



RED LIGHT DESPATCH

VOLUME X, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY, 2019

DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

My Dream *Preeti*

Delhi: My name is Sonakshi. I am 10 years old. I live in Delhi. My dream is to become a doctor. There are many people who are poor and suffering from various diseases in the world. So I want to help them.

I think It is very important to help each other. If I can help them, I will be very happy. To be a doctor is not easy. But now I study very hard. In my school.

Doctor's working is very fullness I think. This work is to save the human's life and a little mistake turn to be a man's death. So this work is very difficult I think. But to save the man's life is very wonderful and it is good to me and patient.

I hope my dream will be true some day.

"Chai pe Charcha"- Communalism VS Women's Rights *-Munni Devi*

Bihar: My name is Munni Devi and I am a member of Mahila Mandal run by Apne Aap Women Worldwide in AKC Uttari Rampur for empowerment of women, who are from the families of communities practicing inter-generational prostitution. The community is very poor, deprived and DNT community living in the red-light area, Mela ground and near the red light area.

I am a resident of Mela Ground, Forbesganj and belong to the caste community. I am associated with the Mahila Mandal from 2017 and I have participated in

all the activities organized by the organization at the center. We also received many different trainings like open mike sessions, legal trainings on our rights and duties and Asset trainings from the organization side. Assets are tools which are developed for the empowerment of women and girls by the organization. We also visited the govt. office for our works by the support of the organization.

(Continued on page 6)

I gave my first board exams *- Varsha*

Delhi: My board exams of CBSE class 10th were started from 2nd March 2019. My experience was very good. I am well experienced about how to attempt external exams. The question papers of almost every subject were really very easy for me because I studied very well this year for my board exams of class 10th. I hope to get good results this year. Now, I am able to attend any external exams up to my level without any fear. My school teachers helped me in my preparation and

cleared my doubts very well. Now, I will be able to prepare well for class 12th also. CBSE Board exams helped me to gain confidence and the ability to learn well.

On the day of the exam I was a little anxious. I reached the examination centre before time. We were told to check our allotted classrooms against our roll number.

(Continued on page 7)

***Wheels Of Joy: For Children Of Kolkata's Red Light Areas,
This NGO Introduced A Mobile Library***

Kolkata:

Little faces sparkled with joy as the minivan pulled up at BK Pal Park, Kolkata, West Bengal in the redlight district on Monday, January 21. This was no ordinary minivan, as the four-wheeler was decked with colourful children's book which opened up new doors filled with possibilities.

This was definitely a unique experience for the children of the area, for whom, getting their hands on storybooks is a fairly difficult ordeal. The mobile library was launched by Apne Aap Women World, an NGO working towards abolishing sex-trafficking in India, in association with Apeejay Anand Children's Library and Coal India on January 20 at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival on January 20. The van was launched by Priti Paul, Director, Apeejay Surrendra Group where she herself donated 500 books.

Talking to The Logical Indian, Ruchira Gupta, founder of the organisation said that **the mobile library is merely an attempt to add more value to the lives of the children of sex workers who otherwise have limited access to other sources of entertainment.** Children can lend books to read for a week and then return it. "This exercise would also instil a sense of responsibility among the children," she added.

The van visits the red light areas of Sonagachhi and Kidderpore thrice a week for three hours. It is accompanied by storytellers and volunteers who help in conducting storytelling sessions. Gupta said, "A lot of college and university students have signed up for the storyteller programme." Additionally, the local administrative authorities have been immensely supportive in lending their support in terms of providing the organisation with open spaces where they can set shop.

New movement in the making

While the minivan is already stocked with hundreds of selectable books covering a wide range of genres, people also have the opportunity to donate more books at a designated location in one of Kolkata's famous landmarks – the AC mall.

Gupta feels that education is the only means by which the children of sex workers today can be freed from the vicious cycle of inter-generational prostitution. While she is the first one to start such an initiative in Kolkata, the organisation has already invested its time in educating the children of sex-workers who are at high risk of sexual exploitation. The organisation also has a number of other initiatives chalked out for the children which are all aimed at providing them with a wholesome learning experience which includes the Books 4 Freedom initiative – where the knowledge of books will set the children free.

Gupta truly feels that this is just the beginning of a tremendous movement in the making. The Logical Indian applauds the organisation for starting an initiative like this.

Sromona Bhattacharyya

*(Originally published in the Logical Indian
On January 30th, 2019)*

Diary of a Social Worker *Mamta Tanvar*

Delhi: My name is Mamta. I work in Apne Aap Women Worldwide's Delhi office. I used to work as a field mobiliser in Najafgarh before working at the Delhi office. Earlier we used to work with three caste communities— the Perna, the Sapera and the Singhi community. We started intervention in these communities and have successfully conducted many workshops and empowerment activities. They are a part of our organization's network. We put in all our efforts to help empower the women and girls of the communities.

We recently started intervention program with the Rohingya refugee community. The community is originally from Myanmar. They have fled their country in the middle of a war on them. A lot of them have come to India via Bangladesh. They have fled for their lives. They are scattered all over north India. In Delhi NCR region they are situated at six locations. Since winters are harsh in Delhi and the community doesn't have too many means of survival, the organization decided

to distribute blankets to help them through the harsh winters. We went to six locations to distribute blankets that my colleague Khushboo had procured.

Each location was different and miles apart but they had stark similarities. They live in abject poverty. Most of the locations didn't have a running water supply. The men and the children in the family go to far places to get water. There are also no toilets in the community which are a matter of great concern. Despite all the hardships the community is very open and welcoming.

In all the locations we distributed blankets according to the number of family members. Families with more than five members were given more than one blanket. The communities are very organized with leaders who were very well informed. It was easy to get the information from the community leaders.

We covered almost the entire length of Delhi to make sure that the communities get the blankets. It was a wonderful experience.

Did You Know?

In India:

- There are 2.3 million women and girls in prostitution
- A quarter of 2.3 million are under the age of 18
- There are 1,000 red-light areas

Globally:

- About 58 % of all cases of trafficking detected globally are purpose of sexual exploitation
- About 75 % of all trafficking victims detected globally are women and girls
- About 20.9 million adults and children are bought and sold for commercial exploitation
- About 1 in 10 men in the world have bought commercial sex

Winning the NGO Olympics *-Shekh Sahil*

Kolkata: My name is Sk Sahil . I live under a bridge near Hasting's in Kolkata. I am from a very poor family. My parents admitted me in a corporation school. Where I get free education but my family could not provide tuition for me after I lost my father. My mother works as a maid in other people's house. From her meager earnings, she is taking care of three of us.

I have been associated with Apne Aap Women Worldwide since some time. The organization has helped us in taking care of our tuition. We are also taught drawing ,dance and vocal music. This is great opportunity for us to grow as we learn a lot of skills at the organizations centre.

I took part in an inter NGO Olympic through the help of Apne Aap. I won a prize in the Olympic games. There were twenty six other NGOs who took part in these games. It was the happiest day for me and Apne Aap . When I won the prize from the game, conveyed my regards to Apne Aap for giving me the opportunity to take part in the

games. I visited many places and met many different peoples. I enjoyed those days. Every day after our education class all for us get tiffins from Apne Aap. They provide good lunch for us. We live in uncovered places under the sky, so people don't talk to us much and don't care. This is the first time in my life I have seen any organisation come forward to help and take the children to the centre run by Apne Aap and provide for them. I am thankful for their care and concern.

Get yourself involved! Be a part of the campaign!

Click a selfie and share it with us on the Facebook Page 'Cool Men Don't Buy Sex' <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cool-Men-Dont-Buy-Sex/624526271001934> with #CoolMenDontBuySex #Selfie #ApneAap.

The Cool Men Don't Buy Sex Campaign is a call to end demand for sex trafficking which highlights the role that men play in fostering the sex industry.



Apne Aap's "Cool Men Don't Buy Sex" campaign was born to draw attention to the demand side of sex trafficking - the traffickers, pimps, and purchasers of sex. Apne Aap advocates for the criminalization of these individuals – they are responsible for maintaining sexual slavery and continue to exploit women and girls every day in India.

Jattha Nawjawanon Ka
-Rakhi Kumari

Bihar: My name is Rakhi Kumari. My mother's name is Mrs Anju Devi and fathers name is Shree Rameshwar Mandal. I live near Forbesganj Railway Station in Railway Colony. I have two brothers and one sister. Earlier when I had to go out alone, it seemed like a lot, but now it is not so. I am associated with the Kishori Mandal and sewing class in 2018 with Apne Aap organization and learn to sewing tape, pajama, Kurta, petticoat and blouse etc here. Now I earn a few money by stitching the clothes of my neighbors here. I have to come here in the organization to teach a lot about my rights and duties. This organization works for the empowerment and protection of women and girls through their 10 asset approach tools. By joining this organization, I have been inspired to fight against the violence of women and girls. We have got the opportunity to participate many rallies and meeting in this organization. We learn a lot of thing here.

On 2nd February a rally of some youth called "Jatthha Naujavano Ka" organized by Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan Araria and some other organization visited our place and our organization ,Apne Aap wass hosting them here. The objective of this group is to eliminate the discrimination in the society. People in the society need Roti Kapda, Makan

equality and education for and not of these things. They organized a rally (Jatthha) for peace and justice for all too. **The Jattha was started on 1st of February and visited all the districts in Bihar and ended on 10th of March at Patna.** There were 20 people who are in the Jatthaa and visited all the districts. They organized small "Nukkad Natak" to aware the people among these issues.

In our location in Apne Aap organization's office they also played "Nukkad Natak, Songs, cultural programs and Slogans for the awareness among the youths. They arranged all the programs for 3 hours here. Lunch was organized for them by the organization side. After completing the event, they all left for Suapaul district from here. We all approx 70 girls and women participated the program from Apne Aap organization side. We learned a lesson for courage, unity and bravery from them and how to fight from the evils of the society. We all enjoy the event very much.

Thanks a lot to the organization to give us this kind of space for our betterment and empowerment.

Rakhi Kumari

IGP/ KM Apne Aap

**Follow us on www.facebook.com/apneaap
www.twitter.com/apneaap**

Write to us for any queries or comments at contact@apneaap.org



Visit to Book Fair

-Niyam Parveen

Kolkata: I am 12 years old; I am studying in Modern-day school in class 6. The address of my school is 16/Dr Sudhir basu road Kolkata 700023. We have six members altogether in my family. The financial condition of my family is very poor. My father runs a very small business. The income from the business does not cover the family expenses properly. My mother is a house wife. I have two sisters and one brother. My brother studies in KG 1 in Modern-day school. My elder sister is appearing in her secondary school exams. She is 16 year's old.

I joined for Apne Aap Women Worldwide on 2 October 2018. I get educational support from Apne Aap in the form of remedial classes. I also learn about a lot of other things like health and hygiene, drawing, dance and vocal music.

I have been visiting many places with Apne Aap and learning many things. We went for a picnic

at the Alipore zoo, with all the students and members we had our lunch and enjoyed the day very much.

I was also fortunate to visit a book fair for the very first time in my life with Apne Aap. It was a great experience for me. I had never seen so many books stall and books. For the first time I saw so many books and so many people buying books from different stall.

I pay my regards and gratitude to Apne Aap and many Thanks to Apne Aap for teaching us and taking care of us.

Continued from page 1

The organization also helped us prepare our ID's like Voter ID card, Aadhar Card, Ration Card and other necessary documents which are achieved from the govt. side for the individuals. We also participated many rallies and meetings organized by the organization side in Forbesganj and Araria as well on the issues related to women and their rights from this organization and the other organizations from our locality.

On 7th of February 2019, a meeting was organized by Apne Aap organization with the support of Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan, Araria on the issues of Communalism and Women's right by Aashish Ranjan from JJSS. We all, approximately 100 women and girls, participated in the meeting. We all sat together in a big round circle and the discussion was started by Praveen sir from our organization. He briefly discussed about the communalism in our society and made us aware about how we can stop this kind of activities in our society and to spread a message of peace and brotherhood. He also told us about the wrong policies of government and how

even the people from the government's side spread communalism among the society and how we all should not lose patience and live together with all the castes and communities.

Aashish Ranjan from JJSS also made us aware from the kind of evil that communalism is and appealed to live together with all castes and communities in the society and urged us to help put a stop to the spread of rumors. He also talked about the empowerment of women and girls. He also discussed about the patriarchal society and also declared that how it violates women's rights. He appealed everyone to come forward with the women and said that women have to fight themselves for their rights. The session was started at 2pm and continued for 3 hours. Tea and snacks were distributed among us by the organization. We all learned the lesson carefully and took the oath that we will fight for our rights till death and will continue to take it in every situation.

Munni Devi
Mahila Mandal, AKC Rampur

Red Rose Campaign in Araria -Nitu Kumari

Bihar: My name is Nitu Kumari. My mother's name is Manti Devi and father's name is Chandrashekhar Roy. He is a handicapped person. My residence is in Mela Ground, Ward No.- 08, Forbesganj. I have appeared the matriculation exam this year. We are four sisters and a brother. My mother works in the fields of others as well as the domestic works in our house. My father is rickshaw puller. It is very difficult to him to pull the rickshaw in this situation because he is a handicap person. We don't have a good economic condition. My mother joined Mahila Mandal in 2008 in Apne Aap Women World Wide organization and also learned how to make Agarbatti and other life skills to survive. They also a self empowerment group there and opened the bank account and started savings in the group but unfortunately it was not continued for a long time. Now she is busy in household works. I also joined Kishori Mandal group in Apne Aap Women World Wide in 2015. Through Sanju Didi and Fatima Didi I learned lot of good things here. And also got a chance to make friends with the girls in the group. Fatima Didi and Sanju Didi thought us that how to communicate with our society. We also trained here in many ways like – open mike session, legal trainings, Computer classes, Craft classes, Stitching classes and other trainings to empower us. We also participated many rallies, meetings and other

cultural activities here. Sanju Didi also admitted me in the Girl's Middle school in class six and after compilation of the school she again admitted me in the Zila School Forbesganj for the study of high School. By the support of Apne Aap I appeared in the 10th class board examination this year and hope will passed the examination with good marks. I dreamed to become social activists when I complete my education and elimination the evil from the society and let the people know about education and good thoughts.

On 27th of February 2019, we got a chance to participate a campaign organized by Apne Aap organization in Araria. It is a Red Rose campaign for the appeal for peace, Love, brotherhood and social justice in the society with Hindu and Muslims, Rich and Poor and all type of people. In this campaign, we gave a Red Rose to other people with the appeal to spread peace, love and brotherhood in the society. Founder of Apne Aap Ruchir di is also present there in the campaign. We meet the people of "Karvayen – E- Mohhabat" there and give them the Red Rose and spread the messages to them. We all enjoyed the campaign there and filled with happiness. Thanks a lot to Apne Aap organization to provide us this kind of opportunity to spread these messages in the society.

Nitu Kumari

Continued from page 1

After checking where our examination hall was, I went in and settled on my designated seat. The bell rang. The examinees went in. The superintendent read out the instructions and asked us all to take out the help books from our pockets and leave them on the stage. It was now exact nine. Answer books with a piece of blotting paper were distributed to all of us. There was now pin drop silence. We were going through the question paper and marking which questions were to be attempted first. questions: a longer period for longer questions and shorter period for shorter questions. I began to solve the questions.

I finished the whole of the paper half an hour before. The superintendent was announcing the time after every half an hour.

After finishing the paper, I went out and discussed the exam with my friends. So, finally, my experience was perfect.

Poems

Lal Tamatar

*Gol gol yeh lal tamatar
Hota jaise gal tamatar
Khoon badhata lal tamatar
Furti lata lal tamatar
Svasth badhata lal tamatar
Hum khayenge lal tamatar
Ban jayenge lal tamatar*

**Vineeta
Delhi**

The red tomato (Translation)

The red tomato is round
Just like the round cheek
It makes the blood grow
Eat it and you'll never be slow
It keeps us healthy
We will eat the healthy red tomato
And become like the healthy red tomato



56, Third Floor,
Anand Niketan
New Delhi

Phone:
+91 11 24119968

E-mail/Web:
contact@apneaap.org
www.apneaap.org

Red Light Despatch

Editor: Ruchira Gupta

Editorial team: Tinku Khanna, Praveen Kumar,
Anahita Mir

Publisher: Apne Aap Women Worldwide

RNI Number: DELMUL/2008/27727

Printer: India Enterprises, New Delhi