

# KOLKATA MARY WARD SOCIAL CENTRE



## NEWSLETTER

### A New Beginning for Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

We are proud to announce that the new Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre Office has been officially inaugurated on May 14, 2016 at Loreto Entally Premises (1 Convent Lane, Kolkata -15). The programme was graced by the Most Rev, Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of Kolkata and Sister Anita Braganza, province leader of the Loreto South Asian unit and the president of KMWSC.

The event was hosted by KMWSC, and saw the participation of around 200 people. People from the public and private sectors, development organizations, Loreto Congregation, School principals, well-wishers attended the opening ceremony at the new offices at Loreto Entally.

At the onset of the programme Mr. Sunil Lucas welcomed the gathering. To celebrate the beginning conch shell was blown as it is considered to be a symbol of purity, brilliance and auspiciousness.



The official inauguration was completed by raising the curtains over the sign board of the organization which was a spectacular event in itself.

Prayer dance, by Loreto candidates set the tone for the evening.

An impressive and colourful cultural programme was organized. HDCL project children who represented each and every child served by KMWSC performed a dance.

The short prayer conducted by his grace Archbishop Thomas, Sr. Anita and Sr. Monica followed by the Blessing of the house by the Archbishop made the beginning of new chapter in the book of KMWSC sanctified.

The inaugural programme ended with a vote of thanks by Director of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre Sister Monica Suchiang. The programme ended on a happy note.



# SENSITIZATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## Successful Intervention

On 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2016, Team of Anti-human trafficking project rescued 3 minor girls aged 15 years from Sealdah Station at around 12.30 PM. The case was forwarded by Director Sr. Monica Suchiang to the team at 9.30 pm as she received information about the three girl's three girls being trapped by an unknown person and they left their home from Kakdwip, South 24 Parganas on the look of a better life and job in Delhi at a shopping mall. The team immediately acted and in collaboration with CHILDLINE and Railway Police, the children were rescued and placed before Child Welfare Committee, South 24 Parganas District, Child Welfare Committee directed them to keep the children in children's home for Psychological Counselling. They were released from children's home on 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 and restored back to their family.



## Mission is about People and not projects

Around 500 women from community were sensitized on issues of human trafficking, child marriage, and child labour and child abuse in 7 Gram Panchayats namely Bansra, Matla-I & II, Hatpukuria, Gopalpur, Taldi, & Dighirpar Gram Panchayat. Apart from this an auto campaign was organized on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to create awareness on anti-human trafficking initiatives. 1000 leaflets were distributed in 4 blocks of South 24 Parganas as Canning 1, Joynagar 1, Mathurapur 1 & Kultoli Block. Through the auto campaign the team got information about two cases of Human trafficking one of a child and one of an adult. The team is presently handling the cases with the help of local police station and CHILDLINE is already in the process to rescue them.

## Mary Ward Spain Foundation

Recording of a Bengali song was done by 4 children of Dighirpar Gram Panchayat at Chitrabani Studio on Right to Education. This was sent to MWI-Spain to celebrate 25th Anniversary of Mary Ward Foundation in Spain.

A case of runaway girl child was also handled by the project team in Mathurapur and the girl was restored to her family. The girl was provided psychological counselling from KMWSC. 2 cases of child marriage were also handled by the project staffs from Taldi Gram Panchayat. 1 missing case from Kolkata received by the Director over phone was also taken care of and the case was forwarded to missing person squad, Lalbazaar.

## Leaders in the Making

This quarter saw the formation of Adolescent Girls Group & Children Vigilance Committee in 5 Gram Panchayats i.e. Bansra, Matla-II, Gopalpur, Dighirpar & Hatpukuria Gram Panchayat. This was followed by Life Skill Training of the Adolescent Girls Groups in which around 60 girls participated. CVC was also imparted with Life-skill training and trained how to handle crisis situations in case if there's a trafficking case. The capacity building programme will help the groups to function effectively in the long run.





# SOLAR ENLIGHTEN AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

## Creativity is inventing, experimenting and growing

A 5 days training was held on assembling and repairing of solar lanterns and how to make people aware on this. 8 participants attended this training programme.

Three new solar technicians were identified through this the solar training programme. A disabled man eager to join as technician was motivated by the team to become solar technician.

## A new awakening through meeting

10 community meetings were held in four centres with the agenda of involvement of common people in the programme and in increasing awareness on solar power. Participation increased in the community meetings and people opened up and shared their feelings regarding the project.



## Identification of New village

A new village (Amra Methi) was visited for meeting local people & to access the needs and interest for solar lights. Request came from the people to open one more centre in the village of Beltali.

## LODHA COMMUNITY

### Meeting

3 community meetings were held with an average presence of 45 people including parents and members of local committee wherein discussion on the progress of the children, as well as inclusion of more Lodha children in centre was done. How the project would benefit the Lodha Community and when we would start the livelihood part of the project, i.e. poultry farming was discussed. Number of community people participating in the meeting has increased which is a positive development.

### Everyday is a chance to learn

The learning centre is being run with 70 children. Two new children from Lodha Community have been re-enrolled in the centre.



### Healthy Start

A health camp has been organized wherein 70 people received medical benefits from a registered doctor.



## PROVIDING EDUCATION AND PROTECTION TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN



12 women are taking Beautician training and have completed most of the course. A special meeting was organized to congratulate them and motivate them to step towards income generation. They were gifted with facial kits on the same occasion.

10 women have started the 6 month long tailoring course. They are thrilled and look forward to be self sufficient.



An awareness campaign has been organized to open avenue for school dropout children to partake in vocational training programme and find a new meaning in life. Conducting community meeting has helped to feel the need of the community especially the women and children.

At present 38 children are part of the learning centre at Sonagachi. They are receiving educational support through recreational activities. 3 workshops in drama have been conducted for children. They are very much interested to take more acting lessons.

5 art and craft workshops have been organised in which 27 children have participated regularly and have grown keen interest in the subject.

### A trip to Remember

Many underprivileged children are unable to find time to just have fun and be kids during their childhood — they are busy helping at home or working to support their families from a very young age. 23 Children from Providing Education and Protection to Vulnerable Children Project and 14 staffs of KMWSC went to Nicco Park Kolkata on 25th June. Every children enjoyed a lot there. According to them it was one of the happiest days of their life.

### A CSR initiative

Pantaloons, Aditya Birla group in their Safe Drinking Water Programme of the month collaborated with Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre. On 18th June a Corporate Social Responsibility event was organized. Pantaloons team members interacted with the children and shared the importance of safe drinking water. The children promptly shared about good habits. Pantaloons gifted a water purifier to the center which was received by 4 children. The children thanked and welcomed the initiative of having access to purified drinking water. The initiative in the long run will help the children and the entire community and enable them to lead a healthy life.







## BAREFOOT TEACHERS TRAINING



### To teach is to learn Twice

Teachers are the essential link in delivering quality education to all children. 3 Barefoot Teachers Trainings have been organized in this period. 47 teachers have participated barefoot teachers training from April – June 2016. The teachers are learning to plan the curriculum and come up with creative ways to communicate concepts of language and numbers to the children.

### Shaping minds

Teachers were taught how to teach the children using Teaching and Learning materials and how to create atmosphere in the learning centre or classroom.

Teachers are now applying the methodology while teaching in their own schools or learning centre which they have learnt in the training.

### Connecting with More organizations, Institutions

Many organizations and institutions are contacting us to be a part of the barefoot teachers training programme. The availability of well-trained, motivated and supported teachers, nurturing and stable learning environments and adequate Teaching learning materials are amongst the reasons that is leading to effective teaching and positive learning outcomes.

**“Each teacher has a story of transformation” says Sushila Marandi one of the Resource Person of the barefoot Teachers Training**

## EDUCATION FOR THE DEPRIVED URBAN CHILDREN

### Making Memories with the kids

Heat wave conditions specifically with high temperatures combine with high humidity levels led the government of West Bengal to announce that schools would remain closed from 17th April till 12<sup>th</sup> June because of the "intense heat" followed by summer vacation. Raj Rajeshwari Girls Model High KMC school was closed during this time. 13<sup>th</sup> June onwards classes again started.

21 children from Jyotinagar and Sonagachi are attending the classes from then on. Since childhood is about innocence and playfulness KMWSC decided to give students a break after the summer break & from the daily classrooms and to do something amazing for them. On 25<sup>th</sup> June a small programme was organized for the children. 17 children participated in the fun event. It was a fun day for the children where children ate together, chatted and had fun with their friends.





## BRICK FIELD SCHOOL

### Its exam time

Annual Examination was conducted in all the 60 schools. Total 1914 children appeared for the examination among them 1072 belonged to Group B and 878 were from Group C. Examination was taken in Written and Viva process. Children were excited to sit for the exams. The annual examination has helped in assessing their development effectively.

### Happiness is a good Report Card

Report Card was distributed to all the children who appeared for the examination. In Report Cards, all students have been awarded grades, not marks. The goal of the programme is for all students to gain knowledge and not just marks. Each grade, was given on the basis of assessments of different subjects as well as in different aspects like Attendance, Co-curricular Activities and General Knowledge. Teachers have explained and helped parents realize the importance of report card.



### Intervention bringing Hope

Sunita Sardar age 8 years was studying in Minar Brickfield School at Bogirhula (North 24 Parganas). During a Health camp at Minar Brickfield she was detected with severe eye infection. Doctor in the health camp treated her and referred her to Government Hospital. We came to know that due to financial crisis her parents never took her to the Hospital. Two teachers took the child to the Hospital for further treatment. They consulted with an eye specialist who finally got her cataract removed. Now at present the child is fit and doing fine. After getting treatment the family left BFS to return to their native village.

### To be healthy as a whole

Health Camp for third phase was conducted in the month of April and May. Total 37 Camps were organised over 5 districts of West Bengal. Total 2665 Patients visited the health camp for checkup that included children, men and women. Puppet shows were organized in which around 892 people attended the awareness sessions on basic health and hygiene related issues.

### Evaluation leads to growth

57 teachers of 2 districts attended Evaluation Meeting. The Teachers discussed their field experiences, achievements and challenges during the meeting. The teachers also gave a list of names of children from Nawada who are eligible for admission in Kasturba Gandhi Residential Homes as well as children to be mainstreamed in school.





## HIDDEN DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR



### Training is a way to success

Two CLS were organized one for beautician and one was for AC repair at Uttarprantik club in the month of April 2016. Seven candidates were selected for beautician and 8 candidates were selected for AC repair. Among seven selected candidates two are undergoing Market Oriented Skill Training in Debi's parlour at Grish Park. 8 selected candidates for AC repair are waiting to join MOST. This initiative is improving learning and employment transitions. These trainings are in a way addressing inequities and providing these young groups with the training opportunities and the tools needed to successfully integrate into the labour market.

### Orientation programme with Police

Three orientation programmes were organised at Alambazar, Cossipore P.S and Chittpur P.S in the month of June'16 for police personnel. The objective of the event was to orient the police personnel regarding child protection issues and the projects of KMWSC. The participants assured that they will help KMWSC by providing information regarding cases related to child rights.



### Stop Child labour, Start Education

Save the Children organised an event on the eve of "Anti Child Labour Day" at Moulali Yuba Kendra on 12<sup>th</sup> June'16. Shabaz one of the staff of KMWSC shared how his life changed after KMWSC intervention. He got training on Facility Management. He shared it during one of the panel discussion.

### ICDS workers orientation

KMWSC organized an orientation programme for 20 ICDS (*Integrated Child Development Services*) workers at Kamarhati. This programme was supported by Save the Children. They were oriented about KMWSC projects. A session on Ward Level Child Protection Committee as per the guide line of Integrated Child Protection Scheme was given to them. At the end there was an open interaction where the ICDS workers shared that the partnership between KMWSC and ICDS needs to be strengthened and these forums will definitely help in better collaboration.

### Motivate Each other

Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre in collaboration with Save the Children organised "Peer Group Training" on 24<sup>th</sup> June'2016 at its office premises. Total twelve children from Baptist Mission School participated in the training. Children through this training learned to introduce letters, making Teaching Learning Materials, use of mask or puppet in storytelling. These trainings have helped in developing skills amongst peer group members to organize and plan learning activities, work in collaboration with others, giving and receiving feedback and evaluating their own teaching.



## Children as leaders

Through a successful intervention CHILDLINE has now collaborated with KMWSC. During Child Group meetings at Multipurpose Activity Centre CHILDLINE is giving demonstration on how to dial 1098 which is a free, emergency telephonic helpline for children in need of aid and assistance. CHILDLINE are also doing conducting sensitization on child rights during the Meetings.



## Campaign with a Hope

HDCL conducted two successful auto campaigns in following areas of Kolkata: Haddi Bagan, Tiljala Road, Jan Nagar Road, Raja Bazar, Narkeldanga, Kankurgachi, Boukankurgachi and Kapalibagan, Ganga Ghat, Biddon Street, Sonagachi and Shobhbazar. The objective of the programme was to sensitize and bring awareness in the communities regarding vocational training and alternative income opportunities for the livelihood amongst Child Domestic Workers & Child Labours. Distribution of leaflets, direct interaction with community people, AND miking, and were some methodologies used during the programme. Total 109 children registered their name on site during the campaign.

### Ward Level Child Protection Committee meeting

Ward Level Child Protection Committee meetings were conducted for Ward-1,14(KMC) and Ward-5(Baranagar Municipality). The Councillors, representatives from CHILDLINE, the Headmaster of schools, Resident Welfare Association members, club members, NGO representatives, Child Group members, and parents attended the meetings. They prepared an action plan and decided to conduct an awareness programme at Cossipore to introduce WLCPC at community level, whereas in Baranagar the CPC members decided that some of the members will meet the Chairman of Baranagar Municipality to discuss about WLCPC, and the members of Ward-14 decided to conduct survey with other members of the committee to identify vulnerable children present in the community

**CSR by Pantaloon's:** Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC) in collaboration with Pantaloon's organised an event in three Multipurpose Activity Centre of Hidden Domestic Child Labour project in the month of June'16. Four representatives from Pantaloon's have visited The Park Institute for Girls, Daspara and Muchibazar on 23<sup>rd</sup> June'16. The children have learned good habits, importance of health and hygiene in daily life. It was an interactive session and gifted copies, pencil, pen, eraser, sharpener and fruit juice to 180 children attending the Multipurpose Activity Centre.

**CSR by Cognizant:** Art and craft class were held at MAC centers by Cognizant at Star Sporting Club and in Alambazar, Kamarhati and Phoriapukur MAC centers. Children of all ages benefited a lot from being involved in art and craft activities. It is not necessarily about the end product, but the exciting and absorbing journey they go on to create their own masterpiece is an achievement in itself.







## COMMUNITY AND ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME



### Summer is fun

Summer art workshop has been organized at Sonapota Adult Education Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 and at Chaulgola centre on 31<sup>st</sup> May. 70 children in Sonapota and 71 children attended the session at Chaulgola. Children have learned to make greeting cards, flower vases, flowers, etc. This workshop gave children the way to do many important things: convey ideas, express emotion, explore colour, and create aesthetically pleasing works and experiences.



### Creating a better Environment

World Environment Day was celebrated at Sonapota Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 and Chaulgola Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. 40 children and 31 women were present in Sonapota and 97 children and women were present in Chaulgola. In this occasion children and women made paintings, and collages. This programme generated global awareness about the environmental issues on children.

### Training to empower

Vocational training programme has been organized in both Centres every month. Women made paper bags. RBL Bank gave KMWSC the opportunity to sell bags.



### Nurturing Health

An health camp was organized at Sonapota Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016. The health camp was organized for community, children and community people. 113 community people registered for the camp received medical benefits along with free medicine.

### Learning Together

Every month peer group activity is being organized for adolescent children at Sonapota and Chaulgola. Trafficking issue, Life skill education, good and bad behaviour were some of the issues discussed during the session.



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES



### Making of a Beautician

37 trainees in the third batch of beautician course are now just about to complete the course. Besides hands on training the trainees are being well equipped to handle clients as well. The fourth batch for which the admission is in process will start. The course besides training now focuses to create placement opportunities for them. We are very thankful to ITC Ltd. who have very graciously funded us for the Youth Skill Development Programme under which the Beautician course will function now onwards.



### Let's Bake and Eat

The bakery unit has not only trained women throughout the month of May 2016 in baking but included them into the baking production unit. Now the bakery is also producing baked and non baked products, the service of which the children of all the Loreto schools are availing during their lunch break. The bakery has successfully started taking orders, the very first being the food for the inauguration programme of KMWSC.

### We stitch relations

32 trainees are continuing the tailoring course which has started since March 2016. The trainees are now not only confident in making their dresses but are part of the tailoring unit helping the trainer to alter and make dress for the clients.



### Paper bag making

The paper bag training has now spread its wings and started training women at the remote villages of South 24 Parganas. In the meanwhile paper bags are being sold to clients as per the orders. Our handmade paper bags have flown to other parts of the world holding the hands of our visitors from abroad. We wish to train and engage more women in the bag making process in future.



## LEARNING FOR THE STAFF

Life skills are abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable us to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. They are a set of human skills acquired via teaching or direct experience that are used to handle problems and questions commonly encountered in daily human life.

**KMWSC organized a three-day long Training of Trainers on Life Skills education from 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 to 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 for KMWSC staff including field staff.**

This training was organized with an aim to produce cadre of Trainers who will have the competencies to train others and effectively support students in developing abilities. Resource Person Dr. Ashis Kumar Das encouraged participants to open up and share their views.

During the training, participants were provided opportunity to plan and prepare lessons on diverse themes and to facilitate sessions to assess their competencies. The most striking thing in this training was that learning took place in a non conventional manner. Participants were given the opportunity to think critically and resolve the problems on their own.

Skills were taught using techniques such as giving instruction, demonstration, feedback, reinforcement, and practice.

Through games the trainer taught concepts like effective communication, communication barriers, leadership and trust building. This training will help in turning the educational centers into child friendly spaces, where there will be no barriers between the teachers and students in future.



## VISITORS AT KMWSC

Esther a visitor from Netherlands visited the Brick Filed Schools at Minahkan. She was part of the monitoring team of the Health Camp being conducted at the brick fields. Her insight reflecting her observation to develop the health program was great gain for the project.

Cleary Alison and her team form USA visited the brick filed schools at Minakahna. They were also part of a visit to the 4 MAC's of Hidden Domestic Child Labour Programme. They had a wonderful time interacting with the children during both their filed visits.



### **IN MEMORY OF MEHTAB**

KMWSC grieves on the sudden demise of Ms. Mehtab Ara on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016. Ms. Ara had been a dedicated and hardworking social worker and staff of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre since 2003 who devoted many years of her life for the cause of the vulnerable children. She had long worked as the Project Coordinator of Childline programme under Loreto Day School, Sealdah and the Hidden Domestic Child Labour Project. The many lives that she has touched with her goodness pray that her soul may rest in peace. Our heart goes out to her family at this great loss.

Mehtab you will remain etched in our hearts and be with us in our journey as an angel.



