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Durbar Bulletin -72

Annual General Meeting (2017) of Durbar at Digha

The Annual (AGM) is important year and the the meeting work of the future undertaken organization. organized from 6th March 2017. attended by general sex representing districts of well as around 500 workers of Durbar.



General Meeting the most meeting of the main objective of was to review the previous year and activities to be by the This year Durbar AGM at Digha March to 9th The meeting was approximately 50 workers different red light West Bengal as

This year the AGM was special as it was a gala meet of all staff members of project and incoming Branch Committee members of DMSC.

During the 4 daylong meeting, the following issues were discussed through different discussions and presentations and planned accordingly to incorporate the decisions in the year long activities of the organization.

The discussions were:

- Social and political context of Durbar.
- Necessity to begin the process of decentralization.
- The important activities of Durbar done over the past one year.
- The importance of Branch Committee and project for smooth running of the organization.
- Relationship between mother and child in the sex worker's community.
- The significance of organizational involvement in networking process.
- Next one year's activity plan of Durbar and its sister organizations.
- The success of USHA and SRTI over the past one year.

- Strengthen SRB in different red light districts of West Bengal.
- Ensure and encourage the involvement of more children of sex workers as well as other marginalized community members in sports through Durbar Sports Academy
- to strengthen Anandam (LGBT community)

After reviewing the achievements and failure of the work of the previous year, Dr. Smarajit Jana (Chief Advisor, Durbar), Ms. Bharati Dey (Mentor) and Ms. Kagol Bose (Secretary) rewarded the staff of Durbar for the achievements and regarding failure Ms. Bharati Dey said that the staff should be given more training to increase their skill so that they can work efficiently. The representative of Rezel- Dazel (Tour, Travel and Event Management Company) Mr. Indranil Dutta, Ms. Papiya Dutta and Mr. Ayan Das were the guests of the program. Mr. Indranil Dutta said that he was very glad to see the performances of Komal Gandhar (cultural wing of Durbar) and will always lend their support to the group. Other invitee of the AGM was Mr. Nabendu Mahali, a social worker was also present in the program. Among other guests Mr. Manab Bose(Representative of Pension Parishad) and Mr. Rabi Chakraborty (representative of Shramajibi Swikriti Mancha) who has been associated with Durbar from a long period.

A new initiative by Anandam

Anandam, the LGBT organization that is a part of DMSC in Kolkata. On January, 2017, Anandam had launched a fundraising campaign to raise \$10,000. This money is vital to grow and strengthen the organization. With money raised we hope to launch a new campaign for LGBTKH rights and open a drop in center for LGBTKH community members. We need a strong team of committed fundraisers who are willing to work towards this goal with us.

Some fundraising ideas could be: throwing a house or dinner party in honor of Anandam, asking friends and family to donate to the campaign instead of buying gifts during the holiday/birthday season or asking 30 people from their social networks to make an affordable one time donation of \$15 each.

Anandam is using an online crowd funding website called CauseVox that will help us stay organized and allow us to roll out a high-energy promotional campaign. In doing so they have been able to raise money of \$1,375 till now and we are continuing to promote the fundraising at global arena.

Durbar celebrated International Sex Worker's day



The 3rd of March is International Sex Worker Rights Day. The day was originated by Durbar in 2001 members of DMSC planned to organise an open ground festival which police and administration did not permit them to organise. The ministry of home felt that it would not be rational to allow

immoral sex workers to get organised let them voice their views etc. However after strong advocacy and negotiation in addition to holding a huge, demonstration claiming their human

rights and rights to express one's own mind finally succeeded in changing the government orders. Thus, allow sex worker collective to have their own open ground festival in Milan Mela, Kolkata, India which was attended by more than 15 thousand sex workers and around 25 thousand commoner representing mainstream society. Since then 3rd March is designated and celebrated as International Sex Workers Day by sex worker which is observed all across the world.

Like every year this year also Durbar celebrated International day of Sex workers in all sex work sites including Sonagachi, the largest red light district in West Bengal, Kolkata. In Sonagachi, the sex workers and their children celebrated the day organising a Rally which was attended by more than 1000 sex workers and around 200 children of the sex workers. The rally marched across lanes and by lanes of the Sonagachi red light district and the sex workers and their children paraded down the streets to raise their voices to get full recognition as worker. They walked through the road carrying banners and chanting slogans, that sex work is work and demanding decriminalization of sex work.

Durbar and Usha participated in the Regional Consultation meet

Two days Regional Consultation was conducted by AINSW and Swasti jointly in Ranchi, Jharkhand on 27th February and 28th February 2017. Durbar being a core member of AINSW participated in the program. Participants from Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Odisha and West Bengal did participate and discussed on various issues and challenges related to Community Engagement, CBO Development, Dimensions and Future strategies of Sex Worker's Movement, Community System Strengthening Process, Financial and Social Security of Community members and many more. In addition to those topics other areas of interest were how to get engage with Legal Services Authorities, Civil Societies, Administration and also to avail the welfare schemes given by the government.

Ms Kusum, President of AINSW spoke about how to get enrolled with social schemes. She also requested the CBOs to make aware the community about the benefits which is given by the Government on regular basis; it will help the community to stay connected with mainstream society. Sh. Kallan Gawda from Swasti delivered his speech on Community Engagement. He suggested the community members to make contacts with civil societies and people of administration so that they can get support from them. "Enrollment in Social Security Schemes, relationship with DLSA helps the community to reduce their vulnerability of Sex Workers and their family members", he added. He also spoke about Principals of Strong Relationship among the community and other stake holders.

Smt. Geeta Dutta from Odisha spoke about how CBOs help individual community members to regain dignity and confidence.

In one session, participants discussed about mechanism of Resource Mobilisation what seems to be is the most important component to sustain organisational activities.

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