# KOLKATA MARY WARD SOCIAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER: APRIL – JUNE 2015



We are happy to share with you the activities of KMWSC and hope you will enjoy reading them. The good news is that the project in the red light area (Sonagachi) is about to begin and all related ground work is in process. A centre in Sonagachi will cater to 25 women for vocational training and will provide remedial support to 75 children. Thanks to Lotus Child – Ireland c/o Allanah Smith for supporting this much needed progamme.



During this term the Director travelled extensively visiting all the projects of KMWSC and helping with documentation and sharing innovative ideas and guidelines at the field levels.

#### Updates of the KMWSC projects:

During this term activities on two projects- namely Childline and Human Rights were discontinued. Childline India Foundation was in partnership with Loreto Day School Sealdah, which now has been terminated and KMWSC as a registered society is recommended to

enter into a fresh partnership with CIF. Once all the legalities are fulfilled KMWSC will resume the CHILDLINE activities. The trainings on Human Right and Value Education for Government School Teachers were a project of the West Bengal Government which also ended so we will need to present a fresh proposal to continue the trainings.

 BAREFOOT TEACHERS TRAINING: During this session we conducted training from 8<sup>th</sup> till 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015. There were 35 grass root level teachers from VSS School, Indian Children, Panikhali Rural Development, Chaplin Club, Siliguri Mary Ward Social Centre and KMWSC project associates. Mrs. Flora Choudhury and Ms. Regina Brangers both retired primary school teachers of Loreto Sealdah were Resource persons who shared their years experience with the trainees. The session began with qualities of good teachers, followed by Theme teaching, language development through storytelling and number



development. Each teacher received certificates of participation from the Director of KMWSC. The training ended with exhibition of the teaching learning materials created by each group.

#### 2. BRICK FIELD SCHOOL PROJECT :

- Along with the Regular BFS Visit / Monitoring we conducted training for the teachers on 14<sup>th</sup> April which was on preparing children evaluation paper and progress report card. The entire training programme was video recorded as part of documentation.
- In April and May we conducted evaluation of 1448 BFS students



• Evaluation cards were distributed to the students



Children with their evaluation cards & school bags

1300 school bags

were distributed to the students before the end of the session.

• 2 parents meetings were held in each BF: the agenda being : their livelihood/ source of income on return; if children attend school on return; their return to the same brickfield; regarding their children's learning's in our centres; health and hygiene and child labour issues were discussed.

- In Minakhan an orientation on One Billion Rising was conducted where children performed and orientation was through puppet show.
- On administrative level we are making entry of base line data's and information on children who are from Nawada District.
- On 20th June 2015 we had the last training of the session mainly to get feedback, for teachers to share their experience through group activity. 43 teachers attend training from four NGOs (Athmik, Sabuj Sangh, MBGUS, Toward future). The last one for the rest of the teachers will be on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

Visitors On 2<sup>nd</sup> April from Germany-BONO, we had 7 visitors who were very happy to visit our 2 BFS at Pathorghata; On 23<sup>rd</sup> Margaret from Holland visited 8 BFS at Kulpi. On 24 April we were happy to show our work with the associates of Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre, visited 4 BFS at Pujali. On 28<sup>th</sup> May from St. Michael College USA we had visitations of 2 BFS Pujali and Minakhan.

Presently the BFS team is busy locating other areas for new BFS as we need to change some locations due to administrative reasons. The team is also visiting Nawada district to mainstream the BF return children and advocacy amongst the village level.

## 3. BRICKFIELD HEALTH PROGRAMME:

• Health camps were conducted at 38 locations during April and May bringing an end to the tenure of the programme. Awareness sessions were conducted stressing on reproductive health and family planning issues. Vitamin A and Albendazole supplements were provided to nearly 1500 children all belonging to the brick field school.



- Director visited 3 health camps at Naihati, Kaikala and Howrah and Vitamin A supplement camp at Pujali.
- During this term we were able to video document the health programmes in some areas which will soon be available for all.
- Medical Cases: Khukumoni Bibi and Nasima Bibi of Pathurghta area were referred to Hope Hospital with Gynaecological problem. They received the needed medical attention and assistance from KMWSC.





# 4. LOTUS CHILD - COMMUNITY AND ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

The education programme in South 24 Parganas marches forward with 81 children and 18 women at Chaulgola and 38 children and 32 women at Sonapota receiving education according to the need of the situation. The programme has been complemented with the following activities

- Celebration World Health Day with 60 children of the communities.
- World Environment day was enthusiastically celebrated with the community 30 women and 90 children awaking them to the glaring issues of pollution.



Puppet show on child rights/ child marriage

- The regular audio visual session has helped to sensitize the participants on various contemporary social issues.
- Parents meeting were attended enthusiastically, where we shared our concern for the holistic development of the young learners with the parents.
- The teachers received adult education training from the West Bengal State Resource Centre. An extensive training for 3 days trained the teachers on scientific methodology of adult education.



• Teaching learning materials including books for adult learners and various activity oriented material for use of the children were provided to the adults and children's respectively.



World health day celebration



#### 5. SOLAR ENLIGHTEN AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

- Regular learning support is given to children in four centres of Manmathonagar village. Children are being taught with innovative methods and have learnt English and Bengali alphabets and numbers. Name of seven days of week and name of Bengali months have also been learnt
- 30 solar lights have been distributed to the village women who will use it for the domestic work as well as to do stitching mats or work in the paddy fields etc to earn money. Distribution of 170 lights was made earlier.
- Four community meetings were held and the primary discussion was on sharing experience of using solar lights. Progress of each child is discussed in details in these meetings.
- A survey was done to spread the awareness on solar light and solar energy in the following areas Gopal Katha, Amra Methi, Kachu Khali and Bon Anchal Para were identified.
- Home visits were done of 40 children's families to witness as to how they are using and handling the lights. Feedback was taken from women who are using the lights for their daily work to generate income.





#### 6. LODHA COMMUNITY PROJECT

Director visited the centre and the Lodha community on 20th and 21st of May and discussed on issues like livelihood, vocational training, and sanitation with the teachers. After visiting the Lodha community and witnessing their adverse situation she was keen to provide all kinds of support.



• 67 children are receiving tutorial support where 29 children belong to Lodha Community. These classes have strengthened the skills of children enabling them to learn alphabets, rhymes, develop

numerical skills, reading stories, recognize letters and words etc

> 30 home visits were

made and special attention was given to Lodha families so that they send their children to the centre regularly. Parents gave their feedback of the entire programme.

Two community meetings and one parent teachers meeting was organised. The Lodha parents and community attended with the other villagers where they were asked to express their opinion on the improvement of the children with the intervention of this project.

Sr. Monica returned on 18th and 19th of June for documentation archive of the Lodha Community. Other than supporting the education centre KMWSC aspires to bring in quality change in the lives of the Lodhas - by way on sanitation, livelihood, income generation and dignity.





### 7. **FISHER FOLK:** Review meeting, regular visits followed by:



Role play on early marriage - part of OBR

Training of new teachers was conducted on 26th May.

On 27th May follow up and planning was done with Department of Fishing in Contai for training of the fisher men in advanced fishing in July 2015.

We conducted vocational trainings from 9th March to 22nd April for 120 women among the fishing community.

- Rabindra Jayanti was celebrated on 9th May 2015
- Awareness and programmes on one billion rising was organised by children, women of the centres from 27th till 29th June 2015

Total Beneficiaries: Children: 376; Adult learner: 133; Teachers Trained: 12 teachers & 1 supervisor; vocational training for 133 fisher women and the total no. of children admitted into

mainstream school are 97. More than 10,000 have been made aware on Child Rights, Child Protection, Right to Education Act, Govt. Schemes, Importance of Education, One Billion Rising, and Women Empowerment during our intervention.

#### 8. HIDDEN DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR :

On 30th April' 2015 an auto campaign along with the signature campaign to protest against Child Labour was organized. There was media coverage of the event.



Ward Councillor signing against Child Labour

- 10 CDW's and 48 Child Labour completed the vocational training course and waiting for jobs.
- 10 CDW's has been enrolled in formal school.
- Peer group training was organised in Baptist Mission for Girls. 77 children from Class V to VIII participated in the orientation cum training on child rights.
- Presently 80 children are receiving quality education and recreation classes in 7 MAC's.
- Post Card Campaign 1000 post cards were addressed to the Prime Minster on Child Right and were posted to the nearest post office by the MAC children.
- 27 children's group member of Daspara and Kamarhati were sensitized on child rights issues.
- Child Protection Committee meeting was conducted in 3 wards Kamarhati Ward 2, KMC ward 13 & 14. These CPC members will act as a vigilance group for children.
- Parents were sensitized on CDW and if they seek assistance they can come across any CDW to refer and link them to MAC for their further rehabilitation
- Felicitation programme for the community champions on 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> June at Alambazar Progressive Urdu School, Kamarhati Maulana Azad Club and Daspara Lawrence Paul School was conducted. 14 people from the community have received mementos for contributing effectively in the community.



Active Club Member being awarded with memento by the councillor

- 9<sup>th</sup> June'2014 is declared as Child Protection Day for State Commission for Child Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) hence we organised a Theatre for Development at Daspara and Ultadanga Muchibazar to sensitize the community on child protection issues.
- Save The Children sponsored 9 candidates to appear for their Classes X and XII NIOS.

## 9. SENSITIZATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROJECT:



• Formation and Orientation of Vigilance Committee at Nikarighata GP dated 04.04.2015, Taldi GP dated 05.04.2015 and Matla-1 GP dated 11.04.2015. The committee will act as safety net in the community. A total of 33 members were sensitized about human trafficking, child marriage and other related issues pertaining to human trafficking.

• Formation and Orientation of Adolescent Girls Group at Daria GP dated 08.04.2015, Nikarighata GP dated 11.04.2015, and Itkhola

GP dated 19.04.2015. The groups decided they will conduct monthly meeting for sharing their thoughts. They also named their AG group. A) A total of 16 members and they named their group as "Happy

Children's Group". B) Nikarighata GP: A total of 8 members and they named their group as "Vivekananda

Children's Group". C) Itkhola GP: A total of 22 members and they named heir group as "Ram Mohan Children's Group".

- Adolescent Girls Group (Subarnarekha Sishu Dal) consisting of 12 members has conducted their first monthly meeting after the formation. They were facilitated by Field Animator Mr. Saumen Halder regarding child marriage and its impact on adolescent health.
- 185 women from the community and self help groups have been sensitized on the topics of: a) Human Trafficking- push and pull factors of trafficking b) Who are Traffickers? c) Modus-operandi of



Traffickers. d) Child marriage and its impact on adolescent health and Laws against child marriage.

- Capacity Building of Project personnel on Anti-human trafficking laws and legislation for all the field animators was held on 29.04.2015 by Mr. Manabendra Mondal, Executive Director SLRATC.
- Awareness Campaign on Anti-Human Trafficking initiatives for the community mothers and self help group mothers at 5 Gram Panchayats. A total of 424 women from the community and self help groups has been sensitized on the topics of :
  - 1. Human Trafficking- push and pull factors of trafficking.
  - 2. Who are Traffickers? 3. Modus-operandi of Traffickers. 4. Child marriage and its impact on adolescent health and Laws against child marriage.
- Monthly meeting of Community Vigilance Committee (CVC) at Nikarighata GP on 20.05.2015 and Itkhola GP on 21.05.2015. This is a regular process to nurture the newly formed Vigilance committee every month. Women and child protection issues are discussed and how the community stakeholders can protect them by creating a safety net in the villages. A total of 25 CVC members participated in the meeting in both the GPs



- 70 girls were trained on Child rights, based on United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child in five Gram Panchayats who will be change maker in their community.
- Capacity Building of Families-Puppet Show on Anti-human



trafficking initiatives and impact of child marriage in five Gram



Panchayats. There is limited source of entertainment for the women and children. With a motive to sensitize the community with entertainment the puppet show was organized in five GPs. Approx. 670 community people were sensitized on human trafficking, child marriage and child labour and most importantly

the role of Childline. Communities appreciated such programme as the women and children hardly get an opportunity for any event and it has component of awareness generation.

 Capacity building Gram Panchayat Level officials including Sansad members, ICDS Worker, ASHA Health worker, ANM, School teachers on Anti-human Trafficking Laws & legislation's. Mr. Debasisha Samant, Ms. Soma Chakraborty from Justice & Care took a very good session on Human Trafficking, its push & pull factors. Process of rescue and how to lodge a Missing General diary a FIR. Project staffs of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Center focused on child marriage and responsibilities of



community stakeholders to stop such activities. A total of 206 participants attended the program.

• Capacity Building of Correctional Services Officers on Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act 1956 on 17.06.2015: On 17th of June 2015 Kolkata Maryward Social Center organized one day capacity building program for Correctional Services Officers on Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act 1956. The program was organized in collaboration with Directorate of Correctional Services Administration, Govt. of West Bengal. Probation cum Welfare officers from 19 districts of West Bengal participated in the program.



10. <u>EDUCATION FOR DEPRIVED URBAN CHILDREN</u>: Presently 32 children are attending Raj Rajeswari School from Jyotinagar and Sonagachi. Loreto School Sealdah's bus brings the girls and returns them home safely each day. After they finish the regular school (Classes N- I and II) KMWSC provides extra tutorial support and a small snack. A teacher is deputed to help with their daily lessons.

The Project in Sonagachi with support from Allanah Smith C/o Lotus Child –Ireland started with Auto Campaign in the area. Calcutta Rescue has given us permission to use their premises where we will conduct the education centre and vocational training for the women.



**<u>Residential care</u>**: Thanks to Loreto Sealdah Rainbow Home for admitting 6 very deserving girls (4 from Jyotinagar & 2 from Sonagachi), in the Lorero Sealdah Rainbow home.

**Vocational Training**: Two underprivileged girls Pinky Das and Pakhi Singh were helped with vocational training (Hand Embroidery) for 3 months. They are about to finish their training and with little more support they will be able to earn their own living. 2 deserving students were sponsored for NIOS with support from KMWSC.

### CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES OF THE KMWSC STAFF.

- A training on Project Management and Fundraising was conducted by Seva Kendra Kolkata by Fr. Lord Winner from 18<sup>th</sup> till 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2015 which was attended by Kuheli Sarkar and Milnda Chakma.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May training on Vitamin A supplement and deworming was conducted by Vitamin Angels at Pragyalaya, Barasat which was attended by Somesh Roy and Kuheli Sarkar.
- From 11<sup>th</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Rina Singh and Shagufta Parveen attended a residential training on Gender, Sustainable development and Women's empowerment in Himachal Pradesh. The training was organized JAGORI GRAMMEN organization.
- 28th 29th May & 4th April 2015 Lotus Child project conducted the Adult Education training by State Resource WC, for its teachers
- 13 projects staffs of KMWSC have been oriented on Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act 1956 Act including Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of children) Act 2000 with case studies by Mr. Manabendra Mondal, Executive Director SLRATC.

• 7 MAC facilitators have undergone pedagogy training (barefoot teacher training) organised by KMWSC from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June'2015.

The Director held several meetings with project partners and especially with Save the Children who expressed their satisfaction regarding the administrative management. We have also connected with HOPE FOUNDATION, for teachers training in Jharkhali. A baseline evaluation will be done for the students in July followed by teachers trainings for the SSK and MSK School.

On behalf of all the associates of KMWSC we thank each of our partner donors and friends for your continuous support. For updates and activities please do log on to our facebook account <u>www.kolkatamarywardsocialcenter</u>.

God Bless.

Sr. Monica Suchiang

Director