

Students for social change

On the occasion of 18th founding anniversary of EWU Environmental & Social Club, let us take a look at how the club encourages students to act for social good

SUN CAMPUS DESK

SINCE its' inception in September, 1999, East West University Environmental & Social Club has been pursuing its' motto, save life save earth through different environmental and social activities. It has been involved with social support programme, rehabilitation of affected people, exploring talents of young generation, afforestation programme, community building, etc. for the last 17 years.

The moderator of the club is Dr. S. S. M. Sadrul Huda, Assistant Professor of Business Administration. He has been serving the club as the moderator since its inception in 1999. The club executive committee is formed with five members. In addition, independent coordinators supervise the individual projects with the help of a group of core volunteers. The club invites general students to join the club on regular basis throughout the year. At present, the club supports several projects, which are as follows.



Gachbandhu- Friends of Greenery - is the tree plantation programme of East West University Environmental & Social Club.

The objective of the programme is to plant trees, distribute saplings, and to assist and encourage gardening. As part of this greenery development initiative, EWU Environmental & Social Club distributed saplings to city schools for encouraging gardening in the city space.

It also distributed saplings among the students, faculties, and staff members of the university on many occasions. Recently, it organised a three day long tree fair in the campus for students and faculty members. The most recent initiative of this programme is Online Gach Bazar - a facebook page based online tree market to sale selected trees online primarily for the students. For details you may visit <https://www.facebook.com/EWUESCgreenlab/>

Poruader Ashor - It is the primary education programme for the under privileged children hosted by East West University Environmental & Social Club. The idea of organising an educational endeavour for the underprivileged children crossed the mind of the club's moderator Mr. S. S. M. Sadrul Huda when he observed many children loitering around without any guidance during the time when the university shifted to its' present permanent campus at Aftab Nagar, Badda in May, 2012. The dream came true soon when club members Sohanul Kawser, Hamidur Rahman, Rainhan Shojeb, Tonima Binte Hamid, Asif Mahmud, Saiful, Arue and shakil played active role and started tutoring sessions for the under-privileged children living in the neighbourhood of the university's campus in the open field adjacent to the campus on June, 14, 2012 with seven students. Subsequently, this activity was shifted inside the campus building and operated two days a week with the support of university management, especially the student welfare department.

Since its' inception this school has been providing educational instructions to the underprivileged children of this locality. It is primarily managed by the student volunteers and occasionally supported by different individuals and organisations. The students' inclination to volunteerism is the life blood of this school. Irfan, Naqib, Shojeb and Naim deserve special mention for selflessly dedicating their time, effort and knowledge to operate the school on different time periods along with general students.

Several students' of this school now are enrolled in formal educational institutes and performing well. One of the students of the school also passed



the primary school certificate (PSC) examination in 2013. Presently, 70 students are pursuing primary education following the national curriculum under the guidance of 24 teachers five days in a week in front of the career counseling center in the main campus building.

This noble venture of EWU Environmental & Social Club was initiated as part of its' social responsibility orientation. Besides, educational activities, health camp, sports activity, cultural activity, etc. are being arranged on regular basis. Recently, a unique programme Golpo O Ganer Ashor was initiated to orient the students to the cultural and literary world. Noted singer Konal attended the first session of Golpo O Ganer Ashor and shared her experience with the students.

Along with the students, members of different faculties also participated in the function of the school. A group of faculty from English department administers moral education class on regular basis. The future plan of the school is to expand the academic and non-academic activities in cooperation with different individuals and groups for ensuring better future of the underprivileged students.

The club's moderator Mr. Sadrul Huda said: "This informal initiative of the students has now become a formal school for the underprivileged students' with the name "Aftabnagar Biddya Niketon". Thanks to Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, East West University, who has taken the noble initiative to shape the future of the underprivileged section of the society." For details visit <https://www.facebook.com/ewupeppa/>

Mind Gym - the psycho-social counseling programme of EWU



Environmental & Social Club was initiated in June, 2014, with a view to redress the mental worries of the students. The idea of the programme was also mooted by Mr. Sadrul Huda.

Renowned counselor Professor, Dr. Mehtab Khanam, inaugurated the programme in June, 2014 with an open counseling session. Around 300 hundreds students attended the inaugural session and participated in the question-answer session.

Since its inception Mind Gym has been offering counseling to students. At present, counseling sessions are organised two days a week. Professional counselor MS. Nuzhat Chowdhury has been engaged with the programme from the very beginning. Besides, one to one counseling, group sessions is also arranged. In addition to professional counseling, Mind Gym also intends to provide emotional support to the students through its' Peer Support programme. Periodical workshop on peer support is arranged to prepare the stu-

dent volunteers to extend mental support to their peers. So far, sixty students' attended the workshop on peer support. One of the exciting features of Mind Gym is its' online window. It has launched online counseling in January 2015 through its' facebook page and facebook group. This is primarily handled by its' peer support group.

Students share their thoughts, experiences, and agonies with their sympathisers online and receive suggestions. More than 3000 members are active presently in its' facebook group. For details visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mindgym.EWUESC>

Online Gach Bazar - It is an online market place for selling tree and other tree related stuffs. The delivery area is now restricted to the campus and nearby areas. Eventually, it will expand its activities to other parts of the capital city. The primary objective of this venture is to encourage students to nurture greenery in their own space. In pursuance of this objective it presents decorative low price indoor plants. It is not for profit initiative. All its' earning will be reinvested for tree plantation programme. For details visit <https://www.facebook.com/Online-Gach-Bazar-EWU-ESC-103305983348717/>

Good News - It is an online platform for sharing students' achievements, activities and aspirations. It collects information from different sources. The print version of Good News will be published soon. For details visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ewuescgoodnews/>

Safe Food Safe Environment Safe Life - It aims to facilitate community level



prevention, detection and response to public health threats associated with unsafe food, impure environment and improper lifestyle. The primary goal of this programme is to create awareness about healthy management of life style, healthy food preparation, diet control, and physical fitness, maintaining air & water quality, ensuring stress control and any other issues that may relate to the safe and sound lifestyle management. This programme is a quality of life assurance initiative of EWUESC. For details visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/esc.sfses/>

Green Riders - It is a group of young and enthusiast riders. They love to ride and use bicycle for regular commuting. The primary aim of this group is to promote environment friendly and healthy transport practice for the urban population. It arranges regular short, medium and long rides. It plans to organise cycling training for interested students and also to organise workshops on riding and other related issues. It supports riders by proving riding tips, information about cycles and cycling groups. For details visit <https://www.facebook.com/greenriders.ewu>

