

KOLKATA MARY WARD SOCIAL CENTRE



NEWSLETTER

October, 2016 to December, 2016

ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING

No one can do everything but everyone can do something

A workshop with CVC members at 10 Gram Panchayats in collaboration with Justice and Care was organized.

Sessions on Anti-human trafficking issues with the community vigilance committee was initiated. Stress was given on reporting missing person cases in police station. Communities involvement was given importance in stopping human trafficking issues at village level. It was shared that the community needs to have strong vigilance at the villages.



Let freedom reign against Anti Human Trafficking issue.

On 31st October, 2016 a block level consultation was organized where NGO's (Goran Bose Gram Bikas Society and Birnangana Seva Samity, Sabuj Sangha) Childline, CVC members and local club members participated.

Mr. Samapta Maity (State Trainer, ICPS) facilitated the session on community based protection strategy and role of Childline. It was a constructive consultation and CVC members got a platform to discuss the issues of women and child protection.

Advocacy to change what is to what should be

KMWSC have conducted a Sub-divisional consultation on anti-human trafficking initiatives in Canning sub-division on **14th December 2016 at BDO Conference Hall in Canning 1 Block.**

The contributor of the consultation was representatives from Govt. departments, Police stations, civil society organization, Childline(1098), Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samity, & child representatives.

Approximately 45 participants participated in the consultation to create a common platform for protection of women and children from nexus of Human trafficking.

Mr. Kalyan Mitra, from Jayaprakash Institute of Social change (Resource person) facilitated the session on anti-human trafficking mechanism of the state. KMWSC pioneering efforts have been instrumental in supporting the anti trafficking cause through the entire cycle from prevention to repatriation.



ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Finding Hope in the midst of Despair and Rescue

Tara (name changed) is from a less privileged family. Her father's drinking habits led the family to a lot of hardships. However, he died a few years ago due to cancer. It became very difficult for the entire family to sustain. Her mother too passed away a few years ago, leaving Tara and her sister, alone. Being young both of them found it challenging to fend for themselves and earn their daily bread. Some generous neighbours took care of them till some time. But that was not enough to support the girls.

Tara started looking for work. She met Meena (name changed) who suggested her to go to Delhi and work in the catering service for living. With hope and courage in abundance, Tara reached Delhi. Her tormentors made her go through hell and she was physically and mentally abused every day where she was employed as a maid. Her salary was withheld. This continued for a couple of years. She succeeded in fleeing from the clutches of these people after 2 years.

She was rescued by Delhi police. KMWSC intervened and collaborated with Justice and Care. Soon she found herself in the secure environment of Sanskar Home in Dilsad Garden on 12.7.2016. In no time KMWSC and Justice and Care took up Tara's issue and began working on her restoration. On 8.11.2016 with the help of the staff from Justice and Care and Delhi CWC, Staff of KMWSC met with Tara. CWC Delhi ordered staff to bring her to Kolkata. Tara and KMWSC staff finally reached Kolkata and finally Tara was taken to Sanlaap Home. She was produced before Child Welfare Committee of South 24 Paraganas, on 12.11.2016, and her stay at Sanlaap was extended for 45 days. Tara's tears wouldn't stop when she met her grandparents recently. Their joy knew no bound; they had given up all hope of seeing Tara again. It was a very happy reunion.

Vocational & Skill Development Programme for Women & Adolescent Girls (Trafficking Survivor & Prone to trafficking)

Team work makes the dream work

The objective of the project is to provide alternative livelihood options for the women and adolescent girls who are trafficking survivors and prone to trafficking. Due to low socio-economic status in this area the women often get trapped in human trafficking rackets by the agents of trafficking. Through this vocational training centre KMWSC intends to provide income generation opportunities to the distressed women. This vocational training centre is also acting as an emergency response unit to handle the missing cases of children who are being subjected to trafficking cases. The formal training on tailoring course started from the month of October 2016



BEAUTICIAN- A CSR INITIATIVE BY ITC

The Beauty of a New Beginning

KMWSC is privileged to work with ITC under their CSR programme to empower young women by providing Beautician training for income generation which is leading to their empowerment, financial independence and self reliance. Young minds are like sponges and they are always looking for the right input to be infused into their minds.

KMWSC through the Beautician training has supported more than 135 deprived and neglected women from the society and the process continues to go on. By working together towards commonly defined goals, this collaboration has leveraged both our strengths, capacity and positively impacted our work with the stakeholders.

Official inauguration of the Skill Development Programme for the Youth Partnered by KMWSC along with ITC took place on 4th November i.e. Friday at KMWSC office. This was indeed a moment of great joy and pride for all at Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre. Mr. Ankit Mathur Head of ITC Khidderpore Factory, our very own Sister Anita Maria Braganza-the Province Leader of Loreto South Asia and the President of KMWSC were present to grace the occasion. Around 250 people including Sisters, Principals, Teachers, NGO's, Parents of our Trainees, guardians were present on the occasion.

An impressive and colourful cultural programme was organized at KMWSC office. A band of women with dreams which are gradually coming true are here to express their emotions through a small performance. The programme lasted for about one hour during which various cultural events including group dance, experience sharing by trainees for being a part of the Training Programme, songs were presented by the students. This was a unique event organized by KMWSC after a long spell of time. While speaking on the occasion, the chief guest appreciated the performances of the Trainees. Telegraph News paper covered the programme.



Be your own kind of Beautiful

The renovation work of the training room has been completed in the month of September. New batch has begun from the month of October. At the onset of the session orientation classes were conducted to give ideas about the course and the placement issues. At present there are 50 candidates. Training is on in full swing and the candidates are being trained to use all the machines and equipments like professionals. Most of the candidates have been sourced through auto campaign; though some have come through word of mouth. Auto Campaign has been conducted at Tangra, Motijheel area to source in candidates. The current batch of trainees will pass out in the month of December.



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Unique tram ride for children to celebrate Children's Day

Children's Day-a day dedicated to children is observed as an event across the world to celebrate childhood and promote awareness about children's welfare. Endorsed by global organizations and governments, this celebration aims to promote the well-being of children and to uplift their social rights. However Children's Day in India it is observed every year on **November 14**.

Every year The **CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION** Week is observed from 14th November to 21st November with the pledge to make the world a better place for all children.

To commemorate the occasion KMWSC has been organizing mass awareness programme on the issue of child rights during this period. A sequence of events have been lined up to observe the days.

KMWSC celebrated Children's Day with a range of innovative and fun filled activities for its project children which seemed much as a festival. Various competitions, Children's Day painting competition, Tram ride was organized by Hidden Domestic Child Labour Project team to mark the event and make it a special day for children to enjoy childhood.

80 children assembled at Rajabazar Hidden Domestic Child Labour project and 10 children from Red light area Project board the joy ride to Babubazar. The joyride was full of engaging activities. They sang to their hearts content and shared their rhymes. They actively took part in the fun games and were excited to receive gifts. The event was covered by leading newspaper and Electronic Media.



A child has a special way of adding joy to everyday

This was a Children's Day celebration with a difference. Approximately 200 children from our project site in Canning Block 1 came together for a block level children's consultation. The charter of demands prepared by children were placed before the Panchayat. They spoke their mind, highlighting the strong and glaring issues which are not taken care of.

1. Issues of gambling and plenty of country liquor shops around their locality creates a challenge for women and adolescent girls.
2. Inadequate toilets and drinking water for the girls in schools is a challenging situation.
3. Frequent power cuts and long hours of darkness during the study hours is a setback for the students. With their ongoing annual examination, they find it difficult to study in the evening.
4. Poor condition of the roads and water logging force them to stay at home and they take a lot of pain to reach school during the monsoon.
5. Eve teasing is a major concern of the girls which they face every day while going out from their house.

The children's Charter of Demand's will act as a guide for policy makers and panchayat members to address the issues faced by them and bring about possible change.



LODHA COOMUNITY PROJECT

To teach is to touch a life forever

Learning support programme is held for children five days every week, from Monday to Friday. The children are punctual in attending the class. In view of the learning levels, they are divided into three groups; Pre-primary and class- I is in a group, class II & III is in a group and class IV is taught separately in a group. The Lodhas as well as many other children are first generation learners. Teaching has enabled the children to recognize letters as well as the sounds of the letter. Their numerical ability has also improved. Children are learning concept of numbers, addition, subtractions and reinforcement is done to help them remember what they learned and this is followed up every week. Children's day was celebrated at the centre with full vigour. Drawing completion, games, Recitation of poems was organized during the celebration,



Providing poultry farming materials to Lodha families:

All the Lodha families have been provided with chicks and baby roosters for poultry farming. They were given the shelters for poultry and provided with guidance from the experts on how to grow up those poultry with care and when those would be taken to market for selling. Project staffs are monitoring the work.

BAREFOOT TEACHERS TRAINING

A good teacher is a master of simplification

Teachers are the essential link to delivering a quality education to all children. To achieve the goal of universal education, there is a need for better trained and better supported teachers. Barefoot Teachers Training is leading the way for trained, motivated and supported teachers. 6 Bare foot Teachers trainings has been organized during this period. It's also nurturing stable learning environments and creating adequate learning materials which in turn is leading to effective teaching and positive learning outcomes.



Learning is a journey but not a destination

Through Barefoot Teachers training we have been able to reach out to 104 grassroots teachers from Medinipur, Howrah and South 24 parganas who have no route or access to teacher's training. Demonstration class have specially helped teachers to facilitate the learning process swiftly and actively. This in turn has helped children to learn spontaneously.

PROVIDING EDUCATION AND PROTECTION TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN AT SONAGACHI



Your body belongs to you

A session on good and bad touch awareness generation was organized for the children. 14 children participated in the interactive session and learnt about protecting their own self.

Craft like no one's Watching

Children with great interest are attending the extracurricular workshops on crafts and painting, drama and dance. Every week on a Saturday workshop is attended by an average by 15 – 25 children.

Let us all pledge to create a future without AIDS

Worlds AIDS Day was celebrated on 1st December at Sonagachi. The sensitization programme was held at Sonagachi by organizing puppet drama and distribution of leaflets which disseminated information about facts and information about HIV and AIDS. Approximately 500 people were sensitized through the programme and 100 leaflets were distributed.



May be Christmas means a little bit more

Christmas was celebrated with the children of Sonagachi where they participated in a go as you like competition. They were encouraged to make their own attire decorations by themselves in their craft workshop. They also celebrated by singing hymns taught to them especially for the occasion and enjoying delicious Christmas cakes.

A girl is the most precious gifts this world has to give

33 children celebrated International Girl Child Day on 21st November. The girl children commenced the occasion with cutting a cake to celebrate their being a girls. They shared it with all the other children present in the occasion. Children interacted with each other in a fun craft session and later were presented with gifts.



BRICK FIELD SCHOOL

By learning one will teach and by Teaching one learns

BFS team underlying commitment has been to provide Teaching Learning Materials that is suited to teach young and older children alike. Designed jointly with teachers and KMWSC staff Teaching Learning Materials were provided at 32 BFS according to the number of children. KMWSC also provided weekly lesson plan and topic files to each and every teacher. The Teaching Learning Materials included materials to teach children of all age and groups. Teachers collected the materials from KMWSC office and carried them back to their centers.



Effective teachers don't cover the curriculum they uncover it

KMWSC successfully has conducted teachers training for new BFS teachers. The teachers were divided into three groups which were categorized according to their work experience. Teachers were trained in Class management, in preparing teaching learning materials, planning daily lesson, as well as how to maintain formats, attendance register etc. The teachers were capacitated to build a better bond with the children and provide them with quality education within the short span of 6-7 months.

Spreading around Wings

BFS team visited New Brickfield locations at Kulpi, Basirhat, Haroa, Basirhat and Akra Brick Fields to identify new Brick Field locations. Few Brick Field owners shown lot of eagerness to provide the sufficient place for Brick Field School. BFS team got a verbal confirmation from Basirhat, Tona and Akra Brickfield owners to go ahead with the centre. The labour started coming in the Brick Fields from November and centres have now opened in Akra, Basirhat and Tona Brick Fields.

New session bringing happiness

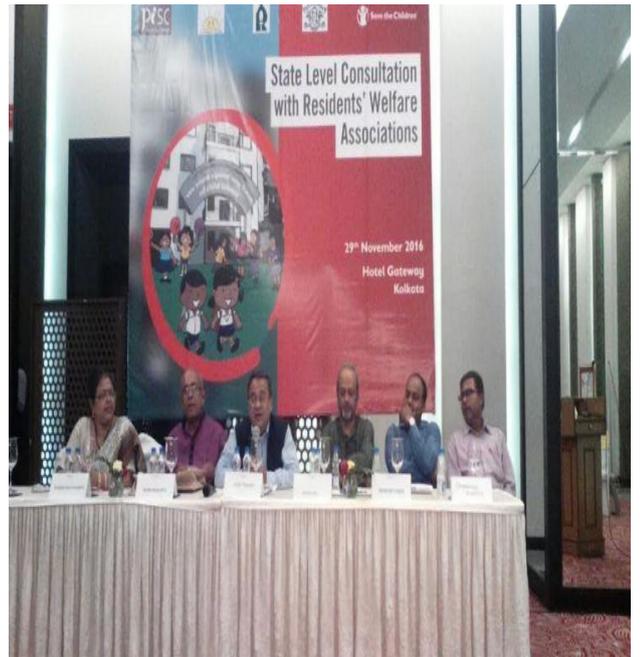
Brick Field new session has started from November 2016. Children are attending the open air schools regularly under the shade of trees for 5 days a week for 3 hours a day. Presently Brickfield schools are running across 3 districts North 24 Parganas, South 24 parganas and Hooghly



HIDDEN DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR PROJECT

Success is the sum of small efforts and consultation

A consultation was organized with Residential Welfare Association members along with all its partners on child labour issue. The Borough Chairperson, Child Welfare Police Officer, representative from SCPCR, the Child Welfare Officers, Labour Commissioner, members from RWAs were present during the occasion. Stopping and preventing Child Labour in residential houses was the main agenda of the discussion



Cultural Programme widens the mind and spirit.

On 16th November 50 children from Muchibazar, Daspara, Kmarhati, Phoriapukur, Talah participated in a cultural fest organized by Save the Children at Mohorkunj. 11 Children from Daspara MAC performed a dance drama based on violence against women

Love for beauty is the Creation of Beauty

During these three months 9 candidates were placed after two months of beautician training from DEBIS'S and Star & Style parlours Kolkata. 7 candidates were from Star & Style and two were from DEBI's parlour. 1 candidate has already got a job at Krish Parlour Salt Lake, 6 candidates have got through Star and Style parlour.

The best way to predict the future is to create and advocate for it

Children from Cossipore MAC presented Charter of Demand in front of Councillor Sita Jaiswara and CWO of Cossipore on 22nd of November. Seeing the interest of children they have promised that they will look after their (children) demands for their protection.



Learning with fun

Four days Life Skills Education and craft work programme was organized for children of Multipurpose Activity Centres. Dr. Ashis Kumar Das facilitated the session. Children made drawing using sand, prepared wonderful pen stands with papers. The most striking thing in this training was that learning took place in a non conventional manner. Children were given the opportunity to think critically and resolve the problems on their own.

The expert in anything was once a beginner

The staffs of HDCL attended 4 days (5th to 8th Dec'16) training supported by Save the Children at AVIVA tower, Ruby. The objective of the training was to build capacity of the staff on life skill education. The training followed a module named "Lalita & Babu". Participants at the end of the session also performed demo session on a particular theme.



SOLAR ENLIGHTEN PROJECT

She believed she could so she did

Sushma Sardar, aged 7 years was identified during home visit. She stays with her old grandfather and grandmother in the village as her parents have moved to Tamil Nadu. She has never been to any school from her childhood. When teacher visited the family they were told about our learning centre. When Moumita heard this she expressed her desire to study and was admitted in our learning centre in Dindargheri. She is doing excellent in her studies. The teachers have planned to give a solar lamp each to both the families as old couples find it very difficult at home during night time. This will also help Moumita and Sushma in completing their home work at home. We would not have been noticed or known about the poor condition of those two girls if we had not visited the families. Thus the home visit is essential to know the families personally as they live in the same village. There are so many similar stories untold in the village where children become most vulnerable to all odds of life.



Solar giving light and power

In Solar Growth centre we have implanted 2 solar panels (150 watts each, 12 volt), 2 batteries (200 Amp/hr, 24 volt), Inverter (12 volt) and controller. Solar energy is accumulated and used for repairing and making new lamps in the center. This solar growth center is the role model solar growth center in the remotest area of Gosaba. This centre will assemble the latest parts of lamps powered by solar power and make the best quality solar lamps during this year.



Knowledge Brings opportunity

The four learning centres are playing a pivotal role in shaping the young minds towards education. These centres are attractive for its creative teaching and joyful learning methodology. There are total 100 fresh children admitted in our four centers. Village people are becoming aware of solar energy which cost little, it is renewable and sustainable. They are sending their children to the centres in order to receive solar lamps and at the same time they believe that children will get the base of education and things will improve in the times to come.



COMMUNITY AND ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

A Good Celebration is a Collection of Happy Moments

Kolkata Mary Ward Social centre celebrated 5th Anniversary of its Chaulgola center on 4th and 8th November, 2016 under Lotus Child-Community and Adult Education.

It is a celebration for all those who usually do not have much to celebrate about. The celebration included a lot of fun and games for the children and a birthday cake. Staffs from KMWSC, teachers of the centre facilitated the programme. Our director Sr. Monica Suchiang was present during the programme.

150 children took part in the fun and activities. Children participated in dance, song, recitation and art activity. The children were provided with breakfast, lunch and gifts. Sports was organised on the same day. Men, women and the children of the community participated in different kind of games. Prizes were distributed too.



Colours unlimited

Tie-dyeing is a fun and creative way to add personality to clothing and fabrics. A vocational training programme has been organized at Sonapota on tie and dies for dupatta making. Community women attended the training with lot of excitement and learned how to make dupattas. They tied the white clothes and then coloured the clothes. They made two dupattas.



Health is the greatest gift

A health camp was held during this quarter. Dr. Joydeb Mandal facilitated the free medical health check up. Community men, women and children were provided free medicine. 127 people attended the health camp.

Brave enough to start a conversation that matters

KMWSC is committed to raise awareness around the illegal trade of people and to supporting efforts to stop this practice. A discussion was held on human trafficking issues at Chualgola and Sonapota during this period. The women have learned through group discussion and storytelling about the vices of Human Trafficking.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES



Tailoring your cloths makes all the difference

New Batch of Tailoring unit has started in the month of September. 30 candidates are undergoing training. These candidates have been sourced through auto campaign. Present Batch will end in March 2017.

Creativity requires Courage

KMWSC proudly announces that it has received orders from Loreto Entally for concert costumes. The team had also prepared uniforms for ITC Beautician training.

BAKERY UNIT

Bake the world a Better Place

It is fascinating to see KMWSC students engaged in making variety of food items including bakery product.

It provides work to many students with varying level of ability and they feel proud about their work as it has given them an opportunity to prove their self-worth.

The students themselves use these products which makes them enthused about their work.

This is one of the units which we were pretty sure we wouldn't be able to run because our trainees weren't involved in the baking process and we didn't have standardized recipes for bulk production and we focus on building capacities.

Today this unit has the maximum pressure on keeping up with consumer demand and with the maximum turnover. We kept introducing and withdrawing products lines based on what KMWSC could achieve. Our USP is our hygiene and quality products where we never compromise. We bake fresh breads, cakes, cupcakes, various kinds of biscuits. These are loved by everyone since they are made with healthy ingredients.



CAMPAIGNING



Let us dance to end the violence

One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. This year the campaign is giving sharper focus and visibility to the exploitation of women and harnessing even stronger global solidarity to demand an end to violence in all forms. KMWSC is organizing this programme on 14th February, 2017 on a larger scale as Kolkata's collective response, to end violence against women. The event will include cultural programmes, and a number of performances by different groups that includes performances by schools and colleges, flash mob, highlighting issues around violence against women. The event will culminate with dancing, slogan shouting symbolizing that all of us are rising up and spreading love, justice, and peace worldwide. Planning meetings have been organized during this quarter. To mobilize school college students during the programme for performance KMWSC has visited few colleges. It included Lady Brabourne College, Scottish college, Muralidhar College, Basanti Devi College, Jadavpur University. KMWSC team is looking forward to organize one day orientation programme on OBR during the coming days in college for mobilizing students in large numbers to join the movement. **Ms. Kamla Bhasin** the feminist activist, poet, author and social scientist will grace the occasion on 14th February 2016 and join us in our endeavour..

More than such a campaign

The 16 Days Campaign from 25th November to 10 December around the world is a call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. This period which symbolically links and connects violence against women and human rights emphasizes that such violence in any form is a violation of human rights.

During this time period KMWSC has organized several programmes like celebrating celebration of World AIDS Day to commemorate the occasion, community awareness programmes on violence against women issues.

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

A day out with Children

Children who were rescued from difficult circumstances had a fun day at KMWSC office. A Christmas get-together lunch was organized for these kids. New clothes were bought and distributed amongst them. Children were delighted and very happy after receiving the new clothes for Christmas. The smiles in their face made all the difference.

Gift with love

We want to thank Dianne Graham D 'Abreo for donating clothes and Loreto Bowbazaar for the Blankets for little children at Lodha. Thanks to people like them that we are able to make a difference in improving the life of children.

Cakes Bringing smile

KMWSC has also distributed 250 cakes to St Vincent school at Thakurpurkur for underprivileged children residing at that home. The cake brought smiles in the faces of children and that made everything special



VISITS AND PRESENTATIONS

Visit to Governor's House

40 children from KMWSC visited Governor's house at Raj Bhavan. A children's Christmas party was organized by Calcutta Foundation at Governor's House.

His Excellency, Shri. K.N. Tripathi, the Governor of West Bengal, graced the occasion as the chief guest. He interacted with the children and distributed Christmas gifts. Children played games and had a fun day at Governor's house.



Our work is the presentation of our capabilities

A National Seminar was organized on "Women Entrepreneurs: Challenges and Experiences" on 12th November, 2016, at Loreto College, organized by Loreto College Alumnae Association and State Bank of India. KMWSC staff attended the programme and spoke about KMWSC projects.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers setting up an example for others

KMWSC takes the view that effectively managed volunteer internships can play a positive role as part of an organisation's overall volunteering programme. Two interns from Jayprakash Institute of Social Work did an internship with Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre. They had been to MAC centers, helped us in bakery work. KMWSC is inspired by the conviction that volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in development work.

LEARNING FOR THE STAFF

All our Visitors makes us happy

We at KMWSC spent three good days with Sr. Brigid Tunny IBVM, the Director of MWI, Ireland and Loreto Mission Development office with Misean Cara. It was an honour and a matter of pride for us, to have her with us. She had come for a monitoring visit of the Brick-field School Project.

New ideas were exchanged and we have been enriched by her in so many ways.....she spent a good many happy hours with us and the children of the Brick Field. Discussions during the visit allowed opportunities for KMWSC Brickfield staff to share their experiences and knowledge, and in strengthening the work.



All who come as visitors leave as friends

Our funders from Holland and our volunteer from Spain have visited our Canning centre to get a feel of the project area of Anti Human Trafficking Project.

They were greeted by the staffs of anti-human trafficking project and vocational skill development project along with 24 trainees of Tailoring course in accordance to Indian culture. The trainees sang a welcome song too. They had an interaction with the trainees of tailoring course. They met the Community Vigilance Committee members and Adolescent Girls Group of Bahirbena village. It was an eventful day.



A smile is the Universal Welcome

Sister Liz Cotter IBVM from Ireland Visited KMWSC. A project orientation was organized. Sister Liz also visited MAC centres under Hidden Domestic Child Labour Project.



Visit to Gosaba to capture the lives of Manmathnagar village

Field visit was organized for George and Annette, the photographer. The main purpose of the visit was to visualize and capture the changes in the lives of people that solar light has brought. During the visit he saw how solar lamps are proving useful to villagers in the households as well as how children are benefitting from the solar lamps in doing home work in the evening. The impact of solar lights was visible in the village during night time.

Visits leading to happiness

Tatiana from Spain is visiting KMWSC for three month. She has been to Sonagachi Red Light Area Project, MAC's Centres during her visit



Christmas Celebrations with Field Staff

Christmas Celebration is the day that holds all time together for field staff

KMWSC ushered in the Christmas vacations with a grand staff Christmas party. Fresh from the successful and vibrant Christmas Panorama celebrations, the Field staff of Lotus project, Sonagachi Red Light Area Project, Anti Human Trafficking project, Jyotinagar Project, ITC Beautician Project, Tailoring unit and Bakery came together to share some beautiful moments during the Christmas party hosted for the staff on 3rd December, 2016. It was a time for bonding, cheer and fun. Party games, exchange of gifts, carol singing, dancing and a festive lunch were but some of the bonding moments at the gathering. Director of KMWSC distributed gifts to Field project staffs according to projects.



***KMWSC TEAM WISHES YOU ALL A MERRY
CHRISTMAS***

&

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

***MAY EACH DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR BRINGS YOU PLEASANT
SURPRISES LIKE THE CURLED PETALS OF A
FLOWER THAT SPREAD SWEET FRAGRANCE
SLOWLY AS IT UNFOLDS LAYER BY LAYER.***

