



Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

July – September 2015

Greetings from Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre!

The term was marked with our First Annual General Meeting held on 8th August 2015. We take this opportunity to thank Sr. Anita Maria Braganza, our President and the KMWSC Governing Body for their valuable advice and constant support. The journey is exciting and challenging but together we are confident to move ahead to bring in quality change in the lives of many who are touched by our work.

KMWSC is grateful for all the support and co-operation it received till date. Our friends and well-wishers were very generous with gifts for KMWSC projects. We appreciate the generosity of:

- ❖ Mary Ward International Australia – for sponsoring 10 new Brickfield schools for 2015-16 session
- ❖ Mr. A.K Bhowmick - Exide Company for sponsoring the total printing cost of our first annual report
- ❖ Mrs. Valerie Johnston for her donation to support the programmes in Sonagachi – Red Light Area;
- ❖ Ms. Sandra Lobo for gifting the beautiful soft toys for the children of our different projects;
- ❖ Big Bazar – Sealdah Branch for their constant support
- ❖ Sr. Mary D'Souza for organizing the teachers of the Loreto Lay Associates for volunteering to teach the children from Jyotinagar and Sonagachi on a regular basis. Thanks to all the teachers for devoting their valuable time.

UPDATES ON THE KMWSC PROJECTS:

1.BAREFOOT TEACHERS TRAININGS (BTT) :

Two Barefoot Teachers Trainings were separately conducted in two levels. Level I covered classes N- KG and I while level II covers Classes II, III and IV.

22th to 24rd July 2015 was the first level of BTT for 31 participants. Together with participations from NGOs from Howrah, South & North 24 Parganas, we also had our own teachers of all 3 Loreto Rainbow Homes and Loreto Thakurpukur.

1st till 8th September, we had 4 Junior Loreto



Sisters were with KMWSC to learn about the projects activities / mechanisms, social work module and field exposure. On 7th and 8th September the 4 junior sisters were given the first level of BTT so that they can join the group of above mentioned teachers who returned for the second level from 9th till 12th September 2015 and here too we had 31 participants.

The sessions for English language development was facilitated by Mrs. Flora Choudhury and methods for easy mathematics was conducted by Ms. Regina Brangers – both retired Primary teachers of Loreto Sealdah

Sample content of the training programme as shared by a trainee: ‘our team of 5 performed the drama on fair; school students visit a fair with their teachers; we did a flow diagram on fair that includes language, EVS, number work and Value Education. We learnt about adjective, action words, preposition, and construction of sentences’

Feedback from a trainee: ‘this fun full teaching will help me in teaching beyond the conventional methods; such activity based methodologies will clear the concept of the topics and will help the children’



- ❖ Like every year we were glad to invite 31 Seminarians from Morning Star College from 17th till 23rd September 2015. During the morning hours they observed class room teaching in Loreto Sealdah and shared the best practises of the school. In KMWSC we shared with them our projects and session on Human Trafficking and Heath. The evening sessions were with Sr. Cyril on Value Education and Human Rights.

2.BRICKFIELD SCHOOL (BFS) :

We are grateful to Misesan Cara – Ireland and SAC- Netherlands for their renewed support. During this period Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre took active initiatives especially with the intervention in Nawada – Bihar to trace the Brickfield laborers and their children who received education in the brickfield schools at our last session. A special thank you goes to the BFS – team for their hard work and dedication. A brief report follows.

Information on Nawada visit and Consultancy on Rights of Migrant children:



Out of 2884 children at the 52 brick fields centres in the last session, 762 children migrated from villages of 14 blocks of Nawada district of Bihar. 30 villages majorly in the blocks of Nawada, Nardiganj, Meskaur, Akbarpur, Hisua and Kenaburma were visited by the BFS- KMWSC staff.

- Awareness amongst the community was conducted on: Safe migration, Right to education, Right to information, Child marriage, Interstate migration Act and Government schemes.
- 355 children were linked to the government school and ICDS
- Study material was distributed to 355 children
- Advocating for the rights of the children at various government departments - District Magistrate(DM), Block Research Centre-Education Department, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan – DPO with District Education Officer, District ICDS Dept - DPO, Labor Enforcement Office , District Child Protection Office
- Reshmai Kumari, 11 years, who had migrated to a brick field at Kulpi was identified in Nawada in her native village. We were able to successfully admit her to residential Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya in Class VI. This has opened a new avenue in her life and more such girls can receive such facilities.



This intervention was followed by a consultancy meet on 24th September 2015. It was aimed to involve all the stakeholders who play a role in the lives of these migrant underprivileged children; the main focus area of discussions was on child rights, child labour & RTE and about the entitlements which these children should receive being the citizen of India.

The panel consisted of Mrs. Manisha Bhattacharya – Deputy Labour Commissioner (unorganized sector) Mr. I.S Chatterjee, **Shri Asokendu Sengupta**, Chairman, West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights, **Shri I.S. Chatterjee**, Deputy Director, State Child Protection Society (Govt. of West Bengal) , **Shri Partho Roy**, Executive Director, Calcutta Action Society & Activist, RTE Forum and the Director, KMWSC. The panel discussion was chaired by Shri **Joydev Mazumdar**, Executive Director, Jaiprakash Institute of Social Change. Each panelist expressed their concern regarding the education and protection of the migrant children by way of Rescue Committee, awareness in FM radios, public hearing, awareness amongst brickfield owners, safe zone inside the birckfields, MGNREGA cards(job cards) etc. (the detailed report on the Nawada visit and consultancy is available with us. We can forward



the same if anyone is interested)

KMWSC highlighted the practical conditions of the Brickfield to audience who represented different NGOs, including CHILDLINE and the panelists. Already we have received a letter from Sarva Siksha Mission to provide them with the list of the migrant children so that the Government can include them with the existing schooling and ICDS facilities.

- Training on Advocacy was conducted at KMWSC for Brickfield teachers. Total 50 existing teacher were present.
- Identification of new operational areas : Dhamakhali , Barasat, Akraha Pathak
- Interviewed of 40 new candidates for recruitment as BFS teachers.

3.FISHER FOLK PROJECT : operated for a year in Contai, Midnapur District, and officially ended on 31st August 2015. 6 education centres, adult education, vocational training and training on preserving/ processing of dry fish were the main activities.



The 6 education centres benefitted 346 students; The 6 adult education centres touched the lives of 113 men and women from the fishing community. Vocational training was provided to 120 women on craft with local natural materials; 133 fisher men attended the advanced dry fish preservation training, which was provided by the West Bengal Fishing Department. 111 children were mainstreamed in Government schools. Teachers training were conducted and awareness on Social issues, like child marriage, dowry, child protection, right to education was the highlight of this programme.

As we end the programme officially we express our gratitude to UBS - Optimus Foundation – Switzerland for their very generous support for the last 6 years for the fisher mens community in Odisha and later in Contai – Midnapur. We are hopeful that in future we will work again with fresh project, as our experience with UBS has been very rewarding.

4.JHARKHALI EDUCATION PROJECT

Activities: KMWSC is continuing with the remedial teaching for 129 students with 4 teachers for the students of Khagendranath Vidyalaya.

Along with the remedial teaching we conducted:

- On 18th July 2015 Training on Anti- Human trafficking and Family Planning were conducted to sensitize the teachers of SSKs and MSKs; if teachers are aware they can



impart the knowledge to the students and community and can also act like a safety net for children.

- 21st August 2015- with support from Hope Kolkata Foundation we conducted a Baseline test of 52 children who are receiving remedial support.
- Two parent teachers meeting were held to discuss the project initiative and to involve the parents and two staff meeting were held to discuss future activities and infrastructural issues of school.

5.LOTUS CHILD – COMMUNITY AND ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

128 children from Sonapota and Chaulgola village of South 24 Parganas are receiving remedial education. 34 women from both the communities are in the adult literacy programme. Due to monsoon in Sonapota, for few days now and then we had to close the centre.

50 children (Pre primary – 18, Class I – 13, Class II- 8, Class III – 3 and Class IV – 8) were evaluated in their academic performance at the centers.

Activities:

- In celebration of Independence Day, 54 children and 23 adolescents participated in group activities.
- Audio Visual sessions were conducted for the adult learners of both the communities.
- 20 women from Sonapota community were given an exposure to Vocational Training, namely in preparing greeting cards, which received positive response.
- Meeting with the community leaders and local government body representatives helped us to gauge the programme progress and the support to add into the programme from their end.
- Training of 7 staff members on Interpersonal Communication (7th July) and TLM making (3rd and 4th August) helped to build their capacities and contribute to the programme.
- Staff meetings in July and August were held to share and direct the future plans for the programme.
- 5 candidates from both the communities participated in the Level II Barefoot Teacher's Training from 9th till 12th September.



6.LODHA COMMUNITY PROJECT

Activities:

- Continuing with the education for 70 children out of which 30 children.
- 2 Medical camps were organized where 150 people got their health problem diagnosed by the doctor. They were also provided free medicines for common health problem.
- 20 children's home visits were made to take the feedback of the parents while ensuring good attendance of the children
- Three Staff meeting were held to discuss project activities, planning on awareness programmes and future planning.
- A Video documentary on the lives and habitat of the Lodhas was done in presence of the Director. The documentary reveals the real life struggles of the Lodha community.
- Two Community meetings were done to stay connected and share problems of the community.



7.SOLAR ENLIGHTEN AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

We are very thankful to Mr. Geroge Amshoff, Secretary General, GREENAP- Germany, for renewing funding and constantly supporting and advising to improve the project.



Activities :

Learning support for

145 children on a regular basis continues.

- Evaluation of the children was held in June 2015, where some students still needs to improve.
 - As per our future plan we surveyed four new villages namely Gopal Katha, Amra Methi, Kachu Khali and Bon Anchal Para where we will need to conduct solar awareness programme next year.
 - Two staff meetings were held to discuss the strategy of ground level work on survey
- Two community meetings were held with the idea to spread the knowledge re the use of solar power as alternative energy and to share the experience



- 30 home visits were made to take feedback on children learning and to ensure regular attendance of the children
- Two teachers attended the second level of barefoot teachers training organized by KMWSC where the teaching methodologies for classes II, III and IV in English and Maths were shared



8.SENSITIZATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROJECT.

Training & workshop for Community Vigilance Committee (CVC) on Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956 and importance of Village Level Child Protection Committee was conducted in the 5 Gram Panchayats. 75 CVC members were trained on the above mentioned topics.

Monthly meeting of Adolescent girls groups in five Gram Panchayats, continues as a regular process to nurture the newly formed Adolescent girls group. Child rights & protection issues are discussed and children are encouraged and trained to become peer educators. 100 AGG members participated in the meeting in 5 gram panchayats

2nd quarterly Staff Meeting was held on 31/07/2015 where Challenges, limitations, and prospect for next quarter were planned.



Community Awareness Campaign at Daria GP on Anti-human Trafficking issues was on 11.08.2015 where 90 women from the community and Self Help Groups was sensitized on the following topics like : push and pull factors of trafficking; who are Traffickers? Modus-operandi of Traffickers; Importance of FIR; Community's responsibility towards social re-integration of rescued victim, Child marriage and its impact on adolescent health and Laws against child marriage.



School level campaign on Child Protection issues at Canning 1 Block was carried out in 7 schools, on child protection issues which reached approx 1500 children. The main focus of the discussion was on child trafficking, child marriage, child abuse and child labour. Mr. Anindya Ghosh, DCPO South 24 Parganas attended the program and encouraged the school children to participate in social cause. Mr. Debasish Samanta from Justice & care facilitated the session.

Independence Day in Canning 1 block was marked with AGG's in five gram Panchayats where

they participated in quiz competition and cultural programs on social awareness.

A rescue operation was conducted with the cooperation of CHILDLINE & Canning Police station where a boy was rescued from Belur Math as his parents lodged a missing complaint with Canning Police Station. With support from CHILDLINE the boy was rescued from Belurmath and was repatriated.

9.PROVIDING EDUCATION AND PROTECTION TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN – SONAGACHI

Sonagachi Red Light Area is one of Asia's largest red light area and the children of sex workers are discriminated upon in all ways which have led to school drop outs.

With support from Lotus Child – Ireland, KMWSC initiated the education centres before which several visits in Sonagachi was made to survey 'out of school children and drop outs'.

KMWSC conducted auto – campaigns so that the community is aware of the facilities of education not only for the children but also vocational training for young women.

Though the centre initially started in the premises of Calcutta Rescue, it was later shifted to Kadamtala Milan Sangha club, which has better accessibility and space. Thus from 27th July 2015 we started a centre and the survey for bringing in the children and women as per the target is still in progress.



Presently the centre caters to about 30 students on a regular basis.



Teacher recruitment & Training: A local college going girl, named Sonam Das was recruited as teacher and with her 3 others were trained in the barefoot teachers training at KMWSC between 22-24th July and 9th -12th September 2015.

Parents meetings were held on 13th & 21st August to motivate them to send their children for regular schooling.

Vocational training: After several meetings we were able to start the training on beautician for 13 ladies from 25th August. It was their first theory class & 4 classes will be held per month. Our target is to reach 25 women.

Independence Day was celebrated with the children and community and with the help of the puppet show we were able to spread the importance of the centre, invite children & women to

attend the centre and social issues like child marriage, importance of education and hygiene were talked about.

10. EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR SONAGACHI & JYOTINAGAR CHILDREN.

The Loreto Sealdah bus continues to bring the children from Monday to Saturday; on arrival they are provided a breakfast after which they attend the **Raj Rajeswari Girls' Model K.M.C.P. School**. After return, by 2.30 pm they join the remedial classes till 4.15 pm. Sajda Khatoon – was trained under the barefoot teachers training from KMWSC, and is deputed to teach & help them with their home works. We are thankful to the Lay Associate teachers of all the Loreto Schools in Kolkata who are volunteering every day in rotation (2 teachers per day per school) to help with English and Mathematics.



11. HIDDEN DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR

- 7 Comprehensive Life Skill training were conducted for 104 candidates of Beautician, Driving and Air condition repairing batches. Of the 104 candidates, 64 are enrolled and continuing their course from different institutes.
- 58 CDW's were mainstreamed in formal schools & all received uniforms, shoes, bags from Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, to motivate them to continue their studies.
- 64 CDW's received life skill training to enhance their personality through communication skill, art and craft work and also motivated the children to continue their schooling and vocational training.
- On 16th July KMSWC organized 2 days 'Peer-Group training' & child friendly methodologies and TLM development, at Lee Memorial School for 150 students and 26 teachers from different schools.
- School Orientation programme on CDW project and child rights was conducted in Entally Hindu Balika Vidya Mandir & Rani Rashmoni Around 127 school children from Class V to VIII were sensitized, out of 127 children 40 students were selected for Peer groups. These 40 children are responsible to do intensive survey of each household in their respective areas and will identify the CDW's and CL and will try to bring in one place and give tutorial support inside the school premises before mainstreaming them in formal school.
- On 15th July 2015 a professional video documentation was shot to capture the KMWSC accomplishment with various campaigns, visit to Star & Style parlour, and



interview with few alumni, follow-up visit to CLS, Puppet Show and MAC activities in Kamarhati.

- On the Occasion of Independence Day KMWSC organized a full day Auto Campaign in 2 Municipal Wards of Central Kolkata spreading the awareness on Creating Opportunities - A New Horizon Programme and on spot registration and enrolment of names for different courses.
- Placement fair was organized for AC repairing candidates by Save The Children at Hotel Stardle on 28th Aug'2015. 9 candidates appeared for interview for job placement
- Theatre for Development (TFD) show was organized in 4 contact points on 27th August to sensitize on New Horizon Programme. Direct and indirect reach were 2000 people.
- From 9th to 11th August, Save the Children conducted the midterm review of the last 6 months.
- The Director attended a training on Fund Raising & Resource Mobilization – Plans & Strategies from 27th till 29th August 2015, organized by Karl Kuble Institute, Coimbatore.
- 5 Child Protection Committee (CPC) meeting was conducted in September. We are successful in forming 7 Ward Level CPC which needs some structural changes. The meeting was fruitful with the presence of different stakeholders, govt duty bearers, parents, children's group and etc. The members did a ward mapping along with the vulnerability mapping and also prepared an action plan for coming month. They have selected a slum pockets where they will conduct a survey of each household and come up will the concrete findings and react accordingly.
- 2 Rickshaw campaign has been organised in different places of Kolkata namely Mojiheel, Tangra, Dhapa and spread awareness on New Horizon Programme to source candidates.



CAPACITY BUILDING OF KMWSC STAFF:

- ❖ KMWSC organized Capacity building programme for Project Personnel on Inter-personal Communication Skill on 7th July 2015. 5 project staffs of Sensitization on Human Trafficking Project & 14 other project staffs of KMWSC participated in the program. Ms. Suparna Rudra, Psychotherapist and Art Based Therapist, conducted the session on communication, barriers of communication and listening skills.
- ❖ 7 HDCL staffs attended 5 days life skill training called 'Lalita & Babu' (organized by SAVE the Children); the content was based on the UN convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) highlighting 13 Thematic Areas



such as Me, Myself And I, My Emotions, Gender Challenges, Violence and Substance Abuse etc.

- ❖ On 20th to 22nd July 11 HDCL staffs attended the training on Child Protection at Aviva Tower
- ❖ On 29th & 30th July'2014 Mehtab Ara and Shagufta Parveen attended the workshop on Advocacy and preparing Logical Frame Work at Hotel Purna Lakshmi, in Diamond Harbour.
- ❖ On 8th Sept Ms. Shagufta & Ms. Mehtab attended the workshop on report writing organised by Save The Children at Hotel Orko's.

VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS:

It is always nice to welcome friends and well-wishers; we thank all who took out time to visit the projects and to encourage the works of KMWSC.

- ❖ Students and Teachers of Loreto Grammer School- UK
- ❖ Mairead Gilboy, Anne Mc Mohan, Mary Twomey & Rosaleen O' Reilly from Ireland
- ❖ Students and Teachers St. Edmund's College – Australia.

This season was challenging specially with the KMWSC – BFS team visit to Nawada – Bihar and the consultation on Child Rights. We are hopeful that these efforts will bear fruits in the future.

We now have our KMWSC website launched, so do visit us in www.kolkatamarywardsc.org and continue to update yourself with our activities on face book account - www.KolkataMaryWardSocialcenter

During this festive season from KMWSC we wish each one of you Peace and good health. May your family be blessed in a very special way.

Kindest regards and prayers.

From all in KMWSC

