



RED LIGHT DESPATCH

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DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

My Dream Angad

Delhi: My name is Angad. I belong to Singhi community in Delhi. **My dream is to be a pilot.** I want to fly planes and go to different places. The airport is very close to my house. I see planes flying from there the whole day and sometimes even at night. The planes are of white colour but I have noticed that there are also some planes with different colour. Their tails are red, blue and pink as well.

I have never been on a plane but I imagine it must be amusing to see everything so small from the sky. I was told by my teacher that everything looks very tiny from a plane. I will love to fly over my house and see how it looks from the sky.

Commencement of sanitary pad making unit, Kolkata

Kolkata: My name is Sunita. I am 35 years old. I live in Kolkata. I have been coming to Apne Aap's centre for a few years now. When I started coming to Apne Aap's centre, I did not know a lot about work that uneducated work that women could do. I always thought that to have a job you need to be qualified. After coming here I got to know that a person can receive training in specific work and then one can get a job as well. I have received many kinds of skill training courses here and learnt a lot of new things. Apne Aap also runs a sanitary napkin making unit.

In one of the workshops held at the centre we were told about sanitary napkins and their importance. I knew before that people use sanitary napkins but I didn't know how important they were for menstrual hygiene. A woman needs to be careful of her hygiene during her periods because there are a lot of infections she can acquire. Also changing pads at regular intervals prevents life threatening infections.

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State Child Protection Day organised by WBCPCR, Kolkata -Rinki

Kolkata: Every year West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) organises events in coordination with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for child welfare and development. This year's theme for the event by the WBCPCR was "STOP CHILD LABOUR, START EDUCATION". The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairperson Ms Stuti Kacker, was present on the occasion. She spoke at length about the situation of child labour in our country and also the various laws there are to protect

children from it. She told us that employing children is a crime. She also told us that we can complain if we see someone employ a child we can complain against them with the commission. I was inspired by her great speech.

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Petition Filed In Delhi HC Challenging Ordinance On Death Penalty For Child Rape; Notice Issued -Apoorva Mandhani

The Delhi High Court, on Friday, issued notice on a Petition challenging the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018, which provides for death penalty for rapists of girls below 12 years of age, and other stringent penal provisions for rape. The notice was issued by a Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar on a Petition filed by NGO ApneAap Women Worldwide, which is an anti-sex trafficking organization working in brothels, red light districts and caste-ghettos. The matter has now been posted for hearing on 31 July.

The impugned Ordinance was promulgated on 21 April, amending the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Evidence Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The Petition now challenges the following changes brought about by it:

The increase of mandatory minimum punishment for rape under Section 376 IPC from seven to ten years.

The prescription of a minimum mandatory 20 years imprisonment for those convicted of raping girls under 16 years of age. This has been done by adding sub-section 3 to Section 376 IPC.

The prescription of punishment of twenty years rigorous imprisonment or death for those convicted of raping girls under 12 years of age. This has been done by adding Section 376AB after Section 376A IPC Mandatory imprisonment for life and fine in case of gang-rape of girls under 16 years of age. This provision was added by inserting Section 376DA after Section 376D IPC.

Mandatory imprisonment for life and fine, or the death penalty in case of gang-rape of girl under 12 years of age. This provision was added by inserting Section 376DB.

Amendment to Section 173(1A) Cr.P.C, which reduces the time provided for investigating into the rape of a child from 3 months to 2 months. The amendment, it says, advertently or inadvertently makes the provision gender-specific, thereby excluding males from its purview.

It asserts that this amendment is contrary to the provisions of the POCSO Act, and submits, "There is no intelligible differentia for imposing a lighter sentence upon persons who commit rape upon a male child, especially when the last major study, in 2007, titled "Study

on Child Abuse" performed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development found that 52.94% of the victims of child sexual abuse were boys."

Denial of anticipatory bail to a person accused of raping a girl below 16 years of age. This has been done by amending Section 438 Cr.P.C.

The addition to Section 439(1) Cr.P.C., making it obligatory to give notice of the application for bail to the Public Prosecutor within fifteen days from the date of receipt of such notice. The amendment, it says, is "unintelligible, vague, displays non-application of mind and may operate to place an unconstitutional fetter on the grant of bail in certain cases."

Making it mandatory for the informant to be present while hearing of the bail application of those accused of raping a woman below 16 years of age. This has been done by insertion of sub-section (1A) after Section 439(1) Cr.P.C.

The Petitioner asserts that the Ordinance was issued merely to address the outrage that followed the rape cases of minor girls in Kathua and Unnao, without adequately addressing the issues at hand. Calling it a "knee-jerk reaction", the Petitioner points out that not only does the Ordinance take away rights of the accused, it also bases the distinctions on age, ignoring other vulnerable classes. It asserts, "As such, the Ordinance is not based on any scientific or empirical research and is a populist measure that does not address core issues of implementation, speedy action, protection and rehabilitation of victims, access to justice, judicial training, corruption and the reduction of vulnerability of children living under different circumstances. It instead introduces disproportionate punishment (thereby falling foul of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution) and in fact increases the vulnerability of victims." of the Constitution of India, as the "various absurdities which arise in the application of the law mandate a reconsideration of its validity".

(Originally published by Livelaw.in on July 2, 2018)

Diary of a Social Worker *Shashibala*

Delhi: My name is Shashibala. I am a field mobiliser working with Apne Aap Women Worldwide in Delhi. In Delhi our field is in Dharampura, Najafgarh. It falls beyond Dwarka, near the airport. I have been working with Apne Aap for over seven years now. Earlier, we used to have a field in Prem Nagar, another locality in Najafgarh. We faced lots of problems there. Especially, after we rescued a girl of Perna community from Prem Nagar. To protest our rescue operation, the community people who believe prostitution is right, started boycotting us. We were locked from outside and they threw stones at us. It was a scary experience.

In Dharampura we have three de-notified tribes that we work with. Our primary work is to help prevent the next generation of prostituted women to get into prostitution. The Perna community practices intergenerational prostitution. The girls are sent out for prostitution by their in-laws after the birth of their first child. The young married girls prostitute themselves at night and sometimes even in day when more money is needed.

Apart from earning for the household, women in the community manage their households in daytime. They cook, clean, look after their children and husband during the day and go out for prostitution at night leaving very little time for rest and sleep.

The other two communities which we work with are the Sapera and the Singhi community. The Sapera community traditionally were the snake charmers and now play drums at weddings. The income from playing drums is insufficient to run their households. Only

men of the community work and the women are not allowed to go out to earn. Some women work out of their homes making clothes.

The Singhi community is the poorest of the three. They sustain themselves by making toys and picking rags. They are the most poor among the three communities. They live hand to mouth. If they do not earn anything during the day, there are chances that they won't have food for the night. The biggest challenge among the Singhi community is that they do not have any documents. Most of the families have zero identification documents. They are uneducated and do not know the importance of these documents.

As a part of my job at Apne Aap I help the community members acquire their identity documents like election card, aadhar card, labour card and caste certificates. Since they belong to scheduled tribes and castes, there are various government schemes and subsidies available to them. I have worked with the Municipality to ensure that the community members get their identification documents as well as caste certificates.

Through Apne Aap's 10 asset based empowerment model, more than 50 families have got their identity documents. Our model ensures that community members are taught the necessity of such documents and also how to obtain them from the government. I want to make sure that all the community members have their identity documents and they're not bereft of the benefits and subsidies provided by the government.

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

Financial Literacy program Manshi

Delhi: I belong to the Sapera community. I have 6 members in my family. Previously, Sapera families used to earn money by doing different animal shows like monkey shows, bear shows and also snake shows. The men of the community went out to different villages and towns and did animal shows. In addition to money people also gave them food grains and pulses. Now because of the ban on animal shows, it had become difficult to earn money. Now the men play drums at weddings and festivals but the income is not constant. It has become very difficult to manage money in the household. Sometimes we only cook one meal a day and eat it twice.

Last week, Apne Aap Women Worldwide held a financial literacy workshop in our community. I have been coming to Apne Aap's functions since many years. They are always informative. This time Shashibala ji informed us that a financial literacy workshop will be conducted in the community. I did not know what the workshop would be about. We all gathered at one of the neighbouring house. There were many women who had come to learn. Some of them even had

children with them. Everyone was curious as to what they will teach us.

We were told about the importance of having savings. We shared the difficulties we face in our day to day lives due to financial constraints. All the women spoke about how they manage the household expenses with little income. We were told that savings can start from as little as 10 rupees. We start by saving 10 rupees a day and then gradually increase the amount of money. All the women agreed that it is possible to save 10 rupees a day for them.

After explaining to us how best we can save money, we were given small piggy banks. These were to give a head start for starting to save money. We were given colours to paint and decorate the piggy bank. Everyone including the children became excited to see the colours. All the women happily coloured their piggy banks. We all took our piggy banks home. I started with my 10 rupees a day the same night. I am hopeful that I will save good money and help in the household.

Get yourself involved!

**Be a
the cam-**
Click a
share it

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.

**part of
paign!**
selfie and
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.



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.

Menstrual Hygiene workshop Arti

Delhi: My name is Arti. I am 15 years old. I live in Najafgarh in Delhi. Recently, Apne Aap Women Worldwide conducted a workshop on menstrual hygiene in our community. Menstruation is a natural part of the reproductive cycle. However, in most parts of the world, it remains a taboo and is rarely talked about. Cultural practices and taboos around menstruation negatively impact the lives of women and girls, and reinforce gender inequities and exclusion. There is a direct link between poor menstrual hygiene and urinary or reproductive tract infections and other illnesses.

We were taught about good menstrual hygienic practices such as use of sanitary napkins; washing and cleaning; how to dispose sanitary napkins, followed by precautions to be taken during the period and dietary habits, so, as to enable us to lead a healthy reproductive life in future. We were also told why menstruation happens and why it was an important part of a woman's life and life in general. It is a normal part of life and shouldn't be allowed to hamper our day to day activities. A lot of girls don't go to school during menstruation and many often drop out of schools once their period starts. One of the chief

reasons for that is the lack of access to adequate bathrooms and also sanitary pads.

During the health workshop we were shown videos on how to reduce the pain during the menstrual cramps with home remedies like exercises, hot water bags and drinking lots of water. We also talked about different taboos associated with periods. All the women shared different taboos they had heard and believed in like not going in the kitchen, being impure during periods etc. We discussed how wrong the misconceptions were. The children who came with the women were kept occupied with a drawing session. It was a very informative workshop.

A lot of girls don't go to school during menstruation and many often drop out of schools once their period starts.

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Paise, Painting, and Piggy Banks

Jocelyn Bell

Delhi: What struck me immediately was the openness of the space. I expected a room – four walls and a door. But as Khushboo and I approached the meeting place, I saw that it was an entrance hall open to the outside. Women sat throughout it on stairs, chairs, and propped up against the walls and closed doors. And interspersed throughout sat their children. The openness of the space complemented the openness of the participants. From the very start, the women were receptive to this stranger. They smiled at my simple Hindi. They did not passively sit and listen to the advice given; they interacted and asked questions.

For example, the first challenge was showing them that they can accumulate savings. Because the women do not earn a steady income, and what they do earn tends to go into the hands of the male head of household, it was difficult for them to conceptualize how they could accomplish this. However, Khushboo was prepared. This was a hurdle we knew they face. She answered their

concerns with examples of ways they could set aside 10 rupees a day.

What struck me next was how familiar it felt. I had led workshops in the past for the children of women who are sexually exploited, but never for the women themselves. However, I had been in the room as it's been done before, so the process was not unexpected. It went something like this:

Me: Usually these savings will help with three types of expenses. The first is-

[In a part of the hall that I can't see, someone is singing.]

Woman: Who is that? Stop singing!

Me: The first is events that happen in life like birth, marriage, education expenses for your child

-

[In a part of the hall I can't see, a child is making a ruckus.]

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Due to the poor economic conditions of women, many cannot afford a sanitary pad and turn to other unhygienic means. Apne Aap set up a sanitary napkin making unit to make affordable low cost sanitary pads for women and girls. The unit was headed by Uma Das. Unfortunately due to a technical defect, the machine stopped working. There has been a reinstallation of the sanitary machines and the unit as a whole in BNR. There are more women and girls joining us this time. The new girls and women are being given training in how to produce hygienic and low cost sanitary napkins with maximum utilization of minimum resources. The new machine is a modified one. The process of making the sanitary napkins has been modified and it has improved over time. The women and girls who are getting the training are also being provided with a specific amount of remuneration to sustain their life. There are 5 women and girls are working at the unit. They got a two day professional training

from PP Enterprise to familiarise them with the working of the new equipments.

I am proud to be a part of the whole team. It's just not empowering me but also the women and girls around me. I want to thank Apne Aap for this opportunity.

The new girls and women are being given training in how to produce hygienic and low cost sanitary napkins with maximum utilization of minimum resources.

Another woman: Who is that? Be quiet!

Khushboo: This is a workshop for the mothers, not for the kids. We will have a workshop for the kids another day. All of the kids need to leave. This is just for the mothers. [I smile because this is not the first time the kids had to be shooed away.]

Me: The second is emergencies like if something is damaged by monsoon. The last is good opportunities like getting a mobile.

[Khushboo looks over my shoulder at my notes and translates what I've written down, including more examples and context that applies to the women.]

What struck me most of all was the paint. At the end of the workshop, each woman was given a clay piggy bank to decorate and use to store her savings. So many beautiful colors creating so many different designs. One woman explained: "I made mine a smiling face because when we save our money and fill it up, we will smile."

Before they had even started filling the banks, though, they had already started smiling. Each woman went away grinning. Saving 10 rupees a day for at least a month – that was the challenge set before them. Taking some time out of the day to talk about savings methods and its benefits was one step closer to making it possible. Hopefully, just as the emptied entrance hall carried the marks of our time together – streaks of paint on chairs and across the floor – the women will leave the marks from our lessons as impressions upon their families.

"I made mine a smiling face because when we save our money and fill it up, we will smile."

Continued from page 1

The discussions focused on strengthening the adoption process followed by addressing the issue of child marriage, prevention of children being the victims of child labour and education of children.

There were many organizations who also attended this event. Some of the organisations I remember are: Humari Muskan, Sankalp, Saved the Children, Hope Foundation and many more along with our

own organisation. Apne Aap had taken 10 students to the event along with 2 teachers who accompanied them. The event was a part of an exposure trip. There was also a stage set for the children who wanted to perform. The performance was themed on the concept of Child Protection. Many kids danced, some sang songs and some even acted. There were many interesting plays which were done by kids. I also went on stage and

sang a song. So many people liked my song and congratulated me on being so confident on stage.

All the children who attended the programme were given goodie bags. The bags had a lot of stationary items, books, umbrella and food packets. It was very exciting to get all the gifts.

Poems

Thank you, Lord

I thank you, my lord
I thank you everyday
I thank you for everything
For showing me the right way
Thank you for love and care
I get everyday
Thank you for your blessings
Which you shower everyday
Thank you for my family
For a safe house to stay
Thank you for all the friends
I get to play.

Name: Varsha

Age: 11 years

Community: Perna

Help the needy

Come friends, let's do some work
We should help everyone
Never should we lie
And hurt anyone
Come friends, let's do some work
Tell each other good things,
Never wish bad for anyone
Help the needy
Come friends, let's do some work
Give water to thirsty
Give food to feed the hungry
Bring happiness to poor
Come friends, let's do some work.

Name: Aarti

Age: Nine years

Community: Perna



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