



## TRANSLATION :

## COVID VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAMME HELD AT HAYDEN HALL

21 June, 2021

A COVID Volunteer Training Programme was conducted today at Hayden Hall, Darjeeling. Participants from various community groups under Ward No. 23 attended the programme. According to Sister Chhunku Sherpa, a total of 36 participants, including staff members from Hayden Hall's Community Development Department, took part in the training.

She stated that the primary objective of organizing the training was to address the widespread misinformation and rumours circulating within villages and communities during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The programme aimed to equip participants with accurate knowledge and proper guidance so that they could help protect people from false information and create awareness within their respective communities.

The trained volunteers are expected to return to their localities and educate people with correct information, thereby helping to reduce fear, confusion, and misinformation. She further explained that during a pandemic, rumours and misinformation can lead to mental stress, anxiety, and panic among the public. Although social media provides a large amount of information, it is often difficult for people to distinguish between what is accurate and what is misleading.

The training programme provided participants with proper guidance regarding COVID-19 treatment, preventive measures, safety protocols, patient care, and home isolation practices. Sister Sherpa also mentioned that, under the direction of Bishop Stephen Lepcha, the Hayden Hall team has been conducting similar awareness and support programmes across Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Speaking about the programme, Francis Bharat Mothe stated that a COVID Warrior Team had been formed in Ward No. 23 under the leadership of former municipal councillor and former Chairperson of Darjeeling Municipality, Pratibha Rai Tamang. He added that nine local community groups had already been conducting public awareness activities in the area, and today's training programme with the Sisters was organized to further strengthen those efforts.

Former Municipal Chairperson Pratibha Rai Tamang expressed her gratitude to the Sisters for conducting the programme and emphasized that such awareness and training initiatives are essential and should be organized in all areas.