

# **Netaji Subhas Open University**

## **School of Professional Studies**

### **One day Extension Program by the learners of MSW, Cooch Behar Study Centre on Sensitization on Covid 19 and Relief work or Amphan (25/5/2020)**

The learners of MSW course of the Coochbehar study center in spite of a very bad weather condition conducted an Awareness Generation Camp on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in the surrounding areas of Cooch Behar, district blocked number -I. The learners who participated in the program were from batch 2016 to the current batch, were guided by one of the counselor of MSW Course, Mr. Saday Raha .It was really very interesting to note that the learners did not at all fear about the consequences that they might have faced during their awareness camp and did not worry about the exposure to the virus. The learners were very enthusiastic about the whole activity. They did a wonderful preparation to sensitize the community people .They followed strictly all the Social Work methods and principles while visiting the field. The program was very well organized under the leadership of Mr. Saday Raha. The Assistant Professor of Social Work, NSOU Ms Kasturi Sinha Ghosh, encouraged the learners to participate in this program however she also cautioned them to take full protection before going to the field.

Ms Kasturi Sinha Ghosh chalked out the program for the learners and encourage them to emphasize more on the sensitization of the community people in relation to the kind of lifestyle they should adopt during this serious situation of COVID-19.This included sensitization of community about the frequent use of soap to wash hand, maintaining of Social Distancing, the use of mask and also how to make homemade masks.

These learners very effectively explain the community people about the various consequences that they might face due to the exposure to Covid 19 ,further they also shared with community about, how they can protect themselves from being affected .The learners discussed about the various precautionary measures that they should adopt while carrying out their day to day activities .A full demonstration about how to wash the hands and what steps are to be taken before going out in public places was also communicated to the community members in a very simple manner.

One of the learner made an observation that since most of the community members were worried about their economic problems as they were without any job or could not go out due to the lockdown situation so this was creating a lot of mental stress to the community people moreover some of the community members where not in the position to go to their native place and join their family in their villages. They suggested that as community organizers they may take up more serious activity under the banner of NSOU and carryout more field activities to restore the human rights of the people of the community.

Besides the sensitization program on COVID-19 the learners of MSW course off Cooch Behar study center took up some relief activity in the communities which were affected due to cyclone. The fund was collected from benevolent donors. They distributed rice pulses soya beans along with soap and some masks to the local people.

The community members were overwhelmed by this gesture of our learners.



The activities of our learners were later covered by the local news channels and news papers. This was indeed a commendable effort by our learners. Further our learners are planning more of such programs in near future.

One of the learner reported that she had never experienced such an incident before in her life and thought she was lucky enough to be a part of this program. Many of the students shared that this experience was something to cherish about throughout their life when actually got an opportunity to work and do something for the individuals who were undergoing tremendous crisis situation.

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