

15th January 2016



Durbar Bulletin -58

Domestic workers lend their hand for a cause

Around 150 houses of Harichand Pally of Dum Dum Park were gutted in a major fire that broke out in the evening

2015. majority slum were workers. of the due to of LPG A 70 blind dweller



of 26th December The of the dwellers domestic The cause blaze was explosion several cylinders. year old slum could not

come out and died in the conflagration. The affected domestic workers and their family members were arranged to stay to an alternate shelter, basically a community marriage hall nearby the slum.

Out of empathy the members of **Durbar Disha Grihasramik Samanwaya Committee**, an organisation of domestic worker decided to stand in support of the people affected due to burning of shelter. After visiting the place they realized the need of financial, moral and material support to them. Baby Naskar from Durbar Disha stated by saying, "it was our resolution that we would begin our year through our collective effort as much as possible to the affected community members". They collected donations from the colleagues and on 1st January 2016, went to the area talked with the victims and distributed cloths and foods to the affected domestic workers and their family members. Some amount of money was also given to the old lady whose husband was burnt in the fire.

Durbar Prakashani in the 4th Patuli book fair

Like the past 3 years, this year also Kendua Santi Sangha organised a book fair in Baishnavghata Patuli and Durbar took part in the book fair. It was a 10 days long mela from 23rd December 2015 to 3rd January 2016. The fair revolved around the theme of Sundarban. Famous writer Buddhadev Guha inaugurated the program.

Durbar Prakashani set up a stall in the mela and took active part in other programs also. Many renowned authors, writers, philosophers visited the stall. Books published through Durbar Prakashani drawn attention of many booklovers.

Every day there were a wide variety of cultural events, dance, drama, music, magic show and various discussion sessions on different important issues. One of the discussions in which a member of Durbar participated was 'Women Rights'.

On behalf of Durbar, a sex worker's daughter participated in the session. She introduced herself, talked about her childhood, her struggle for survival as a woman, the people present there became enthralled by her speech. She was felicitated by a memento. As a representative of Durbar, she also participated in the 'Antakshri' competition and secured 2nd position.

Exploring talent through art

Progress Love Care Foundation, a foundation operated by the students from Ashutosh College, Calcutta University and Jadavpur University in association with Durbar and Amra Padatik, organised a 2 day long program. The 2 day long program includes sit-and-competition and cultural program.

The program was held on 22nd and 23rd December 2015 with an objective to explore and encourage the creativity and the artistic talents among children of sex workers.

On the first day i.e, on 22nd December 2015 a total of 70 members participated in the sit and draw competition to exhibit their creative skills. The competition was held on 2 categories. The categories were organised on the basis of the age group of the participants. The junior category consists of the participants between age group 6 years to 10 years where as the senior category consists of the participants between age group 11 years to 15 years.

On the 2nd day i.e, on 23rd December 2015 cultural program like dance and drama presented by Komal Gandhar, a cultural wing of Durbar formed by the sex workers and their children followed by prize distribution ceremony.

In the junior category Deep Das from Boubazar red light district was adjudged the best and Rajdip Moni from Boubazar red light district secured second position while Purnima Das from Khidirpur red light district won third position where as Amit Singh and Siya Singh occupied 4th and 5th position respectively.

In the senior group Ananya Sinha from Boubazar red light district adjudged first, the second position was hold by Seuli Sen from Boubazar red light district while the third prize was secured by Debu Sahani of Khidirpur red light district where as Md. Nurfat and Md. Badal from Khidirpur red light secured 4th and 5th position respectively.

Anandam participated in 'Call against Patriarchy'



On 31st December 2015, to celebrate New Year eve Civilian Welfare Foundation organised gender sensitization program as they also organised a get together program titled as 'Call against Patriarchy' at Ranu Chhaya Mancha beside the auditorium of Academy of Fine Arts. This year their main theme was inclusivity amidst intolerance. The primary focus was to press the importance of following inclusivity approach for the marginalized groups and provide a platform to voice their opinions through different performances like skit, dance, song poetry and other forms of expressions.

11 organisations participated in the program where Balaram Dey Street Anandam, a network of LGBTHK community actively took part in the program. 2 members from the community performed a dance based on the divine love between lord Krishna and Radharani. A male transgender performed as Radharani to show her love towards Krishna who is a male partner. Her feminist personality within herself is explored as Radha and in that way she expresses her love towards Krishna.

Celebration of 'Sabar Adhikar Dibosh'

Every year 'Sabar Adhikar Dibas' is being celebrated on 30th December since last 11 years. This year also the organisation observed the day with lot of fun, enthusiasm and various other activities. A 4 daylong event was organized to celebrate the festival. The program started from 27th December 2015 with a knock out football tournament named 'Amlasole Sabar Cup'. 16 football team representing Amlasole, Amjharna, Dulduli, Purulia, Jharkhand, Ghatshila and many other sites took part in the tournament. Along with Football tournament other games like breaking the pot, 200 meter race, 100 meter race, 800 meter race, musical chair, biscuit race, magic show etc were arranged to make the event interesting and exciting.

On 28th December, afternoon the two football semi-finals were held and the final was held on 30th December which was attended by thousands of villagers all across the region with zeal and enthusiasm.

The kids, both boys and girls, took part 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. Archery Competition for men took place on 29th December, 2015. A total of 86 competitors participated in the program.

On 30th December 2015, the final of the Archery and football competition took place. Representatives from Govt. of West Bengal, local MLA and other dignitaries were present in the program and handed over prizes to winning participants.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The 37th Kolkata Book Fair will start from 27th January 2016 at the Milan Mela Ground in Kolkata, India where Durbar Prakashani will participate in the Bookfair. The stall number is 144.
On 3rd February 2016, two books written by Dr. Smarajit Jana will be launched at Milan Mela Ground.
- This year Padatik Football League will start from 24th January 2016. The inauguration program will be held at Deshobondhu Park from 1pm onwards.

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Published by Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee,
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Website: www.durbar.org / Blog: www.durbarblog.org