

## **Activity report of Girls Education programme for the period of October2008 to December2008**

Sonali Parbat (G. No. 771) daughter of Ajay Parbat of Balakhali village is a student of class VIII. Her father married again and started to live separately but always tried to control over Sonali's mother and Sonali. Recently her father selected a boy and instructed to Sonali's mother to arrange her marriage. We do not know why Sonali's mother was so scared of her father who did not take any responsibility of them. Her mother was almost ready to arrange her marriage. Sonali complained to our social worker, Jharna Barik against her parents. Jharna with some of our Mohila Mondal members tried to convince her mother. In the mean time some of her friends, Jhulik Das (our student of class- X1), Jayanti SardarG.No.391) and other girls visited to the would-be Groom's house and threatened them that if they would proceed further those girls would laudged FIR against the groom's family. Because child marriage is a criminal offence according to the law of land. Then the marriage was stopped.

We are trying hard to stop child marriage. But it is a deep rooted problem. It will take more time to stop this bad social custom. Only our daughters are now creating a new hope by standing against this social evil and it is only because of you. We are really grateful to you.

The tuition fees for the month of October, November and December'o8 have been distributed.

Three workshops for tutors were organized.

Issue discussed:

- a)Teaching method of Geography
- b)Low cost materials of Geography
- c)Problems of slow learners

Average attendance of teachers training was 35.

Nine school visits were conducted.

Three tutors meetings were conducted. One of them was conducted by Mrs. Rithu Saraugi on 18.12.08 and another two by Mr. Samir Ghosh on 4.10.08 and 21.11.08 .

Average attendance was 38.

Issue discussed:

- a)English Teaching
- b) Teaching method of Math.

Nine parents meet and two parents teacher meet were organized.

Issue discussed:

- a) Evening coaching and night coaching classes.
- b) Attendance of girls in coaching classes and school because this was festive and harvesting session.

c) Importance of unit test.

Core team meeting:

Three meetings were organized. Average attendance was 51.

Issue discussed:

- a) Menstruation hygiene
- b) Importance of latrine and how to motivate parents
- c) Hygiene habit (hand washing, safe handling of drinking water etc.)

Girls organized a campaign on hand washing in community and school in December. Govt. school teachers were pleased and appreciated very much.

Eleven girls would appear in final examination of higher secondary in March 2009. Special home visits, mother's meets, coaching visits were conducted. Every body of NISHTHA was very tensed and excited for the same. Because this was the first time at NISHTHA that our girls would appear in secondary examination.

Case study:

Madhabi Sanfui of Betberia village is a student of XII. Her father has no job and mother is an agricultural laborer with a meager income. So she has to earn to supplement her family. She is engaged in an odd job i.e. skinning and separating feather of chicken. Every day she has to work for two to three hours. But she is a very ambitious girl and studying Geography which is very uncommon in rural area. Her teacher says that if she has an opportunity to leave her job, she can secure good result in exam. She is the first girl in her village who is studying class XII.

Madhumita Dhali, another girl, is a student of class XII. Her father is a grocer. But as he is an illiterate person, Madhumita has to help her father. Every day she comes to Baruipur from Matsakhali village to purchase materials for the shop, keeps accounts, repays the loans to the whole sellers etc. But she is very keen to continue her studies. She is the first child in her family who is studying high school. Now parents are realizing the importance of girl's education.

**Jhilik Das (411) Jayanti Sardar (391).**

Every year, in May and June, we evaluate our programme and seat with our expert, Ms. Rithu Sarawagi for necessary modification of strategy, if any.

This year we have slightly changed our programme. Our social workers are visiting coaching classes, each for three times in a week and after then absentees of coaching classes are visited. Comments and suggestions of these visit reports are being discussed in the tutors meet and parents meet. This year some tutors are changed from their own centres to another. For this reason we have to check and re-check the tuition classes.

This year also we have to appoint new tutors, but only four. Their classes are being visited regularly. This year we have 39 tutors and total number of students is 820.

We have to face difficulties to get good tutors of different subject especially English and Science.

39 tutors have been given their tuition fees for the month of May and June for teaching 820 girls.

820 girls have been distributed educational materials such as Khata (Exercise books), books etc.

3 tutors meet have been conducted and Issues discussed:

- ◆ Result of Annual Examination.
- ◆ Problems regarding admission.
- ◆ Problems of tutors regarding changing centres.
- ◆ Expert's opinion about the teaching methods of the tutors.

4 tutors' workshops have been conducted and Issue discussed:

- ❖ Change of books in Government School.
- ❖ New rules of Board of Secondary Education regarding slow learners.
- ❖ English and Math teaching methods.

3 Core team trainings have been conducted and Issue discussed:-

- ❖ Personal hygiene and menstruation hygiene.
- ❖ Lack of privacy and importance of latrine and present situation.
- ❖ Problems regarding admission.

School visit:- during this period: Social workers and senior project managers have visited 16 schools. They have to visit 5 high schools for about 26 times during this period.

Issues of visit:-

- ❖ Solve the problems of new admission and re-admission.
- ❖ Collect incomplete result.

Parent's meet- 12 parents' meets have been organized during this period.

Issues discussed:-

- ❖ Results obtained by girls in Annual Examination.
- ❖ Admission in time.
- ❖ Change of tutors.

Case Study

Mousumi Mistri (grade sheet No. 447), daughter of Nimai Mistri of Andharmanik village and a student of class VIII. 2 years back she lost her mother and her father was missing. Now she is living with her uncle (father's brother). But she is unwanted in this family. Now, from few months her uncle and his wife have started torturing her. They have intention to grab her father's property. But she has no where to go and stay. In spite of this unfortunate incident and cruelty she is very keen to continue her studies. This year she stood 2nd in her class.

She is very hard working but we do not know how many days she will be able to bear the humiliation and mental pressure created by her close relatives. We are unable to arrange any substitute place for her stay. We are very much worried for her.