

Durbar
Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee



FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee marked a significant milestone in the organization's 29th journey towards supporting marginalized communities people by promoting education among their children.

12th July 2023

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee celebrated 29th Foundation Day

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC) marked a significant milestone in the organization's journey towards supporting marginalized communities, particularly for the empowerment of the children of Sex Workers, children of Sabar communities of Amlasole and Lagadari, children of Nachni and Jhumur community of Purulia. The event aimed to recognize and celebrate the academic achievements (Secondary and Higher Secondary examinations) of these children.

The event focused on distributing a small amount of financial support and gifts to the children aiming to foster their educational development. The celebration was also aimed to create awareness, highlight the importance of education, and provide tangible support to empower these children for a brighter future.

Objective:

- Celebrate the anniversary of Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee and acknowledge the collective efforts in serving marginalized Sex Workers' communities.
- Create awareness about the challenges faced by Sex Workers, Sabar and Nachni community.
- To promote education among the children of sex workers.
- To spread awareness, provide financial aid and offer gifts to support the educational development of these children.

Present special dignitaries:

Dr. Akhter Jawed, Director-East, Karkinos Health Care Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Indrajit Kumar, Community Officer, Karkinos Health Care Pvt. Ltd.

Prof. Debdatta Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata

Mr. Shankar Mukherjee, Advocate

Ms. Piali Ghosh, Director of Inner Wheel Club, Khidderpore Cosmos

Ms. Renu Pandey, President of Inner Wheel Club, Khidderpore Cosmos

Ms. Sunita Kar, Joint Secretary, Behala Keertika

Ms. Swati Sengupta, Coordinator, Behala Keertika

Ms. Namita Mondal, Child Welfare Officer, Behala Keertika

Mr. Rajat Kanti Sur, Research / Project Officer, C24

Mr. Ronit Bose, Personal Assistant of Proprietor, Prashanta Banerjee Homeopathic Research Clinic
 Ms. Sunanda Das, Secretary, All India Democratic Women's Association
 Ms. Dipti Lahiri, Member, All India Democratic Women's Association
 Mr. Subhajit Dutta Gupta, Secretary, We are the Common People
 Mr. Soumyajit Mondal, Member, We are the Common People
 Mr. Surajit Karmakar, Member, We are the Common People
 Ms. Tania Sengupta, Secretary, Share for Care
 Ms. Ajanta Dasgupta, Treasurer, Share for Care
 Mr. Dipyaman Adhikary, Secretary, Paschim Banga Khetmajoor Samity (PBKMS)
 Ms. Jolanda Romeo, Researcher, University of Turin - Italy
 Ms. Baban Sidhu, Teacher, Delhi Public School, Ruby Park
 Mr. Ranadip Bramha, Teacher, Delhi Public School, Ruby Park
 Ms. Mili Das, International Poet and Writer
 Ms. Nomita Mondal, Member, Bangla Sahitya Samaj
 Mr. Rabindranath Chakraborty, Member, Trade Union Coordination Centre
 Mr. D Chatterjee
 Mr. Jugol Kishore Pal
 Mr. Gautam Mukherjee

Some of the dignitaries ignited the lamp and introduced the program while addressing the sizable crowd and commemorating Durbar's journey. One of Durbar's sister groups, Komal Gandhar, which operates as a sociocultural society, put on a tribunal dance drama performance to commemorate the organization's twenty-eight-year history.



Durbar's sibling organization, Komal Gandhar performing dance dramas.

Today in Sonagachi, to mark the 29th Foundation Day of Durbar, a series of functions were organized with a few cultural dance dramas and speeches by a few diligent guest speakers. The Secretary of Durbar, Ms. Bishakha Laskar started the speech by explaining the identity of this organization and the importance of the day by sharing the journey of the sex workers' movement and why the promotion of education is important in those areas. As per her findings, only with education can we change the viewing perspective of

mainstream society about sex workers and their families, so for that, educating our children is important, and that's why today Durbar is providing financial aid and gifts to support the educational development of students of the community who passed the Secondary and Higher Secondary exams in 2023. She also appreciated the performance of the students and blessed them to go ahead in the future.

One of the guest speakers, Dr. Akhter Jawed from Karkinos Health Care Pvt. Ltd. shares the importance of the organization in this place and how, from its inception, it has minimized the problems of the community. Talking about the present condition of Sonagachi, he also assured us that within a few months, his team will start HPV testing and vaccination.



Dr. Akhter Jawed discussing his work experience with the community of sex workers in Sonagachi

Dipti Lahiri from the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) highlighted the journey of each student's life who has scored good marks as an 'uneven struggle' in which they are fighting with their own for their establishment in society.

All of the students were inspired by Baban Sidhu, an Assistant Teacher at Delhi Public School in Ruby Park, for their efforts in competing with other students in society and earning good grades. She also wished them well for their future. She also praised them for overcoming all the obstacles on their path to higher education.

Jolanda Romeo, a researcher from the University of Turin, Italy, who is doing a research study in Durbar, also graced the occasion and addressed the gathering by sharing the journey of the marginalized sex worker community by clarifying the differences in the lifestyle of sex workers in India and Italy. She also wished all the students and Durbar for their future betterment.

Piyali Ghosh, Director of Inner Wheel Club Khidderpore Cosmos, engaged in a lively conversation with the present population about how she started her journey with Durbar and how she became a family member of this huge family.

Ronit Bose from Prashanta Banerjee Homeopathic Research Clinic expressed that it is good to hear that a community like this exists and that children are benefiting from this kind of initiative. They would also like to extend their helping hands to them in the near future.

Rabindranath Chakbaborty from the Trade Union Coordination Centre also started his speech by remembering Dr. Smarajit Jana and his thinking to establish this organization, and he also shared the movement and struggling stories of community members.

Mili Das, one of the guest speakers, who is also an international and national award-winning bilingual poet and writer, shared her own written poem, 'Lojja' where she described the bonding relationship of a sex worker mother with her little child, who is still breastfeeding at the time of finding clients.

All of the present dignitaries congratulated all of the students who had achieved commendable results on their most recent exams. Sixteen students from the Sex Workers' community, eleven students from the Nachni and Jhumur communities, four students from the tribal community, and two from Rahul Vidya Niketan, a residential home for the children of sex workers, have been gifted for their excellence in exams.



Durbar's secretary interacting with academically successful community students

Their dedication and hard work were recognized through a small aid of two thousand rupees to help them in admission purposes for further studies; a bag; two notebooks; a pen; and a memento where it was written “Well done, keep it up”. Applauding and highlighting their achievements in front of the audience was also a great way to instill confidence and motivation among them and inspire other community members to strive for educational success. Not only were the students’ exams celebrated, but all the members of Durbar also celebrated the inception day of their beloved organization by cutting the cake and distributing it to everyone.

Press Conference Meeting:

As the program continues, there was a press conference where news reporters from various news channels gathered to hear from the Secretary as well as from the community people about their journey and their struggle story. By marking a significant milestone in the journey of Durbar, Ms. Laskar dedicated the organization’s journey to empowering marginalized sex workers and advocating for their rights. She also shared that on the occasion of Foundation Day, the organization hosted a press conference meeting to highlight their challenges and future initiatives aimed at creating a more compassionate and inclusive environment, recognizing the rights and dignity of sex workers by putting forward those student’s examples to society.



Durbar’s secretary attending press conference meeting

There were news and reporting personnel from numerous channels who were present at this press conference, featuring

- Ms. Anwasha Santra, Reporter, The Statesman
- Mr. Sanjoy Roy Chowdhury, Reporter, Onkar TV
- Mr. Gopinath Dhar, Reporter, KN TV News
- Ms. Sarmistha Saha, Reporter, Kolkata Today News

As the event rolled towards its conclusion, it left a profound impression on attendees, reinforcing the importance of collective efforts to bring about positive change and empower the marginalized sex workers' community members in society.

Conclusion:

The Foundation Day celebration organized by Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee successfully highlighted the importance of education for the children of sex workers. Through financial support and gift distribution, the event aimed to break the cycle of poverty and empower marginalized communities. The celebration not only provided tangible assistance but also fostered a sense of hope, inclusivity, and community spirit among the audiences and participants to develop their lifestyles and include themselves in mainstream society. By continuing to prioritize education, today's program strives to create a brighter future for the children of sex workers, enabling them to overcome societal barriers and achieve their full potential. By recognizing their accomplishments and inspiring them to pursue education further, Durbar through such initiatives continues to make a profound impact on the lives of marginalized communities and promote the importance of education in transforming lives.



Student taking elder's blessing for future career

The event brought together diverse stakeholders and fostered collaborations that will continue to drive positive change in the lives of sex workers. As Durbar looks towards the future, it remains dedicated to its mission of advocating for the rights and well-being of sex workers, ensuring their inclusion, dignity, and access to essential services. The Foundation Day Celebration stands as a testament to the commitment and dedication of Durbar to creating an inclusive and empowering society where every child has the opportunity to thrive.