



MASS WELFARE SOCIETY

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2012-13

MASS WELFARE SOCIETY is a non-government, non-profit making, non-political, secular, social development organization working for the development and empowerment of urban slum children and distressed people of the community. We started our journey more than three decades ago, in the year 1983 with the Blessings of Blessed Mother Teresa.

Mass Welfare Society is registered under the West Bengal Societies' Registration Act and also Foreign Contribution Regulation Act under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. We are also registered under 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act. We have our own Child Protection Policy, and Human Resource Policy.

Education, health care and nutrition are the main services provided by Mass Welfare Society to the beneficiaries. Our main activity consists of running 20 non-formal education centres in different slum areas of Kolkata. Marginalised slum children, street children and child labours who are either dropouts or have never been to school are prepared for admission into formal schools by means of a bridge-course of basic primary education of around one year's duration; those who complete the course, are mainstreamed back into Formal Schools where they can continue their studies. Vocational training opportunities are also provided to vulnerable adolescent girls of the local slum communities. Apart from these, we also conduct awareness generation programmes on various social issues, anti-human trafficking being one of them, for the parents of the children and other stakeholders.

Main Achievements During the Year 2012 - 2013

- **All Preparatory Schools and Coaching Centers were operated successfully** with full community support. Besides the education programme, daily Nutrition Programme and monthly Health Check-up Programme is being conducted in all our schools;
- Construction and painting of the two-stored **Multipurpose Community Development Centre at Dhamua is complete** and Education, Nutrition & Health Programmes are being implemented there.



Education Programme:

The Education Programme is continuing successfully in 7 preparatory schools and 2 evening tutorial centers. This programme is running in the slum areas of Beckbagan, Peyarabagan, Topsia and Panchannagram and Matangini Pally on the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass. Some statistics are as follows:-

This year a total of **155 children were mainstreamed** into local accessible Government Schools from our Preparatory Schools. Our teachers and staffs made regular follow ups with the teachers of the Government schools to ensure the retention of the admitted children.

After mainstreaming, **127 new children** joined our Preparatory Schools (till end of the March 2013).



All these children were provided with allied educational materials such as- pencils, exercise copies, books, slates etc.

Free evening tutorial coaching class is also running very successfully for the children who are already admitted into formal schools but who can't arrange separate private tutors due to poor economic condition. From the group of 155 mainstreamed children, **56 children regularly attended the evening coaching classes**. This support helps the children to cope up with mainstream education system thereby ensuring that they do not drop out of school. Annual Report Cards of these children have also proved the need of this support.

Nutritional food, following a weekly food chart, was provided to all the children who attended our Preparatory Schools and Coaching Classes. Regular food is being provided to every child coming to our school in the form of cooked food or packed tiffin.



Health Check-Up Clinic was arranged every month. Our child specialist doctor visited all 7 schools once in a month and treated the children. Free medicines were also provided to all needy children according to the Doctor's prescription at the check-up clinic. We have received fantastic community response due to the implementation of this programme. This initiative indeed proved helpful to children of all the schools, especially those in the rural school of Dhamua.



Vocational and Craft Training Programme is also continuing very effectively in all the schools. Children have shown great interest towards this additional joyful learning activity. The Craft instructor is visited all these schools once a week to create an open and wonderful world for the children.

Awareness and Advocacy Programmes were also organized for the community people to create and increase awareness levels among them regarding issues like Child Rights, Child Protection, Child Labour and Trafficking, JJ and RTE Acts etc. Now most of the community people attend the meetings and awareness programmes enthusiastically.

Training for teachers and staff was organized to develop their skills and build their capacities. All the teachers took this programme very seriously and participated very actively in them.

Children of all the Preparatory Schools were taken to **Science City for an excursion visit**. They did not miss this opportunity and joined in the group for fun and enjoyment.

Health Programme

Regular Monthly Health Check-up Clinic was organized for the poor school children and some needy community children in all preparatory schools. Free medicines were provided to every needy patient. Special awareness programmes on General Health & Hygiene were also organized from time to time, facilitated by our Doctor. This programme has proved its effectiveness which is reflected by positive feedback from needy children, who are the prime beneficiaries and also from their parents and other community people.



No of patients encountered	problems found during intervention
In 2011-12	fever, malaria, scabies, diarrhoea, worm, malnourishment, ENT problems
4864	

Women's Development Programme

The Women's Development Programme is continuing very successfully. ***The methodology applied was a 3-way approach viz. Skills Training, Adult Literacy and Women's Empowerment.***

- Skills Training Programme was conducted at 1 and 14/1, Ahiripukur 1st Lane, Kolkata -19 with **92 numbers of women and adolescent girls**. The instructor taught them different vocational activities like- embroidery, tailoring, doll making, soft toy making, flower making, mehendi design etc. Besides, **about 52 widows** received support from the organization for their earning by making Paper Bags.
- Trained participants from the Vocational Center went on to join the Production Center. Some of them also started their own business. Some trained workers joined the group and worked on the basis of order given from the Craft Resource Center (CRC).
- Another Vocational Training Center was operated for the community mothers and adolescent girls of Matangini Pally area. **42 mothers and adolescent girls** undertook training in Knitting and Embroidery work.
- Adult Literacy Programme was also conducted at 7, Ahiripukur 2nd Lane, Kolkata – 19. **18 women and adolescent girls** who were compelled to leave their study at earlier stages for various reasons, regularly attended the classes.
- Women's Organization is a common platform that brings the women of the community together to share their views. Under this programme, the organization also extended financial assistance to distressed and destitute women by encouraging formation of Small Savings Group.
- A short 3-month Tailoring Course Programme was initiated at Topsia. **15 women and adolescent girls** learn tailoring in this programme.

Miscellaneous Programmes

Several programmes were also organized by Mass Welfare Society for the benefit of society :-

- Night Services for providing medicines on urgent basis to the needy and poorest of the poor people were organised.
- Clothes, medical care and legal aid services were provided to all irrespective of caste, creed and religion.
- Free spectacles with financial help for cataract operation were provided to needy and distressed people.
- Free ration was given to needy community widows so that no such helpless woman had to live without food.
- Regular Health and Eye Check-up Camps were organized in different community areas with the assistance of Lions Club of Calcutta, Tollygunge.
- The organization also provided financial support to the needy for marriage and funeral purposes.
- Admission fees and cost for books were provided to needy students for their higher studies.
- Financial support along with proper guidance was provided to patients with serious diseases like leprosy and T.B.
- Free sanitary napkins were supplied to adolescent girls to maintain sanitary hygiene.

Community-Based Programme Organized by Mass Welfare Society

Since the year of its inception, the organization has been working for the betterment of society. Awareness generating activities are organized at regular intervals for coping them up with the mainstreaming activities of the society. A list of the programmes organized in the last financial year has been furnished below:

LIST OF PROGRAMMES
(April 2012 – March 2013)

7th April 2012

World Health Day was observed by organizing Health Check-up camp at Pragati Sangha. 72 children received free medical check-up by Doctor and also received free medicines.

7th May 2012

Umbrellas, school bags and water bottles were given to 70 students of Topsia.



8th May 2012

Birthday of the famous Bengali poet, Rabindranath Tagore which is known as **Rabindra Jayanti** was celebrated at Peyarabagan and Matangini in which all the children of these two centres participated. Children gave many performances in singing, dancing and recitation based on the works of the poet. Later, special refreshments were provided to all the children.



28th & 29th May 2012

Staff Training on Skills Development was organized for all staff and teachers at the organisation's administrative office. The training was conducted by Mr. Deepak Mondol.



5th June 2012

Environment Day was observed at Matangini and Pragati Sangha in which several people from the local community participated. A special Quiz was organized for mothers of children and instant on-the-spot prizes were given. After the Quiz, refreshments were served to all present.

13th June 2012

Umbrellas and food packets were distributed to 45 elderly people staying in the area of Matangini. These were sponsored by BHARATI AXE LIC.

3rd July 2012

A short **tailoring course** was started at Topsia for adolescent girls of the local community.

6th July 2012

An **Awareness Programme on “Consumer Action”** was held at Matangini. The local community people were made aware of their rights as a consumer and the complaint redressal system of the Consumers’ Forum.

11th July 2012

World Population Day was observed at the Peyarabagan slum area with a Quiz and instant prizes for the mothers of the children. 62 mothers participated in the programme.

15th August 2012

Independence Day was individually celebrated in all the Centres of Mass Welfare Society. The programme included flag hoisting, and very interesting performances of singing, dancing and recitation by the children. Later food packets were given to all the children.



5th September 2012

Teacher's Day was celebrated by organizing a Seminar at Environment Park, Kolkata whose main theme was "The Role of Teachers in Education".



Eminent teachers, social workers and officers of LIC India participated in the programme whose speeches motivated all the members of the local community who were present. As a token of appreciation for their undying service, a memento was given to all teachers of Mass Welfare Society. Refreshments were served to all people who were present. The event was sponsored by LIC India.

6th September 2012

School bags, water bottles and food packets were distributed to all the children of Pragati Sangha. This programme was also sponsored by **LIC India**.

7th September 2012

World Literacy Day was celebrated at Pragati and Matangini. The main theme of the day was "Importance of Education and the Role of Parents In Their Children's Education". Eminent social activist, Mr. Akramul Haque, was the main facilitator. Later, a Quiz was organized for the mothers of the local community and instant prizes were given to those who answered correctly.



24th September 2012

International Girl Child Day was celebrated at Matangini. Eminent social workers delivered speeches on the importance and value of the girl child and motivated parents and



other members to encourage their daughters to go to school and think about a better future for themselves. Later, children performed many dances and songs. Food Packets were distributed all who were present.

1st October 2012

Elder's Day was observed at Dhamua during which flowers, umbrellas and food packets were distributed to all elderly persons who had attended the programme. The elderly persons and local community people were very impressed since a such a programme had never been organized in their remote village prior to this.



25th October 2012

Operation of tumor in uterus was done for Adarini, a destitute and helpless mother of a child attending the centre at Dhamua. All expenses for the surgery was borne by Mass Welfare Society.



20th November 2012

14th November, was a holiday due to Kali Puja; and so **Children's Day** was celebrated in all the centres on 20th November. There were several performances by the children and food packets were given to all the children who attended the programme.

10th December 2012

Human Rights Day was celebrated at Pragati Sangha. Eminent social workers and resource persons explained about Human Rights to make the people of the local community aware.

21st December 2012

Christmas celebration

was conducted at Dhamua. All the children and their mothers were given new clothes. Village leaders and stakeholders attended the programme. Sweets and cakes were given to all the participants.



2nd January 2013

Our beloved President, **Dr. Sudhir Bera** passed away.

5th January 2013

The **30th Anniversary of Mass Welfare Society** was celebrated by organizing a Children's Festival at Bishop's College. About 1000 children from all the



centres attended the programme. The children put up many performances like songs, dance and recitation. They also enjoyed themselves thoroughly by playing numerous games that were arranged for them



and had great fun talking and playing with the life-size cartoon characters that were roaming around. There was also a display of handicrafts by adolescent girls of Beckbagan who were taking training in the vocational training unit of Mass Welfare Society. Food packets were also distributed to all who were present. Apart from these, Mr. Sanjib Sarkar, eminent social worker, writer and dramatist and Mr. Suranjan Middey, Head of the Department (Bengali),



Rabindra Bharati University were honoured and felicitated by Mass Welfare Society. Mr. Sanjib Sarkar presided over the entire programme.

19th January 2013

Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the organization was done through a get-together of all staff, teachers, members and well-wishers at the administrative office. A special gift was given to each and every staff and teacher.



12th February 2013

All the children of Beckbagan, Pragati Sangha and Matangini were taken for a **picnic to Science City**. The children had a thoroughly enjoyable time playing amongst themselves and were full of wonder on seeing the different gadgets displaying scientific principles in the various sections of Science City.



19th February 2013

All the children of Topsia and Peyarabagan were taken for a **picnic to Science City**.



8th March 2013

Women's Day was celebrated at Pragati Sangha. Several mothers of children who attended the centre participated in the programme. They were sensitized about the Rights of women and the key role that they played in their children's education. They also took part in a Quiz and many of them won instant prizes.



15th March 2013

Women's Day was also celebrated at Matangini. Mothers took part in a Quiz and instant prizes were given.



We pay homage to our Late President, Dr. Sudhir Bera, who left for his heavenly abode on 2nd January, 2013. A double MA, LLB and D. Lit, Dr. Sudhir Bera was an MLA and an Advocate of Calcutta High Court and Supreme Court of India. He was International Man of the Year 1991-92 (BC, UK) and Man of the Year 1992 (ABC, USA). An essayist, writer, poet and journalist, Dr. Bera was a versatile genius and a multi-faceted personality. As a visionary, for 22 years he was the guiding light of Mass Welfare Society and a constant source of inspiration and motivation for all. His demise is indeed a great loss to our organization. We are indebted to him for his contribution to our organization and pray that his soul may rest in peace.