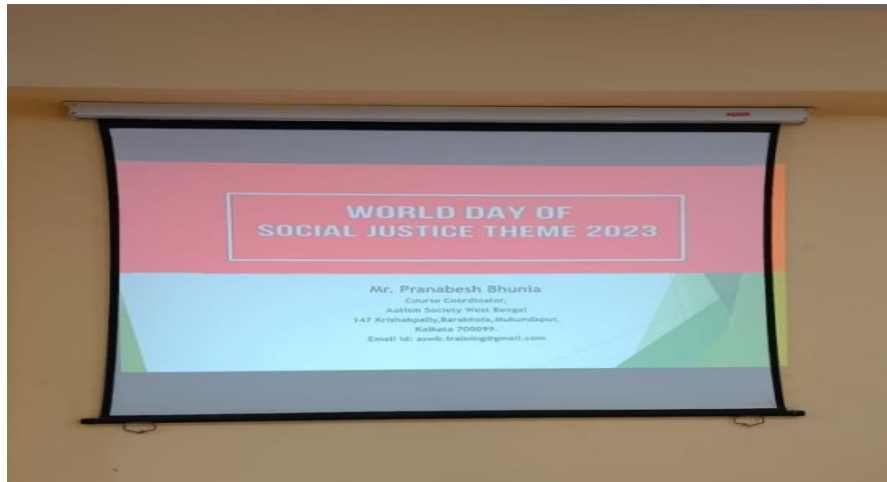




On 20th February, 2023 a statutory body of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities with the support of Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) organized a seminar on Course Coordinator Meet at Odissa. Training coordinator & special educator, Mr. Pranabesh Bhunia from ASWB participated in this meet.



World day of Social Justice was commemorated on 22nd February, 2023 at ASWB.



Three students of the Junior Section of Dikshan, Ayushman, Shounak and Shivam, participated in the 'Art Mela' event organised by Apeejay School. Park Street, Kolkata, on 26th February, 2023.



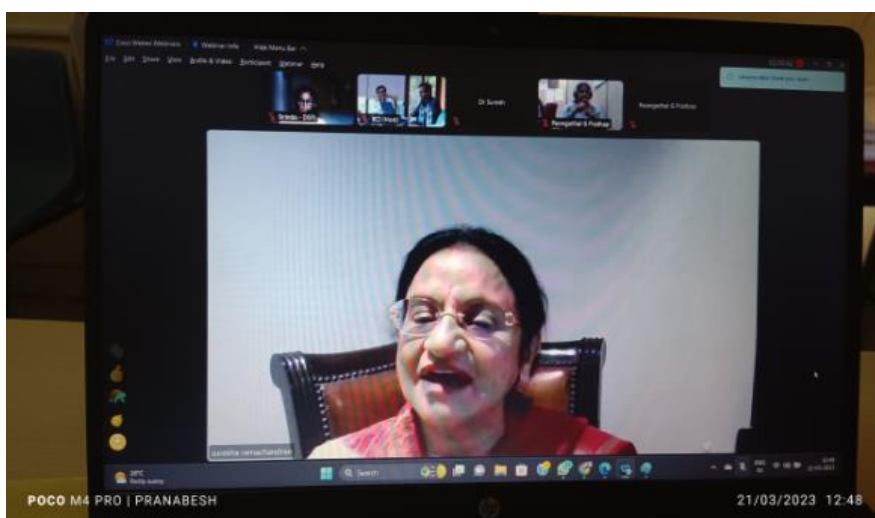
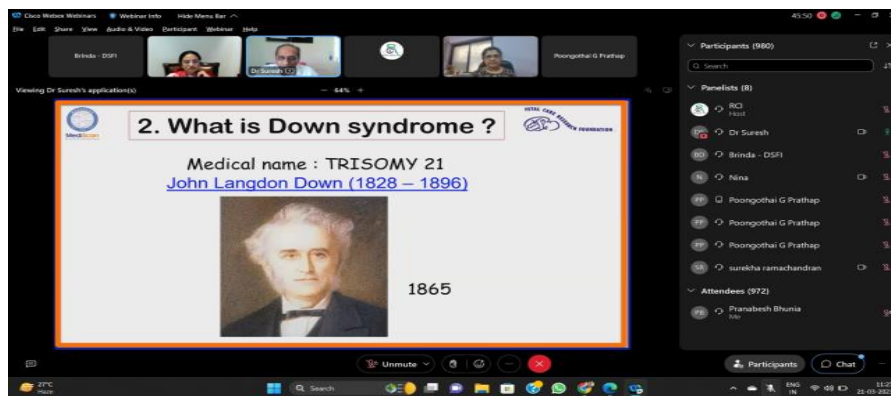
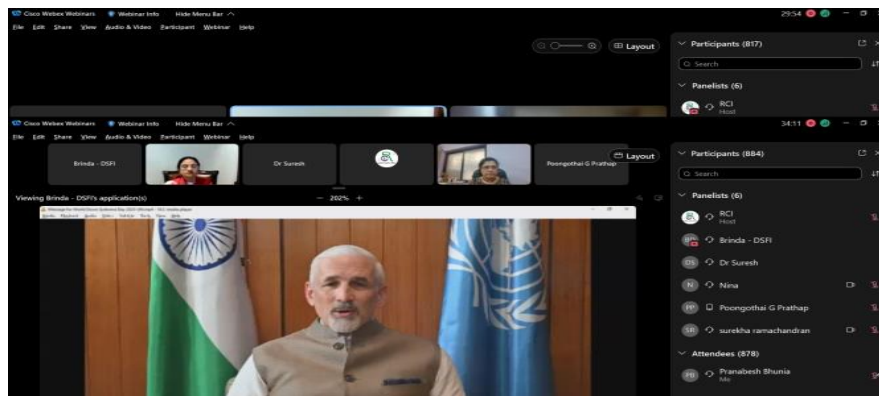
MARCH

Autism Society West Bengal observed International Wheelchair Day on 1st March, 2023 at our school premise where D.Ed core faculties Mr Manoj Kumar Mahato and Ms Piyali Chakraborty presented and discussed how wheelchair support people with physical disabilities face as they face difficulty in movement.





Observance of World Down's Day at Autism Society West Bengal on 21st March, 2023



Publication by the Research Team

The authors of this publication were Founder-director Ms. Indrani Basu, Secretary Dr. Mitu De, training Coordinator Mr. Pranabesh Bhuni, Special Educator & Early Intervention Section In charge Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty & D.Ed Course faculty & psychologist Ms. Arpaita Datta. It was published in an International Journal of Advancement in Life Sciences Research.

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<https://doi.org/10.31632/ijalsr.2023.v06i01.002>



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Original Article

School Readiness program for preparing Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for Mainstream School: A case study

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²Department of Botany, Gurudas College, Kolkata 700054, India.

Correspondence E-mail: mituaswb@gmail.com

Abstract

School is a social environment where there are many unwritten rules. All students are expected to abide by those rules and regulations. But for children with autism, it becomes quite difficult to navigate the social environment in a mainstream school. Often it leads to students dropping out. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neuro-developmental disability in which the core impairments are in the language, communication, and reciprocal social interaction. Recent research has shown that the neuroplasticity of the human brain is quite high during the first five years of life. So with intense intervention, it is possible to change the trajectories of development in a child. The child is taught how to behave in different social situations found in a mainstream school. Autism Society West Bengal ASWB runs a School Readiness program that provides intervention for young children where they are taught in a way that they understand. This program often leads to the child being accepted into a mainstream school. They need not start their education in a special school. In this case study different aspects and outcomes of the School Readiness program will be discussed.

Keywords:- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Early intervention, mainstream school, Neuroplasticity, School Readiness.

Introduction

School is a social environment where there are many unwritten rules. All students are expected to abide by those rules and regulations. This is the 'Hidden Curriculum' for the social environment outside of the classrooms viz. the playground, canteen, library, corridors etc. But for children with autism, it becomes quite difficult to navigate these social environments in a mainstream school. Often it leads to students dropping out. But children with autism can learn only if the teachers teach them in a way that they understand. Their neural circuits within the brain of an autistic person is different and hence they most often have a different perspective.

Current trends in education are moving toward more inclusive educational experiences for children with disabilities, alternative learning styles, and differentiated instructional practices to support all students to succeed (Yell & Katsiyannis, 2003). Inclusive education is not simply catering for the needs of students with disabilities instead it is reframing the teaching role that encourages teachers to respond to individual differences, including cultural, linguistic, cognition, physicality, emotional or social needs of students (Voltz *et al.*, 2010). According to Grima-Farrell *et al.* (2011), "Inclusive

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STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION & NETWORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATION THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING & COMMUNITY INTERVENTION

