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# Durbar Bulletin -59

## Padatik Football League: for unprivileged children



Durbar Sports Academy in association with Amra Padatik has been organising Padatik football league since 2009 involving adivasis, slum dwellers and sex workers' children. Seven years into its journey, the football tournament has received a boost this time as franchises have come forward as sponsors.

16 teams from different red light areas and slums participated in the league. The tournament was designed like the Indian Soccer League.

Businessmen, social workers, bankers and even artistes have come forward as franchises.

"We wanted the mainstream people to join hands with us in bringing about a social change. We were inspired by the IPL tournaments. A lot of responsible citizens have come forward," said Ms. Bharati Dey, Secretary, DMSC.

The league kicked off at Deshbandhu Park in Shyam Bazar, Kolkata on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (Sunday) and will continue till March 2016. All the 16 teams were divided into 3 zones namely, Boshirhaat zone, Domjur zone and Baroipur zone. The matches will be held mainly in the stadium of three areas; Basirhat in North 24 Parganas, Domjur in Howrah and Baroipur in South 24 Parganas and the teams are included within those three groups. Teams from Kolkata, Titaragh, Basirhaat, Baroipur, Seouraphuli and Amlasole in West Medinipur are contesting.



## Sex workers and their children to debut in films

The West Bengal Government has launched 'Muktir Alo' (Light of Freedom) and 'Sabolombon Special' an initiative to groom sex workers and their children of red light district of Kolkata to act in films and TV serials. In 'Muktir Alo' adult sex workers are being trained in acting and in Sabolombon Special, children of sex workers can take part. The

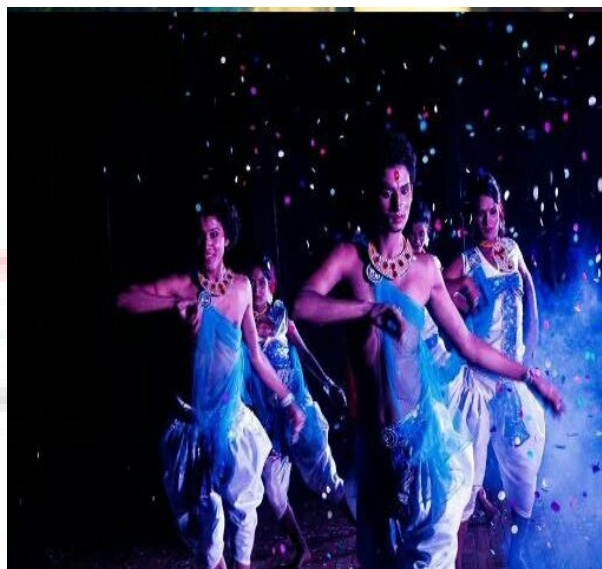
inauguration of the training program will held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 12/5 Nilmoni Mitra Street (Durbar's Central Office premises). The training centre will be based at Durbar's central office. The program will initiate with 52 sex workers and the children of sex workers of the different red light districts of Kolkata. The government will provide these sex workers and their children lessons on acting and then will create space to showcase their talent in small and big screen.

During training, the aspirants will be given a monthly stipend. The training will be for three months. The proposed scheme is an attempt to 'mainstream' them.

"There is a tremendous enthusiasm among the sex workers here. They view it as a better option compared to making candles or sewing dresses. I hope this initiative became a successful event. The social welfare department should ensure that those who are receiving training get an opportunity in mainstream media," commented Dr. Smarajit Jana, the Chief Advisor of DMSC.

### **Komal Gandhar participated in the 'Yuva Utsav 2016'**

Seva Kendra organised a 2 days on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Komal Gandhar, a Durbar actively program. The Utsav was to the future leaders on creating a platform come together, get and become vision of Other organizations Unit, Women's World Vision India, also participated in



Calcutta Youth 'Yuva Utsav' 2016 January 2016 where cultural wing of participated in the objective of the sensitize the youths social causes and where youth can to know each other companion in their transformation. like CINI Urban Interlink Foundation, Life Welfare Society the program and

showcased their talents through dance drama, music, skit etc.

Marching together with others, Komal Gandhar also exchanged their thoughts on various social issues like violence, rape through their dance program. They maintained excellent performance and got appreciation from the audience present there.

### **Amra Padatik representative as resource person in "Gender" training**

Gender is one of the most important developmental issues which is coming to the forefront in recent times. Gender has serious backward and forward linkages with the development of women all over the world. It continues to be an enormous problem within Indian societal structure. Gender affects health, education, adverse sex ratio and others. India's global Gender Parity index is 0.48 where 1 is ideal. According to the Mc Kinsey Global Institute report about 70 per cent of the GDP increase can happen by raising India's female labour force participation rate by 10 percentage points, from 31 per cent now to 41 per cent in 2025. That would mean jobs for 68 million women over the next 10 years.

CREA is working more than two decades to address gender inequality in India. It has been a resource organization for gender training and published several reports, articles etc to understand gender issue in India. Every year CREA organizes gender training for the development professionals and other interested persons to understand gender issues. This year CREA felt a pressing need to incorporate the representation of children of sex workers in their curriculum. Amra Padatik, the organization by and for the sex workers participated in the said training curriculum as resource person to share their experience and understanding about gender and gender inequality.

Amra Padatik representatives shared that the society divides labour among two categories “productive” and reproductive”. The onus of “Production” which is valued by the society is on the men and the onus of the “reproduction” i.e. child rearing, taking care of children, household activities is on the women which is often devalued. “Sex work” is considered to be a “reproductive” activity and devalued and often stigmatized through various norms and moral impeachment by the society. But the so called “reproductive” activities are integral part of everyone’s life. Secretary of Amra Padatik shared that they felt a pressing need to stand beside their mothers demanding for rights and entitlements. Children of sex workers cannot get their rights and dignity as a citizen until their mothers are respected and recognized as productive citizen of the country.

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