



BULLETIN : 12

from **DURBAR**

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Durbar plans to execute a yearlong program in commemoration of 20 years of completion of Sonagachi Project

The year 2012 is a landmark in the history of Durbar! It has completed 20 years of its Sonagachi Project on 15th February 2012. The story begins in Sonagachi, the largest red light district in city, Kolkata, India, as early as 1992, when a community led HIV Intervention Program was initiated with the active support from NACO, under the Ministry of Health, Govt. of India. The peer workers were inducted from among the sex workers to spread awareness on HIV and to help sex workers access services namely STIs and condoms. Slowly but steadily the peers get transformed themselves into an agent of social change. The sex workers of Sonagachi, India with the global community of sex workers led a path breaking movement in the country to reposition sex work and sex workers in the global and social agenda. They took the leadership to influence the mindset of policy makers and administrators in one hand and on the other hand took effort to collectivize sex workers through building their self esteem and consciousness to establish their rights and dignity. In the process we not only been succeeded in curbing the transmission of HIV but has helped to improve the quality of life and health of individual sex workers including their family members through promotion of education, development of cooperative and building our spaces for cultural expression. . We at this juncture are the lead organization in the country in removing underage and trafficked women

from the sex work with an overall objective to remote all types of violence, discrimination and injustice perpetrated primarily with the use of various social and political instruments.

To commemorate 20 years of the completion of the world acclaimed Sonagachi Project of Durbar a number of programme which will be organized throughout year which includes awareness camps, seminars, workshops in different schools, colleges and universities on different health related issues.

During this month following program was held:

On 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 23rd February 2012 seminars were conducted in Ballygaunge Sc. College (Kolkata), Ramjog Seal Sishu Pathsala (Kolkata), Basanti Devi College (Kolkata), Kalighat Boys High School(South Kolkata) and Sidhu Kanhoo Birsha University(Purulia, West Bengal) respectively.

The Union of Domestic Workers in Kolkata celebrated the occasion of completion of 20 years of Sonagachi project through sports and cultural events

On 10th and 11th March Durbar took initiative to organize a two day long colorful event in South Dumdum in partnership with Durbar Disha Mahila Griha Sramik Samanwaya Committee, the union of organizations of domestic workers. The programme was inaugurated by the local councilor Mr. Prabir Pal. On the first day more than 50 children of the locality participated in sit and draw competition in two groups which was followed by sports and games. The local domestic workers and their family members enthusiastically took part and enjoyed those sports. On the second day an eye camp for screening was organized in collaboration with Mission for Vision, which was attended by 107 patients. Simultaneously a general health check up was also being done. The afternoon was enjoyed by events like musical chair and quiz. Durbar Disha Mahila Griha Sramik Samanwaya Committee, appreciated the needy but academically good student of the locality by providing a small token of appreciation. Dr. Smarajit Jana, the Chief Advisor of Durbar thanked the audience and the organizers to make the event successful. Ratna Mandal the treasurer of Disha, commented that their organization will continue developmental activities for the rights and overall development of domestic workers.

The vibrant evening was started with welcome song by the local domestic workers and their children followed by their performances. The audience was also dancing when Loknath Bhattachryya, choreographer and Secretary of Komolgandhar(Cultural wing of Durbar) performed involving the audience by spreading vermilion, where the social colours of the marginalized became same for the domestic workers and sex workers.

Durbar's participation in Slum soccer

Slum Soccer's National Tournament for the Homeless is a unique football tournament. It began with football leagues for the homeless and slum dwellers of Indian society. This tournament is an extension of the 'Development through Sport' philosophy pursued by the organizer of Slum Soccer to change the life of those in the slums which started in Nagpur in 2001 and the same tournament is regularly organized in different cities of the country.

This year it will be held in from India will participate representing the The team selection for the tournament has been done Soccer Tournament" held which was attended by the Durbar. There were 16 from different parts of Football team is one of the in the tournament and semifinal. It was a great teammates of Durbar namely Md. Salauddin, a Sanjay Halder, also a sex



Maxico City. A team in the tournament downtrodden talents. international through the "Slum Soccer team of this year at Bangalore teams representing India. Durbar's 16 teams participated reached up to experience for the where two of them sex worker's child and worker's child were

chosen for the upcoming coaching camp for selecting the national team who will participate in International tournament to be held at Mexico City.

A HEALTH CAMP IN AMLASOLE ORGANISED BY DURBAR

To commemorate 20 years, DMSC organized a Health Camp at Amlasole in West Mednipur district for the Sabars and Mundas (tribal communities) belonging to low socio economic structure. This was held on 25th and 26th February, 2012 and an Eye Camp on 26th February, 2012 at Sabar Ghar, Amlasole. The Camps were organized by Birsa Munda Gram Unnayan Committee and Amlasole Yuba Unnayan Committee in collaboration with Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee. On the first day about fifty patients attended the camp who were examined and appropriate medicines were provided free of cost. On the second day, both the Health and Eye Camps were conducted simultaneously and about thirty patients attended the Health Camp and about a hundred attended the eye camp. A few of the patients even came from far off distances including from Jharkhand. After examination of their eyes they were provided with appropriate treatment and those having cataract were referred for operations and some who had problems with their sight were asked to use spectacles which would be provided to them by Durbar with subsidized prices.