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Durbar Bulletin -64

Durbar Sports Academy represents India in Dana Cup

This year, Durbar invited by the coveted Dana Cup DSA will represent from July 25, 2016 and DSA team members workers and other West Bengal. It is a football players to get More than 800 teams Cup when more than 20,000 a town with a normal gets a scope to play a have the opportunity international



Sports Academy (DSA) has been Organizers to take part in the and a team of Under 17 from India which is scheduled to start will continue till July 30, 2016. represent the children of sex marganzilized communities of great opportunity for the young an international exposure. participate each year at the Dana 2.000 games are played. More participants gather for 1 week in population of 25,000. Each team minimum of 4 games and they to test themselves in competition.

Government attempts to enact a new Bill on trafficking

Trafficking of Person's (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Act, 2016 has been proposed to prevent trafficking of persons and to provide protection and rehabilitation to the victims of trafficking so as to create legal, social & economic environment against trafficking of persons.

DMSC organised a day long consultation to discuss on the proposed Bill in Kolkata.

The following suggestions are made by the participants:

1. The Bill should clearly demonstrate the legal and social connotations of the words 'trafficking' and 'sex work'.
2. Under Chapter II of the Bill, where clauses concerning District Anti-Trafficking Committee has been discussed, alongside District Magistrate, District Judge and representative from DLSA (District Legal Service Authority) the community members suggest that there should be a representative from the sex workers Organisation. Similarly at the State Anti-Trafficking Committee representation of neither sex workers nor transgender community has been thought about what DMSC's representatives felt there is a necessity to incorporate their representatives.

3. Self Regulatory Board and its success stands testimony to the fact that it has been an exemplary model in prevention of trafficking in sex trade, hence our suggestion would be to implement a similar model at local and district level which can work in tandem with District and State Anti-Trafficking Committee. Supreme Court Panel recommended similar suggestions.
4. As Under Chapter VI, specifications of Protection Homes and Special Homes have been mentioned, our opinion is that no survivors should stay no more than 1 week in shelters run by the Protection homes and a maximum of 3 months in Special homes could be considered in extraordinary cases. Post such shelter facility vocational and skill development training opportunities maybe facilitated when victims of trafficking can reside with her family members (children, in laws etc) and be engaged in other occupations of their choice.
5. Chapter VII focuses on rehabilitation and social integration. But there is no clear cut definition anywhere of the term 'sex work' and how it is different from trafficking. Those women who are by choice in this profession of sex work should be adequately safeguarded, legally and socially protected against adverse situations, harassments and violence of any sort. So the Bill should differentiate between sex work and trafficking.
6. We are in absolute support of protection of identity and confidentiality of social or electronic media disclosure of such victims of trafficking as mentioned in Chapter IX, Clause 15.
7. Those involved in Special Courts, Judges and lawyers should be provided adequate orientation involving representatives from sex workers and transgender community so that they are in a position to differentiate between sex workers and trafficked victims. Also, in the Special Public Prosecutors should receive similar orientation program.
8. One who is forcefully kept in any house or brothel is in a different position legally, who should be rescued and legal intervention is of paramount significance in such a case but any such woman or a group of women who by their choice reside in a house or a brothel as a collective of sex workers should be legally protected against any kind of harassment or exploitation, and law should clarify their legal status as opposed to brothel owners. They should be considered as a part of any Cooperative or Self Help Group and law should make it clear to safeguard their rights as worker with adequate power to negotiate with clients effectively.

The Bill should clearly state that sex work by choice is a profession and any act of trafficking is an illegal and criminal activities.

Observing International Elder Abuse Awareness day on 15th June

Pension Parisad is a national platform with a single demand of universal pension. The platform has several branches in different States of India. DMSC is an active member of Pension Parishad, West Bengal Branch.

The West Bengal Pension Parisad, organized various mass convention with the elderly people in different districts of West Bengal in the last few months.

West Bengal Pension Parisad observed elder abuse day by organizing a mass convention at the historic Senate Hall of Calcutta University on 27th June 2016, with a demand for universal pension of Rs. 2000/- irrespective of the class, religion etc. Biplab Halim from IMSE in his welcome speech set the context of the convention explaining the demography and social setting. Dr. Jana from Durbar said that underline agenda behind the demand is to reinforce the responsibility of the state for the elderly people. Professor Satyabrata Chowdhury commented that problems of the elderly people should be seen as a law and order problem. Dr. Haraprasad Samaddar commented that 40% of the elderly people

belongs under BPL, but the state is not taking any initiatives to redress their problems. A welfare state like India should take progressive step for its senior citizens instead of promoting bullet trains. Dr. Gobinda Sarkar explained the changing social structure in the 'open liberal economy' where the joint families are breaking down leading to nuclear families where the elderly people are not welcomed. Migration for the sake of employment is yet another reason which causes break down of the joint families. Goutam Bhattacharyya stressed on the need for multi-layered advocacy to publicize the issue in the discourse. To increase the political goodwill of the state, there is a pressing need to create a mass movement with the demands of the elderly people. The programme ended with a note to build awareness among the people.

Street corner protesting recent rape of Adivasi women in Chattisgarh

Das Theke Das Hajar, Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (West Bengal), Bastar Solidarity Network (Kolkata), and Soni Sori Mukti Morcha jointly organized a protest meeting near Chitrakut Building in AJC Bose Road on 27th June 2016, which housed Chhattisgarh Tourism office in Kolkata.

Why this protest rally?

Chattisgarh is infamous for the state sponsored violence and atrocities on the native Adivasi people. The state is rich in mineral content and natural resources. The multinationals and corporates are invading in the state looting the natural resources, displacing the native Adivasi people. The native people who are dependent on this resource are trying to resist this indiscriminate loot but the state government is trying to dislodge this spontaneous resistance adopting brutal methods.

Recently an Adivasi women named Madkam Hidme only about 22 years was picked up by special police, on June 13, on the next day in a Maoist example of one more fake regularly, the murder is charge that she is a continuous pattern of years.

Despite rains, the programme was carried out in the open air for close to three hours, from 3 to 6 PM. About 100 activists from the convening members from others, like Campus Resists, Nari Birodhi Samity, Women State Repression Kolkata, Protection of Democratic Rights, Sramajibi MahilaSamity, Bandi Mukti Committee, All India Progressive Women's Association, Maitree, Chitrangada Sense Gender, Ardhek Akaash, participated in the said campaign.

Speeches were made by several activists, explaining the nature of the violence, relating it to sexual violence and rape elsewhere, as well as to the capitalist offensive and the deprivation of rights of adivasis. Voices were raised against the so-called "anti-nationalism" and the all-out drive by state to punish, beat up or evict all those who dare to say No to the state and its para-military forces and want to retain their forest, water bodies and land. Songs were sung by members of Sramajibi Mahila Samity, and the group Chiriakhana. Leaflets were also distributed.

A deputation of four persons, Amitava Chakrabarty from JACJS, Uttama Roy from DTDH,



programme was carried out three hours, from 3 to 6 from the convening members from others, like Nirjatan O Durbrittayan Against Sexual Violence and Association for the

Sananda Dasgupta from Bastar Solidarity Network and Rama Debnath from the Soni Sori Mukti Morcha, submitted a Memorandum to the Chhattisgarh Tourism office.

Education is 'not for all' without discrimination- A case study

Soumendu Bera (name changed) a jovial boy came to Seoraphuli, Garhbagan(a red light districts in Hoogli district) with his mother. He was studying in a Government school in Mahesh, in Class V. His father was accused and was in jail custody in some judicial proceeding and the boy was stigmatized as a son of a prisoner. He was forced to leave his school due to continuous taunting and stigmatization without appearing in the final examination of Class V. After shifting to Seoraphuli he was not admitted in any school. AmraPadatik leaders in the area identified the child as school dropout and came to know about his problem. The child was very much willing to continue his education. They tried to admit the child in the local Banmali Mitra Institution but the school management refused to admit the child in their school with an excuse of not having a Transfer Certificate. With repeated request of the mother and Amra Padatik leaders the Headmaster denied his admission which was not as per the Right to Education Act.

Amra Padatik central committee leaders took up the issue seriously as the child is being doubly discriminated as a child of a prisoner as well as a sex worker. They informed about the incident to the State Commission for Protection of Rights of the Children, West Bengal as well as to the Child Welfare Committee, Hoogli and Childline Hoogli. Through repeated follow up about the matters with relevant authorities finally the Child Welfare Committee Hoogli spoke with the school management committee of the Banamali Mitra Institution in Seoraphuli and ordered to admit the child in the school without the Transfer Certificate (which can be submitted later).

Finally the child gets his due right for free and compulsory education. This incident shows about the discriminatory practices and attitude of the society even after enactment of such a progressive act like RTE, 2009 the education system deliberately refuse fails to include drop outs in the system.

An initiative by Anandam for the LGBTIAQHK community

The concept of forming a common forum for the LGBTIAQHK... in the form of a Parliament was conceptualized and an initiative was taken by Balaram Dey Street Anandam to organise a preliminary meeting for the same on 11th June 2016. This was in prelude to the Parliament that was conducted and formed by the Sex workers collective under Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee in 2007.

The idea was mainly to create a common platform for the LGBTIAQHK...and discuss about the issues/ agenda and raise the voice to influence the policy makers and the other stakeholders in ascertaining the rights with dignity.

Thus through a discussion with those representatives on 11th June 2016 it was decided that a consultation meet will be held on 13th August 2016 in Kolkata.

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