

Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre NEWSLETTER



DMWSC

Building Capacities & Communities



**APRIL – JUNE
2025**



World Environment Day

On 5th June, Environment Day was celebrated under the Human Rights project at Sonachandi and Maruti Tea Estates with 60 participants, promoting environmental awareness, tree plantation, and collective responsibility towards a cleaner, greener community.



In April, the Providential Development Team visited the DMWSC office and field areas to review project activities, interact with beneficiaries, and discuss future development plans.



World Day Against Child Labour Celebration



On 12th June, World Day Against Child Labour was observed across the project areas of Human Rights and Safe Migration Projects, raising awareness among community members and youth on child rights and protection.

Menstrual Hygiene Management

April – June 2025

In the second quarter of 2025, DMWSC worked to increase awareness about menstrual health in tea estate communities. Through regular sessions and outreach, it helped women and girls gain dignity, better health, and confidence.



Motivation and Leadership Trainings Empower Women and Girls: On April 25 and May 14, motivation and leadership trainings were organized, each attended by 42 participants. The sessions focused on empowering adolescent girls and women leaders with knowledge about their rights, and leadership skills, enabling them to become confident peer educators and positive role models within their communities.



Women's Meeting

A total of 43 women's meetings were conducted under the MHM project, engaging 587 participants. The sessions aimed to raise awareness on menstrual health, hygiene practices, and breaking taboos among women and girls.



Youth Girls' Meetings Build Awareness and Confidence

A total of 54 youth girls' meetings were conducted with 670 participants under the MHM project. The sessions focused on menstrual hygiene, reproductive health, confidence-building, and creating a safe space for young girls to share experiences and support one another.



Adolescent Girls' Meetings Promote Menstrual Health Awareness

A total of 78 meetings were conducted with 935 adolescent girls under the MHM project. These sessions focused on menstrual hygiene management, self-care, confidence-building, understanding bodily changes, and encouraging open discussions to break taboos and promote healthy attitudes toward menstruation.



Community Meeting:

Meeting was conducted at Jabra with 24 community people under the project MHM. The session focused on spreading awareness about menstrual hygiene, breaking taboos, and encouraging community members to support adolescent girls and women in adopting safe and healthy hygiene practices.



Self-Help Group Meetings

47 meetings were conducted with the participation of 598 Self-Help Group members, focusing on women's empowerment, financial literacy, and menstrual hygiene awareness under the project MHM.



Sanitary Pad Distribution

Pads were distributed in the following tea estates:

- April: 159 pads across Belgachi, Jabra, and Saptiguri
- May: 42 pads at Marionbari and Longview
- June: Distribution linked with evaluation drives

Ethical Enterprise Initiative for Youth & Women

April – June
2025

Under the project EEIYW, around 70 youth girls and women are attending regular classes at Learning Centres in Gulma, Sukna, Dagapur, and Panighatta to enhance their skills, and empowerment.



Collective Voice

April - June 2025

Empowering Voices, Building Communities

The Collective Voice project kept working in the tea plantation areas of Darjeeling district, helping women, youth, and children learn about their rights and take part in community discussions. From April to June 2025, the project reached more people, held successful workshops, and built stronger local connections.



Activities	Location	Sessions	Participants
Women's Awareness	Gayaganga T.E.	1	16
	Bijalimoni T.E.	3	60
	Sayedabad T.E.	4	48
	Kamala T.E.	2	31
	Total	10	155

The Collective Voice project helps women learn about their rights, build confidence, and take part in decisions, so they can work together for a better life in their community.



Activities	Location	Sessions	Participants
Children's Meeting	Gayaganga T.E.	3	73
	Bijalimoni T.E.	3	74
	Sayedabad T.E.	4	162
	Kamala T.E.	2	62
	Total	12	383

Children's meetings provide a safe space for learning, sharing, and leadership. They raise awareness on child rights, education, health, and protection, empowering children to voice concerns and actively participate in community change.



Activities	Location	Sessions	Participants
Community Meeting	Bijalimoni T.E.	2	140
	Sayedabad T.E.	3	180
	Kamala T.E.	1	90
	Total	6	410

A community meeting of the Collective Voice project helped women, youths, and children talk about their problems, share ideas, and learn to work together for equality and positive change.



Additional Milestones

School Re-Admission Support

Facilitated re-admission of 2 children at Madati High School in April, reinforcing the project's commitment to child education.



Awareness Programme:

In June 2025, an exclusive awareness program was held in Kamala Tea Estate for 40 participants, promoting community understanding of social issues and participation.

Legal Awareness Programme

A Legal Awareness Session was conducted on 9th May 2025 at Gayaganga Tea Estate, where 90 people actively participated and learned about legal rights, particularly concerning women and children.



Activities	Location	Sessions	Participants
Youth Meeting	Gayaganga T.E.	2	27
	Bijalimoni T.E.	3	34
	Sayedabad T.E.	5	82
	Kamala T.E.	2	27
	Total	12	170

A youth meeting under the Collective Voice project was held to guide and empower young people. It encouraged discussions on education, career opportunities, and community issues, helping youths build confidence and awareness.

Career Guidance Workshop – Collective Voice Project on May 24th 2025



Collective Voice project organized a Career Guidance Workshop at Goshpukur GP with 50 enthusiastic youths, focusing on building awareness about education, skill development, and career opportunities to shape their future pathways successfully.

Over the last three months, the Collective Voice project has reached many women, youth, and children. Activities like legal education and career guidance have built awareness and empowerment. Regular follow-ups and community links strengthen the project's impact and sustainability.

Safe Migration

April – June 2025



Women's Awareness Programs

Teaching women about safe migration, their rights, and protection from trafficking

Key Topics Covered:

Safe migration practices, legal rights, identifying trafficking risks, accessing support services, financial literacy

Activities	Location	Sessions	Participants
Women's Awareness	Kiranchandra T.E.	2	27
	ORD T.E.	1	15
	Kamalpur T.E.	1	16
	Taipoo T.E.	5	83
	Moonee T.E.	2	29
	Trihana T.E.	4	46
	Hansqua T.E.	3	49
	Damdama T.E.	3	41
	Bijlimuni T.E.	1	65
	Total	22	371

Activities	Location	Sessions	Participants
Youth Meetings	Kiranchandra T.E.	3	33
	ORD T.E.	3	42
	Kamalpur T.E.	3	40
	Taipoo T.E.	3	55
	Moonee T.E.	3	36
	Trihana T.E.	2	20
	Hansqua T.E.	3	49
	Damdama T.E.	3	43
Total		23	318

Youth Meetings Educating young people about safe migration, career opportunities, and staying in school.



Focus Areas: Child Rights, educational opportunities, skill development, avoiding unsafe migration, leadership training.



Community Awareness

On 10th April, a community awareness program was conducted at Damdama Tea Estate under Project Safe Migration to educate community people on safe migration practices and related rights.



Workshop on Gender Awareness

On 6th May, a gender workshop training was conducted with 37 youth participants, focusing on gender equality, sensitization, and promoting respectful attitudes among young community members.

Activities	Location	Sessions	Participants
Children's Meetings	Kiranchandra T.E.	2	21
	ORD T.E.	3	52
	Kamalpur T.E.	3	47
	Taipoo T.E.	3	44
	Moonee T.E.	3	58
	Trihana T.E.	4	102
	Hansqua T.E.	4	85
	Damdama T.E.	3	76
	Total	25	485

Children's Meetings

Child protection, rights awareness, and educational support programs



Protection Focus: Child trafficking prevention, child marriage awareness, educational rights, safety protocols



Community Group Committees:

Local committees dedicated to child welfare and protection

- **CVC Meetings:** 13 meetings, 161 people
- **VLCPC Meetings:** 3 meetings, 43 people

Key Responsibilities: Child safety monitoring, school dropout prevention, child marriage prevention, coordination with schools and authorities



Legal Awareness Program – 12th May

On 12th May, a legal awareness session was held at Kamalpur T.E. with 154 community people, strengthening their understanding of legal rights and procedures, and empowering them to seek justice and access available legal support.

Activities	Location	Sessions	Participants
Community Meetings	Kiranchandra T.E.	1	30
	Kamalpur T.E.	1	16
	Taipoo T.E.	1	23
	Damdama T.E.	1	27
	Total	4	96

Community Meetings



Meeting Focus: Community-wide safety protocols, migration planning, collective decision-making on protection measures

School Awareness Programs – 25th & 28th April



On 25th April at Bagdogra Balika Vidyalaya and 28th April at Naxalbari Hindi High School, awareness sessions were conducted with 190 students, fostering knowledge on child rights, safety, and responsible behaviour through direct engagement with school communities.



Gender Workshop:

On 6th May, a gender sensitization workshop was held with 37 youth, enhancing awareness on gender equality, respectful behavior, and positive social change.



Human Rights

April – June 2025

Stronger Communities through Legal Awareness and Rights Support

The quarter showed better legal awareness, more community involvement, and clear progress in social documentation and rights support, helping people in tea plantation areas become stronger and safer.



Anti-Drug Abuse Day



On 26th June 2025, Anti-Drug Abuse Day was observed under the Legal Aid Project across tea plantation areas of Naxalbari, Kharibari, and Phansidewa blocks. The program raised awareness among youths and communities about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Activity Summary

Activity	Tea Estates Covered	Sessions	Participants
Youth Meetings	Merryview T.E. , Atal T.E. , Fulbari T.E. , Thanjhora T.E. , Sonachandi T.E. , Maruti T.E.	29	351
Women Meetings	Merryview T.E. , Atal T.E. , Fulbari T.E. , Thanjhora T.E. , Sonachandi T.E. , Maruti T.E.	32	392
Children Meetings	Merryview T.E. , Atal T.E. , Fulbari T.E. , Thanjhora T.E. , Sonachandi T.E. , Maruti T.E.	47	685
Community Meetings	Merryview T.E. , Atal T.E. , Thanjhora T.E.	05	115
VLCPC Meetings	Merryview T.E. , Atal T.E. , Thanjhora T.E.	07	91
Disability Meetings	Merryview T.E. , Atal T.E. , Fulbari T.E. , Thanjhora T.E. , Sonachandi T.E.	10	142
Awareness Programs	Merryview T.E. , Thanjhora T.E. Maruti T.E.	03	215



School Awareness

- 22nd & 29th April – JR Hindi School: Awareness sessions with 190 students of classes VI–VIII and 180 students of classes IX & X.
- 24th April – Hatigisha High School: Awareness session with 70 students of classes VI–VIII.

Access to Social Security

Category	Processed
Bank Accounts Opened	03
School Re-admissions	07
Birth Certificates Issued	48
Aadhar Cards Facilitated	24
Ration Cards Issued	14
SHG Loan Support	08
Laxmi Bhandar Applications	06
Voter Cards Facilitated	06



World Environment Day



World Environment Day was celebrated in the field areas of the Human Rights project.

Networking Meetings

- Sonachandi Health Centre: Networking with 20 stakeholders
- Buraganj GP: Attended by 54 stakeholders, facilitating inter-agency collaboration

Legal Awareness



On 8th, 25th April and 15th May, legal awareness sessions were conducted at Fulbari (90 participants), Thanjhora Tea Estate (85 participants) and Merryview Tea Estate (90 participants), focusing on legal rights, trafficking prevention, and essential documentation support.



Legal Workshops

On 14th April, a workshop on child protection and online safety was conducted at Bagdogra with 50 participants. The session focused on educating children and youths about online risks, cybercrime, and preventive measures. Participants actively engaged in discussions, learned reporting mechanisms, and understood the importance of creating a safer online environment for children and vulnerable groups.





Children's Parliament Workshop & Staff Training

On 8th–9th May 2025, a comprehensive two-day workshop at Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara, under Human Rights and Safe Migration projects, trained 65 participants on child rights, SDGs, UNCRC, and child protection laws through interactive sessions and group activities.



April to June 2025 Registered Cases

Safe Migration

- Rape Case – 01
- Fraud Case – 01
- Child Marriage – 04
- Land Case – 01

Collective Voice

- Extra Marital Affair – 01

Utthaan (Legal Aid)

- Missing Case – 01
- Extra Marital Affair – 01
- Domestic Violence– 03
- Trafficking case – 01



THANK
YOU

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