

ASWB Newsletter

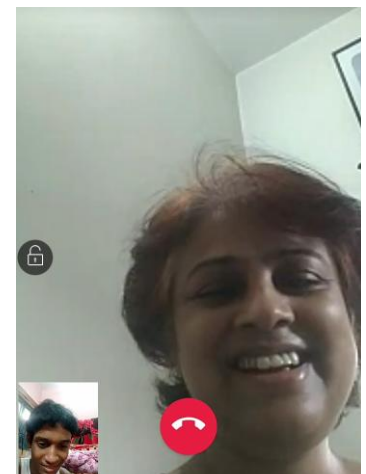


Vol. 1. Issue 2. April – June, 2020

During the second quarter of 2020 Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) embarked on a new journey. Nationwide Lockdown had been announced from 25th March, 2020. As the Life that all of us knew came to a grinding standstill we were faced with the challenge of dealing with this sudden, unprecedented change in our lives. Autism Society West Bengal is a parent initiated non-profit organization in Kolkata that champions the right of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to participation in areas of education, employment, and social events. It is known that most individuals with autism have difficulties adapting to change. This change was huge so new strategies had to be envisaged and implemented. In this newsletter we share a brief account our new journey.



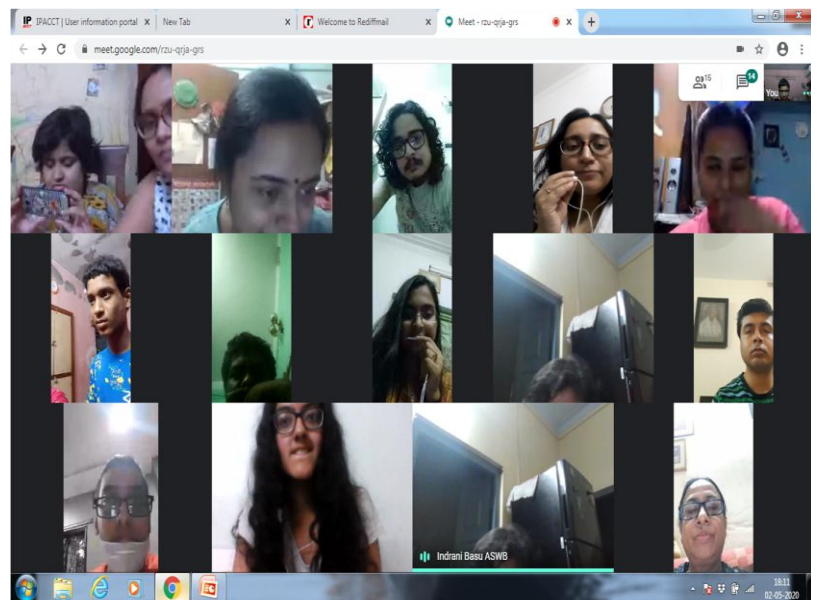
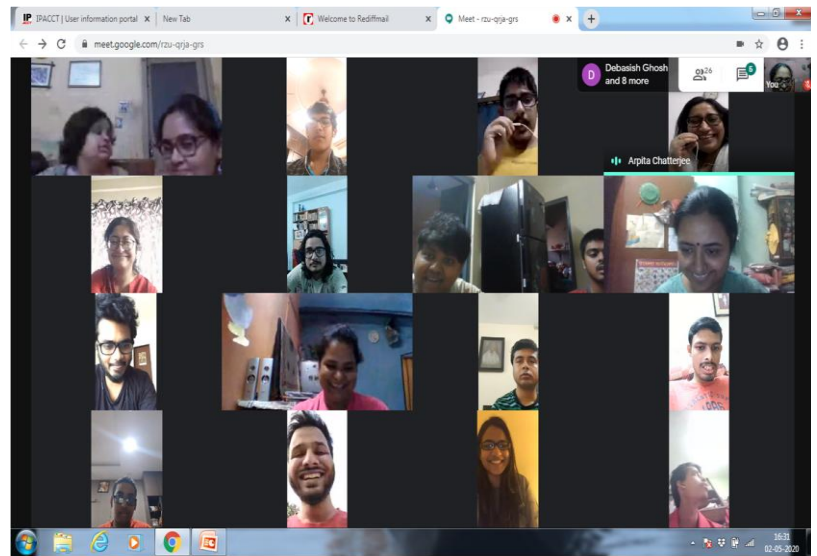
Someone once said change is the only constant. Special educators of ASWB were trying to adapt to the changes that lockdown had brought into our lives. ASWB started online classes for all students of the Dikshan & Aarohan units in early April, 2020. Teachers, students, office staff, parents all adapted themselves with the technology available. Our students, for whom any change is quite stressful, have shown us they can cope up with reasonable accommodations.



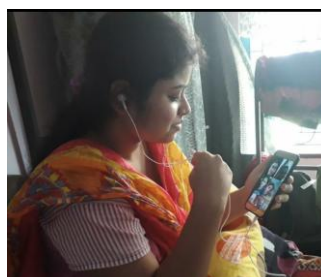
On 2nd April, 2020, World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) was celebrated differently. Students made posters which were posted in our Facebook page. The long days of the lockdown unleashed the latent creativity among the budding artists of our school. Beautiful artwork was created for WAAD.



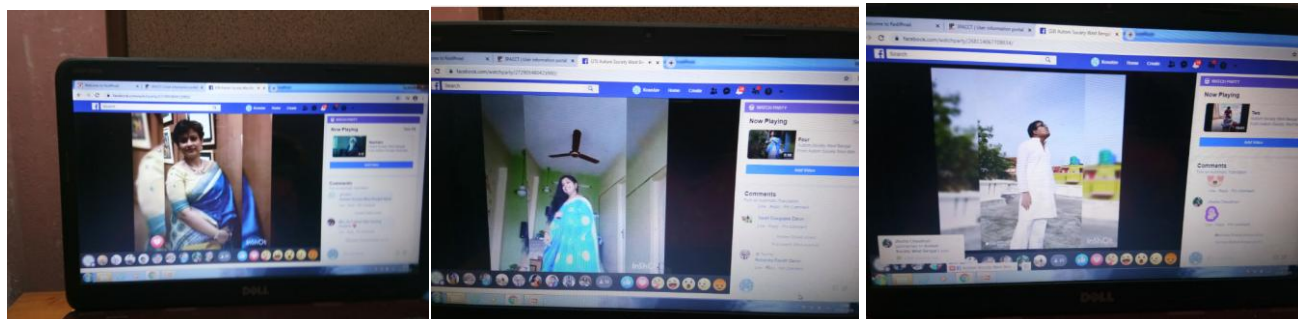
Physical distancing in the times of Corona could not dampen the spirit of the YAAR (Young Adults with Autism Reach out) participants. The 1st online YAAR held on 2nd May, 2020 was a great success. It paved the way for more online events.



Online classes started for the 1st & 2nd year D. Ed students too. The d. Ed faculty explored different digital platforms for the online classes viz. WhatsApp video Call, Google Meet, Google Duo etc.



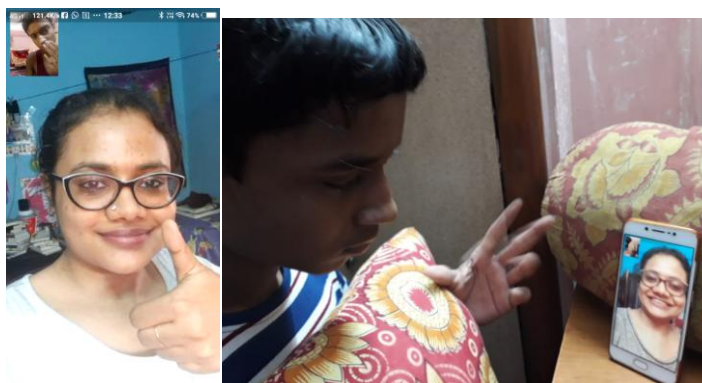
ASWB hosted the first Face book Watch Party on 17th May, 2020; the online 'Rabindra Nazrul Sandhya' offering tribute to Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Geeti and poems of these two great writers were used in the cultural program. Pictures of the students in various roles appropriate to the song/poem chosen were shared by the parents. These pictures were by ASWB technical support team to make videos for the FB Watch party. It was great viewing the watch Party. The D. Ed students enthralled us by their performance.



Special educators used Social stories to convey the safety protocols that needed to be followed. Hand washing, using hand sanitizers, wearing masks became a part of the curriculum during online classes.



Online Occupational Therapy classes started in May, 2020.



Art and craft was introduced during online classes.



Ms Indrani Basu, Director ASWB was invited to speak on Social Role Valorisation for Persons with IDD. Event organised by Parivaar Bengal as a free online seminar on 13th April.



ASWB Director, Ms. Indrani Basu was the resource person of a FB Live program organised by Disha Digital School on 18th May.



On 4th June Faith Bangladesh organized "মুক্ত আলোচনা"(Open Discussion) a FB live program entitled "Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for Special Need Children: Role of Families". Ms Indrani Basu was invited as one of the resource persons.



ASWB Director, Ms. Indrani Basu was live on Rtv (Bangladesh) for an interactive session on 20th June, 2020.

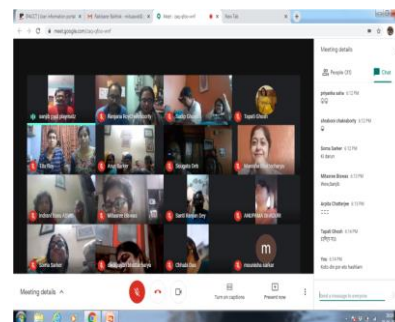


Ms. Ranjana Chakraborty was invited as panellist for the 'Panel Discussion on the Mental Health of Caregivers' organised by Ummeed held on 23rd June, 2020.



The 2nd Online YAAR at ASWB was held on 27th June, 2020. They had our old friends from Rotaract & Aliah University plus brand new friends from Bangladesh, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar and Chinsurah.

'Robibarar Baithak' (Sunday Family Meet) was held on 28th June, 2020.



Editorial Team: Ms. Indrani Basu, Dr. Mitu De & Ms. Arpita Chatterjee, Autism Society West Bengal.