

## **Vol. 4. Issue I. January – March, 2023**

The first quarter of 2023 saw a flurry of activities. As in main stream schools in our school too we celebrated lot of different significant days viz. Vivekananda Jayanti, Netaji Jayanti, Republic Day, International Mother Language Day, Social Justice Day, International Wheelchair Day & World Down's Day. At ASWB we try to ensure that our students and trainees commemorate different significant days and celebrate festivals as in any mainstream set up.

These three months we stressed on community outreach work more intensively. During the last three months we explored new areas for spreading awareness and providing appropriate support to the persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, along with their families. In collaboration with different educational institutions, local governance we have been spreading awareness in two different demographic locations intensively. One of the areas was Sonarpur, Gram Panchayat-2, under district 24 Parganas (South). The other location was Mukundapur area, Ward no. 109, Kolkata. We have strengthened our collaboration with other organizations who work for ensuring the rights of the persons with disabilities and their families by capacity building sessions & community interventions.

We welcomed a new Occupational Therapist Ms. Writwika Debta in ASWB team. Two of our staff Ms. Insana Konoki Majumdar, Occupational Therapist & Ms. Shibani Biswas, special educator left ASWB. We wish a very bright future ahead.

## OBSERVANCE OF SIGNIFICANT DAYS

All the students, trainees and staff of ASWB observed significant days *viz.* Vivekananda Jayanti, Netaji Jayanti, 74<sup>th</sup> Indian Republic Day & International Mother Language Day.



**OBSERVANCE OF VIVEKANANDA JAYANTI ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2023**



**NETAJI JAYANTI CELEBRATION ON 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2023**

**OBSERVANCE OF 74<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLIC DAY ON  
26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2023**



**Autism Society West Bengal  
21<sup>st</sup> February Mother Language Day Celebration**

Time—12.00 pm  
Venue-Autism Society West Bengal  
Date-21.2.2023



**International Mother Language Day**



**OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL MOTHER  
LANGUAGE DAY ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**



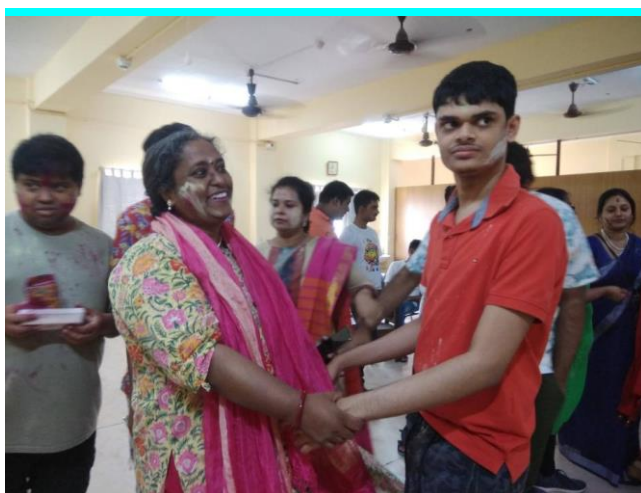
## CELEBRATING FESTIVALS



**SARASWATI PUJA ON  
26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2023**



The festival of colours. Dol Yatra/Holi was celebrated in school on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 where the students and trainees, staff put 'abir'/coloured powder on each other's faces. Some of the trainees, staff and volunteers sang Holi related songs.



**DOL YATRA/ HOLI CELEBRATION ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH. 2023**





Picnic was held after two long years following the pandemic, on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. Our Dikshan students, Aarohan trainees, D. Ed trainees, staff, parents and members enjoyed a day of fun.

During the picnic there was games, songs, dance and good food. The ambience was invigorating and everyone came back with good vibes.



**ASWB PICNIC ON 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

## OBSERVANCE OF SOME IMPORTANT DAYS.



Observation of “Bhasa Diwas” - 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2023 with the students & all staff. Session facilitated by Special Educator, Ms. Sangeeta Bandopadhyay



On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023, All the students, teachers & other staff together observed the **Social Justice Day**. Special D.Ed course coordinator & special educator Mr. Pranabesh Bhunia & D.Ed faculty & special educator Ms. Arpaita Datta facilitated the session.





On 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023, ASWB observed **International Wheelchair Day**. D.Ed Faculty & Special Educator Mr. Monoj Kr. Mahato facilitated the session.



On 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 ASWB team organized an orientation session on **World Down's Day**, where all the students, teachers & other team members participated. Special Educator & D.Ed Faculty Ms. Piyali Chakraborty facilitated the session through PPT presentation.



## WRITING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME



A new program, 'writing enhancement programme' started in ASWB.

## STARTING TO BAKE — TRIAL OF ASWB'S LIVELIHOOD SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



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.

## STUDENTS FROM ASWB PARTICIPED IN ART MELA AT APEEJAY SCHOOL



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 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.



Full concentration during artwork at Apeejay School.

Our students proudly display their artwork on the T-shirts alongside their parents.



## NATIONAL LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATORS MEET



On 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



## A PUBLICATION ON “SCHOOL READINESS PROG. FOR PREPARING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) FOR MAINSTREAM SCHOOL - A CASE STUDY”



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.

## PRACTICAL EXAMINATION OF 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR D. ED TRAINEES ON

10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2023





## YAAR (YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM REACH OUT)

This is a youth “Adda” – usually Last Saturday of every month, Young adults with and without Autism meet for spending a good time - Singing & dancing together, Sharing thoughts, views, having snacks, playing games and do lot of fun

28<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 during YAAR meet the Theme was “Saraswati Puja”



**On 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 We had a YAAR meet - Theme was “Valentines Day”**



On 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 during YAAR some of the participants gave their opinion on barriers to inclusion in our society.

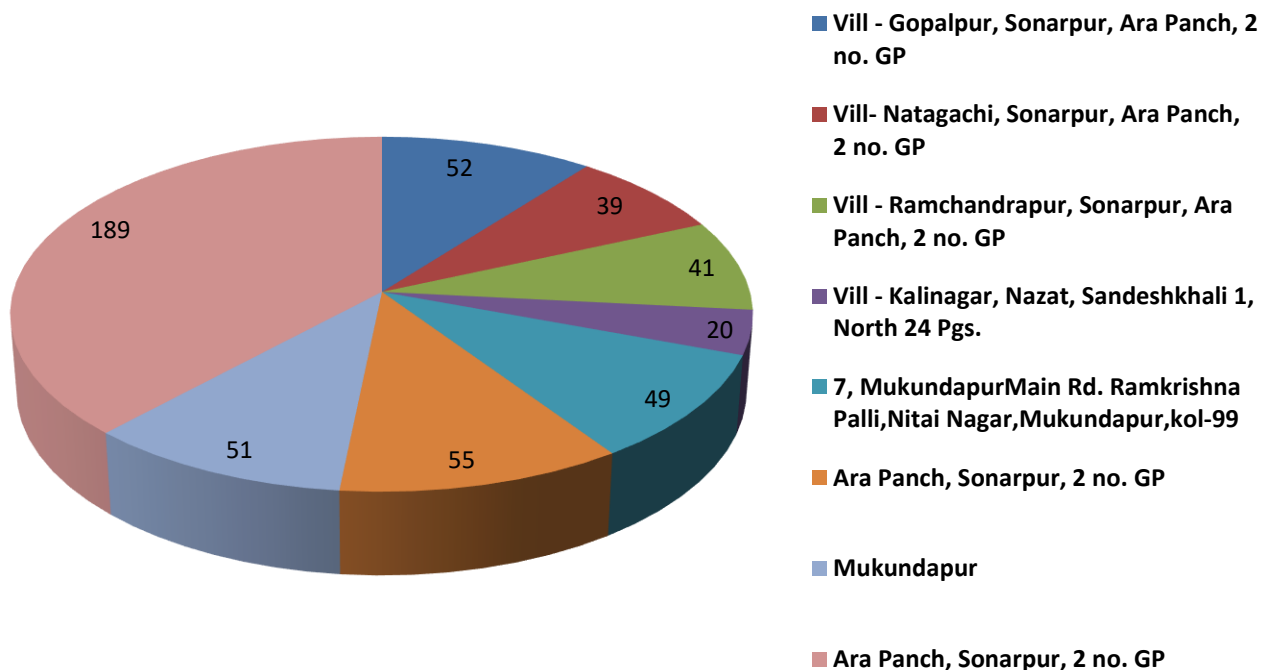




## OUTREACH PROGRAM

During the last 3 months ASWB has been spreading awareness at grassroots level more intensively. There are two areas, Sonarpur, 2 No. Gram Panchayat, district - 24 Pgs. (South) & another at Mukundapur, Kolkata, Ward no. 109 we have reached around 500 people with the support of local educational institutions like ICDS (Integrated Child Development Schemes) centers & primary & secondary level govt. & private schools & the local governance, like gram panchayat. Sharing a graphical representation of our outreach numbers. Sharing below few pictures of awareness orientation session on ASD & other developmental disabilities at different villages.

### 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**

## SONARPUR, GRAM PANCHAYAT NO. 2, DISTRICT - SOUTH 24 PARGANAS



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. On 20th January, 2023 our first orientation programme was organized at Gopalpur centre with Ms Chandrani Chakraborty (Special Educator & In charge of Early Intervention Unit, ASWB) and Ms Joyita Mangal (Special Educator, ASWB) along with Ms Binita Chakraborty (Project Coordinator, ASWB) and Piyali Chakraborty (Programme coordinator, ASWB). Through this orientation programme we were able to reach out to **52** individuals.

Similar orientation programmes were organized at Natagachi and Ramchandrapur ICDS centres on 10<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. 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. We were able to reach total **80** individuals at Natagachi and Ramchandrapur.



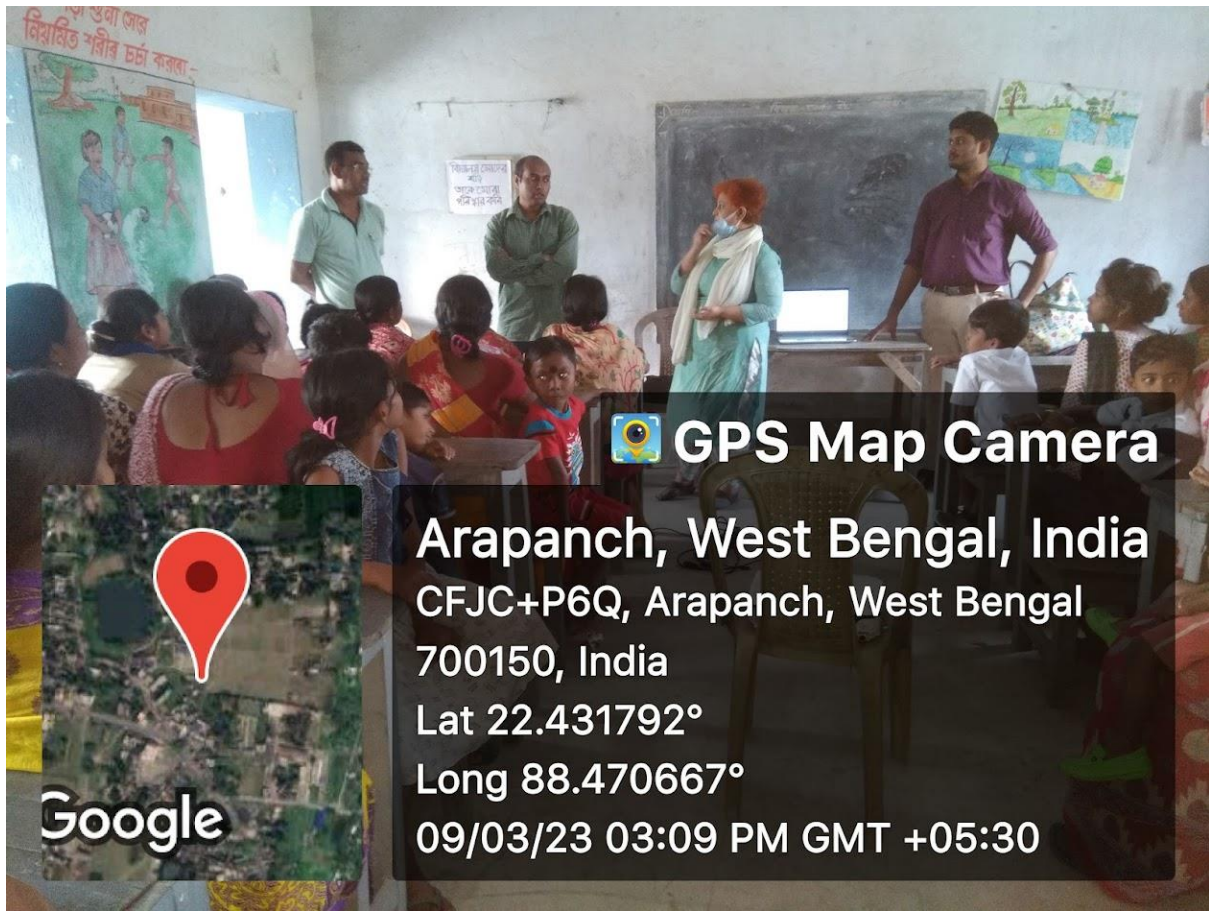


Another orientation session on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 was organized by ASWB at **Ara Panch Primary School**. Special Educators from ASWB Ms. Chandrani Chakraborty & Mr. Souvik Kansabanik facilitated the session and Project Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty, Programme Coordinator Ms. Piyali Chakraborty & Special Educator Ms. Tanusree Mandol coordinated the session. Total **55 heads** were participating in the session. **Parents, especially mothers** of the students and **all the teachers** participated the session.





**ORIENTATION SESSION ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023 WAS ORGANIZED BY  
ASWB AT ARA PANCH PRIMARY SCHOOL.**





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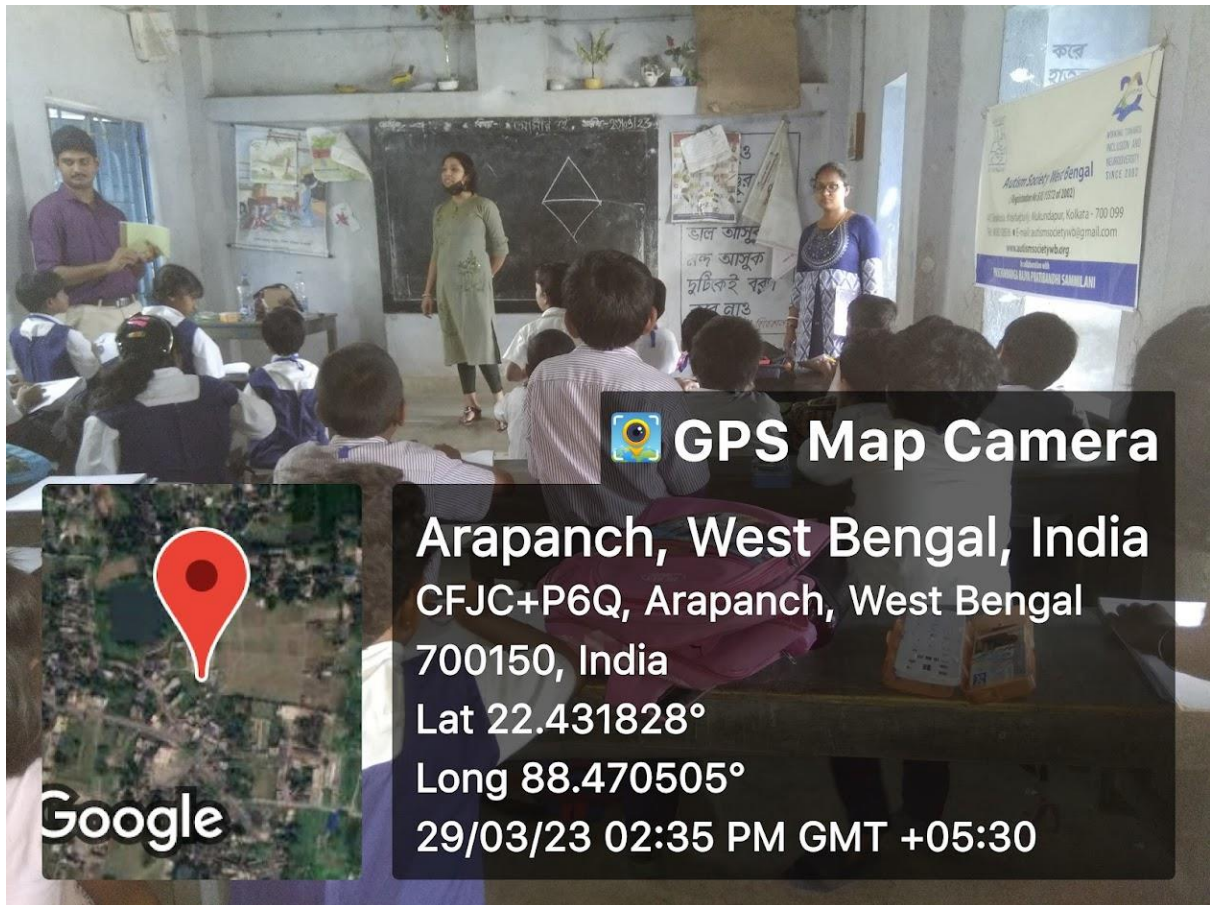


On 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 as a follow up programme a one day “**Individual screening & counselling and group assessment camp**” happened at **Sonarpur Ara Panch Primary School**. Total 6 staffs from ASWB team organized the camp with the support of teachers of Ara Panch Primary School. Clinical psychologist 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.**

**INDIVIDUAL SCREENING & COUNSELLING , GROUP ASSESSMENT CAMP TO IDENTIFY CHILDREN WITH ASD & OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES ON 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023**









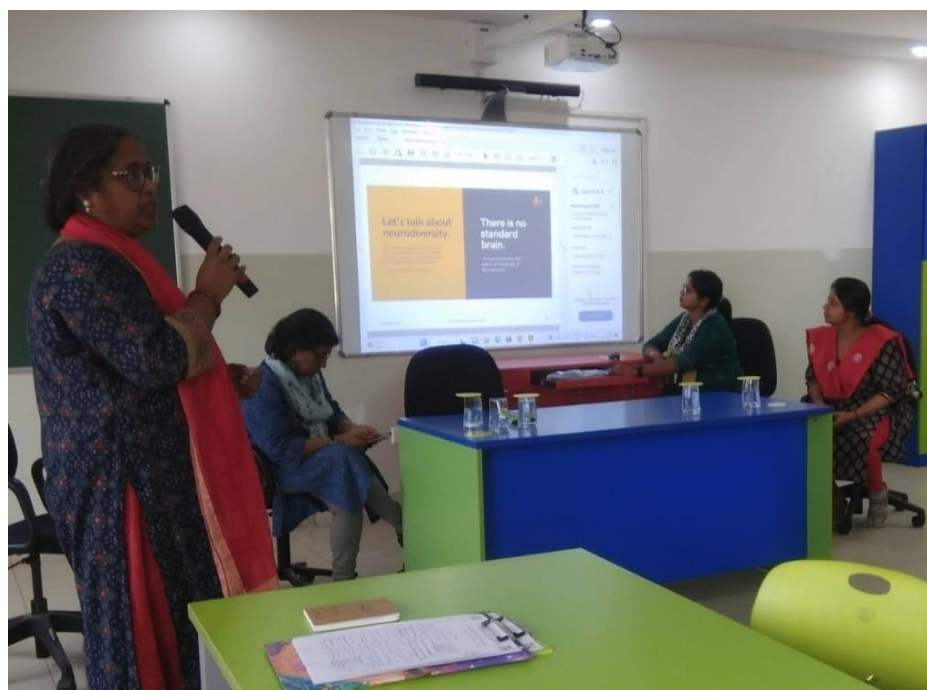
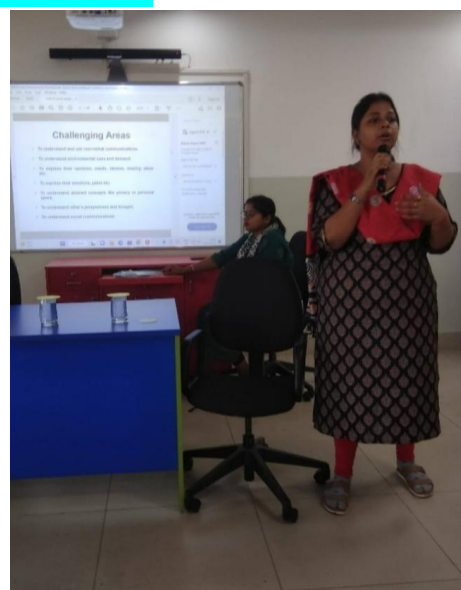
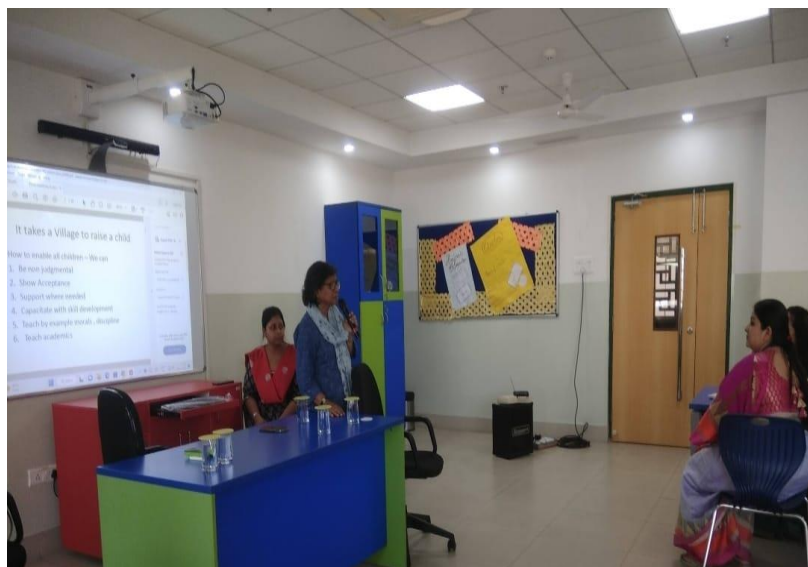
## MUKUNDAPUR, KOLKATA, WARD No. 109

ASWB conducted outreach orientation session at **Mukundapur, Kolkata Ward no. 109**. We approached different govt., non-govt. Primary & high schools, also the Montessori schools for spreading awareness on Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities. On 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Ms. Joyita Mongal (Special Educator), Piyali Chakraborty (Programme coordinator) coordinated the event. Senior students and teachers attended the program. Total **49 heads** participated the session.





## TEACHERS' ORIENTATION ON INCLUSION IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOL AT BIRLA HIGH SCHOOL MUKUNDAPUR



On 28<sup>th</sup> 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.





## TEACHERS' ORIENTATION ON INCLUSION IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOL AT BIRLA HIGH SCHOOL MUKUNDAPUR





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



In 2019-2020, Autism Society West Bengal had collaborated with Institute of Handicapped and Backward People at their centre at Nityaberia, 24 Parganas (South) and organized orientation, awareness, screening and counselling sessions on ASD and other developmental disabilities. After the pandemic we were able to renew this collaboration and networking. ASWB organized two days orientation session in February 2023 (16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2023), where Mr Pranabesh Bhunia (D. Ed Training Coordinator & Special Educator), Mr Binay Samanta ( Special Educator), Ms Binita Chakraborty (Project Coordinator) and Ms Piyali Chakraborty (Programme Coordinator, ASWB) were present. We were able to reach out to **20** individuals on these 2 days.



## USING JELLOW APP IN SCHOOL



With the support of the special educators the students of Dikshan and trainees of the Aarohan unit are using the Jellow App for communication. In the picture during a shopping session





## COMPUTER CLASSES AT ASWB



## ASWB BIDS FAREWELL TO MS. INSANA KONOKI MAJUMDER



Occupational Therapist Ms. Insana Konoki Majumdar left ASWB on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 for pursuing higher studies. The entire ASWB family bid farewell to Insana Madam.

Students of all Dikshan units and trainees of the Aarohan Unit made cards for Insana madam.





## **WELCOMING NEW STAFF**



ASWB welcomes new Occupational Therapist Ms. Writwika Debta who joined in February, 2023.

## **BIDDING GOODBYE TO STAFF**



Ms. Shibani Biswas, Special Educator resigned from ASWB. We wish her all the very best.

## HOW WILL YOU BE PART OF ASWB.....

As Autism Society West Bengal is a not for profit organization there are several occasions when upgradation of our units are done using gifts in cash and kind from our well wishers.

You may help ASWB in many ways. You could help in our fund-raising efforts; some of the ways funds may be used are listed below.

1. For procuring Teaching and Learning materials
2. For purchasing Furniture
3. For Sponsorship of 10 days one to one intervention for families who might need your help.
4. Sponsorship of Parent Training for families.
5. For construction of Building
6. For procuring and maintenance of Infrastructure
7. For Equipment purchase and installation
8. Corpus Fund
9. For purchasing Computer, printer and accessories
10. For purchasing Books for our library.

Apart from the above there are others ways to lend a helping hand.

- You could help in our various extracurricular programs.
- You could also be a buddy with our some of our students.
- You could buy some of the products that our students make
- You could network for us to get CSR funds
- You could organize exhibitions of the handcrafted products our students make.
- You could help in our autism awareness programs in educational institutions, hospitals, police stations, airports and railway stations.
- You could pave the way for social inclusion.
- You could also give us some of your time and get to know people with autism
- You could give information about job opportunities in open/sheltered employment.
- You could accept an individual with autism as he/she is and see the person and not their disability.

**Acknowledgement:** The pictures that have been used in this Newsletter have been taken by several persons viz. ASWB staff.

**Editorial Team:** Ms. Indrani Basu, Dr. Mitu De, Ms. Arpita Chatterjee & Ms. Binita Chakraborty, Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB)

8<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.