



# RED LIGHT DESPATCH

VOLUME X, ISSUE 5

MAY, 2019

DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

## *My Dream*

**Delhi:** My name is Akshay. I am 15 years old. I live in Delhi. I study in class 9 in the Government MCD Secondary School in Najafgarh.

**My dream is to become an engineer.** I always dreamed of being part of the construction of huge building and structures. I also want to help my community in constructing a neighborhood that is safe. They are the backbone behind the various buildings and structures we see today. The requirement of an engineer for the construction of a building is as important as the requirement of a judge in the courtroom. Engineers work for the people in the society and their work carries a lot of risks and dangers. But when they are successful, the society shakes their hand and gives them the respect. Someday I will become an engineer and undergo that experience myself.

## *Tree Plantation Drive* *Zeenat*

**Kolkata:** My name is Zeenat Khatun. I am 12 years old. I study in class 12 in Lajpat Balika Vidyalaya. I belong to a poor family. My father is a driver. Apne Aap Women Worldwide had been coming to our locality. One day I saw that Apne Aap was giving tuitions to children of my age in my locality. I got interested and started to enquire about it. I started to attend their classes in my neighborhood.

They also started a mobile library for underprivileged children. It comes every week to us. I also take part in the library sessions.

The sessions take place under a bridge. I go there whenever they come.

One day a girl came with them. Her name was Isha Binani. She told us that she was an intern with the organization. She taught us about a very important issue. She told us all about global warming and its effects on earth.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## *Attending an art class in the community* *Priyanka*

**Delhi:** My name is Priyanka. I live in Delhi. I belong to the Sapera community. I attend workshops conducted by Apne Aap Women Worldwide in our community. It is very exciting for all of the kids in the neighborhood to attend these.

Sashi ma'am informed us all that we are going to have a class in the community. We all gathered in the courtyard of one of the houses. The house has a big courtyard and fits all the children.

Everyone was excited about the class. All the children were talking to each other and guessing what the class will be all about. Then Khushboo didi came and asked us to sit in a big circle. I sat next to my friends.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*India's new-age anti-trafficking tools: Big data, AR comics, mobile games*  
*Monica Jha*

MISSING: Game for a Cause is a role-playing game about a trafficked girl, Champa, that puts the player in her shoes. "This makes you, the player, the protagonist," says Leena Kejriwal, a Kolkata-based photographer and installation artist who conceived the game.

"You are responsible for her future and (her) experiences," she says. "You also experience her helplessness and frustration first hand."

Kejriwal first encountered trafficking in 2000 when she documented the lives of young girls and women in Kolkata. "The plight of these girls became the core of my subject matter as an artist," she says.

While working with several NGOs in red-light areas, she was most distressed about the growing demand for paid sex, which pushed more girls into the sex trade. "The public, who is the demand-maker and the biggest stakeholder in the issue, was getting off scot-free. They were absent in all the conversations," she says.

Kejriwal wanted to engage them.....

**.....Tracking assets, building capabilities**

One way to understand who the most vulnerable targets for trafficking are is to look for individuals with the least assets. Assets, in this context, can be a safe space, schooling, political awareness, or savings and loans.

That's the approach Apne Aap Women Worldwide, an anti-trafficking NGO, has adopted.

"A teenage girl from a rural, poor and low caste family is most vulnerable to trafficking," says Ruchira Gupta, founder of Apne Aap. "To prevent her from being trafficked, we try to build her capabilities."

Apne Aap creates an asset card for each girl it covers — indicators that help assess the vulnerability of an individual. An Apne Aap worker asks a girl questions related to her access to social assets and documents her answers. Based on this,

an asset card is issued, indicating how vulnerable she is to trafficking.

Recently, Apne Aap started using an Android application — Last Girl Ten Assets — to enter the answers and store records in a database. The database gives a comparison of the assets of the girls, making it easy to understand who requires attention and what assets are needed immediately.

"The app has standardised the format of data collection," says Tinku Khanna, member of Apne Aap. "It helps me analyse the data and understand quickly that she doesn't have a BPL card or a birth certificate. It helps me understand the gap easily."

Apne Aap is using the app in a village in Bihar's Araria district, which is identified as a backward district by NITI Aayog.

Khanna expects the app would help create a database with vulnerability indicators for a large number of people. "It can also be customised based on what assets are useful for persons in an area," she says.

(This is an excerpt from an article published Factor Daily on April 19 2019.)

***Experience Sharing to become first time Voter and casting Vote***  
***Komal Kumari***

**Bihar:** My name is Komal Kumari and I am a student of BA final year through Indira Gandhi Open University. I am also interested in music too. That's why I am learning singing from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad and perusing in the second semester. I want to do the govt. jobs after completing my graduation I have planned to started preparation for the competitive exams for SSC and Banking recruitments.

I am also associated with Apne Aap Women Worldwide organization as a Data Entry person from 2016 and do the various entry works of data's here. This organization works on the empowerment of women and girls in different ways. There are many life skill training programs run by the organization for the empowerment of the girls and women too like Stitching, Craft and Embroidery, Computer etc. I learned DCA course in Computer education from the organization and started the job here as data entry. I am very happy that I am a part of the organization which is specially working for the betterment of the women and girls.

This year 2019, I complete my 18 years and applied for a voter card when a camp organized in my locality to prepare the new voter cards to add the new voters in the voter list. After a few months, I received my voter card and filled with glad to receive it. And by luck, I have got the chance to cast the vote in the last Lok Sabah election. I am very excited and a little fearful too because I don't know how I cast my vote.

My father told me in details about how to cast vote. First of all, we have to stand in the queue and wait for our turn in the voting centre. Then, on our turn, we have to give our voter slip there, which is already allocated to us and t also show them voter identity card as verification. We also have to sign voter slip. After that, ink is placed on our finger so that we can identify and we cannot vote again. After that, we are sent to a room where the machine is kept He said that the machine for casting vote, which is called an EVM- Electronic Voting Machine. He said that there is a machine for casting vote, which is called an electronic voting machine. We have to press the blue button in front of the candidate's name to vote. A red light burns in front of him and the beep sounds. The small screen also shows the name, photo and election symbol of the candidate we vote, and finally, the vote is cast.

I participated in its first-time end enjoyed very much. I had read the election manifesto of all the parties and tried to pick a right leader and government for our and our country's bright, future and development too. I think it is the right process of democracy to choose our leaders to cast the votes. I am very glad to be a part of this voting.

**Komal Kumari**  
**Data Entry, Apne Aap, Jagdish Mills**

**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

## General News

**Bihar:** My name is Kajal Kumari and my mother's name is Smt. Seeta Devi. I live in FCI Chowk, Forbesganj; I read in class IX and took admission in Lee Academy high School Forbesganj in this year. I have been associated with Apne Aap Women Worldwide since 2016. I feel very elated and proud about joining here and attending a lot of trainings and meeting. I made many friends here, and have received lots of information on many topics. I have received great support from the organization which helped me to study and enroll in a high school. I have received a lot of information from gender discrimination and law related training organized by the organization for the girls of Kishori Mandal. How to discriminate between boys and girls in our society? We were made aware of this topic through gender training.

Through this training we are taught how we can eradicate this distinction by bringing awareness in our society and family. It's the beginning of our first thing to do with our family. We have to first explain to our parents that the girls can do all the work that which can done by the boys too. We girls are no less than others. In today's time, we can do every work and ahead of boys in every field. We have broken all the confusion of society and have achieved success in every field.

*(Continued on page 6)*

### 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.

## Empowered through Learning Stitching for Girls and Women Rukhsar Parween

**Bihar:** My name is Rukhsar Parween and I am pursuing my Bachelors in Arts and it's my first year. I've been living in Forbesganj in ward No. - 13 with my parents and family members. I am 17 years old now and have continued my study to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher so that I can be of help to the poor and underprivileged students. Moreover, sewing clothes— which I've more or less learnt from my uncle who is a tailor himself— has been my hobby since childhood.

One fine day I heard from my friend about the organization Apne Aap Women Worldwide which works by facilitating a platform to bring about the empowerment among women by providing the training in the various courses like Stitching, Kraft & Embroidery and Computer etc. I visited the organization and met Madhu Di there and enrolled myself for the stitching class and started receiving the tutelage from her. I have been admitted here from the last three months and I've surprisingly learned a lot of stitching. At first I didn't know to operate the sewing machine but now I am stitching the cloths on it glibly. I earn some money from stitching the clothes and spend all of it in my education, as my father is a laborer and he doesn't earn much. I also spend the money in order to keep the studies of my siblings going on.

My father is not barely earns this much therefore I want to support him in this way.

My father has dreamed of me becoming a teacher and it is only possible through acquiring the necessary education. Therefore, it is the oil burning purpose of my life to educate myself, my siblings and support my parents!

Earning a humble yet indispensable sum of money is only possible owing to the help of the organization Apne Aap Women Worldwide. I think it is a real empowerment of a women when she learns a technical skills through training. In this way, this institution teaches everyone the skill of standing on their feet through. Such a wonderful job did by the organization and I am proud to be a part of it.

Thanks a lot to the organization.

**Rukhsar Parween**

**IGP Class, Jagdish Mills Office**

**Follow us on [www.facebook.com/apneaap](http://www.facebook.com/apneaap)  
[www.twitter.com/apneaap](http://www.twitter.com/apneaap)**

**Write to us for any queries or comments at [contact@apneaap.org](mailto:contact@apneaap.org)**



## *My First Day*

### *Continued from page 4*

We live in a village and the society of our village is quite conservative. There is a lot of difference between boys and girls here. Boys are considered to be the torc-bearers of the family and girls are kept under suppression. Their lives are very different. Boys go out and play and study whereas girls are made to do household chores.

During the training in the institution, we have learned ways to stop this type of toxic curiosity. We have explained our parents too and now there has also been a lot of change in them and our immediate society. Girls are now seen staying out, studying and doing a lot of work. Now we see a change that people are educating their daughters

with their hearts. And daughters are also working hard to fulfill their parents' dream. Now our society and families are changing. This is the result of all the training given to the girls by the institution.

The institution's efforts empower of women are commendable.

I am feeling very proud to join the organization. In fact, the organization has taught us a lot and taught to fight for our rights by standing up.

**Kajal Kumari**  
**Kishori Mandal, AKC Uttri Rampur**

### *Continued from page 1*

The next day she took another class with us. She told us about different things we can do to revive our environment. She had bought pots. She gave pots to all the children present there. She then showed us a sapling. Everyone was given a sapling. Next she showed us how to plant a sapling. First we put soil in the pot then we add the sapling in it. After showing us this, she asked all of us to follow the same steps. She gave us pots, a sapling and a hand full of soil. Her main motto was to let us plant as many plants possible.

Planting trees was very new to us. We had never experienced this before. Earlier we used to pluck flowers from plants but never thought how difficult it is to grow plants. We were also told to water our plants daily. We were also told how to take care of plants and make them live longer.

We all found this very interesting and informative. After the session we got chocolates as a reward. It was a truly happy ending to such an informative session. We had a great time learning about the environment and what all we can do to protect it. If every one does their part we would be able to make a huge difference in protecting our environment .

## *First day at Apne Aap* *Piya Das*

**Kolkata:** I am Piya das. I am 25 years old. I have completed my graduation from Calcutta University. I am residing at Maniktala Road, Kolkata. I come from a joint family. I live with my mother, father, uncle, aunt and siblings. My father has a business of selling mannequins. My mother is housewife. I joined the Azad foundation and learnt to drive a car. After completing my training, I was selected for a job and Sakha cap send me to Apne Aap Women Worldwide for the interview. I got selected for the job. My office timing is 10 am to 6 pm. On the first day, I was very nervous and shaky. After meeting the staff of Apne Aap, I was made comfortable. Apne Aap's staffs was very warm and cordial. They encouraged me very much.

On the first day, Lata masi's driver took me for a driving test and he approved of me as a driver. I learnt many things from Apne Aap. First time I visited the red light areas of Munshiganj and Sona

gachi with Apne Aap's staff. Now twice in a week I go to the red light areas for the library

class and twice in week we go under the bridge and we take education for the children. I go to Munshiganj to teach the prostituted mothers in the Adult literacy class. I am enjoying my work at Apne Aap. I will improve more and learn more from Apne Aap. I am looking forward to working for the organization.

### *Continued from page 1*

We were given blank sheets of paper. Then she also took out many poster colors and brushes from her bag. Each one of us was given a bottle of the paint to share with the other one. She told us to that we all would do finger painting.

First we painted our hands with different colors. I painted all my fingers with different colors. Red, blue, yellow, green and white. We also mixed some colors to make new colors. We made orange by mixing yellow and red. We also made purple by mixing red and blue. Then we drew different shapes on the paper. I drew a butterfly and a flower.

Then we let our drawings dry in the sun. We each then told a story from our drawings. My story was about a butterfly that went for a picnic to a bug city. Some stories were really funny and we laughed a lot.

Some children also told scary stories as well. When our drawings dried we wrote our names on them. It was a really fun experience. We ended the class by singing songs. I look forward to more classes like these.

## Poems

### **Friendship**

Oh What Joy It Is  
To Have A Friend Like You  
For Giving Me Strength  
The Way You Do  
For Lifting Me Up  
When I'm Feeling Down  
And Putting A Smile On My Face  
When I'm Wearing A Frown  
Thanks For Being There  
And Helping Me Grow  
Your Friend Ship Means A Lot  
This I'd like You To Know

**Pooja**

### **Nature**

N- nothing is as beautiful as nature  
A-actual beauty lies in  
T- the trees,animal , mountains and the rivers  
U- utilize it by not cutting down trees but by  
understanding it and planting trees  
R- responsibility is ours to change our habit  
and  
stop global warming .  
E-ever giving ..... Nature

**Divya**



56, Third Floor,  
Anand Niketan  
New Delhi

Phone:  
+91 11 24119968

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

## **Red Light Dispatch**

**Editor:** Ruchira Gupta

**Editorial team:** Tinku Khanna, Praveen Kumar,  
Anahita Mir, Rachna

**Publisher:** Apne Aap Women Worldwide

**RNI Number:** DELMUL/2008/27727

**Printer:** India Enterprises, New Delhi