



RED LIGHT DESPATCH

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DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

My Dreams “To be an artist” Dolly, 16 years

Bihar: My name is Puja Kumari and I am 17 years old now. I live in Kali Mela Ground in Forbesganj in Uttri Rampur panchayat. My mother's name is Sarswati Devi and my father's name is Shri Arjun Sahni. I am a member of Sarojini Naydu Kishori Mandal run by Apne Aap Women Worldwide in Ant Knya Center in Uttri Rampur ward No.-03 from last 4 years. We are learning many things in the group like craft, stitching, computer etc. After completion of my study, my dream is to become a teacher and provide free education to the poor students whose parents are not able to afford their education. I realize the feeling because I am also from a very poor family and my parents are helpless and can not provide me with proper education. I will be very proud when I become a teacher and hopeful that Apne Aap will provide me with this kind of space. Thanks a lot to Apne Aap and its team members for the support and favor.

Puja Kumari
Sarojini Naydu Kishori Mandal

Open Mic session on Hate Speech - Renuka

Delhi: My name is Renuka and I am 12 years old. I am a student of class 8. The school held an open mic session on hate speech. We were explained that we all have to share our stories from our experiences or experiences of others who narrated them to us. The teachers first explained to us the meaning of hate speech and gave many examples to make the definition clear to us. When we understood what hate speech meant, we were given some time to collect our thoughts and memories.

After we had recollected our memories, we were asked one by one to take the mic and narrate an instance or share our opinion about hate speech. After the other people had spoken, it was now my turn to share my story and I was ready and confident to do so. I started the story by announcing my name and the community I belonged to. Then I explained a little about my community which is the Singhi community and we often face a lot of discrimination from outsiders.

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Monsoon Hygiene workshop -Neeraj

Delhi: My name is Neeraj and I am 11 years old. I live in Dharampura, Najafgarh which is a small locality close to Dwarka in Delhi. Our house is a small one. There are small lanes where a lot of people live. People living in the locality throw garbage on the roads. There are drains all over the place. The drains are not covered. The garbage gets accumulated on the sides of the road and also in the drains. The drains often get blocked and the dirty water overflows on the lanes. There is bad smell all over. It also gets

into our house. We can smell the garbage in our rooms.

Khushboo didi from Apne Aap came to visit our house. She saw the condition outside the house. Next day she gathered all the children of the locality outside our lane. She told us about the problems that so much garbage causes.

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Op/Ed : - Ruchira Gupta's column

Two reports issued in India in 2018 caught my eye. One said women's participation in the labour force has declined by 10 per cent in the last decade and the other that men are paid 30 per cent higher than women with same qualifications.

The first was surprising, while the second seemed an underestimation.

Women had always worked and there was no way they could have stopped working. *Seventy-five per cent of the workforce in agriculture, 32 per cent of workforce in construction and 59 per cent in manufacturing, mining and domestic work are women, according to the National Commission on Self-Employed Women.*

It's just that the more secure, independent and salaried jobs for women outside home are disappearing to be replaced by poorly rewarded, low-security, high-risk jobs. The Commission report also says that *94 per cent women in the workforce are part of the unorganized sector, and just 6 per cent are in the organized sector.*

In fact, if the productive work of human maintenance that women do at home were valued at its replacement cost, the gross national product of India would go up by 56 per cent.

Homemaking, of course, a constant job (a perfectly good one) is never counted, due to male society's refusal both to do it and to give it an economic value.

If we add that to the whopping 69 per cent of the 'discouraged labour force' (i.e., people who need jobs but don't get counted in the unemployment statistics because they've given up looking) that women make, it will be clear that women's work needs to be acknowledged, given proper economic value and encouraged in all sectors across the board.

This encouragement needs to include monetizing women's work properly, making visible all women working anywhere, giving proper economic value to care work and better documentation of women's work and its reflection in official

statistics in South Asia.

The encouragement also need to include access to higher education and skill training for women, removal of segregation along sex and caste lines, and strict enforcement of laws to end the current impunity for sexual assault

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Diary of a Social Worker

Ashmeet Bilkhu

Delhi: At Apne Aap, I met with many opportunities to explore my academic skills or creative skills but what really touches me here was my interaction with the people in field. As many of you would know that Apne Aap is an anti sex-trafficking working with DNT tribes living on the margins at society. I was marred with my own understanding of the people who exist at various intersections of caste, class and gender. I harbored equal anxiety and curiosity about the people around which we work.

I was entrusted with the duty of conducting skill based workshop for the women in DNT community in Najafgarh. I went to the field one fine morning with the resource team to assist the workshop. This was perhaps my first initiative where I was directly engaging with women. Coming from the sociological background and a research degree in the area of 'women and violence' I assured to myself quite obliviously that I know what was about to follow. I saw a group of at least 20 women already waiting for us in the community. We began with some trust building exercises; it was amazing to see different kind of reactions from the women from different age group. Their enthusiasm and their skepticism was shining on their faces. My team and I realized it

in the very beginning that this journey will be tough.

After the first workshop we collected their responses and we found ourselves overwhelmed. It was a mixed bag.

Some people were plain dismissive of our attempts, they felt that this might be again another attempt where NGO 's come and go. To see this perspective from the sociological lens I can rationalize their lack of credence. They have been living in the deplorable situations as the citizens of India; yet they have received no accountability from the state towards any betterment for their social and economic conditions. They continue to live under situations where things refuse to look up. I could sense their resentment and their treatment to us as an 'outsider'.

On the other hand this workshop opened up spaces for women to talk. So after the workshop few women came up to us and expressed their concerns. They spoke about their life. They expressed the desire to be free from the shackles of society which exploits and add the burden of double labour. On the one hand, the economic conditions of the family deprives them at many material level similarly on the other hand it severely criticizes them for having desires.

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

Apne Aap children Participated Dance In Kolkata Classic's Hathor Health Fair *Riya Chowhan*

Kolkata: I participated in the Hathor Health Fair organized by Kolkata Classics at Uttam Manch. In an interval of every three months, they organize these Hathor Health Fairs which are divided in two parts – free health camp and cultural performances. The health camp offers free medical check up to the participants and follow ups with results to crucial health tests. Sometimes there are health and hygiene workshops too in which health advises are given to the participants. We get to learn a lot from these sessions about healthy eating habits, nutrition, food we are supposed to avoid and also about body hygiene and clean cooking and eating. The cultural performances range from classical music and dance to dance sequences on popular songs, playing of instruments, etc.

This time they had organized the final session in Uttam Mancha in Kolkata with 2 famous music artists Kathryn and Julia who performed piano and violin respectively. Many NGOs including Apne Aap Women participated in the event. It was inau-

gurated by the founder of Kolkata Classics, Jennifer Heemstra. All the performers from various NGOs and schools put up their performance. Apne Aap Women Worldwide accompanied 70 of us, women and children from Shashitala and 100 women and children from Topsia. This was a great opportunity for all of us.

Our small group of 12 girls represented Apne Aap Women Worldwide through a beautiful Bollywood song. It was a great experience for the children and women as the event not only ensured our health but also assured us of a colorful and joyous experience full of exposure and frolic. These fairs give all of us a platform to interact with new and influential people and also to showcase our talent and win appreciation from many acclaimed and established artists.

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.

IGP got a big order from Taj, Calcutta — *Lakhi Devi*

Kolkata: My name is Lakhi devi and i live in the Khidderpore area of Calcutta. I have been associated with Apne Aap for a very long time now and have seen the organisation progress and grow in all this span of time. I come from a marginalised community and have spent much of my life in poverty and with very limited resources. With those meagre resources, i would have never been able to educate my children and ensure them a better future. With support from Apne Aap, i am now able to sustain myself and my family through the various Income Generation Programs (IGP) offered by them.

The Income Generation Program (IGP) is a scheme run by Apne Aap under which they try to impart some skills to the prostituted women and their little girl children who are at risk of being trafficked. These women and children acquire various skills like stitching, applique work, knitting, etc. The organisation acquires jute from Lata Masi's jute mill and then it's brought to the IGP centre where the women and children weave and stitch it to make different products. They make sling bags, small wallets and pouches from jute. Sometimes the cloth for the products is taken from old sarees.

We get many orders for these products through Apne Aap and so every product has Apne Aap written on it to show that the organisation has helped us in making them. Sometimes our products are put on display in many different melas and fairs that happen in Calcutta or other cities like Delhi or

Bihar. Our volunteers accompanied by the didi from Apne Aap visit these melas and help them set up our stalls. Foreigners and others, who are visiting, come to our stalls and ask us about the products and about our lives. They also bargain with us for the price and we enjoy interacting with them.

I remember receiving a huge order for our jute products including the sling bags, the wallets and the pouches from the famous Taj Hotel in Calcutta. We were told that it is one of the most reputed hotel chains in India and even outside and i remember we were all very excited and also very nervous. Extra care was put into manufacturing these items and the quality had to be double-checked. We achieved our target in time and delivery was made without any complaints.

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



Sex and Sexuality Laws Under the Indian Penal Code

-Anandamayee

Section 376: Punishment for Rape

The IPC states that “whoever, except in the cases provided for by sub-section (2), commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment....for a term which shall not be less than seven years which may be for life or for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine.” However, if the woman “raped is his own wife and is not under twelve years of age...he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years and/[or] with [a] fine...provided that the court may, for adequate and special reasons to be mentioned in the judgment, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term of less than seven years.”

As mentioned in sub section 2 of section 376, the punishment for rape “shall not be less than ten years but which may be for life and shall also be liable to fine” for: a police officer who commits rape “within the limits of [a] police station...or on a woman in his custody or in the custody of a police officer subordinate to him; management or on the staff of a jail, remand home or other place of custody... or of a woman’s or children’s institution [who] takes advantage of his official position and

commits rape on any inmate of such jail, remand home, place or institution; management or on the staff of a hospital, takes advantage of his official position and commits rape on a woman in that hospital; [a person who] commits rape on a woman knowing her to be pregnant; [a person who] commits rape on a woman when she is under twelve years of age; [people who] commit gang rape, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment.”

376C: Sexual Intercourse by a Person of Authority

Section 376C of the IPC deals with sexual intercourse by a person who can exercise authority over an inmate, staff member, patient etc. The person of authority could be a “superintendent or manager of a jail, remand home or other place of custody established by or under any law for the time being in force or of a woman’s or children’s institution [who] takes advantage of his official position and induces or seduces any female inmate of such jail, remand home, place or institution to have sexual intercourse with him.”

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People keep saying a lot of bad things to us like we are untidy and belong to a lower jati. They treat us very badly, often shouting at us and calling us nick names. As i was narrating the stories, i could see the other people nodding their heads to show that it was indeed true. This is why i love the open mic sessions organised by Apne Aap because here we can talk comfortably to people about so many things that are on our mind without them judging us or making fun of us or rebuking us. By listening to other people speaking, we also get to learn a lot of things that we were earlier unaware about.

The gathering was then addressed by some of the guests who were invited to the session and each one of them then narrated many stories related to hate speech that they had experienced. They tried to explain to us why hate speech is wrong and why people often gave hate speeches against certain communities or individuals only. They advised us on the many different ways in which we

can tackle hate speeches made against us or our communities and constantly told us to keep informing the authorities and police about it. The most important thing they said was to tell others if you have been subjected to hate speech or if you see someone else being subjected to it. They told us that we can confide in the didi from Apne Aap and tell them about such things.

*Continued from page 6***354A: Sexual Harassment and punishment for sexual harassment**

Section 354A deals with a man sexually harassing a woman, which is described as “physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures, or a demand or request for sexual favors, or showing pornography against the will of a woman, or making sexually coloured remarks.” The punishment for the former three offences is imprisonment “for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.” For the latter offence—making sexually coloured remarks—the punishment is imprisonment “for a term which may extend to one year, and/[or a] fine.”

Section 354B: Assault or use of Criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe

Section 354B deals with a man who assaults or uses criminal force to a woman with “the intention of disrobing or compelling her to be naked.” The punishment for such an offence is imprisonment “which

shall not be less than three years but...may extend to seven years, and/[or a] fine.”

Section 354D: Stalking

Section 354D deals with a man who stalks a woman. Stalking is described as a man who “follows a woman and contacts, or attempts to contact such a woman to foster personal interaction repeatedly despite a clear indication of disinterest by such a woman, or monitors the use by a woman of the internet, email or any other form of electronic communication.” The punishment for stalking on a first conviction is imprisonment “for a term which may extend to three years, and/[or]... a fine.” For second conviction, the man may be imprisoned for a term which “may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to a fine.” A man accused of stalking will not be imprisoned if he proves that stalking was pursued to “prevent or detect crime...[and] had been entrusted with the responsibility [to do so]... by the State, [or if] it was pursued under any law or to comply with any condition or requirement imposed by any person in any law.”

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Monsoon is around the corner. When it rains, water gets accumulated in the lanes. It breeds mosquitoes. We listen in the news that mosquito bites cause malaria, chickengunia, dengue etc. These are deadly diseases.

We should not let water accumulate anywhere. The garbage is to be disposed properly. We should check around our house for accumulated water. We should use umbrellas while going out in the rain. Fruits and vegetables should be washed properly before eating them. Garbage should be thrown in dustbins and not on the roads. Homes should be cleaned properly. I will make sure that our lanes and homes remain clean this monsoon.

The garbage gets accumulated on the sides of the road and also in the drains. The drains often get blocked and the dirty water overflows on the lanes.

Poems

Everything was made of ice cream
Red, yellow, brown and white
Everything was cold and bright
I ate and ate till I could eat no more
I burped and then ate some more



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Red Light Despatch

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