

MASS WELFARE SOCIETY

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (2013-2014)

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From the Desk of the Secretary

Mr. Samiran Mullick
M.A. , B. Ed.



Warm Greetings to all from Mass Welfare Society!

Being an active part of the organization for the last 31 years, I would like to take the opportunity to present the Annual Progress Report of the organization for the year 2013-14. This has been a landmark year for our organization since we have ventured into new areas for increasing the depth and quality of our work and also to ensure the sustainability of our projects.

On behalf of our organization I would like to remember all our Board Members, Staff, Parents, Local Club Members and School Authorities who have helped us through the years. Special thanks to all of them for their continuous support.

I would also like express my heartfelt thanks and good wishes to all our donors, well wishers and friends in the country and abroad for being with us and keeping their faith on our commitment.

All our activities related to education, health, and training are going on smoothly and we are developing quantitatively as well as qualitatively day by day. We are exploring new avenues and I can envisage a compelling future when we will be able to make a significant difference in the lives of many more destitute children and other beneficiaries.

*There are many more promises to keep,
And miles to go before we sleep,
And miles to go before we sleep*

We trust in God and we believe that being our Savior, He will guide us, protect us and show us the best way.

Samiran Mullick

About Us

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.

Background of the Organisation

It was the early 80's when a group of serious, like-minded youth from various walks of life, committed to social development, initiated the effort to reach out to the 'poorest of the poor' slum-dwellers, with the holy blessings of the Mother of all joy- Mother Teresa.

After years of toiling effort and strenuous hardship to ensure the fundamental rights of the marginalized people of the city of Kolkata, the group registered itself in the year 1983, as Mass Welfare Society - an NGO committed for human development.

The basic premise being the same over the years, we resolve to bring a total transformation among the distressed segment of society, so that they can effectively participate in their own well-being in all spheres of life. 'Community in distress' had been, is and will be the core focus of our institution, and the strategies meant for development are emphatic to the 'poorest of the poor'.

Our Mission

Our mission is to create opportunities, security, resources and services to enable every individual to do and participate in the process of socio-economic development, irrespective of gender, caste, creed, religion, sex or political affiliations.

Our Goal

Our goal is to enhance the status of children in need of care and protection, women & other distressed population through ***Education, Health and Social Awareness***.

Our Programme

We are working to bring about sustainable change in the lives of the community people who represent the socio-economically backward sectors of our society. We are reaching out to those people through our activities and programmes who are not yet familiar to mainstreaming services. All our programmes of education, health, women's empowerment and social awareness are meant for and specially designed keeping in mind this marginalized section of the society.

Main Activities

Mass Welfare Society has been working for bringing a sustainable change in the lives of the vulnerable sections of the urban population, especially children & women. All our activities are designed and developed by the Project Management Unit (PMU) with the active participation of the local community at every point of time. MWS believes in upholding and works towards ensuring basic human rights to the core beneficiaries through the following strategic activities:

Ensuring the Rights of Children Especially the street & hardcore child labour, and children in need of Care & protection, through community-based academic and behaviour change support at preparatory & elementary levels, as well as their necessary follow-up measures, with allied support like nutrition, primary health care and vocational inputs .

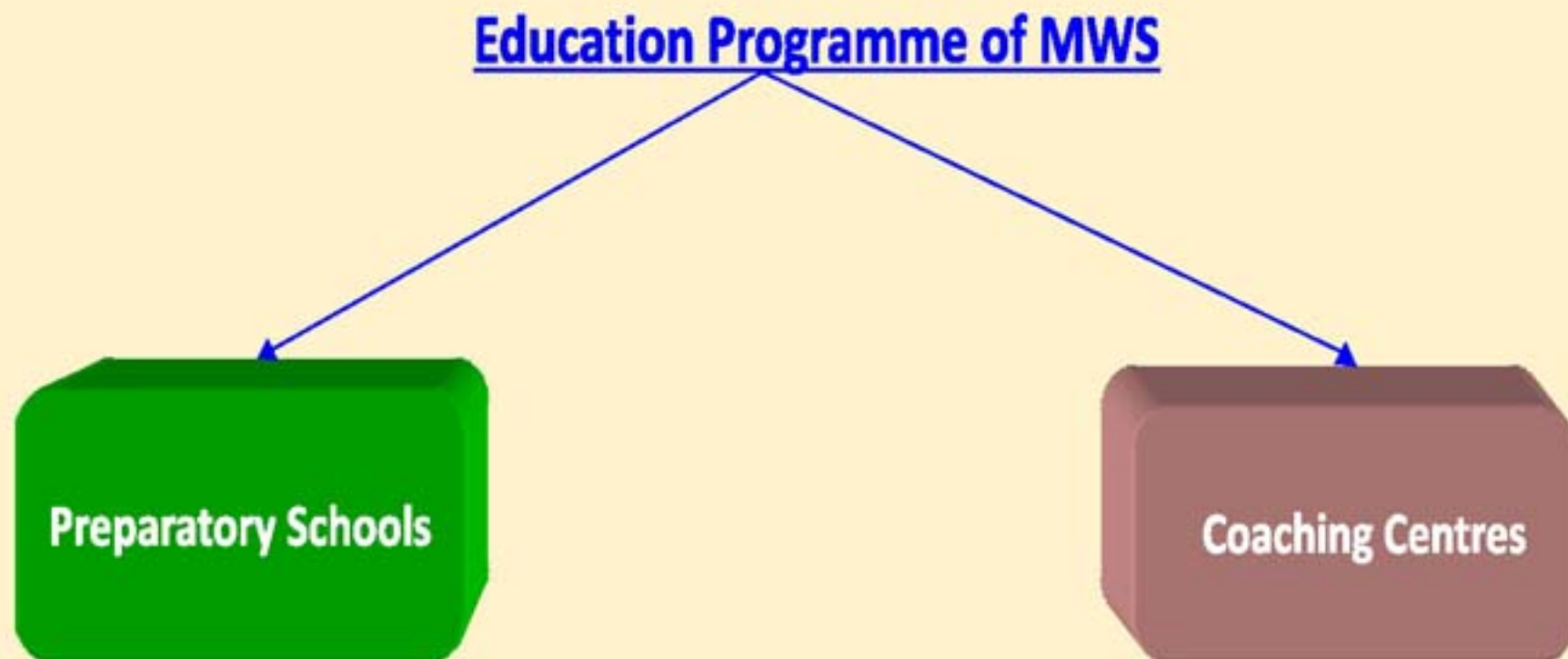
Development of Livelihood Opportunities Through creation and development of alternative livelihoods for adolescent girls and distressed women from urban slum-areas and extend capacity building support for their income generation in various creative vocations.

Capacity Building of local educated and unemployed youth from distressed communities, young & adolescents at-risk, community volunteers and staff on cross-cutting Socio-cultural issues, e.g., Child Rights, Human Rights, Women in Domestic Violence, Life Skills based education (Drug Abuse, HIV/AIDS etc.,) to create an enabling environment through networking and advocacy at city level.

Education, health care and nutrition are the main services provided by Mass Welfare Society to the beneficiaries. Our main activity consists of running 14 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.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The approach of Mass Welfare Society is more of a preventive kind rather than a curative one. Most slum children spend their time idly without any constructive activity and they are the ones who are vulnerable to every kind of abuse and exploitation. Our objective is to prevent these children from becoming child labours or fall prey to prostitution and human trafficking nets. By doing outreach work in the slums, we identify the children and then admit them into our non-formal education centres and later into formal schools. There are many success stories of children from miserable backgrounds who have completed their academics and established themselves who otherwise may have fallen victims of prostitution and trafficking.



Children from the local community are identified and their parents are encouraged to admit them into the **Preparatory Schools**. Here, the students undergo a bridge course of around 1 year's duration and children who are prepared are admitted into Government Formal Schools.

Children attending formal schools are provided with back-up tuition support and also supplied with allied educational materials in the **Coaching Centres**.

10 Preparatory Schools are operational. The details are :-

S/N	Name of Preparatory School	Address	No. Of Children
1	Azad Welfare Society	14/1, Ahiripukur 1st Lane, Kolkata - 700 019	120
2	Star Young Boys Club	7, Ahiripukur 2nd Lane, Kolkata - 700 019	30
3	Pragati Sangha	Panchannagram, EM Bypass, Kolkata - 700 039	60
4	Swami Vivekananda Vidyamandir	215, Shyamnagar Road (Nandipur) Dum Dum, Kolkata - 700 055	75
5	Little Angel School	14, Topsia Road, Kolkata - 700 039	25
6	Amar Sports Club	Topsia Road, Kolkata - 700 039	55
7	Little Flower School	P. O. Alida, South Bagnar, Dhamua, Dist 24 Paraganas (S)	60
8	Bhai Bhai Sangha	39/B, Beltala Road, Kolkata - 700 019	55
9	Mitra Sangha	39/B, Beltala Road, Kolkata - 700 019	25
10	Matangini Sangha	Matangini Colony, VIP Nagar, Kolkata - 700 100	55
Total No. of Children			560

4 Coaching Centres are operational. The details are :-

S/N	Name of Coaching Centre	Address	No. Of Children
1	Azad Welfare Society	14/1, Ahiripukur 1st Lane, Kolkata - 700 019	30
2	Star Young Boys Club	7, Ahiripukur 2nd Lane, Kolkata - 700 019	30
3	Matangini Sangha	Matangini Colony, VIP Nagar, Kolkata - 700 100	50
4	Bhai Bhai Sangha	39/B, Beltala Road, Kolkata - 700 019	50
Total No. of Children			160

The Education Programme was run successfully in 10 preparatory schools and 4 evening tutorial centers which are located in 5 slum areas namely Beckbagan, Peyarabagan (Bhowanipur), Topsia, Matangini Pally and Panchannagram on the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass and Dhamua a remote village close to Diamond Harbour in the South 24 Paraganas.



Mitra Sangha, Peyarabagan



Bhai Bhai Sangha, Peyarabagan



Swami Vivekananda Vidyamandir, Dum Dum



Little Flower School, Dhamua,

Both the Prep Schools and Tutorial Centres were operational 5 days a week (Monday Friday). The timings of the Prep Schools is normally from 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. and that of the Coaching Centres between 5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

Everyday nutritious food was served to the children coming to these schools. This is a very effective measure to ensure maximum retention.



Lunch at Dhamua

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

Teachers were **provided with educational aids** like various kinds of charts, educational toys etc.

Craft Training was provided once a week to create an open and wonderful world for the children. Children showed great interest towards this additional joyful learning activity.

Children of all the centres were taken for **picnics, educational outings and special events** like Sit & Draw Competition was organized for them.

Special Days like International Health Day, Independence Day, Teacher's Day, International Girl Child Day, Children's Day, Rabindra Jayanti etc. were celebrated in every centre. Children were given relevant inputs and also participated in fun activities.



Rabindra Jayanti



International Girl Child Day



Children's Day



Teacher's Day

Christian Teaching was organised regularly in all the centers with proper planning. An Evangelist visited all the schools once a week for teaching songs and stories from the Holy Bible. Special preaching sessions were also conducted by the Secretary/ Director of the organization once a month.

This year 86 children were mainstreamed into local accessible Government schools from our Preparatory schools.

HEALTH PROGRAMME

Once-a-monthly Health Checkup Clinic was organised for the poor school children and some needy community children in all the Preparatory Schools and Coaching Centres of Mass Welfare Society. Free medicines were provided to every needy patient. Special Awareness Programme on General Health & Hygiene by Dr. Banibrata Chattopadhyay was organized for the children, their parents and other members of the community.

The Height & Weight Card and vaccination cards are maintained for each and every child so as to measure the improvement or deterioration of the child's health. Treatment is done and medicines given accordingly.

<i>No of Patients Encountered In 2013-14</i>	<i>Problems Found During Intervention</i>
4325	Fever, Malaria, Scabies, Diarrhoea, Worms, Malnourishment & ENT Problems



Health Clinic

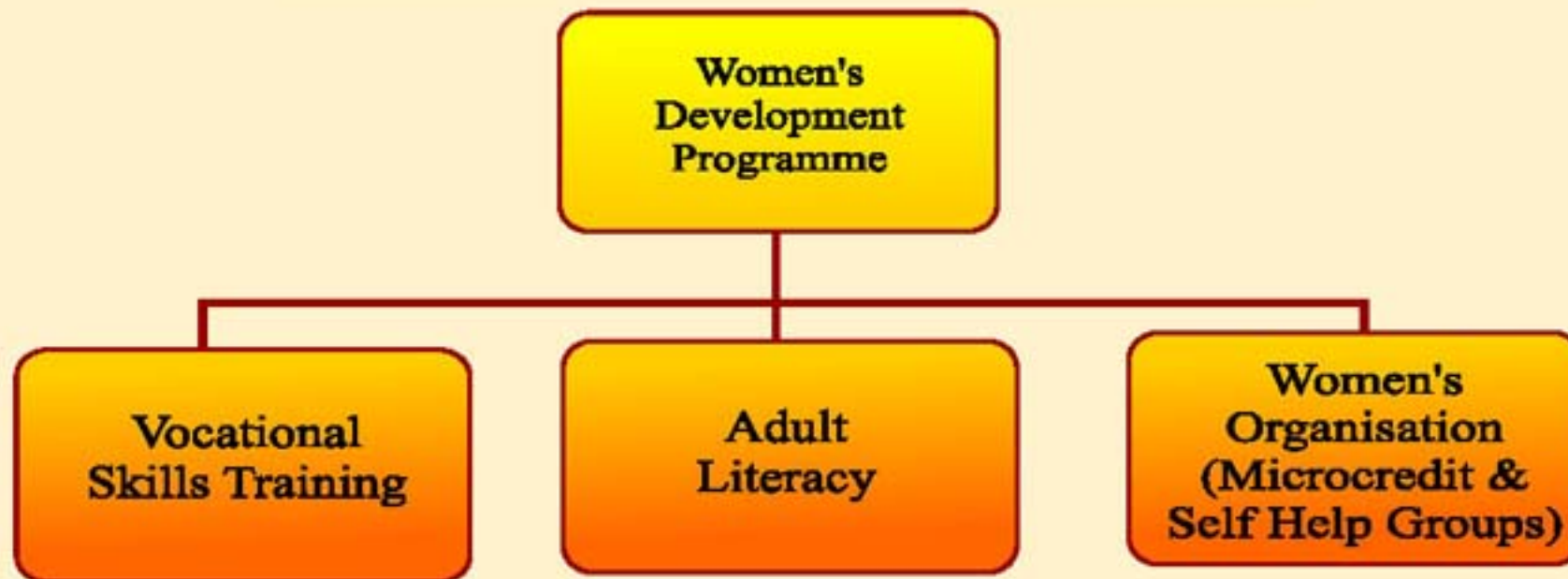


Height & Weight Measurement

The effectiveness of the Health Programme is evident from the positive feedback from needy children, who are the prime beneficiaries and also their parents and many other community people.

Total 83 Health Check-up Clinics were conducted during the year. Total number of heads with regard to medical services covered during the year was **4325** and the **average number of children per month** who received medical care was **460**.

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



The Women's Development Programme of Mass Welfare Society rests on 3 important pillars **Vocational Skills Training, Adult Literacy and Women's Organization**. The main activities under Programme were as follows :-

- **Vocational Skills Training Programme** was conducted throughout the year at 1 and 7, Ahiripukur 2nd Lane, Kolkata 700 019 with 76 women and adolescent girls from the local community. The VTC Instructor provided training in various vocational activities like Embroidery, Tailoring, Doll-Making, Soft Toy-Making and Mehendi Designing.



Vocational Training

- Trained participants from the Vocational Center further join in the **Production Center** and **many of them started their own business**. Trained workers worked on the basis of orders given from the Craft Resource Center.



Some VTC Products

- **42 widows from the local community got support** from the MWS for their earning by making Paper Bags.
- **Adult Literacy Programme** was organised at 7, Ahiripukur 2nd Lane. 32 women and adolescent girls, who had been compelled to leave their studies for various reasons at earlier stages, regularly participated in the programme.
- **Women's Organization** is a common platform for women to come together and share their views and also to form **Self-Help Groups**. Through the operation of a **Micro Credit Programme**, MWS extended financial assistance to 156 distressed and destitute women and motivated them to form Small Savings Group.

AWARENESS & SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME

By working at the grassroot levels for 31 years, Mass Welfare Society has built an excellent beneficiary base and a very good rapport with key stakeholders at all levels. Given this formidable platform, great effort was given during the year 2013-2014 to increase the depth of work across all cross-sections of beneficiaries so as to achieve more qualitative results and a long-lasting impact. Lack of awareness about RIGHTS coupled with the lack of willingness to fight for Rights has always been a major obstacle for community development. The emphasis this year was to make the people of the local communities more aware about Child Rights, Women's Rights and Human Rights in general. The following activities were conducted with a view towards increasing awareness and sensitization :-

Mother's Meetings (Total 68) were conducted with the mothers of children attending the various centres. Apart from open house sessions on the operation of the centres and the quality of services provided by MWS, Awareness Sessions on Child Rights, Child Abuse in all its forms, Violence against women, Women's Rights etc. were conducted for the mothers.

During the year 2013-2014, special emphasis was given on the issue of **Trafficking of Women and Children**. **6 Awareness Sessions on Trafficking** were conducted for the community mothers of Matangini, Pragati and Peyarabagan. The programmes included sharing of information about how trafficking rings operated at the source and final destinations, and open house sessions where participants were asked to share any knowledge they had about incidents of trafficking in their area. The main outcome of the Awareness Sessions was a commitment from the participants to report incidents of Trafficking and Sexual Abuse to the staff of Mass Welfare Society. The participants also agreed to form a vigilance group within their communities.



Awareness Programme on Women & Child Trafficking

A Handbook entitled **"Manab Pacharer Birudhdhe Amra Lorbo"** (We will fight against Human Trafficking) was printed and distributed among the mothers of the children in all the centres. The handbook contains statistics about Trafficking and Violence Against Women in West Bengal, existing laws, relevant IPC Sections, some Do's and Don'ts and the contact numbers and contact persons of the Women's Grievance Cell and Anti-Trafficking Departments at Kolkata Police Headquarters, Lalbazar and other like-minded NGOs who worked on the issues of trafficking and violence against women.



Relevant days of the World Social Calendar e.g. International Health Day, Population Day, International Literacy Day, Women's Day etc were celebrated with the mothers of children at various centres. The programmes included inputs about the particular day and a quiz with spot prizes for every correct answer.

MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAMMES

Several programmes are being organized by the organization for the betterment of the society.

- Night Services for providing medicines on urgent basis to the needy and poorest of the poor people.
- Clothes, medical and legal aid services have been provided to all irrespective of caste, creed and religion.
- Free spectacles with financial help for cataract operation are also provided to the needy and distressed people.
- Free ration was given to more needy community widow so that no such helpless women live without food.
- Regular health and eye check up Camp has also been organized in the 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 also provided to the students who are supposed to join in higher studies.
- Financial support along with proper guidance was also provided to patients with serious diseases like leprosy and T.B.
- Free sanitary napkins were supplied to adolescent girls to maintain sanitary hygiene.

LIST OF PROGRAMMES **(APRIL 2013 - MARCH 2014)**

7th April was **International Health Day** and as it was a Sunday, Health & Hygiene awareness programme was conducted on 8th April in all our centers.

5th June was **Environment Day** and sessions on the environment were conducted in all our centers. Eminent resource persons gave their speeches on the topic. There was also a **Quiz Competition** for the mothers' and anyone who answer correctly received a prize immediately food packets were also distributed among all the participants.



Environment Day

On 11th July, **Population Day** was observed at Pragati Sangha. Resource persons in their speeches told about the problems created due to overpopulation and the importance of family planning for a better future.

15th August, **Independence Day** was celebrated in each and every centre. Along with flag-hoisting, there were patriotic songs and theme-based dances by the children. Children were told about the relevance of independence and sweet packets were given to all the children.



Independence Day

On 5th September, **Teacher's Day** was celebrated in all the centres. Children presented flowers and gifts to the teachers of their respective centres to show their respect and love for them.



International Literacy Day

On 9th September, **International Literacy Day** was observed at all the centres. (8th September was a Sunday, so it was celebrated on Monday, the 9th). Resource persons stressed upon the importance of education and its advantages in their speeches.



International Girl Child Day

On 24th September, **International Girl Child Day** was celebrated in all the centres. The girls of the centres presented beautiful dances and songs. They were also told, according to their level, about the need for the empowerment of girls and women. At the end of the programme, food packets were given to all the girls.



Training on 'Trafficking'

On 7th and 8th October 2013 Teacher's Training was organized for all staff and teachers of MWS. The main topic was "Trafficking", and the objective was to make teachers more aware about trafficking in West Bengal.

On 14th November 2013 **Children's Day** was celebrated in the centres of MWS. Children sang songs, gave dance performances and recited poetry. All children were given sweets and fruits.



Children's Day Celebrations at Various Centres

In November 2013, Mass Welfare Society gave a **stall for Handicraft Production** at the premises of St. James School. This sale was organized by Bible Society of India.

In the month of December 2013, **Christmas Programme** was celebrated on different days at different centres. In this programme Children and their parents enjoyed very much. The birth of Jesus Christ was played by the children; they sang different Christmas songs and after the programme, all children given food packets and clothes.



Christmas Celebrations at Various Centres

On 11th January 2014, **Children's Festival** to commemorate the 31st Anniversary of Mass Welfare Society was held at Bishop's College, Kolkata. About 800 children participated. There were many splendid performances of songs, dance, drama and elocution by the students of the different centres. For the entertainment, there was a Magic Show, several jokers in costumes, and various games. Eminent social workers and leaders attended this programme and delivered their speeches. Parents of our students and many people from the local community also attended the programme. Food packets were provided to all children. A Handicrafts Stall of our Women's Development Programme displayed several hand-made articles.



Children's Festival at Bishop's College to Commemorate 31st Anniversary of MWS



Foundation Day

On 19th January, 2014, all our staff celebrated our **31st Foundation Day** at Office. A thanksgiving prayer meeting was held in which all staff participated enthusiastically.

On 23rd January, 2014, a **Picnic** was organized for all staff at Bandel Church.



Staff Picnic at Bandel



Blanket Distribution at Dhamua

On 29th January, 2014, **warm blankets were distributed to the elderly and needy people** of Dhamua.

On 28th January, 2014, a **Sit & Draw Competition** for the children of the different centres was organized at Millennium Park. The children were divided into 3 groups according to age. For each group, there was a 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prize. Apart from this, consolation prizes were also given. Food Packets were provided to all children.



Sit & Draw Competition



Educational Tour

On 13th February, 2014, children were taken for an **Educational Tour** to Birla Science and Technological Museum. The children enjoyed very much and learnt many useful things.

On 18th February, 2014, children were taken for an **Outing to the Zoological Gardens**. As always, children really enjoyed seeing the different animals and had a fun time at the Zoo.



Outing to Zoological Gardens



Women's Day

On 8th March, a Programme to celebrate **Women's Day** was organized for all the mothers of children at our Pragati Sangha School. A Resource person conducted a short session on women's empowerment which was followed by a Quiz on great women achievers. Instant prizes were given to those mothers who answered correctly.

On 18th March, 2014, we welcomed Ms. Sam Dowling and Mr. Rick Chase (Stand As One Ministry, Canada) at Kolkata and on 19th March we accompanied them to Dum Dum Park School, where they demonstrated how to prepare the **Fedwell Soup**. All children and teachers enjoyed the healthy drink.



Fedwell Soup Making Demo

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Mass Welfare Society is registered as a Society under West Bengal Societies Registration Act XXVI of 1961 with Registration no S/40888 of 1983-84 dated 08.04.1983.
- Mass Welfare Society is registered with the Income Tax Department under Section 12A No DIT (E) S-96 (8E/124/2003-04 dated 01.04.2003.
- All contributions to Mass Welfare Society are exempted under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 of DIT (E)/8E/124/03-04/5344-46 dated 10.02.2004.
- Mass Welfare Society has registered under F.C.R.A, 1976. Registration No-147110150 dated 20.05.1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.
- Income Tax Permanent Account No is AABTM1917D.
- Our Board Members met four times in the financial year 2013-14. It met on 22.06.13, 07.09.13, 02.12.13 & 01.03.14.
- Average 09 (nine) Board Members were present at each of these meetings.

An Appeal to you

The organization would like to express heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all its Donors, Well Wishers, Community Stakeholders and Teachers who have helped a lot to ensure its continuous development.

You can play an important role through your generous willing.
Please enrich our organization by your valuable suggestions and financial assistance.

(We are registered under 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act. All your donations will be exempt from tax)

Your support will surely help us to create a better situation for the deprived children and the destitute women.

No matter where you are and how small your help is,
Mass Welfare Society will feel proud and benefit by it.

Our Bank details UCO Bank, Circus Avenue Branch.
17, Lower Range, Kolkata-700017,
West Bengal, INDIA

CONTACT DETAILS

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