



# Bulletin -22

*From* **DURBAR**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2013

## Amlasole – Observing ShabarAdhikarDibash (Shabar’s Rights Day)

Birsa Munda Gram Unnayan Samity and Amlasole Yuba Kalyan Samity with active support from Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee and West Bengal Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad organised the Sabar Adhikar Dibash 2012 on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Gradually due to continued effort of Durbar, an organisation of Sabar’s came into existence by July 2004 which is named as Amlasole Birsha Munda Gram Unnayan Committee. The organisation was formed with the objective to improve the quality of life through addressing structural and other issue, under their own leadership and initiative.



In 2005, the Amlasole Birsha Munda Gram Unnayan Committee declared 30<sup>th</sup> December as ‘Sabar Adhikar Dibas’ to commemorate their rich history and struggle against Colonial British Empire. This year the

organisation also observed the day with lot of fun, enthusiasm and various other initiatives.

The program started from 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 where a football tournament was organized for two days which was participated by 32 football team representing West Bengal and Jharkhand. On 28<sup>th</sup> December, afternoon the two semi-finals were held and the final were scheduled on 30<sup>th</sup> December and was attended by thousands of villagers all across the region with zeal and enthusiasm. The kids, both boys and girls, below 15 years took part in a separate day long sports which includes short and long distance flat race, high and long jump, biscuit race etc.. Boys and girls between the ages of 15 to 20 years took part in (both short and long distance) run, threading a needle, slow cycle race and others. The women took part in Musical Chair and Breaking the pot, whereas the men participated in Archery, tug-of-war and 'lighting the cigarette' race.

On 30<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon the final of the Archery and Football competition took place in Amlashole sporting ground. This was followed by a cultural program where a 'Natua' group from Purulia displayed their skills, the Minister In Charge of Paschimanchal Unnayan, Govt. of West Bengal and other dignitaries were present during the sports and cultural programme and handed over prizes to winning participants. This was followed by a Magic Show.

### **Where NGOs stops, community begins their journey**

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee finds it unacceptable when the community members are deprived of basic health and other needs for whatsoever reasons. Since some of the Targeted Intervention funded by West Bengal State AIDS Prevention and Control Society was closed down after the evaluation conducted by the independent consultants during April-May 2012, (in areas such as part of Asansol, Berhampore, Barasat, Burdwan, Dhulian, Domkol, Digha, Dankuni, Diamond Harbaour, Farakkha, Metiabruz, Panduah, Madhyamgram, Nabadwip and Singur). Durbar rushed to those areas and started setting up branches of DMSC's to strengthen community mobilization and ownership building process. Staff from the various Targeted Intervention programs presently running under Durbar also started Condom Social Marketing in partnership with Usha

Cooperative Society with provision of a limited number of free condoms and also accompanying the community members to the nearest ICTC for requisite testing and to the nearby hospitals for STI treatment and to fulfill requisite need for Regular Medical Checkups (RMC). To ensure financial security, Usha Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. (a cooperative of the sex workers) moved to those opening areas to help sex workers to open up bank account and opportunity to access loan from cooperative society.

Durbar in the last six months has accompanied more than a 350 community members for STI management and around 200 sex workers were brought before ICTC and for HIV testing. During this period DMSC distributed 15,000 free condoms and also sold 100,000 pieces of condoms. About 500 sex workers become member of DMSC and Usha who were prevented from accessing support and facilities by the NGOs who used to run HIV intervention programme in those areas. It also revealed that NGOs in general in those areas were active against any collectivization of sex workers even though this was one of the integrated component of the TI duly supported through NACO and WBSAPCS.

### **Playing soccer from periphery-moving towards mainstream**

DMSC football team participated at the National Slum Soccer Tournament held in Delhi from 12-14 December, 2012. Altogether sixteen States joined in the tournament. DMSC was the only team, who participated from the state of West Bengal. DMSC football team got the third position in the tournament.

Since last five years, DMSC took an initiative to promote soccer among the sex worker's children providing provision of training and supporting other utilities to built their skill in sports with special focus to football. The success of this venture could be seen from their successful participation in various national level tournaments. This also helps mainstreaming of sex worker's children. This also help moral boosting of children, improve of their self esteem to address stigma and discrimination perpetrated by the society. Their regular success during last

four successive years also heightened the potential of sex worker's children in sports.

### **DMSC's Annual General Body Meeting - 2013**

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee organized its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Digha from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013-10<sup>th</sup> January 2013. This year the AGM was special as it is the year of election, aspiration, dream and competition. In the last



months the general Branch Committee election was held on in 59 fields where enthusiastic members elected their branch committee members. The AGM was the gala meet of the outgoing and incoming Branch committee members. It was participated by 146 newly elected branch committee members from 59 red light districts. Some

veteran leaders of the organization also participated in the AGM. On the first day the elected branch committee members formed their own executive committee consisting of 16 persons which was conducted by the independent election commission followed by election of the executive members namely President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary(Programme), Assistant Secretary(Organization), and Vice President. The newly formed branch committee and executive committee will take charge from the outgoing central committee by mid of February 2013.

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