



Bulletin -21

From **DURBAR**

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A rally of the sex workers' children on International human Rights Day:

Though International Declaration came on human rights speaks that “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind birth or other status. The children of the sex workers are deprived almost all of and their rights and have to live with discrimination, negligence, keeping a target of violence of all kinds.

“Do the children of Sex workers deserve to get all these kinds of stigma and discrimination? “these were the basic questions that raised by Ratan Dolui the Secretary of Amra Padatik, the collective of children of the sex workers in west Bengal addressing a rally organized by them on the International Human Rights Day i.e. 10th Day of December, 2012, which starts moving from Abinash Kabiraj street towards the College square



to pay homage to Vidyasagar. Amra Padatik came into existence on 2006, when a group of children of sex workers felt the necessity to raise their collective voices. Over the years they have articulated their demands based on the ground reality of their living and career building

opportunity on what hinges on their birth as they are the children of most marginalized and stigmatized women called “sex workers”. Their Charter of Demands calls for

1. Legalisation of Sex Work
2. Mitigation of social discrimination and negligence towards the children of Sex workers.
3. To ensure access to rights and social justice in accordance with the mainstream community of the society.

More than 2000 participated in Rally primarily the children of sex workers belonging to the different districts of West Bengal chanting slogans, raising placards. On this occasion few eminent people from different strata of society come to share their support and wishes for these children. Which on including Ex- Secretary of State Bank of India & Staff Association, Mr. Ashok Dutta, Secretary of Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee Ms. Bharati Dey, Dr Debapriya Mallick, Chief Advisor of Human Development and Research Institute, Tanzeela Khatun President of Komal Gandhar, & Maartize a researcher from Nederland.

Durbar- relentlessly working to stop human trafficking

Basirhat is a town near Bangladesh border where cross border human trafficking is a common phenomenon. In the last month Self Regulatory Board (SRB) of Basirhat team came to know about a adult girl who was trafficked from Bangladesh and forcefully engaged into the sex trade. The team rescued the trafficked victim and tried to get all necessary information from the girl. It was revealed that the girl was trafficked by a local Panchayet member named Kartik and there were others in the Red Light area who either helped Kartik or remained silent spectators of his act. DMSC Basirhat team lodged a FIR in the police station mentioning the name of Kartik. However because of his political connection Kartik threatened the members of DMSC with grave consequences. However DMSC lend support to the sex workers who took a courageous role in exposing Kartik and rescued the girl. However till this report is being written the culprit could not be arrested. This again raises the fingers towards the unholy nexus between police and local political leader.

Change in leadership through a democratic way

The system of governance is the key for any effective functioning of a useful organization, DMSC, the sex workers collective follow a transparent electoral system to choose its leadership. It is a two tier electoral system . In the first phase election are held at the Branch level. Through this mechanisms participants elect its filed level office bearers of the “Branch Committee” comprising - president, secretary, treasurer and representative to be placed in the central committee is elected by the elected representatives of Branch committee who cast in electing

office bearers of central committee comprising President, secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Vice President.

DMSC hold election in every three year interval. This year DMSC is holding general election in 55 red light districts all over the state of West Bengal. The election Commission an independent body is responsible to conduct this election in every field which is now going on its full swing. The field level election will be completed within 10th of January 2013 and after that the Central Committee election will be conducted in Kolkata. The newly formed committee will take charge from the outgoing committee at end of March 2013.

'Early childhood care and development' training for the community workers:

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee organized a two days training for the community trainers on 'Early Childhood Care and Development' (ECCD). The main motto of the training was to train the community members on early child hood issues, specially focusing on the sex worker's children. The focused areas were ECCD and its importance in building strong Society. The training curriculum includes Nutrition and diet chat, Rights and entitlements of the children, Govt. Scheme on ECCD with major focus on ICDS and different development aspects of the children including language development, physical development, cognitive and social development. 20 participants attended the workshop from the leadership of sex workers and domestic workers communities. The participants will act as trainer to sensitize the mothers and other community members in their locality.



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