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49 Years Of Dedicated Community Service



From the *Director's* desk

Originally referred to as International Working Women's Day, **International Women's Day** is observed on **8th day of March** every year. On this special day for the women, people all around the world express their love and honour for the women for their political, social and economic achievements. This day is celebrated to create awareness among the masses regarding the rights, abilities and security of women in our society. Within the family, people celebrate **International Women's Day** to show their gratitude and respect to the women of their family.

A woman is so much more than just a mother, sister, daughter, spouse, sister in-law or mother in-law. She has the power to procreate, to endure and cope up with so much pain and sacrifice with an ever-smiling face. In fact, they are the strength of this world. They play a very vital role in the society.

Women are the source of life; they give birth to children, nurture families and build the society. They are dreamers, believers, doers and achievers.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day 2022 is "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow."

Seva Kendra Calcutta has been working for the empowerment of women for almost five decades through self-help groups by identifying and nurturing women in rural and urban areas of West Bengal.

Women are made to realize their rights through capacity building, raising their voice against injustice and income generating activities through life skill and livelihood training.

Seva Kendra Calcutta has been working tirelessly and ceaselessly for the last 49 years in rendering services to bring gender equality, human dignity, upholding peace, justice and other social values.

Women and girl children experience the greatest impact of the climate crisis as it amplifies existing gender inequalities and puts women's lives and livelihood at a greater risk. Across the world, women depend more on natural resources and yet have less access to it. They often bear a disproportionate responsibility for food, water, and fuel for their households.

I would like to add that women are essential in leading and driving the change in the society, world and ideology at large. This issue of gender biasness will only be eradicated when women are given their rightful place to come forward and stand tall in front of the society. For we believe change is the only constant in this world, and women are the catalyst to this change.

Vision

A self-reliant society based on peace, love and justice, respecting the human dignity and natural environment.

Mission

Building of a Harmonious Society, based on Cultural Ethos, inspired by Spiritual Heritage, Socially and Environmentally sound through Participatory Process.

About

Seva Kendra Calcutta is the Relief and Development arm of the Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta.

Established in 1973, the organization has diversified fields of activities within the scope of social development and intermediate technologies. Seva Kendra Calcutta works in eight districts of West Bengal state. It is noted for its result oriented and professional team of staff and volunteers. Over the years it has built up a network of support agencies through strategic partnerships.

A Word of Gratitude to Our Donors

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our donors for their generosity and overwhelming support especially during the Covid 19 pandemic times



International Women's Day



society and were given a platform to air their views to thousands of people, an opportunity they never got in their homes. We were fortunate to have several guests with us and would like to thank each and every one of them for their words of encouragement for the women who were present. Special thanks to Fr. Dominic Gomes, Vicar General, Chancellor and Public Relations Officer of the Archdiocese of Calcutta. We would also like to thank our director Fr. Anthony Rodrick for his support in organizing this programme. There were 180 participants in this programme.

Seva Kendra Calcutta organized the celebration of the International Women's Day on 8th March at 11am to empower women in every sphere of life. The purpose of this programme was to encourage and propagate the concept of equal participation in society. Through this programme the women were encouraged to realize their potential to create a just

PROJECT

Natural Resource Management (NRM)



The International women's day was celebrated in SKC's NRM Project locations to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts, constant patience, repeated struggles and achievements of all the target women and the solar technicians in the project area. This initiative also upholds their success stories and recognizing their major challenges, towards the journey from a housewife to a solar technician of the village. There were various events like motivational speeches from leading women personalities, sports, cultural programmemes, sharing of dialogues and interchange of ideas, which connected women from every sector and established a common forum to encourage their inspiring actions. All the women participants took active part and whole heartedly enjoyed the occasion without any discrimination. The celebration was conducted in 3 blocks namely Kesiary, Dantan in West Medinipur and Gopiballavpur in Jhargram district.



Sambandh

Seva Kendra Calcutta's Project Sambandh celebrated International Women's Day 2022 at both rural and urban set up of its working points mainly at Kolkata, Howrah and Balihati on 8th March 2022. Various fun filled events were arranged for candidates of skill development programmes to mark this day special. At Balihati, candidates celebrated this event for the very first time, so they were filled with enthusiasm and thanked Seva Kendra Calcutta for this opportunity. Apart from these activities women were motivated to raise their voices to curb ongoing issues in their community mainly related to "Environment and sanitation". At Howrah, an awareness session was arranged to reinforce Health through proper nutrition. At Kolkata, Team building and group formulation was done in pockets to promote fight against the issue of garbage at their community (Jainkunj). "Happiness kits", which had health and hygiene items, were distributed to 67 participants along with project staff.



Improved Cooking Stove (ICS)

ICS Project celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March at 11 am in Makmalpur village of Dantan -1 Block in West Midnapore by ICS for a sustainable Climate Change Management in rural kitchen of West Midnapore district. The



chief guest was Mrs. Kalyani Dey secretary of Samoboy Samity and Mr. Koro Besra President of ST Community. 90 women were welcomed with flowers and tribal dance. Games were arranged for the women such as musical chair and spoon balancing. All the women participated and thoroughly enjoyed the event. Prizes and 100 saplings were distributed on the special day.

Swadhina

Young members of various Kishor and Kishor Bahini (adolescent girls & boys) performed a number of skits and plays on the ills and dangers of child marriage; plight of being trafficked through false promises; and how to practice safe migration. Young girls played the harmonium and sang beautiful songs and recited poems on issues related to women and children.



SAMBANDH PROJECT



Day 1: First Aid Kits Distribution Campaign at North 24 Pargana

Seva Kendra Calcutta's Project Sambandh initiated a special campaign to create awareness among truck drivers regarding availability of First Aid Kits in their trucks. The campaign was launched on 08th March 2022, on the eve of International Women's Day at Central Warehouse Corporation parking (CWC), Petrapole, North 24 Parganas. Various sessions in batches were conducted for truck drivers on essential medical consumables to be kept in the First Aid Box, its usability and to ensure they carry the vital box both for short and long distance journeys. On the inauguration day manager's of CWC's Land Ports Authority of India, CWC Parking, Border Security Force and the Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church, Chhoyghoria, were present as guests to grace the occasion. They shared their views and opinion on the importance of kits. Later, the Project team had a discussion with them on having First Aid Kits / Kiosk facilities within the parking premises for truck drivers and other staff. 97 First Aid kits were distributed to the participants on the day of launch. Sambandh organised a Health and Hygiene programme for truck drivers on



08th March 2022 at Dockgate, Haldia, East Medinipur. 300 truck drivers participated and Health and Hygiene kits were distributed to them by the Project Staff.

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Bedside Assistant Programme



The General Duty Assistant or GDA programme is designed to provide quality care to patients admitted in nursing homes and hospitals. Upon successful completion of the General Duty Assistant course, one can take up the responsibility of Patient Care in Home Health also. After clearing the exam, students become certified General Duty Assistants and thus can work in an efficient and knowledgeable manner. Seva Kendra started the course in the month of December 2020. Duration of the course is 3 months. After 3 months candidates are placed in various Health Care Sectors. The course started with 40 students between the age of 18 and 40. The course was started both Online and Offline. The main focus is on Patient Vital Signs, Bed Sore Treatment, Basic Patient care and Patient Care Technology System etc. General Duty Assistants have a plethora of career options to choose from and can progress by taking on more responsibilities. Certified students start their careers as General Duty Assistants, after which they can take up the profession of Nursing Assistants. After gaining some experience they can take up the job role of Supervisors, Floor Supervisors, and finally Managers.



EVENTS

Workshop On Local Governance And Social Legislation



The Community Empowerment Project of Seva Kendra Calcutta organized a Workshop on Local Governance and social legislation. The workshop aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge of participative tools and good governance, particularly at the local level. The workshop focused specifically on:

- Mobilising the community to effectively engage in local governance
- Enhancing their skills and perceptions to influence policy processes
- Supporting in sharing good practices and lessons learnt on social accountability governance
- Introducing practical solutions to policy implementation and monitoring municipality
- Building networks around participatory local governance

It was fortunate to have Mr. Gautam Nag, Secretary of District Legal Authority Service (DLSA), Ms. Jayita Adhikary, Protection Officer, Kolkata, Mr. Pradip Ghosh PLV of DLSA and Dr. Aresh Chakraborty, Consultant as resource persons for the workshop.

The Sambandh Project supports truck drivers' children in their local community by providing free group tuition both for primary and secondary students. At present these classes are functional in batches at Jainkunj (kolkata) and Shalimar (Howrah). Apart from regular coaching, children are also taught moral values, importance of exercise etc. These centres also provide support to nurture their talent.

FIRE DISASTER RELIEF DISTRIBUTION



A major fire broke out at a godown in Kolkata's Mehr Ali Lane in the Tangra area in Kolkata on 12th March, 2022 and the firefighters had great difficulty getting inside the godown which was engulfed in flames. Two fire brigade personnel were injured during the dousing operation. Tangra in Kolkata is the area where Seva Kendra Calcutta has worked to improve the lives of the people for the last ten years. Many community-based organizations were formed which meet regularly to address issues in their area. When the fire broke out, members from the community called us for help. Our team from Seva Kendra Calcutta responded immediately. The factory being gutted caused the workers to lose their livelihood; and it will take time to get back to normalcy. The fire affected the nearby apartments as well but all were evacuated to safety. According to our survey 50 families were affected by this disaster. SKC provided 50 dry ration kits to the affected families to suffice for a week. The community members were grateful to SKC for their support at the time of crisis.

Learning Tree



The Learning Tree Project of Seva Kendra Calcutta supported by Kalpavriksha organized an Awareness Campaign on the Importance of Education in the following areas of Ward 80: BB Hall, Sonai, Sick Lane, Taratalla, Babriban, and Paharpur. This project has been operational since 2021. About 70 students attend the tuition centre regularly. The objective of this project is to reduce the number of school drop-outs and mainstream them into government schools.

Natural Resource Management (NRM)



The NRM Project aims to improve the energy security of the rural population as well as the income opportunity of the tribal women in the districts of West Medinipur and Jhargram. Since its inception, the project has transformed 402 indigenous women into solar technicians, who are acting as catalysts for dissemination and conversion to renewable energy sources. Solar products and LED bulbs are assembled and marketed. The project scope and impact has been enhanced by improving the skillset of the solar technicians, simultaneously providing an alternative livelihood option for the tribal women. Recently the project has received an order to assemble 2000 pcs of LED bulbs from SKCs Project Sambandh. Besides providing a considerable rate of profit margin to the women technicians, the power-efficient LEDs contribute towards climate change mitigation, by consuming less power, hence reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per household.

Sustainable Community Development (SCD)



The SCD project team of Seva Kendra Calcutta organized an awareness programme on adolescent health and anaemia in collaboration with The Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital. Dr. Mahua Majumdar and Dr. Sabir Kamal conducted this awareness session. The objective of this programme was to create awareness on the importance of adolescent health and anaemia. The participants were informed about the cause, symptoms and prevention of anaemia as well as the growth phases of the body during adolescence. They were also informed about the maintenance of hygiene during menstruation. The total number of beneficiaries in this programme was 45.