

JANUARY 2016 –MARCH 2016

TRAINING FOR THE YOUNG

The latest initiative of KMWSC! Tailoring Training for 6 months to train youth from the underprivileged communities has been started from March 2016. 24 trainees in the morning shift and 26 in the afternoon shift are learning to cut, stitch and make various cloth products. We wish to extend working opportunities to the same trainees shortly by starting a production unit. Let the lives of many thrive along with the training centre.

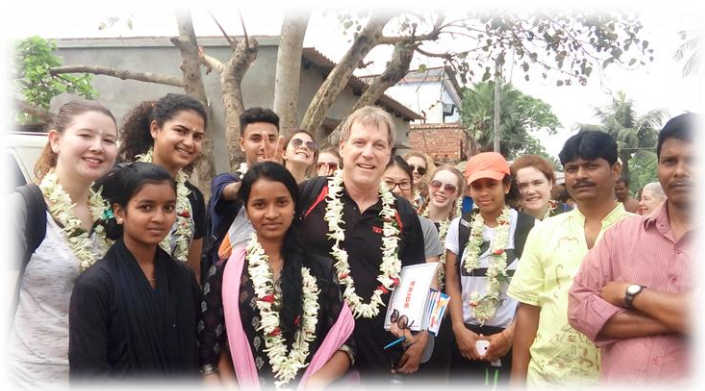


And continuing.....

The first batch of 28 beautician Trainees from KMWSC Vocational Training Centre at Entally completed their three month Beautician course. The second batch is successfully being continued with 22 trainees in two shifts. The trainees are gaining confidence in providing service to the visitors at the centers. We have conducted a job orientation session for the trainees from two batches who are interested in taking placement. Through community mobilization we have started the admission for the third batch which is scheduled to start April onwards. We aspire to assist marginalized youth by developing skills which will be of assistance in securing a better future.



SENSITIZING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



KMWSC has extended its area of work in 5 more Gram Panchayats in Canning Block. Introductory meeting with the Panchayat Pradhans has already been conducted. Besides the regular Community Vigilance Committee and Adolescent Girls Group monthly meetings, awareness programmes on Women and Child Protection was conducted at Daria, Nikarighata and Itkhola Gram Panchayat. KMWSC has successfully set up a center at Itkhola GP which will act as a field office and double up as women empowerment centre.

Story of a brave heart

25 Canadian visitors had an amazing experience meeting Tuktuki Mali. An active Adolescent girls Group member Tuktuki has shown great presence of mind when she heard from the father of her friend Rehana Mali (name changed) that rehana has migrated with an acquaintance of the family to Bardhaman for job. Remembering her learning's from the sensitization programmes conducted by KMWSc, she knew something was fishy. Taking the number of the man from Rehana's father, Tuktuki called him. She played a trick and appealed to the man to also help her with a job. The man (a trafficker) in hope of a probable candidate, promised to connect with Tuktuki. Wasting no time she immediately called Childline and informed the local community leaders. With everybody's help Rehana was brought back to her parents. Later on Rehana revealed that she had been taken to Bihar and was in the process of being sold in a dance troupe. Now Tuktuki and Rehana are inseparable friends. The visitors congratulated Tuktuki and also encouraged her and Rehana to be bold and strong as they are now forever.



A new hope for the Lodha's



Spreading far and wide

Not only in Canning we are happy to leave marks far and wide. Parents of a missing minor girl learnt from Baruipur (South 24 Parganas) about KMWSC initiatives against Human Trafficking and contacted Community Vigilance Committee member of Taldi Gram Panchayat. They were advised to contact Childline and register a case at local Police Station. Proactive initiatives of the nodal agencies helped rescue the girl from Basirhat, near Bangladesh border. Thus one innocent life was saved by sensitized community people.

After a long intervention of educating 70 children belonging to the Lodha community in the Ganga Sagar Islands, KMWSC has taken a step to create livelihood opportunities for the deprived community. The plan to initiate poultry farming in the rural households has been shared with the Gram Panchayat Pradhan, Panchayat members and community people. Market survey has been conducted for buying chicks and building materials for the shed. We hope to help the Lodha families become self sufficient by providing alternative livelihood options.





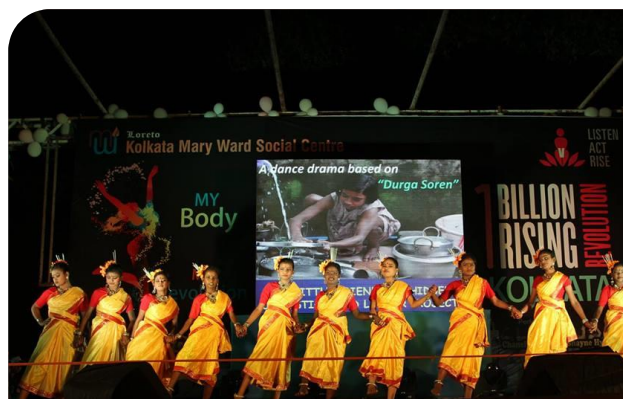
The global call to Listen, Act and Rise for Justice was answered by people of Kolkata on the 13th of February 2016. Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC), the flag bearers against violence and abuse of women, organized a captivating event at Mohurkunj from 4pm till 8pm. A staggering audience including school and college students, parents, activists, NGO's and people from all walks of life joined hands to protest against the escalating injustice in society. A flash mob flagged off the programme calling for a uprising to break the chains around women. Women ever conscious of their body revolted to live by their choice.

Hon' Justice Nadira Patheyria, the chief guest of the event encouraged women to raise voice and stand up to lead a dignified life. Students of Loreto Schools, Students of La Martiniere for Girls, as well as Students of Vidya Sagar School of Social Work had put up scintillating performances and they won accolades from the audience.

Tales of social evils, change of ideas were all on board of the performances. The vulnerable child domestic workers rehabilitated by KMWSC were thrilled to display their dancing skills and in this way inspired many to rise up in life. Never having the chance to perform on stage 12 incredible hearts trained by Kolkata Ucchass (a contemporary dance troupe) portrayed today's Durga (the venerable Hindu goddess embodying power) on stage.

Star performers, Kamran and band – Voicez, Shayne Hyrapiet and Channell Grosser made the audience tap their feet spreading the message of women empowerment loud and clear. Music and dance once again broke the shackles of social impositions on women.

KMWSC took the opportunity to honour two indomitable spirits, especially women who showed outstanding courage to come up against all odds in life. Commercial sex worker Meena, sold early in her life to the brothels of Sonagachi was felicitated by Justice Nadira Patheyria for her struggle to educate her three girl children with the help of KMWSC. Punita, a young child labour transformed into a trained beautician and proud owner of a beauty parlour with assistance from KMWSC, was also felicitated. The programme was extensively covered by the press. Leading newspaper TELGRAPH & Anandabazaar Patrika covered the event.



HIDDEN DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR

We care for children



Auto campaign

and

Theatre for Development

was organized at various pockets of Kolkata to source candidates for trades such as – beautician, housekeeping, AC and fridge repairing and Driving. 55 children of 15 – 20 years were registered on spot for the rehabilitation scheme.



RWA meeting

was organised at Alambazar. Total 22 housing inhabitants attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to orient them regarding child protection issues. A visibility board was displayed saying “This complex is a child friendly complex. We are committed not to employ any child in any capacity.”



Visitors

from Imaginus, Japan and volunteers from Ireland visited the Multipurpose Activity Centers (MAC) and spent time with the children learning at the centres. They shared their life style and living by being with the children for extensive hours. Mrs. Theresa D'Souza visited the MAC and spent some quality time with the children. She was touched by the life of the children living in the slums and working hard to eke out an existence for their families.

A bunch of trainings were attended by the project members on Child Safeguarding Policy, Communication and Counselling, Stress Management, Training of Trainer on Life Skills, Orientation on New Horizon, workshop on Media, Advocacy and Communication. It will surely build the resource of the organization.

11 active children aged between 15 to 18 years have undergone 5 days life skill training programme name Lalita & Babu from 5th to 9th Jan'2016. The purpose of the training was to train these children on 13 thematic areas and build them as discussion leader who will in turn train the children age between 10 to 14 years in Multipurpose Activity Centres (MAC).

A Child Protection Committee meeting was organized in which 11 participants attended the meeting at the Councillors office at Cossipore ward no 1. Resource mapping was conducted with the help of the participants of the meeting.



Annual sports programme for the project beneficiaries was conducted in which 130 children took part in various events.

The staff attended the Interstate Convergence on Human Trafficking and Interstate Consultation on Issues of Migrant Children. They shared their observation and case stories on the common platform.

8 children trained to be housekeeping staffs were groomed and sent to a placement fair. 4 children received placements in well reputed organizations such as Cafe Coffee Day (CCD), Kothari Medical Hospital, Tata Medical Hospital and Great Eastern Hotels. Thanks to such efforts which helps to rehabilitate the children in need. The same children received certificate of appreciation and tool kits at the grand event of “MELAN” organized by Save the Children.



ON WOMAN'S DAY



Community awareness campaign on women & child protection issues at Daria GP was conducted on the occasion of Women's Day. Approximately 80 Self Help Group mothers were sensitized on human trafficking, child marriage and child labour issues. Role of Child line & community vigilance committee have been discussed with the mothers. The mothers expressed their feeling on being a woman in settings of patriarchal Indian society.

36 women at Gosaba who are under the Solar project & 45 women from the Iodha tribal community were sensitized on women's rights issue. The teachers from the community conducted small cultural programme to make the women feel really special.

The children of Ward number 14 of Muchibazar area expressed their wish to organize a cultural programme to celebrate Women's Day. With the help of HDCL center facilitator, a cultural programme was organized at Trinamool Congress Bhavan. Fiery speech, poetry recitals and dance drama were presented by the young girls. The initiative won accolades from the community people.

60 women from Sonapota and Chaugola participated in an awareness programme on violence against women and Human Trafficking issue. Case stories were shared with the women who felt confident in sharing their feelings and with great courage narrated their life stories.

KMWSC conducted a host of programmes to celebrate the occasion and the life of the women who have made womanhood worth celebrating.

KMWSC male associates took the lead and made Women's Day special when they organized a prayer especially for their women colleagues. Sr. Monica, the Director of KMWSC said a prayer for the oppressed, abused, battered and exploited women all over the world.



First time since the Brick Filed Schools project has commenced, Women's Rights was discussed at the Parents Meetings over 60 Brick Filed Schools located all over West Bengal. The migrant community at Barasat and Pujali were sensitized through folk songs and puppet show was organized which entertained them as well.



17 Commercial Sex Workers, mothers of children learning at KMWSC center at Sonagachi participated in a small amusement especially organized for them on Women's Day. In between the fun they expressed their desires which they hope to come true in their life. Most of them wanted a safe and better life for their children.



Educating Migrant Children at

The parents meeting at the brick field schools which are being conducted every month has become a tool to increase awareness regarding individual and collective rights of the migrant communities. On an average 25-30 parents attended these meetings over all 60 brick fields. The involvement and the interest of the parents observed during the meeting are astounding.



BRICK FIELD

From 52 schools in 2015 to 60 schools in 2016- the open air trunk schools have started operating over 5 districts of West Bengal. A staggering number of 126 teachers out of which 55 are new, have undergone training in the month of January. The teachers at Barasat and Minakhan were provided with on site demonstration training which helped them to learn practically. Baseline data collection for children above 5 years has been successfully completed by the teachers. Review meetings and monitoring visits kept the huge machinery of Brick field project running without interruption.

A unique initiative to sensitize the adolescent girls on ill effects of child marriage through puppet show was organized at Pujali. About 20 adolescent girls were part of the effort.



Visitors at the field

25 visitors from St Stephen's Green College, Ireland visited 3 Brick Field School locations and interacted with the children at school. They had a gala time playing and reciting rhymes with the children.

Stitching Actie Calcutta members and Calcutta Rescue representatives visited the Brick Field Schools in February and March respectively. The project coordinator accompanied the visitors to the field and narrated the operating process of the schools as well as the brick making process along with the details of the industry. The visitors were happy to share their feelings with the project staff and Director of KMWSC.



Enjoying

The monotonous lives of the children inhabiting the brick fields were filled with fun and frolic this season. In month of January and February sports was organized at 4 locations of Pujali, Minakhan, Tarkeswar, Barasat. Drawing competition was organized for children especially at places where it was not possible to organize sports. One of the reasons being lack of public parks and playgrounds in the area. Around 1300 children participated; events were divided according to children's age. Special food and prize for the children made the occasion more exceptional.



For Good Health

Health camps for the migrant communities especially for children and women have been organized in all the 60 Brick field schools spread over 38 locations. At few locations, the health camp for the second time has started. The awareness sessions & health camps have been successful in inculcating healthy and hygienic habits amongst the workers. 60 teachers have been trained to administer Vitamin A and Albendazole tablets to the children. Very soon we look forward to serve more medical facilities to the migrant community.



At Nawada Again

Brick Field School team members went to visit Nawada, Bihar from 12th March 2016 to 19th March 2016. The main aim of this visit was to collect information about the Kasturba Gandhi Residential Homes and School for girls. About 700 students from Brick Field School are from Nawada District of Bihar. Kasturba Gandhi Schools gives an opportunity to the school dropout girls of 11-14 yrs to continue their education. Last year we have admitted Reshma, a Brick Field School student in the Kasturba Gandhi School of Nawada Block.

Brick Field School team members went to 7 blocks of Nawada District—Nawada, Hisua, Narhat, Nardigaunz, Akberpur, Rajwali and Sirdala. They have conducted several meetings with the Block Resource Centre Coordinators and Superintendents of K.G. Schools and collected information about the total number of available seats in the schools.



They met with the District Education Officer who gave them the criteria for getting admission in Kasturba Gandhi Schools. The last date for submitting applications is 15th April 2016, though they stated that date can change if the situation demands. We are hopeful of bringing more number of adolescent girls belonging to migrant communities under the shades of residential education

8 member team from KMWSC conducted a survey to assess the need and requirements of the children & Commercial Sex Workers inhabiting Darjipara and Karimbux Lane. 100 households were surveyed and the CSW's were interviewed on the basis of a questionnaire. Many women responded with enthusiasm whereas others were shy and reluctant to respond. Considerable amount of data was recorded to understand the needs of the children and the mothers.



In the Red Light Area

36 children are being supported in their education at the centre. Education through recreation is the goal of the initiative at Sonagachi.

We have been successful to start the beautician training course at Sonagachi where 7 CSW are taking the training. We intend to start tailoring training programme for them very soon.

A workshop was conducted for the children at the Sonagachi Centre. In the art and craft workshop 17 children learnt to make paper collage. The workshop was very successful in grabbing the attention of the children and making their day different from the rest of the days. The parents expressed their joy during a meeting as their children were exposed to such programme.

An awareness programme on the rights of young girls to raise voice against child marriage was organized at different pockets of Sonagachi. A puppet drama was presented to the crowd to generate mass awareness. Besides sensitizing the people, drama was a great entertainment for the localities.

A ray of Hope for the innocent

10 years Heena Mir, child of a Commercial Sex Worker (CSW) abandoned when 15 days old, was living in fright with her grandmother (retired CSW) and her aunty (working CSW) as she was often abused and not allowed to study. Heena's father did odd jobs and stayed out late at nights to earn living for her daughter. Day by day he was desperate to send off Heena to a place where she could be safe and study. Heena shortly joined the centre of KMWSC for studies. Her irregularity made the teachers visit her home. During the visit her father expressed his concerns to the teachers. KMWSC came to her rescue when Heena with the help of her father was taken to the Rainbow home at Sealdah. Now she is again going to school and is safe amongst her friends. We are happy to bring back smile on Heena's face.

Creative Saturday's at KMWSC



Why not the Saturday's be a little different? We all know "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!" So KMWSC started conducting different activities for its staff members every alternative working Saturday. Staff members weak in conversing in English are learning Conversation skills in English under the guidance of an expert. Since Paper bags are environment friendly and much in demand, a professional has been training the staff members in making paper bags. We stress on building the capacity of staff members which will surely reflect in the quality of work and add to the resource of the centre.



For the Adolescents at

35 young children learnt the values of communication especially avoiding hurting each other through various activities. We intend to continue such trainings regularly for them so that it prepares them for the impending contemporary social life.

Other than educating nearly 170 children and 35 women at two centres Lotus Child project has taken a step further in community development. A life skill education session was organised for the adolescents at Sonapota.

Solar effort^{rt} at Gosaba



2016 marked completion of building the Solar Centre at Manmathanagar. The materials to make solar lanterns were bought after extensive market survey. The community members trained in a workshop in 2015 are using their skills to assemble the solar lanterns. George Amshroff from Greenapp, Germany the funding agency visited the Solar Centre. He showed great interest in the process of assembling the lanterns and shared his feelings with the community people and the project staff. We hope soon people from the project area will be able to take production of solar lanterns to great heights.

Jharkhali School Immersion



School immersion programme of John Scottus School Ireland was organized at Jharkhali from 1st February to 11th February 2016. 200 students from 4 government school participated in the programme. 20 volunteers from the John Scottus School imparted knowledge to 200 students on English language skill. 200 students were divided into 8 groups. The 200 children in future will ripple their learning to their peer students and help in learning English as a subject.

Besides remedial classes the programme at Jharkhali has been successful in bringing the community together through meetings. Here the concerns and problems of the community are addressed by the project workers. Meetings in the month of January and March have build a strong bond of reliability within the community.



Training teachers to be innovative

Our Barefoot Teachers Training Programme was held for four days, from 16 to 19 March, 2016 at our new office at Loreto Convent, Entally. This time we conducted a residential training programme in a short batch of 16 participants to support them intensively. Entire training programme covered overview of education, discussion on pedagogy of language and Mathematics, teaching methods, interaction, enormous activities, making teaching and learning materials, demonstration. Participants shared that they had learnt many new things which would help them to facilitate the learning process swiftly and actively and children would be able to learn spontaneously. They added that they want to join this kind of training programme in future again to brush up knowledge and skills.



Educating the vulnerable

21 children from Jyotinagar and Sonagachi are receiving extra tutorial classes from the Lay Associates every day. Cognizant have conducted special classes with the children on Saturday's. Children have received books, cardigans, leggings and socks. Constant monitoring has developed healthy habits amongst the young buds. There is improvement in the level of knowledge amongst the children which is a good indication.



Sr Archana about her experience

Sr. Archana IBVM was placed in a community based organization named "Birangana Seva Samity" working on the anti-human trafficking issue at Canning sub-division. She was placed in this organization with due intervention of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre. KMWSC had built rapport with this organization while implementing the pilot project of sensitization on human trafficking project at Canning Block 1. The organization (BSS) had given Sr. Archana the responsibility to take care of women survivors of trafficking. She motivated them to learn at vocational training centre. She had to visit villages with the project staffs of BSS for sourcing of cases on human trafficking. The major part of her responsibility was to document the cases.

THANK YOU

KMWSC welcomes all its new members who will be working to materialize the vision and mission of the organization.

We render our heartfelt thanks to all those individuals who have encouraged and supported KMWSC in all its initiatives. The lay associates have been a constant help in providing academics assistance to the deprived children.

Cognizant CSR Outreach has constantly been in touch with the various beneficiaries of KMWSC and has added joy to their life through recreational programme.

We thank a kind well wisher who has extended their support to KMWSC by donating a sum of Rs 1 Lakh. Without relentless support of people from all walks of life our work would have been incomplete.

