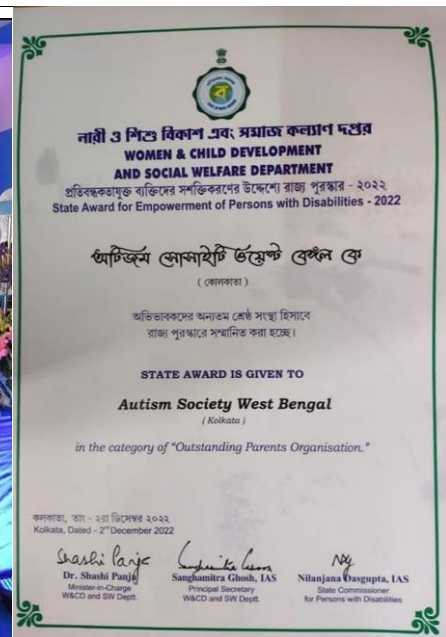
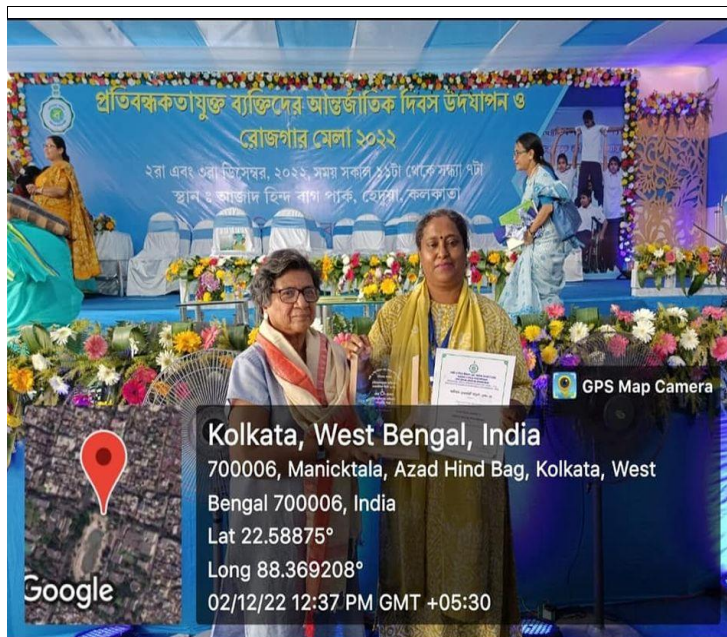
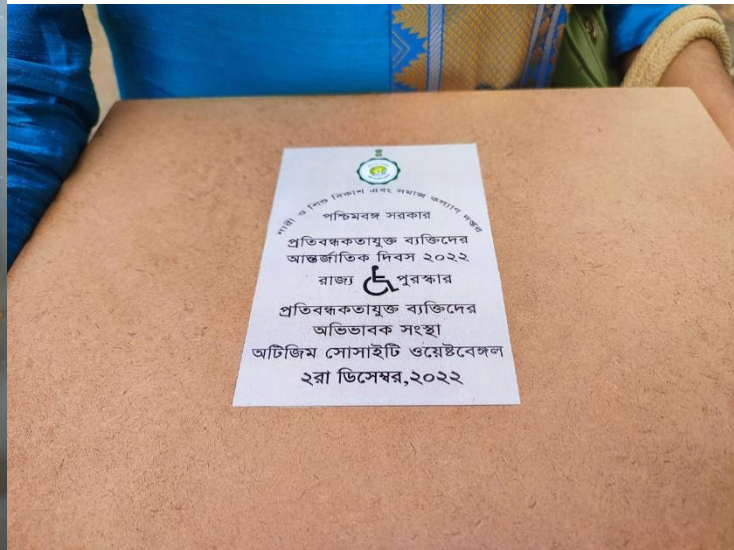


Vol. 3. Issue 4. October – December, 2022

The last quarter of 2022 (October – December, 2022) was eventful. Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) received the State Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2022 in the category 'Outstanding Parents Organization.' A series of free Orientation programs both offline and online were organised so that we could spread autism awareness and provide information about early intervention to families who were facing several challenges and could not start intervention. A two days RCI accredited offline CRE program on 'Sex Education and Life Skills Training' organised by ASWB. Three oral presentations during the 3rd International Conference on Sustainable Environment and Healthcare (ICSEH 2022). D Ed Coordinator delivered a talk during the National Level CRE Webinar "Teaching Strategies for Children with ASD"-Organised by NIEPMD-Special Education Department, Chennai. A free webinar on 'Mental health issues in persons with Autism' was organised during this quarter. Faculty members of two different colleges delivered two lectures on popular topics. Few trainees of Aarohan and YAAR members participated in a hands on in-person Photography workshop. Our students and trainees were invited to Fort William during the Navy Week. Aarohan trainees went to visit IICP one day too. A new program 'Virtual Classroom' was launched for those beneficiaries who prefer the online mode. We welcome some new staff into the ASWB family this quarter. So, in short, these three months were full of activities. Read on for the details and pictures.



ASWB Director Ms. Indrani Basu and Secretary, Dr. Mitu De with the State Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2022 in the category 'Outstanding Parents Organization.'



The State Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2022 in the category 'Outstanding Parents Organization' was a morale booster for ASWB who completed 20 years in this sector in December, 2022. This award from the State Government was an indicator that over 20 years ASWB's mission to enable individuals with Autism and their families to participate in developing strategies to improve their quality of life; optimize their strength through education, advocacy and support was recognized. It renewed ASWB's vision of creating a supportive, social environment where persons with Autism are understood and their right to participation upheld. The award was handed over by Dr. Shashi Panja, Minister, Department of Women & Child Development & Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. The award was received by Dr. Mitu De, present Secretary of Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB).

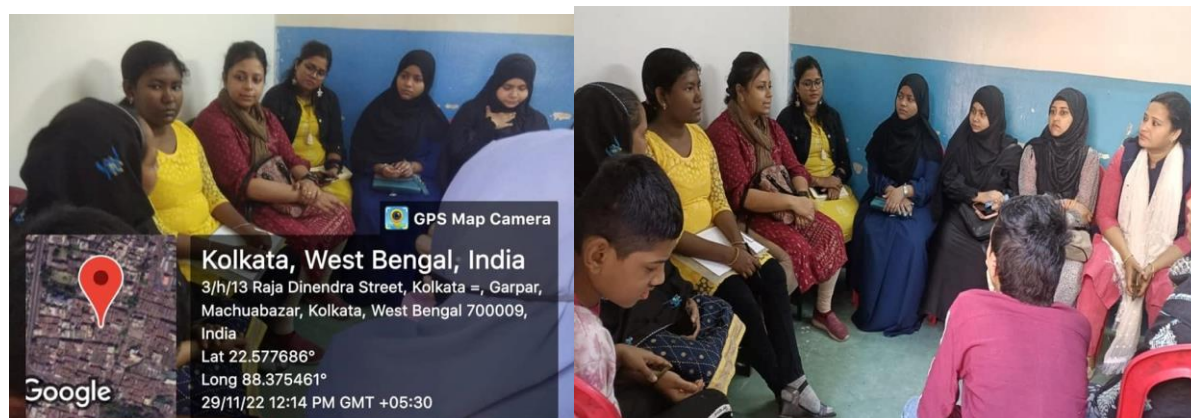
OUTREACH PROGRAM

During this quarter there were several events under ASWB's 'Reaching Out' program where we try to spread awareness about autism and the need for early intervention especially in young children newly diagnosed with autism. Neuroplasticity of the brain at this young age aids in better reception of early intervention. It could change the trajectories of lives of individuals with autism and their families and this could mean the difference between getting a chance in main stream education vis-a vis special school. All the events under the ASWB's 'Reaching Out' program are free for the beneficiaries.

17th November, 2022. Autism Society West Bengal psychologist & D Ed Core Faculty Ms. Arpaita Datta, Project Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty and Program Coordinatotr, Ms. Piyali Chakraborty visited Pearabagan Slum, Lansdowne Area. This event was done in collaboration with Civilian Welfare Foundation (CWF).



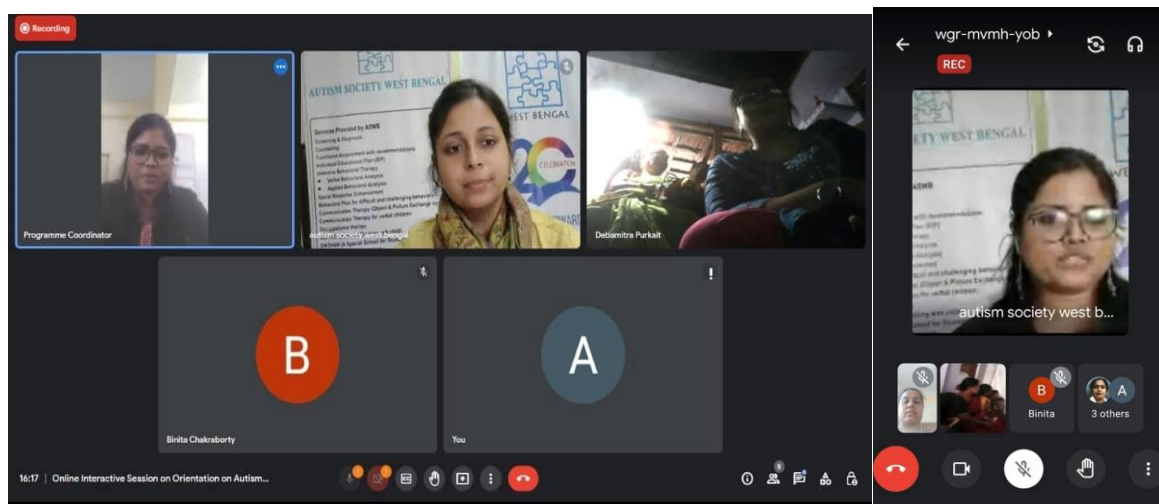
29th November, 2022. ASWB with the collaboration of Roshni Youth Group and One Team One Dream Women's group organized a free interactive Orientation program on autism in Rajabazar. ASWB's psychologist & special educator Ms. Arpaita Datta & D Ed Core Faculty Ms. Joyeeta Mangal, Project Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty and Program Coordinator Ms. Piyali Chakrabarty were part of the team who went to Rajabazar. This event was part of the "Reaching Out" initiative of ASWB.



30th Nov 2022. An interactive session on Autism Spectrum Disorder at The Society of Indian Children's Welfare. ASWB Director, Ms. Indrani Basu was invited the resource person.



1st December, 2022. ASWB organized a free online orientation workshop on ASD using the digital platform Google Meet with 'ALO,' (Alternative Livelihood Opportunities) which is a training Institute at Dayarampur in South 24 Parganas. ASWB Psychologist and D Ed Core Faculty Ms. Arpita Datta was the resource person. This program was facilitated by ASWB Program Coordinator Ms. Piyali Chakraborty and Project Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty.



DIKSHAN & AAROHAN NEWS

29th November, 2022. The Indian Navy invited students & trainees of Autism Society West Bengal to watch a movie at Fort William. It was part of the Navy Week celebration. The Navy sent bus to our school. The movie Madagascar was screened for the individuals with special needs.



14th November, 2022. Children's Day was observed at ASWB through various games, movie shows, good food. Students and trainees could choose which games to play or which snacks to munch on. All ASWB staff and the D Ed trainees made sure that everyone had a wonderful time.



23rd December, 2022 Pre-Christmas celebration took place at ASWB.



14th November, 2022 On the occasion of Children's Day the Aarohan Unit arranged a Clearance Sale at 50% of their products. PrintStudio products were on display and sale too.



23rd November, 2022. The Trainees of the Aarohan unit ASWB went to visit an exhibition at Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP).



USING COMMUNICATION APP IN ASWB

ASWB introduced the use of the Jellow App for communication in school. Hands on training was given by the special educators on Jellow usage.



EARLY INTERVENTION UNIT

The young kids in the School Readiness Program enjoyed the newly introduced Library class. The Parent & Child Training empowered many parents.



D. Ed UNIT

The theory classes and the Practice Teaching classes were held at ASWB as per norms.

Theory Classes

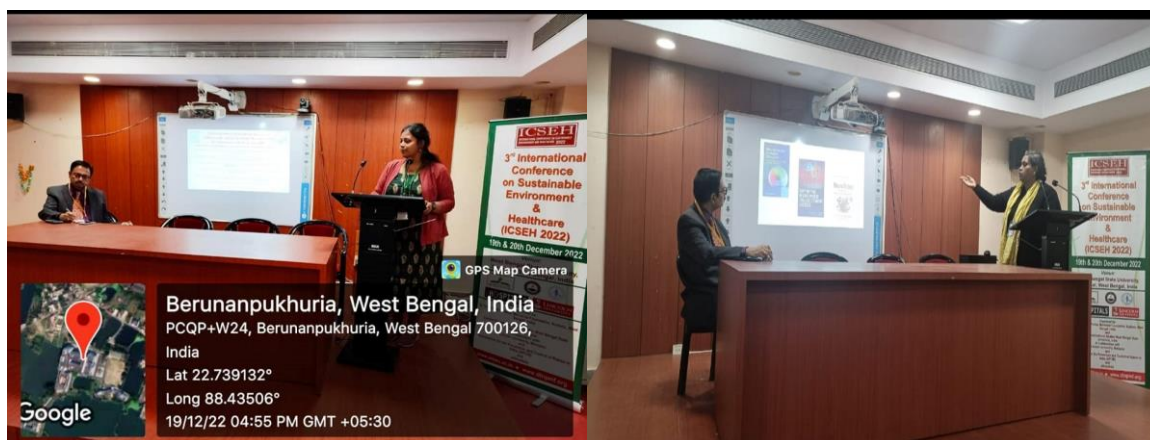


Practice Teaching by D. Ed Trainees



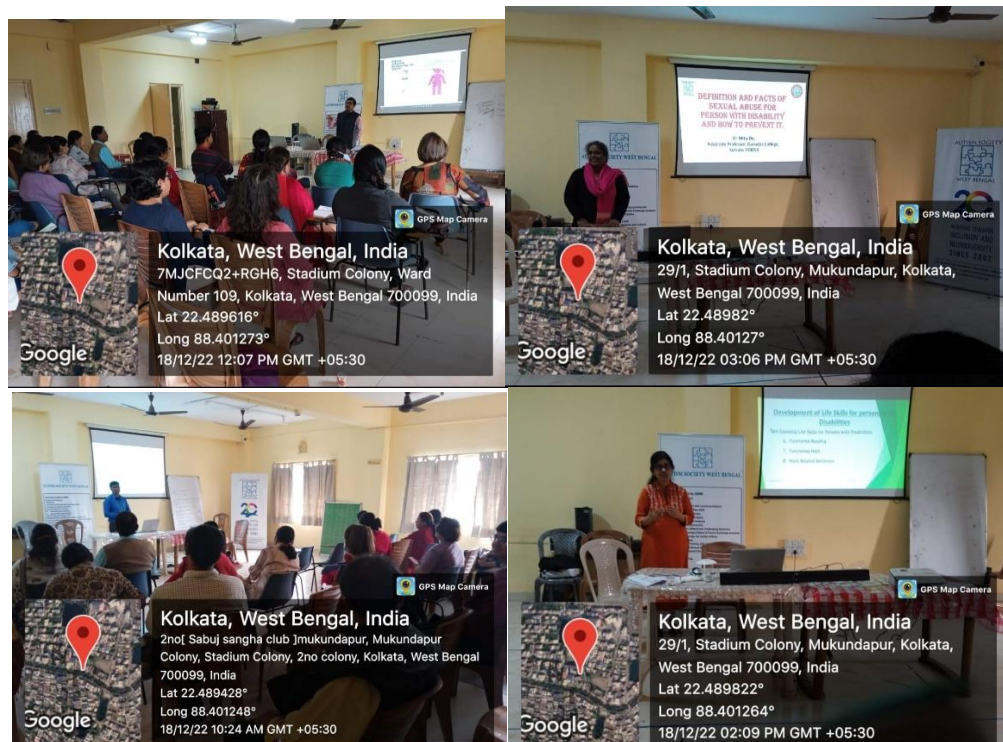
CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

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

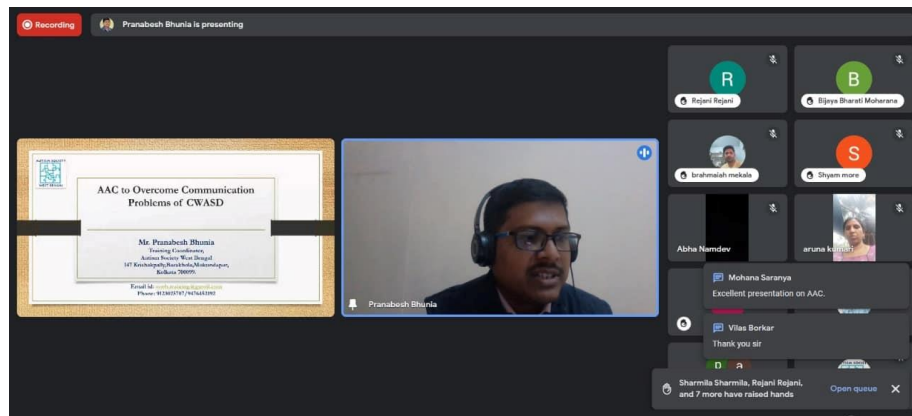


2-DAYS CRE WORKSHOP

17th & 18th December, 2022. CRE workshop on 'Sex Education and Life Skills Training' organized by Autism Society West Bengal.



21st December, 2022. D Ed Coordinator Mr. Pranabesh Bhunia delivered a lecture at the National Level CRE Webinar "Teaching Strategies for Children with ASD"-organized by NIEPMD-Special Education Department, Chennai.



WEBINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH

10th December, 2022. Dr Prasanta Roy spoke on 'Mental health issues in persons with Autism' on This free online webinar was part of the 'Reaching Out' initiative of ASWB. The program may be viewed in ASWB YouTube channel with this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZpXUjpl-m0>



SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES AT ASWB

ASWB invites people from different walks on life to give short presentations on their area of work or interest. By introducing our students and trainees to myriad topics we hope it might help them to get understand that there is a plethora of interesting topics.

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.'



16th December, 2022. Dr Subhadeep Sarker, Associate Professor, Serampore College at Autism Society West Bengal. His presentation 'Life is Colourful' with vibrant pictures all clicked and selected for students of Dikshan and trainees of Aarohan units of ASWB mesmerized us all.



Special Lecture Series
For students of Dikshan units and trainees of Aarohan unit of ASWB
Organized by Autism Society West Bengal

Topic: Reach out for the Stars
Resource Person: Prof. Dipankar Dey
General Secretary, Sky Watchers' Association, Kolkata
&
Assistant Professor,
Department of Mathematics,
Gurudas College,
Kolkata-700 054
Date: 12th December, 2022, Monday
Time: 11: 30 AM onwards
Venue: ASWB, Mukundapur

AUTISM SOCIETY WEST BENGAL
WORKING TOWARDS INCLUSION AND NEURODIVERSITY

Special Lecture Series
For students of Dikshan units and trainees of Aarohan unit of ASWB
Organized by Autism Society West Bengal

Topic: Life is Colourful
Resource Person: Dr. Subhadeep Sarker
Associate Professor,
Department of Zoology for UG & PG Studies,
Serampore College
Date: 16th December, 2022, Friday
Time: 11: 30 AM onwards
Venue: ASWB, Mukundapur

AUTISM SOCIETY WEST BENGAL
WORKING TOWARDS INCLUSION AND NEURODIVERSITY

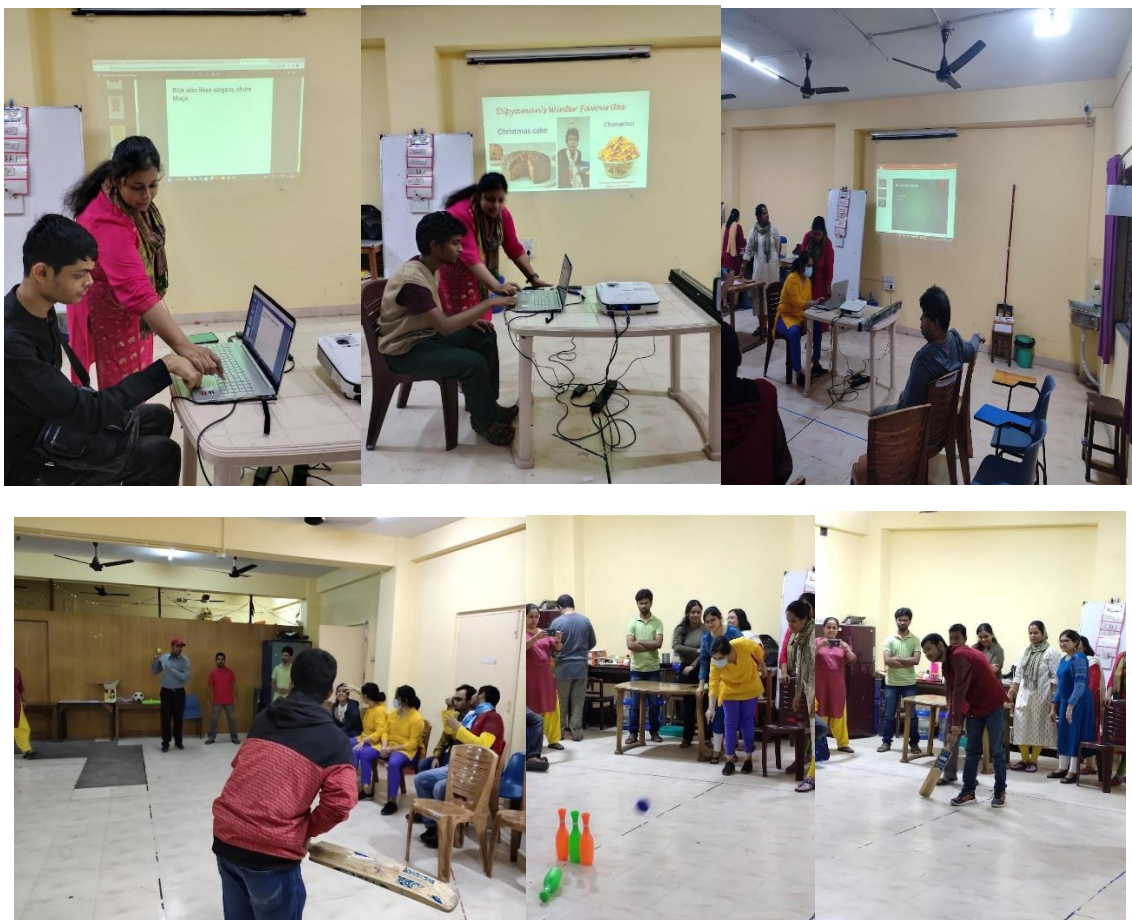
YAAR

Young Adults with Autism Reach Out (YAAR) is held every month. Young people with and without autism meet, listen to music, have 'adda', dance, play games and have snacks.

22nd October, 2022. YAAR Music, songs and dance were a part of this YAAR.



26TH November, 2022. Three participants have PowerPoint presentations on the topic 'Favorite Snacks & Beverages.' Then there were games, music and snacks.



24th December, 2022. The topic for the adda during December YAAR was 'Christmas Party.'



PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

3rd & 4th December, 2022. One Aarohan Trainee and two YAAR participants attended the Photography Workshop.



NETWORKING

24th November, 2022. ASWB Director Ms. Indrani Basu took honorary classes for the M Phil students of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University.



The M Phil students of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University visited ASWB. The trainees observed classes going on in the different section viz. Early Intervention. Junior & Intermediate Sections of Dikshan and the Aarohan, pre vocational unit.



NEW PROGRAM AT ASWB

As part of the 20 years of Autism Society West Bengal (ASWB) a new program was launched to reach out to those young individuals with autism who found it difficult to come to our centre on a regular basis. It commenced from November, 2022.

ASWB VIRTUAL CLASSROOM FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM.

Areas of learning

- Communication *Academics *Games *Music *ADL
- Age: 7-11 years. Limited seats. First come first serve
- For more information Whatsapp: 9038008536
- Email: aswb.information@gmail.com
- Starting in November, 2022.
- Classes 3 times a week duration 1:5 hours
- Allotted Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Time 3 pm to 4:30 pm



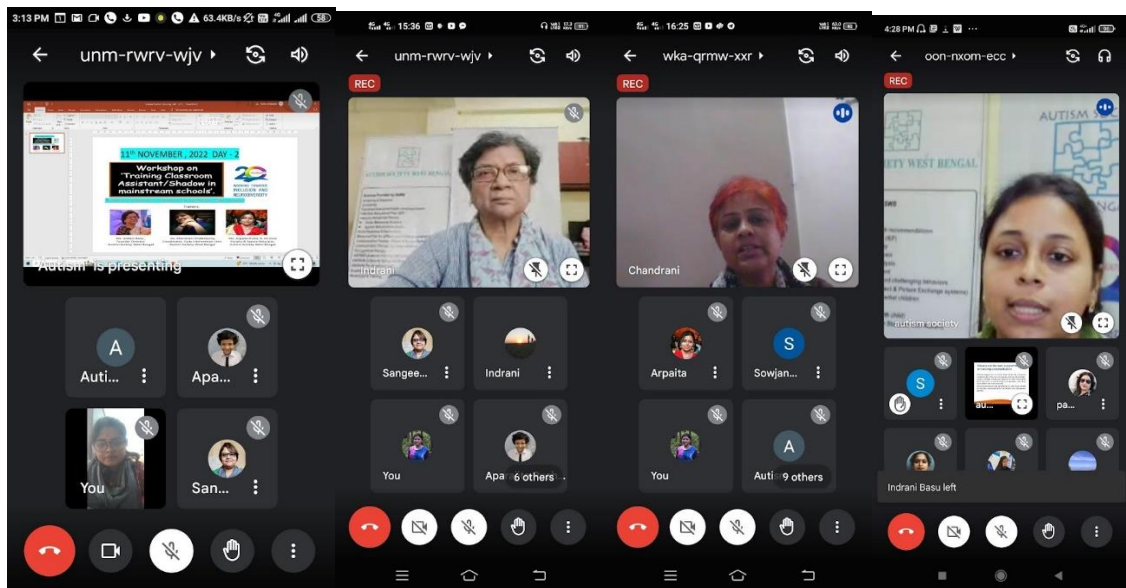
AUTISM SOCIETY
WEST BENGAL



WORKING TOWARDS
INCLUSION AND
NEURODIVERSITY

TRAINING WORKSHOP

A Workshop on 'Training Classroom assistant/Shadow in Mainstream Schools' commenced in November, 2022.



PRINTSTUDIO@ASWB

In 2022, ASWB received the support and encouragement from Voith Paper Technology (India) Private limited. We were able to expand our Aarohan unit by setting up the PrintStudio and bakery unit. Some special educators and volunteers learnt the skills on graphic designing, printing technology. We hope one day our students & trainees can learn from them.



NEW RECRUITMENT

During the last quarter of 2022 ASWB hired some new staff. Clinical Psychologist Ms. Maitree Ahmed; Project Coordinator Ms. Binita Chakraborty, Program Coordinator Ms. Piyali Chakraborty, Program coordinator & Data Entry Operator Ms. Shreya Bhattacharjee, Special Educators Ms. Ruchira Dasgupta, Ms. Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay, Ms. Tanusree Mondal, Ms. Joyeeta Mongal, Ms. Ankana Halder, Caregiver Ms. Sanwara Khatun.



20 YEARS CELEBRATION

On 29th December, 2022 ASWB completed her 20 years journey. To commemorate this day a short informal program was organized with all staff, volunteers and GB members.









HOW YOU MAY HELP:

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, Autism Society West Bengal.

6th March, 2023.