



# BULLETIN : 3

from **DURBAR**

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## A Haat in Birsha Chowk, Amlasol

Villagers in this remarkable area in West Bengal primarily inhabited the indigenous people, could hardly access market where they can sell their product and other can buy it as per their necessity. There was a felt need to have a formal market setting by the villagers. DMSC, who have been working with these communities since 2004 to build capacity and to collectivize part in setting a market commonly known as *Haat* in this area which can serve a marketing venue for neighboring villages.



The process was initiated through a meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011 with Mr. Dibakar Hansda, MLA of West Medinipur, West Bengal and the villagers from Amlasol. In that meeting it was decided that every Sunday the market will be open during afternoon and the site was known as Birsha Chowk. The *haat* was

inaugurated on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and the members from DMSC were present at the time of inauguration, sharing their joys of the opening of a *haat*.

Approximately 250 people turned up for the *haat*, making it a success. There was a spectacular income from the sale of fresh vegetables, fish and mutton, so

was the income generated from the toys, daily products and food items. Small children tagged along with their parents to look around and shop at the *haat*.

When the *haat* was over everyone met for a meeting where a person from Amlasol Mr. Chunnu Singh announced that he would donate a plot of land to the Birsha Munda Village Development Committee so that a permanent *haat* can be constructed. Everyone greeted the announcement with a huge round of applause!

### **Election of Domestic workers**

Since last one and a half years, DMSC have been working with domestic workers to help collectivization and in raising their voices against social and occupation related injustices and discrimination.





On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, with the initiation of DMSC, the election of Domestic workers held at Dumdum for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in West Bengal, India. Ten domestic workers submitted nomination for three posts viz., president, secretary, and treasurer.

Tremendous enthusiasm was observed in the pre-election campaign.

On the pre decided date the voters ignoring the heavy monsoon, came to vote booth with an objective to elect their representatives. Hundred and fifty nine persons voted after waiting in a long queue and for long hours. Each nominee has different symbols like watch, ship, flower, ball etc. The election was supervised by an independent body called Election Commission constituted from among the representatives of DMSC.

Minati, Moumita and Ratna got elected as a president, secretary and treasurer respectively. The elected domestic workers were very happy and enjoying their long awaited victory where the loser took it very sportingly. The elected body will soon form their own Trade union to advocate for their workers rights.

## Sports and Games

DMSC run a football coaching camp in Rahul Vidya Niketan, Baroipur, the hostel meant for the children of sex workers since last three years. It has gained popularity both among the children of sex workers of different red light districts of Kolkata and 24 parganas and also among the boys in the local areas.

In the last six months many present and ex-footballers have visited Rahul Vidya Niketan to boost the Nursery

Team as well as the Women team which includes Baretto, Marcos and Edmilson (from Brazil), Ishfaq Ahmed, Mohanraj, Dhanrajan, Satish Kumar and Manish Maithani (present members of Mohun Bagan Team) and Ms. Santi Mullick (Ex-women footballer). The camp has achieved success in providing skill footballer both at state as well as at national level.

In the year 2011, Karan Paswan, child of a sex worker of Kalighat represented the West Bengal team in All India Under-13 Football Festival held at Nevoli, Tamil Nadu. Also, in the Under-13 Football Festival held at Iran, the Indian team was led by Subrata Das an inhabitant from Sonagachi and a trainee of the Durbar Football Camp.





## Community Consultation Meeting (Eastern Zone)

The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) which was initiated with the help of World Bank in 1991. The Strategic Plan for Prevention and Control of AIDS in



India was subsequently developed for the period 1992-97 as NACP-I, NACP-II (1999-2007), NACP-III (2007-2012). As NACP-III is coming to an end consultations are being made to plan out for NACP-IV. The National Aids Control

Organization (NACO) decided to develop a plan of action with the help of technical experts in addition to the community members. It was decided that four sets of regional consultation would be held one each for FSW (Female Sex Workers), IDUs (Injecting Drug Users) and MSM (Men Sex with Men). In addition to that there would be one consultative meeting for civil society organizations in each region. DMSC took chance to co-ordinate eastern zonal consultative meeting both for female sex workers and civil society organizations which was held in Kolkata on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011 respectively. The recommendations made in these meetings will be incorporated in NACP-IV to design with an objective to make it better.

The Eastern Regional Community Consultation was held at Rabindra Okakura Bhawan, Kolkata on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011, comprising of sex workers representatives from West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Nagaland. All together 60 sex workers representative attended the meeting.

The various inputs which have been put forward in the meetings are presented below:

- Community organizing and ownership building
- Repeal of ITPA (Immoral Traffic Prevention Act)
- Decriminalization of sex work
- Anti-trafficking activities should be included in the purview of the TIs with the establishing of Self Regulatory Boards
- Self-regulatory board should be an integral part of FSW TI and it should coordinate with all the committees existing at the district level for the protection of rights of the victims of trafficking
- To change the ratio of PE to HRG from 1:60 to 1:30 (especially for Flying Sex Workers)
- To increase the remuneration of the Peer Educators to somewhere in between Rs. 3500 to Rs. 5000 with increase in Travelling Allowance
- Monitoring to be done by the community members (TSU should not be allowed to do so or can do it after including community members) etc.