

: JOIN THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

# PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

by the people; for the people, pro people  
a right based social welfare organisation  
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## ANNUAL REPORT for the year of: 2012-2013

### SECRETARY'S DESK

**Friends,**

In the year 2012-2013 a number of Community Development Programme viz., Human Rights Education, Human Rights Awareness Programme, Right to information Camp, Community Library, Empowerment program of Urban Women, Empowerment Programme of Rural Women , Awareness on Environment Issue, Aged People program, Children education, Vocational training and life skill education for youth, Awareness against Alcoholism, 'Vote for Democracy' Camps, Domestic Violence Issue, Seminars on beggars, Football tournament for youth, Research on Beggars, Awareness on Consumer rights, Awareness on Communal Harmony, Career & academic Counseling, Domestic Workers Programme, Adult education for women, Networking etc were our common programme throughout the years.

To conclude, my sincere rest gratitude and warm wishes to all the individual donors, members, consultants, volunteers and sympathizers of "People's Participation", whose unstinted support in every possible way has made our task much easier to accomplish.

With regards,

**Secretary**

## **FROM PP's CORNER:**

Human Rights is the rights which cannot be given or get but by born s/he earns. To get the food, shelter and cloth are the basic rights of each people apart from many others like freedom of speech, freedom of reside, freedom of choose religion and/or culture etc. Primarily, we are focused on the Rights on Food as per the need and culture. We, People's Participation are concentrated on the beggars whose rights on food are denied. Our relentless struggle against this denial is on till the battle is on. All disadvantaged groups e.g. women, children, aged and others irrespective of their castes, creeds, colours, status etc. have the inherent capacity to take responsibility and make choices about their lives. In fact, they are able to articulate and access their rights and emerge as leaders facilitating positive social change. People's Participation (PP) sees itself as a facilitator enabling this change. It believes that access to information and knowledge about the world and the changing political, social and economic structures contribute to the target groups having greater control over their lives.

A culture of silence prevents the disadvantaged groups from articulating their dreams and aspirations as well as to express the pains of violations they have experienced. People's Participation hopes to create a culture of questioning that strengthens their abilities to challenge and change the structures that keep them silent. A collaborative and collective process that connects individuals and organization with each other enhances learning in a mutually beneficial way. People's Participation aims to draw on this synergy to help reach common goals. **People's Participation** activities spread to several Districts in West Bengal and assistant has come from the local authorities, eminent personnel and citizens. Committed individuals from every lifestyle have chipped in. Since its inception, the goal of the People's Participation team has been to ensure that people gets their rights and is living in a healthy environment.

Over this 8-year period, People's Participation has organized thousands of people in different areas to become human rights facilitators, catalyzing life style changes within their communities. People's Participation has developed a unique model based on Peoples' rights to participation and development wherein they act as agents of change by forming groups and spreading awareness within their localities. As we look back on another year and reflect on achievements and obstacles, let us reiterate the key elements that make **People's Participation** unique—its replicable and strong foundation, a broad vision encompassing an inclusive geographical approach, a complete coverage, coupled with close links and co-operation with the Government.

## **From PP's office desk:**

Collaboration has always been a driving force behind **People's Participation** mission to see that all people enjoy their RIGHT TO LIFE, right to get information, right to vote, right to speak, right to work & food, rights to health, education, equality, and protection. People's Participation continues to build alliances with Governments, communities, general people & other stakeholders.

**VISION of ‘People’s Participation’ :** Empowerment of the vulnerable section of the disadvantaged section; to provide basic Education, Health, Training, Recreation to the down trodden people and empowerment of women and adolescent girls of the Society. To secure **“Food-Shelter- Work”** for all’ is our dream.

**OBJECTIVES of us:**

- a) To promote sympathy, fellow feelings and unity among the followers of different faith so as to evolve a sense of social and religious toleration.
- b) To enlistment the child rights for the poor children, in regard their education, primary health, nutrition and vocational trainings.
- c) To work for the women’s various issues- as against dowry custom, domestic violations, education, mental health etc.
- d) Gender sensitization programmes, human rights awareness programmes, programmes against addictions and more awareness programmes as and when required against social evils among the different communities.
- e) Rehabilitation programmes for the beggars/Vagrants.
- f) Rehabilitation programme for the old aged people.
- g) To do all social welfare activities including public health and other development works in the communities.
- h) To promote and encourage advancement of literacy, cultural and education
- i) To work n a major population health issue (communicable, non-communicable and sexually transmitted diseases) as STD/HIV and AIDS through preventive actions, awareness, early detection, screening and management involving establishment of charitable hospitals, with counseling facilities with the help of qualified medical practitioners, Para medical staffs, health workers and volunteers.
- j) To work against human trafficking, to prohibit this trade from the root, create awareness among the community people against this social evil.
- k) to work for the “ poorest of the poor” community in our society to establishment their food and work rights.
- l) to do all such acts, deeds, matters and things as may be deemed incidental or conducive to the forgoing objects.
- m) Awareness building and protection of environment. To built a pollution free society.
- n) To work on communal harmony and peace building among different caste, class and religion.
- o) To work on Yoga therapy to cure diseases and to spread yoga concept through awareness building.
- p) To promote the interest of consumers and their rights through awareness building and other in depth programmes, to link up activities with State and Central Govt when required.
- q) Work with old aged people, their legal rights, mental and physical health issue.
- r) Women are the most vulnerable section of our society; so we will work with the interest of women. There are different issues; as dowry system, education, vocational training, mental and physical health, HIV & AIDS related issue, domestic violence, Domestic Help and other marginalized society in urban and rural areas.
- s) To protect the children rights through providing education, nutrition, sports and other activities and also charitable dispensary.

- t) To work with the youths on their vocational training, life skill education, training, awareness on social and cultural development, education and community library & Charitable dispensary.
- u) Sports & Games will be the other important activities to protect our society from social evils.
- v) Celebration of special days, like Independent Day, Rabindranath Tagore Birth Day Celebration Etc.
- w) To work for the interest of different sex people (Lesbians, Eunuch, by sexual & other).
- x) To do all kind of social and economical studies and research.
- y) Offering human Rights Education to the general people and make them aware on human rights issues.
- z) To work on adult education programme to eradication illiteracy among the adult people.
- Z-1) To work for the beggars to bring them under the scanner of the Govt ambit.
- Z-2) To organize Cultural Programme, to protect our culture, to organize seminar, workshop, rallies and meetings.
- Z-3) Work for the betterment on rural development through awareness programmes, training, research, livelihood etc.
- Z-4) Work closely to protect our democracy through awareness building on 'Caste your Vote' programme. Good Governance, Law and civil Society, economic reform and development and International relation.
- Z-5) Work on Urban poverty thematic issue as and when required.
- Z-6) To establishment of Backward Classes people's rights with the co-operation with State & Central Govt.
- Z-7) Work for SC/St/Minority peoples' betterment through vocational training, education, life skills, Awareness building workshops etc.
- Z-8) Organizing workshops, seminars, meetings, rallies for the interest of the poor and marginalized people of the society.
- Z-9) To maintaining libraries and reading rooms.
- Z-10) To open orphanage and family planning centers.
- Z-11) To impart academic and vocational training education.
- Z-12) To encourage the use of scientific and technological advancement while conserving the balance on the natural environment for the good of the people.
- Z-13) To render relief to the sufferings in times of famine, flood, draughts, earth quake and other natural calamities.
- Z-14) To do all social programmes through 'Corporate Social Responsibility's grants.
- Z-15) To do all such social, economical activities for the betterment of Indigenous people.

### **People's Participation:**

**People's Participation (PP)** has started a worldwide movement of volunteers and professionals standing up for human rights. Independent of any government, ideology, economic interest or religion, we are providing human rights training programme to spreading the human rights among all. Our purpose is to research, campaign and take action to effect change and protect individuals wherever rights, justice, fairness, freedom and truth are deny. With the start of year 2012-2013 '**People's Participation**' entered its **8th Year** of age. The year **2012-2013** was another year to fulfill the dreams of "People's Participation" so it was full of activities for 'People's Participation'.

Members of ' **People's Participation** ' contacted and visited several educational institutions, Governmental institutions, Organizations and eminent personalities of local, state and National levels to present discuss and launch its developmental and other projects for the noble cause of Social Development. In this way ' **People's Participation** ' motivated people in the light of Cultural-educational- social - environmental –political awareness and launched its various projects and campaigns.

During the year **2012- 2013**, a number of Community Development Programme viz., Human Right Education Course, Human Right Awareness Programme, Right to Information Camp, Empowerment programme of Women, Awareness on Environment- water- sanitation Issue & Conservation of Biodiversity, Aged People programme, Children Education, Vocational Training for Youth; Career & Academic Counseling, Vote for Democracy. Domestic Violence Issue, Awareness on consumer right, Awareness on Communal Harmony & Peace building, Women Domestic Workers Programme, Adult Education for Women, Cultural programme on 'Advance Bengali: Bengali Culture-Literature & the Great Personalities', 'State level Seminar on Women & Politics', 'Beggars Rehabilitation' etc. We have helped the aged, sick, helpless and indigent people; we have improved the social and cultural life of the people by organising various social and cultural functions time to time. We have helped the needy students of all communities for their Studies; we have promoted sympathy, fellow feeling and unity among the members of our society.

During the year **People's Participation** ' created liaisons with Government and non Government agencies to success those programmes to protect the poor people.

### **PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES for the calendar year of 2012-13:**

**Ministry of Culture:** Culture plays an important role in the development agenda of any nation. The objectives of the activities are to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions, to encourage dialogue among cultures, to foster inter-culturality, to promote respect for the diversity of cultural expressions, and to reaffirm importance of the link between culture and development. Other important objectives of the programmes are to give recognition to the distinctive nature of cultural activities, and to reaffirm the sovereign rights of States to maintain, adopt and implement policies for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

**People's Participation** has conducted so many programmes in **2012-2013** to spread the Indian culture among the students-youths- and the general people through its various activities and programmes. **Ministry of Culture** has sanctioned a grant to organised and conduct the under mentioned programme this year and we have conducted the programme with a lot of success.

**Awareness on Environment and water Issue:** People's Participation organized different programs for the sustainable development of environment. During 2012-13, it has planted around 100 saplings in the different district by organizing tree plantation camps. It has celebrated World Forestry Day, World Environment Day, World Ozone Depletion Day, International Biological Diversity Day etc to focus the Environment, World Earth Day Celebration.

**Awareness programme against open defecations, Protection of environment through workshop And uses of Water issue:** 04 Open Defecation and its implications awareness programme have been conducted in four communities to make them aware to stop open defecations; also helped renovation of two latrines' in Beggars community in Dakshineswar. 06 'Protection of environment through workshop And uses of Water issue' and its implications awareness programme have been conducted in four communities to make them aware on this issue in Beggars communities at Dakshineswar area.

However provision of individual toilets should be prioritized. In relation to "Pay and Use" toilets, the issue of subsidies inadvertently reaching the non-poor

should be addressed by identifying different categories of urban poor.”

**National Commission for Women:** The State Level Seminar on “Women & political participation” was organized on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 for the Advancement of Women in West Bengal by People’s Participation which is an apolitical human rights organization. The seminar was funded and supported by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi. Women, particularly young women and women from marginalized groups are experiencing difficulties in engaging with or influencing the policy formulation process in their province. Women face a variety of barriers towards their participation in politics and decision-making process because of discriminatory political structures, as well as social, economic, and cultural disparities. These issues were examined thoroughly throughout the six hours of discussion. Participants addressed the question of participation of women focusing different levels of government (International, National, local), as well as different types of leadership (elected and appointed, civil servants, etc.).

**DFID grant Channelized through Municipal Affairs Department- Govt. of West Bengal:** Project: ‘Invisible People—An Action Based Study on Beggars’.

The problem of begging, needs to be tackled at the grassroots level and all sections of society should contribute to it - be it the Central or State government or the NGOs, private organizations and individuals. Imparting education and creating employment for these unprivileged fellows can be a promising solution to the problem. But what is on paper should be actually implemented. Emphasis should be placed on vocational education so the **children of beggars do not in turn become beggars** but earn their livelihood, instead. The beggar homes that exist must be rendered habitable. Actually there are so many things which can be done or which are already being practiced, but the question is their effectiveness. India is suffering from a serious malaise, viz., corruption because of which all efforts become futile. Another aspect to be considered is counseling. Leading a respectable life is the right of every human being but these people have left behind their self-respect and ego before coming to this profession.

**We have completed the project very successfully and most of the proposed outcomes we have achieved in the scheduled time.**

**Human Right Education Course:** It is a correspondence but very practical course for general people at a minimal cost of 2040/-. There are two theoretical as well as two Practical parts ( total 16 theory and two large practical part) included in this important course. Six months human rights practical training program’ organizes and conducts by PP; it is a correspondence certificate course so far but very authentic and practical. After completion of the said course PP offering Certificates to those successful students and free memberships.

**Human Right Awareness Programme:** Our Human Rights Convention holds at Dankuni area of Hooghly District. Around 100 people attend the convention. Eminent speakers have given their speech. Human Rights Education Program, underway since 2008, has furnished a critical mass of trained human rights activists in these provinces. **People’s Participation** has initiated Human Rights Community Awareness Program in different locations of ‘Panchla at Howrah District, Dakshineswar-Adyapeath area of North 24 Parganas, Chitpur area of Kolkata Municipal Corporation on ‘**What are human rights? : Women’s Rights; Rights of the Child & Citizens’ Rights**. Very basic human rights questions was raised, as because they do not have many ideas on their ‘rights & duties’. Total 08 programmes have been conducted in 2012-2013 financial year.

**Right to Information awareness Camp :** With a view to ensuring maximum disclosure of information regarding government rules, regulations and decisions, every public authority is mandated to maintain all its records. This has increased the interaction between the public authorities and the society.

The aim of the project is as follows-

- A campaign in West Bengal to spread awareness and facilitate the use of the Right to Information to ensure a transparent and accountable government.
- RTI helps expose corruption.
- RTI helps a worker fight for his rightful employment
- Target Population: 4 districts in West Bengal (Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, Howrah & Hooghly)

**Empowerment programme of Women:** Women are linchpins of total development of India. It is unfortunate that this large and potential group has been bypassed in the fruits of development. In fact, the status of women in the society is the indicator of a nation's overall progress. Without the participation of women folk in national activity – its social, economical or political, the country's progress will be stagnated.

The legislative provisions included in the programme were Hindu marriage Act, Widow Remarriage Act, Divorce Act, Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, Act for violence Against Women, Dowry Prohibition Act, Hindu Succession Act, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, Hindu Maintenance Act and Maternity Benefit Act. On the basis of identified training needs important messages related to these legislative acts were selected to develop information package. The package was delivered to the respondents in a three days training programme. The information building programme was used for legal empowerment of women. The impact of programme in terms of knowledge gain and retention. It was found that most of the respondents gained good knowledge. 'People's Participation' works to eliminate discrimination against girls and women, to promote the empowerment of women, and to achieve gender equality. 'People's Participation' supports community based organisations in creating local groups; helps its Member with technical assistance or small financial support; and ensures that 'People's Participation' is accountable for its commitment to gender equality.

**Campaign against Drug- Alcohols'-Tobacco:** Last two years we are working against these addictions among the youth and children. Most of our beneficiaries' were the street children-youth and homeless community people in and around Kolkata. Now, we are trying to be a part of larger network who are working on likeminded issue. Dakshineswar Temple area, Bhutnath Temple is was the two places we are working for.

**Programme for elderly people:** The programme helps humanitarian practitioners gain an understanding of older people's particular needs in emergencies. It also provides them with the tools and the know-how to put age-friendly humanitarian programming into practice. 'People's Participation's trainings will create a "community of practice" which is age-aware. It will also create a group of enablers and influencers who will promote the inclusion of older people in humanitarian programmes. People's Participation strongly working on mainstreaming humanitarian assistance to older people by developing awareness campaigns. The programme is funded by our own.

**Programme on New and Renewable energy issue:** People's Participation always working with the communities to make them inform regarding Solar Energy system, Smokeless Chulla etc to motivate the larger society to use the renewable energy for their daily use in life. But the problems of non availability of Solar system in nearest parts of those communities buy those solar products. But the rural people are using smokeless Chulla to reduce smoke and uses of local wastage dry leaves and timbers. Local people of West Bengal consistently expressed support for renewable energy and sustainable technologies over other energy alternatives and want them institutionalized as a greater part of the nation's energy mix. Some local community groups have responded to this interest by establishing innovative programs to educate, demonstrate, and promote the use of renewable energy. Local programs to support renewable are often successful because they respond to local interests, are designed for local renewable and community resources, and have a shorter implementation cycle. There are still multiple institutional and cultural barriers to renewable energy projects. From the consumer's viewpoint, financial, regulatory, and informational barriers ex-

ist.

**Children Education:** In 2012- 13 People's Participation organized large numbers of programs for promotion of Holistic Education. During this session, People's Participation collaborated with West Bengal Municipal Affairs Department for their Innovative Challenge Fund scheme four special schools has been started among Children In Begging at Dakshineswar and Adyapeath temple areas in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal for 166 boys and girls of unprivileged/begging sector of Slum and on street Areas. Education is the key to addressing systemic issues like poverty, child labour, and high mortality rate among children, especially girls. Our Mission Education programme aims to place as many out-of-school children as possible under the ambit of education, through a local network of remedial education centres. So far, Mission Education has benefitted more than 166 underprivileged children across North 24 Parganas of West Bengal.

**Vocational Training and Career & Academic Counseling for Youth:** The overall objective of the activity is creating employment for 24 disadvantaged and poor begging youth, women and adolescent girls from Dakshineswar and Adyapeath Temple areas by providing vocational training. Our project mainly details vocational and skill training on tailoring, electrical, repairing of refrigerators- Washing Machines- Air Conditioners, Plumbers with the expertise support from training agencies providing placement to the beneficiaries. In 2012-13, total 47 beneficiaries have been trained and 28 placements offered for the successful trainees. We have conducted Career & Academic Counseling in 08 secondary schools in Chanditala Block at Hooghly District to motivate the students to increased retention of students in school and counseling them to get engaged with different vocational and technical training education centers after schooling to build better futures.

**Anti Superstition Campaign:** People's Participation is working to eradicate blind beliefs and superstitions among the general people; especially among the rural people. Organisation also working by mass awareness programme protest letters, leaflets and discussion in and around people in different parts of West Bengal.

- ✘ From 2011 onwards we have started working against superstitions and Black Magic in Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly and North 24 Pgs through small way. Preparation of leaflets and distributed among people. Street Theatres and Talking Doll Shows were conducted as a regular basis on this issue to reach to the larger society.
- ✘ We have send protest letter to different Hindu Temples in India against Animal and bird sacrifice in the name of religious superstitions. The ritual sacrifice of animals like goats and buffaloes is observed around some festivals among followers of some deities; their sacrifice notably spikes around the Hindu festival of **Diwali**.
- ✘ We also protest against the killings of witch in the name of religious superstitions and backward culture.

**Vote for Democracy Camp:** A Pre-Election Voter Awareness Campaign (PEVAC) is aimed at sensitizing voters about the importance of participating in the electoral process as a way to ensure a responsive, accountable and democratically elected government. In a democracy, a free and fair vote is the fundamental tool through which citizens can express their political preferences and developmental wishes. However, in representative forms of democracies, merely casting the vote may not be adequate to hold the elected officials and the executive accountable or to foster a responsive and transparent government. A Pre-Election Voter Awareness Campaign is aimed at making people aware of: the importance of their participation in the electoral processes either as voters or candidates; the modes of participation; the procedure to become eligible for voting and to actually cast their vote; the ways to assess the poll-worthiness of a candidate. The goal

of a Pre-Election Voter Awareness Campaign is to create an environment for free and fair elections, and to encourage in particular, the participation of marginalized groups such as women, the minorities, special ethnic communities and the poor.

**Domestic Violence Issue** : Violence against women is a serious problem in India. Overall, one-third of women age 15-49 have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 10 has experienced sexual violence. In total, 35 percent have experienced physical or sexual violence. This figure translates into millions of women who have suffered, and continue to suffer, at the hands of husbands and other family members. **People's Participation** is working through its IEC materials, awareness camps, and strong network with NGOs- Govt organs- police, DLSA, SLSA, State Women Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commission and local political –religious groups to solve and mutual D.V cases.

**Awareness on consumer right:** Every person in one way or another is a consumer of various products and services. As citizens of India, we are protected against all forms of exploitation by the service providers. Through the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 all consumers have the right to safety, information, choose, be heard, redressal and consumer education. In such a context, it is imperative that awareness is created amongst the general public i.e. men, women and youths. Moreover, informal interaction with people reveals the need for such awareness programmes. The programme was conducted in various communities of the different localities, and the participants were mostly community leaders, residents of the localities and students from different schools in the community. As indicated earlier, there were different resource persons for each programme. The resource persons highlighted mainly the aspects of the Consumer Protection Act and the practical steps that one can take in the event of filing a complaint. The resource persons also encouraged the people to stand for their rights so that even the shopkeepers or service providers will not dare to do any malpractice.

**Awareness on Communal Harmony & Peace building:** Formation of a just and sustaining social order, where gospel values of love, equality and peace are nurtured and lived. Restoration of Human dignity of the Poor and Marginalised by Partnering with intermediary Organisations like People's Participation in Extending support and Facilitation, and advocating for the rights of the People. Preparing IEC materials, Meetings in slums, campaign in secondary schools and discuss with political leaders were our some activities in 2012-13 to build communal harmony among different religions, political parties for conflict resolution issues. Except those activities we were engaged with different religious occasions to build communal harmony, But in west Bengal political conflicts is more powerful in our society rather than religious conflicts.

**Domestic Workers Programme:** Over the last few years, studies on domestic work in India have noted the increase in the numbers of migrant female domestic workers in the cities. Domestic workers, in particular women domestic workers, are a constantly growing section of workers in the informal sector of urban India. It is also associated with the growth of the urban middle class, especially the increase in the number of women working outside their homes and the availability. People's Participation is working to establish their 'social-economical-political' and other Constitutional Rights for their dignified lives to live. Opening bank Account. Linkage with Loan Agencies, Help Municipalities to include the poor and underprivileged adult women within their T & C Groups, Vocational training for them and for their children, Training for them how to work better way, discuss them to raise their voice against proper wages and against sexual harassment etc.

**Adult Education for Women:** The most innovative part of this project is that the Community women members have been trained on the 'bridge course' methodology and emerge as Master Trainers. Hence, an internal education resource pool will be created within the slums. Also, the education of the poor illiterate women members till the primary level will instill within them a feeling of self-confidence and pro-activeness to take on other challenges in life. The local community is the principal stakeholder of the project and their active participation and involvement of the project is ensured. The bridge camps will be

successful only through the regular participation of the community.

**Internships:** in 2012-2013, 02 M.S.W interns from IGNOU have completed successfully their internship from People's Participation and in 2013-14; more than 10 M.S.W interns will be attaché with us from Rabindra Bharati University.

**Human Rights Membership:** In 2012-13, 30 volunteer members have been engaged with People's Participation to work with us.

**Networking:** People's Participation networked with Amnesty International, Youth for Human Rights, Griha Adhikaar Manch (Right to Shelter Issue), Right to Education Campaign, Right to food and Work movement etc. And in 2013-14, we will be involved with so many other networks and N.A.P.M, Hawkers' Sangram Committee.

**Publication:** In 2012-2013, People's Participation have published' Informative Book on Beggars' for the interest of larger society; so many IEC materials also has been printed for the stake holders and beneficiaries.

**Appeal to The President and The Prime Minister:** People's Participation appealed to Prime Minister and The President of India to control Chit Fund business to protect the financial interest of the poor people of the society and also request them to take strict action against Acid Attackers.

**Web site:** We have prepared our new web site this year with a success ([www.peoplesparticipation.org](http://www.peoplesparticipation.org))

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