

15th February 2014



Durbar Bulletin -35

Sex Workers Festival- Probade Naari, Protirodhe Naari

The 7th six
Workers
Naari,
began on
with a star

ceremony
scholars,
human
MLAs &
from 16
the parasol
of Sex
gathered in
South



days long Sex
Festival “Protibade
Protirodhe Naari”
29th January, 2014
studded
inauguration
attended by eminent
academicians, actors,
rights activists, and
MPs. Sex workers
states of India under
of All India Network
Workers (AINSW)
Triangular Park in
Kolkata, West

Bengal from 29th January 2014. After the inaugural program the dias was taken over by the cultural troupes. The program continued till 3rd February 2014 to protect rights and social inclusion followed by access to social security framework including legalization of sex work which was successfully hosted by Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, Kolkata, India.

The theme of the Mela were –

- ✓ Women’s Rights to information
- ✓ Women’s access to Health related rights and services
- ✓ Women and their rights to food
- ✓ Rights to education for girl child belonging to marginalized community.
- ✓ Equal rights and social justice for women.
- ✓ Women and their rights to live in a Discrimination free environment.

After 66 years of Independence and execution of many pro women legislation, policies and development schemes, female feticide, child marriages, domestic violence on women remained extremely high in Indian society. Side by side there are examples of Laws and

policies which are not necessarily supporting women's rights and approach to empowerment, rather goes against the interest of the marginalized communities with special reference to Women in Sex Work, Domestic Work etc.

According to Ms. Bharati Dey, Secretary, DMSC in her speech reiterated sex workers rights agenda. "We are also fighting for the rights of sex workers' and their children. Since last 20 years we have been demanding decriminalization of sex work so as to identify as worker. We are still ignored when any new legislation or bills are enacted in the country. We identify ourselves as workers and will fight for it till it approved by the government." The sex workers from across the country demands:

- Decriminalization of sex Work.
- Social security and provision for social entitlements.
- Inclusion of sex workers representative in Policy making body.
- To address stigma and discrimination and create space for the children of sex workers and their access to education and other career building opportunities.
- Pension for all aged sex workers above 50 years of age.
- Recognition of Self regulatory board to combat violence and trafficking and entry of adolescent girls into sex trade.
- Repeal Immoral trafficking prevention Act.

According to Dr Smarajit Jana, Chief Advisor, AINSW "The initiative which started 20 years back with an HIV intervention programme has now flourished and the sex-workers are now not only fighting for themselves and their children but also for other categories marginalized communities e.g., domestic worker, tribal women etc."

The 6 days sex workers' congregation was studied with various debating sessions and discussions focusing issues of social significance e.g. child marriage, Nuclear power, Depression,



Homosexuality etc. there were couple of informative sessions, convention, capacity building workshops etc which addresses a wide range of the issues including Right to Information, Right to Food, Right to Social Security, Rights and entitlement of working women, Social Exclusion and Access to Social and Political Entitlements of the Sex Workers, Right to Dignity and Freedom from Stigma and discrimination and other.

Like always, the special attraction of the Mela were the Documentary Films and the Cultural events. The Film show was supported by Documentarywala. 5 films based on diverse issues of Women were shown at the Mela ground. The films which was shown includes Liberation, Bhupal Gatha, Binodini, A letter to my Daughter, I couldn't be your Son were directed by A. Vishwanathan, Soumitra Dastidar, Sohini Dasgupta and Yasmin Kabir respectively.

Each days ends up with colourful cultural events participated by renowned cultural troupes and organizations which includes “Paschimbanga Loksanskriti & Adivasi Kendra”, Soumendra Biswas & group, Calcutta Choir- Kalyan Sen Borat, “Purbachal Sanskritik Kendra”, Amlasole Birsha Munda Sanskritik Committee, Uttar Disha (Professor Soumik Chatterjee), Sinjon (Kohinoor Sen Borat), Bangle Band Kaya and Komol Gandhar and Amra Padatik.

Durbar’s participation in 38th Kolkata Book fair

Kolkata book fair or Antarjatic Kolkata Boimela is a winter fair in Kolkata. It is the Asia’s biggest book fair. Like previous years this year also 38th International Kolkata Book was fair held at Milan Mela ground from 28th January to 9th February 2014. The focal theme of this year’s Boimela was to commemorate the golden jubilee of India- Peru diplomatic relation. The fair was a melting pot of world culture and literature.

There were more than 770 stalls in the book fair, offering books in English, Hindi, Bengali and many other languages. Publishers from 29 countries participated in the fair. This is a place where one can get many Celebs and common people together; and obviously,



thousand of books under one roof. Durbar has been taking part in Kolkata Book fair since last 7 years. This year our stall was crowded throughout the period of 12 days with book lovers and readers like young students, academicians, various social activists etc. Many renowned authors, writers, philosophers and film stars also visited our stall. Durbar Prakashani (the publishing of Durbar) launched its new publication namely Janajati Sabar o Amlasoler Unnayan in the book fair.

Books that drawn attention to the booklovers were Naari Bhavnar Baish Kotha, Chena Desh Ochena Manush, Kokhono Jeet Kokhono Haar, jibon Jounota Jounokarmi, Adhikar Bhavna etc. Durbar Prakashani made a good business through selling Durbar Bhavna’s past and current edition in addition to other books published through Durbar Prakashani.

Durbar organized awareness campaign in different schools and colleges

Durbar Mahilla Samanwaya Committee organized various awareness workshops in different schools and colleges in and around Kolkata regarding various sensitive, crucial and significant social issues relating to education, health and other relevant social problems e.g HIV/AIDS,

Fast Food & Obesity, Women and her Rights etc were discussed in partnership with the school and college authorities and both teacher and students participated in those discussion enthusiastically.

The 1st Workshop took place on 26th December 2013 at Kalighat Mahakali Pathsala in



Kalighat area where a workshop on “HIV/AIDS & Epidemic” was held. Resource persons from Durbar talked about the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the society and its salient features. Precautions to curb the disease were also discussed at the workshop.

The 2nd Workshop was organized at Barisha High School in Behala on 7th January 2014 regarding Women & her Rights, “Aami Naari aamar Adhikar” where nearly 100 students from class XI & XII participated. Issues related to women rights, women safety and security were discussed in the session. Laws related to women rights and privileges were also discussed in the workshop. Information was also exchanged regarding unorganized labor sector, especially regarding the condition of women who are working in the sector.

The 3rd Workshop was held at Bibhas Chandra Da High School in Seoraphully on 21st January 2014. The workshop focused mainly on Fast Food & Obesity. The workshop mainly centered around the issues like the causes and ill effects of obesity and how fast food affects health adversely. Students from Class IX-XII participated in this workshop.

The 4th workshop was conducted on 22nd January 2014 at Vivekanada College for Women. Around 150 students from all streams of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year participated in the workshop. This was more of a participatory workshop where the students came forward and spoke on issues like Child marriage, dowry, rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplace, education for women and many more.

The 5th workshop was held at the Department of Women Studies in Jadavpur University on 25th January 2014 regarding HIV/AIDS. Around 100 students were participated in the session. This was also more of a participatory workshop and students came forward to discuss on different issues on sex, sexuality and HIV.

Achievements of DURBAR in realm of Football

The year 2014 began with a new ray of hope for Durbar Sports Academy. The Academy has started its journey of 2014 through winning trophy of Nursery Football Tournament, organized in Howrah district. The IFA affiliated Abasar Sammeloni Nursery Football Tournament was organized for the young and talented players belonging to deprived and less fortunate communities. Boys Residential Homes Bengal took part in this tournament.

In this 8 days from various of West this In this 8 days January to 2nd Durbar defeated Municipality match and Team and Sangha in On 9th



February, 2014) football team Bidhan Nagar by 3 goals in Final Shyama Prasad S.S.K Barasat Nabin semi-final match. February 2014

Durbar football team won Nani Dutta Majumder Challenge Trophy in Sonarpur Football Tournament after defeating Agarpara Laha Sports Academy by 1-0 goal. The final match was attended by Mrs. Firdous Begum (district President), Mr. Shyamacharan Mukherjee (MLA) Mr. Crompton Dutta (renowned ex footballer), and Mr. Pratap Ghosh (eminent footballer). Another elated news is that Supriya Ghosh, son of a sex worker and resided of Sonagachi has selected to participate in Under 17 World Cup. Along with him Rajib Ray, another son of a sex worker is also selected to participate in Airtel School Football Tournament in Scotland.

Editor: Smarajit Jana

Bulletin team: Mousumi Chowdhury (Dam) and Madhusree Das

Published by Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, 44 Balaram Dey Street, Kolkata -700006, India / www.durbar.org /for feedback: durbar.communication@gmail.com

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