

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION at SXSSS

Theme: “Safe Women – Safe Society” “Surakshit Mahila - Surakshit Samaj” “Awareness on Anti Human Trafficking with focus on Women & Children”

St. Xavier’s Social Service Society -SXSSS organized the International Women’s Day celebration in the slums (at seven Zones) of Ahmedabad -the working areas of SXSSS. The main theme and the topic of this programs was “Safe Women – Safe Society” “Surakshit Mahila - Surakshit Samaj” an “Awareness creation on Human Trafficking with focus on women & children”. There were different resource persons who gave inputs on the topic of Human Trafficking amongst the women, adolescent girls and children with examples.

The table below gives details of Zones, Resource Persons & Participants:

| Date | Place Name | Resource Person | Participants |
|--------------|--|---|--------------|
| 1 | Odhav | Fr. Isaac Rumao & Ms. Ruksana Shaikh | 86 |
| 2 | Saraspur - Gomtipur | Adv. Archana Makwana & Ms Nitu Sharma -ICDS | 141 |
| 3 | Naranpura | Ms. Jyoti Prajapati & Fr. Isaac Rumao | 101 |
| 4 | Shapur | Ms. Makwana Laxmiben | 70 |
| 5 | Sabarmati | Ms. Deepmala & Fr. Isaac Rumao | 111 |
| 6 | Jai Bharat Mata Garden -Vadaj (Naranpura Zone) | Ms. Deepika Parmar & Ms Bhumikaben IPS | 137 |
| 7 | Juhapura | Ms. Nurjaha Shaikh & Fr. Isaac Rumao | 70 |
| Total | | | 716 |

On the eve of International Women's Day, St. Xavier's Social Service Society -SXSSS brought vibrant celebrations to the slum zones of Ahmedabad, reaffirming its commitment to empowering women in marginalized communities. The event, organized across various locations (mentioned in the table above) within the Society's work area, was a testament to the resilience and strength of women living in challenging circumstances.

The celebrations featured a range of activities, including cultural performances, A Street Play (Nukkud Natak) on **Nari Gaurav Gatha presented by the girls**, motivational talks by the resource persons, and a soulful song sung to acknowledge the women’s contribution by Ms Rhea. Women from the community showcased their talents through dance, music, and art, creating an atmosphere of joy and solidarity.



During the events, a series of impactful talks were organized to address the pressing issue of human trafficking, with a special focus on women and children. Speakers highlighted the disproportionate impact of human trafficking on women and children, emphasizing how factors such as poverty, lack of education, and gender inequality make them more susceptible to exploitation. They shared harrowing stories of survivors, underscoring the resilience and courage of those who have escaped the cycle of abuse.



Flex Banners with appropriate pictures and captions were prepared to create awareness on Human trafficking were displayed and explained at every gathering at the zonal level by the staff of St. Xavier's Social Service Society, Sr Beena Thomas CM and **Fr. Isaac Rumao SJ** -who is very much part of National Network of Amrat. Fr Isaac Rumao SJ highlighted the significance of the women's day and also spoke elaborately on the theme of **Anti Human Trafficking with focus on women & children**. Their speeches

were inspirational and motivating for the women to play their role in preventing human trafficking and safeguarding the vulnerable children in their respective families and neighborhood.

The talks also focused on preventive measures, such as community vigilance, education, and economic empowerment, as key strategies to combat trafficking. Experts called for stronger legal frameworks and international cooperation to dismantle trafficking networks and ensure justice for victims. The event served as a powerful reminder of the importance of raising awareness and fostering solidarity in the fight against human trafficking.



St. Xavier's Social Service Society's efforts on this special day highlighted the transformative power of collective action and the potential of women to drive positive change in their communities. The celebration not only honoured the achievements of women but also inspired hope and determination for a more inclusive and equitable society.

