



BULLETIN : 19

From **DURBAR**

15th October 2012

Dream and poverty- Is there a link between?

Better living and better quality of life is a common requirement for all human beings. We all want more for our betterment, to secure our future. But there are many who are in dire need, who strive for their mere existence and is being entrapped in a different situation what likely prevents them to aspire and dream for a better life. There are many people who remained poor for five years and more and are denoted as “persistent poor”. In the later part of 1990, 35% people in South East Asia were persistently poor, however things has changed. It is

debated that poverty exists and persists due to several reason. A school of thought says that it is due to external factors while there is another school of thought where there is more stress on the intrinsic factors. The second school of thought believes that the poor remains poor as they cannot aspire more. They cannot



dream a better life, fails to plan a better future as a result of which they remained

poor. In behavioral economics it is called “aspiration failure”. There is evidence that value education with provision to better knowledge and information can build better aspiration.

Durbar in association with Warwick University(UK) and Indian Statistical Institute to test this hypothesis in sex work setting through organizing “Dream Building workshop” for 588 sex workers in the red light districts of Kolkata. Their primary aspiration level is measured through a pretested tool which will be used as a reference point. 271 sex workers are receiving value education or undergoing through the “Dream Building” workshop while the rest 317 as “control” shall not pass through this experience. Their aspiration level will be measured again after the workshop to measure possible changes among the “treatment group” as opposed to “control group”. The said research is going on in full swing in the red light districts in Kolkata.

Mobilization of Domestic workers in Kolkata

“290 is not the limit, until and unless we expand in other areas we won’t be able to materialize our rightful demands”- commented Pratima , President of Durbar Disha. Durbar Disha is the domestic workers organization initiated by Durbar in Dumdum which is now being spread its intervention area in Chasipara area of Kolkata where a large chunk of domestic workers live with their families. According to the leaders of “Durbar Disha” this expansion is crucial as more and more domestic workers could be involved in the process to strengthen the movement. There is a plan to sensitize domestic workers about their rights and challenges. Now there is weekly meeting and capacity building programmes in Chasipara. Present membership of Disha is 290 and they formulated their own “Charter of Demand”. Members of Durbar disha press for a uniform “Code of Conduct” so that members of Disha demand and get at least 4 paid holidays from their employers. For all practical reasons domestic workers are entitled register their own Trade union but they are facing bureaucratic hassle to get it registered.

RCH training for the community leaders:

A capacity building programme on RCH (reproductive and child health) was organized in DMSC for the community leaders. The basic aim of the programme was as to provide information related to women's reproductive health including Pre and Post natal Care .The workshop was designed to share rights various entitlements of a sex worker to establish their reproductive and sexual rights. Discussion was held on Birth registration, immunization, neo natal care, family planning, Government schemes operating in the country. 15 participants who attended the workshop were from the leadership of sex workers and domestic workers communities. The participants will act as trainer to sensitize other community members e.g. domestic workers and sex workers community.

'Kite Festival' focusing socially marginalized children

'It's time to fly'... said Raja a 15 years old child from khidirpur red light area. Mass education society organized a Kite festival for the children on 17th September, 12.

The main motto of the festival was instilling pride and imagination in this festive environment where they could share and enjoy with other children of the society. 'Amra Padatik' the collective of the sex workers children organization mobilized their peer who took part in the festival. It provide an unique opportunity to 35 sex workers children in addition to street and slum children who did join the kite festival with the children of the mainstream society.



For Any Feedback: durbar10@gmail.com