



BULLETIN : 14

from **DURBAR**

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Durbar took out a rally on May Day

Sex work and workers were often treated as a blot on civil society and despite working so hard they hardly get any respect by people.



Durbar, a forum exclusively of sex workers and their children, took out a rally on 30th April night on the occasion to celebrate May Day (Labour Day) from Rabindra Kanan and finally converged at College square seeking legalization of sex work.

Around 2000 sex workers and their children from different red light districts of Kolkata paraded down the streets to raise their voices to get recognition as worker.

If a normal worker can enjoy all facilities why can't the sex workers as they also toil hard to earn their livelihood. They should also be recognized as entertainment workers. Thus every year Durbar celebrates this day,

keeping in mind the demand of social rights and status of sex workers. They have been fighting for the cause since past 17 years.

Other unorganized workers like domestic workers and construction workers were also participated in this rally.

Durbar participated in the campaign of **"Asangathitha Khetra Sramik Swikriti Abhijan 2012"**



"Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee" as a member of Sramajibi Swikriti Mancha participated in the "Asangathitha Khetra Sramik Swikriti Abhijan" a two day campaign to sensitize the unorganized labour and homeless people. The campaign was inaugurated on 10th April 2012 by 10 unorganized workers of different sector including Sex workers, rag pickers, rickshaw pullers, domestic workers and others at Sealdah Station. The sex workers demanded for their workers right while the rag pickers discussed about the conditions in which they have to do jobs to earn their livelihood. Domestic workers raised their voices to be included as labour. A tableau roamed different areas of Kolkata and Howrah to sensitize the unorganized workers and the homeless people

who are the poorest of the poor. The persons engaged in unorganized sector, with low wage and without any social security coverage constitutes poorest of the poor's section of the mass. Most of them do not even know about the schemes of the government despite of their rightful entitlement.

The tableau roamed in different parts of Kolkata sensitizing the unorganized workers by visiting various localities through leafleting. It roamed from Sealdah to Sonagachi, from Hazra to Howrah Maidan creating awareness of the mass. Besides that, it also organized a signature campaign demanding the rights of the unorganized workers. Durbar participated in it as an integral part of the campaign where the sex workers demanded their workers' rights.

On 11th May, 5 street corners were also organized by the partners including Beadon street , Hazra crossing, Sealdah crossing, Taratala crossing and Howrah Maidan area.

Durbar Football League has erased the so called line of Demarcation

Durbar initiated a football league during 2010 in the name of Durbar Football League. This year i.e., in 2012, the 3rd football league was started on 21st April where 16 teams from different red



light districts were participated in it. This year two football team representing children from other communities took part in the football league.

The final tournament was held on 30th April at Rabindra Kanan, and the team from Sonagachi bagged the shield and Kalighat become the runners up.. The tournament was enjoyed by spectators representing main stream society present there. It erased the so called line of

demarcation.

The final match was attended by eminent personalities like former football player Gouranga Banerjee, renowned football player P. K. Banerjee and the honorable Minister of Sports & transport (West Bengal), Madan Mitra, honourable MLA, Sashin Paja etc.