

January to March

Newsletter

"Be seekers of truth and doers of justice."

MARY
WARD
SOCIAL CENTRE

Mary Ward Day Celebration

DMWSC celebrated Mary Ward's Feast day with the project associates on 29th January 2018. The resource person, Sr. Sanjyoti conducted the day with a beautiful prayer followed by a presentation on Mary Ward. The celebration was filled with joy and laughter.



One Billion Rising Campaign

Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre in collaboration with NGO partners (MARG, Tiny Hands, Duars Express-mail, World vision India, HLDRC, KUK, Seva Kendra, Light House) schools and colleges and business partners organised the **'One Billion Rising Campaign'** on **18th February, 2018** at **Vega Circle Mall, Siliguri** with the theme **RISE! RESIST! UNITE!** together to fight against human and sex trafficking.

The programme started with releasing of balloons by the chief guest Commandant Rajiv Rana from 41st Battalion SSB, Ranidanga.



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One Billion Rising Campaign

The chief guest Commandant Rajiv Rana was welcomed along with the other guests. **Sr. Mary DeSouza** declared the event open with the clarion call **Rise! Resist! Unite!**

The youth of DMWSC performed a skit highlighting the menace of human trafficking, through which awareness was created to beware of people making false job promises. They also performed a theme dance stating that a victim also has the right to live.

The session started with the panel discussion on the theme of human trafficking. **Panellists included representatives from different NGOs from Siliguri, Duars and Darjeeling.** Each concerned NGO came forward and **shared about the strategies adopted by the organization to combat human trafficking and the various challenges faced while working in the field.**



After the panel discussion Commandant Rana, the chief guest, addressed the gathering and reiterated that education, awareness and communication was necessary to tackle human trafficking.



The program ended with the signature campaign.

International Women's Day

DMWSC celebrated International Women's Day in collaboration with Human Life Development Research Centre (HLDRC) and Seva Kendra Siliguri on 8th March ,2018 at HLDRC premises .The event was organized for the women of various Self Help Groups from 30 tea plantations. There were around 1600 women present for the program. The main theme for the day was **“Press for progress”**



The chief guest was Ms Ronu Roy (Block Development Officer, Matigara), Guest of Honour -Provincial Fr. Wilfred Lobo (S.J).

The main spokesperson for Self Help Group was Ms. Sushmita Barman (Women Development Officer),Maternity Benefit Scheme by Ms. Selestina Xalxo (ANM) and Minimum Daily Wage and Land Rights was Mr. Junas Kerketta. The programme also had street plays on Domestic violence, Child Marriage and Human Trafficking which was done by the women of self help groups from the three organizing NGOs.

गरीबी से लड़ने का हथियार बन गया है जूट

दार्जिलिंग, सिलीगुरी :

'जूट' है तो यह बहुत ही साधारण लेकिन यहाँ यह गरीबी से जंग का मुख्य हथियार बना हुआ है। चाय बागानों में काम करने वाले परिवारों को बेटियों पढ़ाई के साथ ही जूट से बेग, परम, कलमदान आदि बना खोले हैं। इससे वे कम से कम अपनी पढ़ाई का खर्च तो निकाल लेते हैं। इस काम के लिए इनको प्रेरित किया है दार्जिलिंग मेरी वार्ड सोशल सेंटर ने। इस संस्था द्वारा इनको कच्चा माल दिया जाता है। तैयार उत्पाद को ले लिया जाता है। फिर इनको बिक्री से जो भी मुनाफा होता है, वह पूरा का पूरा बनाने वाली किशोरियों को दे दिया जाता है।

गुरुवार को हौमन लाइफ डेवलपमेंट एंड रिसर्च सेंटर मटौबाड़ा में आयोजित महिला दिवस समारोह में

- 80 किशोरियां मेरी वार्ड सोशल सेंटर से जुड़कर-निकाल रही पढ़ाई का खर्च
- कच्चा माल देती है संस्था, परम, पैग आदि बनाती है किशोरियां

इन उत्पादों का स्टॉल लगा था। जूट के इन उत्पादों को बिक्री जमाकर रूई। सेंटर की कोऑर्डिनेटर शिल्पा बसनेत ने बताया कि 80 से ज्यादा किशोरियां उनकी संस्था से जुड़ी हैं।

सभी स्कूल जाती हैं। खाली समय में वे यह काम करती हैं। उनको प्रशिक्षण भी संस्था द्वारा ही दिया जाता है। इनमें कुछ ऐसे किशोरियां भी हैं, जो मानव तस्करी का शिकार हुई थीं और उन्हें इस दलदल से निकाला गया है।

चंपारसारी नर्मदा चाय बागान में काम करने वाली श्रमिकों के घरों को इन बेटियों को इससे बहुत ही सख्त



दार्जिलिंग मेरी वार्ड सोशल सेंटर के स्टॉल पर जूट के उत्पाद की खरीद- बिक्री करते लोग मिलता है। अब इनको कोई लालच देकर बाहर नहीं ले जा सकता। क्योंकि वे यह काम करके अपना खर्च तो निकालती ही हैं, परिवार को भी मदद कर पाती हैं। इस स्टॉल पर रखी एक पेंटिंग भी महिलाओं को अपने ऊपर लगे रहे अत्याचार के खिलाफ मुकदमे देने के लिए मुकदमा दे रही थी।



DMWSC had displayed the jute products made by the young girls. The story behind implementing the jute project by DMWSC was covered in the local newspaper.

International Women's Day at Gayaganga and Loyal

DMWSC team celebrated **International Women's Day at Gayaganga on 11th March and at Loyal on 18th March 2018.**

DMWSC staff spoke about the importance of Women's day. The topic was on Domestic Violence and Human trafficking. The team had a street play on domestic violence to show the community women and various laws was shared with them.

DMWSC staff spoke on different types of violence and the related laws by which victims



can ask for their rights and entitlements. The women were made aware on different types of human trafficking and the different causes leading to trafficking. The women should be alert in everything especially when it comes to dealing with children. They were asked to be careful of unknown persons who come to the village and try to make a good rapport with the community to lure them with money ,marriage and good jobs. The women were also given a **CHILDLINE number 1098** which is a toll free number for children .In case any child goes missing or any child is in need of care and protection they can dial 1098.

Sr. Helen spoke about the importance of the **Self help groups** and how the government is giving opportunity to the self help group women to become leaders and earn their own livelihood. She laid emphasis on "**Unity! Love! Service!**" These three key words need to be there for a community to develop.



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Inauguration of Sewing Project

DMWSC has started the sewing project which introduces and offers transferrable skills and more vocational opportunities. The young girls who are part of this project will be well equipped to sustain their economic income. The inauguration of this project was done on March 10th 2018 at Panighatta. There are 30 girls who are part of the project.



Awareness Program on Domestic Violence and Anti Human Trafficking



With the New Year the Community Awareness Programme, on the issue of Domestic Violence and Anti Human Trafficking was conducted in different tea plantation where DMWSC operates. From January to March separate events were held on the concerned issue. Sessions were held at Bakrakot Tea Plantation (2nd, 6th, 13th February, 6th and 27th March), Kumlai Tea Plantation (9th February and 20th March), Leeshriver Tea Plantation (8th February), Washabari Tea Plantation (12th and 25th February), Ellenbari Tea plantation (14th March) In total, more than 550 community members have taken part, learning about the importance of standing up for their rights.

The field associates used very simple methods to make them understand. They explained about what human trafficking is, who are trafficked, who the human traffickers are, and why they do it. They spoke about what domestic violence is, and how to overcome this problem. They also focused on child marriage and said it is very dangerous for the child and the mother and that they should not force their children to get married at an early age. Child marriage is creating problems in the families, because the mother and the new born child will be unhealthy.



Youth awareness program on alcoholism



DMWSC organized youth awareness programs in different tea plantations. The sessions were held in Bakrakote Tea plantation (15th February and 13th March), Leeshriver Tea Plantation (16th February and 12th March) Washabari Tea plantation (22nd February) Kumlai Tea Plantation (15th March). The field associates focused on how alcoholism is affecting the youth today. The associates told the youth that consumption of liquor will not only affect them physically but will also affect them mentally, emotionally and financially.

Gender awareness

An awareness programme on **Gender** was organized on 5th February, at Nischintapur Tea Plantation, Siptiguri Tea Plantation and Sanyasi Tea Plantation on 6th February and at Patanphulpari Tea Plantation on 13th February 2018. Several men, women, children and youth were present. DMWSC staff explained the awareness of Gender discrimination to the people. They made the people aware by telling them that parents should not discriminate between a boy and a girl. Parents should raise their children equally. They should provide food, clothes, love, proper care etc. A girl has every right to go to school and to be educated. They made them understand that a boy and a girl is different physically only. Equality does not mean that women should be the same as men. Promoting equality recognizes that men and women have different roles and needs and these need to be taken into account in development, planning and programming.

Orientation program for Basic Computer and Spoken English



DMWSC started Basic Computer and Spoken English project in the month of February to the children of the tea plantation. There are 65 children who are learning basic computer and 22 children learning English. On 10th March 2018 orientation program was conducted to these children. DMWSC intends to provide opportunity to the children and youth of the tea plantations by providing the course which would be for their benefit.

Welcome

DMWSC welcomed Sr. Helen Borneo (IBVM) as the new director on 6th January 2018. DMWSC anticipates that her skills and experience will be an asset to the organization. We wish her good



Farewell

We thank Ms. Deepika Sharma, who served DMWSC for the past 5 years. DMWSC appreciates her hard work, commitment and contribution to the Centre.

She was always part of all the activities the Centre was engaged in. She will always be remembered for the things she has contributed to the organization through her compassionate heart and support. We wish her success and thank her for all her contribution towards the Centre.

DMWSC team wishes her good luck and success in life.



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Networking with Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

DMWSC participated on the program organized by 41st Battalion, SSB on the theme “**Beti Bacchao Beti Padhao**”-meaning save a girl child and educate her on 10th February 2018.

Various activities like drawing competition, essay writing, display of exhibition, sack race and cultural program was organized where children and youth of several tea plantation participated.



Networking with Siliguri Metropolitan Police

In the month of January the Bal Panchayat children, the youth, the women from self help group where DMWSC works participated in the Sports Day Program organized by Siliguri Metropolitan Police. The participants were given opportunity to take part in various games like bow and arrow, cricket and kabbadi. Nine participants were selected and were taken Darjeeling for a felicitation ceremony. The participants received track suit.



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Volunteers

AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS

DMWSC would like to thank the Australian volunteers Liz, Maggie, Nicole and Lucy. The volunteers who came to help the Loreto school Community in Panighatta, have helped DMWSC staff to discover more ways to combat the difficulties that marginalized people are facing in North Bengal. During their stay they visited the Jute Project and encouraged the young girls to continue their studies and their vocational training.



DMWSC thank them for their contribution and wish them good luck in their future endeavours.

IRISH AND CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS

DMWSC thank all the volunteers who came to help the Loreto school community. They have, in direct and indirect ways, pushed the staff of DMWSC to work in various proactive ways. We would like to thank the students and teacher of John Scottus School (Ireland) and students and teachers from Canada who have contributed to the Loreto School communities in Lolay and Panighatta.



We wish them good luck for their future endeavours.

Thank You

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