

: JOIN THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

by the people; for the people, pro people
a non-political human rights organization

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ANNUAL REPORT for the year of **2012**

SECRETARY'S DESK

Friends,

In the year **2012** 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 7-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:

1. To promote sympathy, fellow feelings and unity among the followers of different faith so as to evolve a sense of social and religious toleration.
2. To enlistment the child rights for the poor children, in regard their education, primary health, nutrition and vocational trainings.
3. To work for the women’s various issues- as against dowry custom, domestic violations, education, mental health etc.
4. 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.
5. Rehabilitation programmes for the beggars/Vagrants.
6. Rehabilitation programme for the old aged people.
7. To do all social welfare activities including public health and other development works in the communities.
8. To promote and encourage advancement of literacy, cultural education.
9. 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.
10. To work against human trafficking, to prohibit this trade from the root, create awareness among the community people against this social evil.

(We have submitted more objectives to include with our memorandum through new amendment rules in Form-V and Form- IV)

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.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES for the calendar year of 2012:

In the year 2012, PP has conducted a number of Community Development Programme viz.:

Human Rights 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; after completion of this course those computer literate graduate students can get involved with International human Rights Courses so far. '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. In total 05 Students have been admitted in the session in the financial year of 2011-2012 and every students have been completed the course successfully.

Human Rights Awareness Program: Our Human Rights Convention holds at Champdany area of Hooghly District. Around 200 people attend the convention. Eminent speakers have given their speech. At Katwa, Hindmotor, Chinsurah, Jangipur, Jaynagar, Dakshineswar, Adyapeath, Chandannagar, Chinsurah, Bankura, different locations at Howrah And Basirhat we have conducted awareness program on 'What is our human rights'. Very basic human rights questions was raised, as because they do not have many ideas on their 'rights & duties'.

Right to Information Program: People's Participation also uses to conduct programmes on Awareness of Right to Information in different way; one is through its educational program and another is linkage with different Right to information campaign. We have conducted so many RTI camps with the support of some efficient RTI volunteers from Kolkata. PP itself also submitted so many RTI applications on behalf of peoples' interests. 'West Bengal Commissioner of Information' also supports us to conduct seminars in Colleges. We have planned to work along with the support of W.B. RTI Commission.

Community Library: Howrah, Dum Dum and Belgharia these three area's community libraries working good and they are offering referral book supports to the poor students without any cost and People's Participation has linkage with them and supports the poor students through those very active libraries as required. People's Participation working through its referral & network support mode. PP has collected many old books from its volunteers force and offered to those libraries. General Students, Poor middle class students and other young people became help full through these initiatives. Moreover, so many poor children did not drop outs from their schools lack of buying capacity for schoolbooks and other supporting educational materials to continue their further education.

Empowerment program of Urban Women: PP organized many programmes during the last three financial years to make aware the deprived and marginalized women. Regular meeting and interaction with the women empowered them through knowledge building & capacity building for their advancement. Linkage program with MSME helped them a lot. They trained and started some business. The Municipalities formed several T&C Groups among the poor, marginalized BPL women and they started inter lending among themselves. Many of them started small business. Bank linkage program, provident Fund for poor Govt program helped them. Beside all these D.V Act-2005, linkage program with MSME, Banks, and Municipalities programmes helped them to let them advance in life. PP working with its urban poor women with providing them necessary information as and when required to make them socially-economically & politically empowered under the Government social security measures.

State Level Seminar on Women and Political Participation:

Funded / Supported by:

National Commission for Women
New Delhi.

**Venue: Institute of Co-Operative Management for Agriculture & Rural Development (ICMARD),
14/2, C.I.T, Scheme-VIII, Kolkata-67 (15 No Bus Stand- Ultadanga/Bidhannagar).**

Seminar Hall: AHABAN. 3rd Floor. Date: 31st January; 2013. Time: 10.30.

Empowerment Program of Rural Women: Linkage with 'SAHAJ (Information center)' program, linkage with Rural Postal Life Insurance policy, opening Bank A/c, Awareness program on D.V Act-2005, MSME program etc helped those rural deprived poor women. Panchayata helped them to start business. Widow pension, Old aged pension and linkage program with Block development Program was our activities towards the poor rural women during the years of 2011 to 2011. Open schooling from Rabindra Mukta Vidya also helped many rural youth girls to continue their further education. PP working with its rural poor women with providing them necessary information as and when required to make them socially-economically & politically empowered under the Government social security measures.

Awareness on Environment and Sanitation Issue: People's Participation provide training on legal aspect to Protect on Environment through its human rights course; as it is very much practical course so PP's students send of protest letters to the concerned department on behalf of their course module. At the same time, we expect that the students also follow the right path to protect our environment. In 2011 & 2012 PP received small grants from School of Fundamental Research to conduct some successful programs to protect our environment. It was under National Environment Awareness Campaign programme under Ministry of Environment.

Sanitation:

Poor Awareness: Sanitation has been accorded low priority and there is poor awareness about its inherent linkages with public health. Despite the appropriate legal framework, progress towards the elimination of manual scavenging has shown limited success, little or no attention has been paid towards the occupational hazard faced by sanitation workers daily.

Aged People program: A regular meeting use to hold at different houses of the aged members. Usually the members discussed among themselves on political-social- cultural, National-International issues. In addition, the members writing letters to the Hospitals, Transport division to established aged peoples' Govt provided rights. Nevertheless, this initiatives do not focused directly for the poor people but for the very general middle class citizens.

People's participation has started to work for the betterment of the 60+ year's people. Monthly meeting or get together in People's Participation office is the primary activity of this program; regular discussion on different social, political, National as well as International issue are the other focused area of this program. Yearly one time picnic is another big program for the aged people. Mainly we use to conduct recreation activities for the old aged people under this program.

Children Education: 75 poor children from Dankuni and adjacent area have been admitted in different Govt primary schools through this 'Admission of Children' project. PP offered the admission fees and some important educational materials etc. 23 street children have been admitted in Govt primary Schools at Dakshineswar slums.

Vocational training for youth: We have engaged 18 beggars' youth Dakshineswar Temple adjacent slums in different kind of Vocational Training courses; a Refrigeration course, Beautician Course and Stitching and tailoring courses.

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.

Awareness against Alcoholism & Uses of Tobacco: The term "substance" refers to both drugs and alcohol. Alcohol and drug related problems are not new in India. While alcohol is still the most widely used intoxicant in the country, heroin, cannabis, volatile solvents and pharmaceutical preparations like buprenorphine, codeine containing cough syrups and benzodiazepines are some of the other most commonly abused drugs. The main emphasis was on prevention of drug and alcohol problems at the workplace. This was done through seminars; workshops. There is growing work on the extent, patterns and problems associated with drug and alcohol use in India. It is an attempt to capture the spirit of the community and workplace programs and the need for partnerships to address the complex problems of drugs and alcohol in our society. It describes programs formulation and the process of setting up of comprehensive community based interventions and workplace programs.

Tobacco Control: “Tobacco use is the single greatest cause of preventable death worldwide – a risk factor not only for lung diseases, such as emphysema and lung cancer, but also for a host of other diseases. More than 5 million people die each year due to tobacco-related illnesses, the vast majority of them in low- and middle-income countries”--- People’s Participation organised road campaign by Street Theatre to aware the general people against tobacco related addictions. Except this activity People’s Participation prepared some leaflets against this addictions to distribute among the ‘smoking and chewing tobacco’ people at the shops/centres.

‘Vote for Democracy’ Program: India is the largest democracy in the world. The right to vote and more importantly the exercise of franchise by the eligible citizens is at the heart of every democracy. We, the people, through his exercise of our right to vote have the ultimate power to shape the destiny of country by electing our representatives who run the Government and take decisions for the growth, development and benefit of all the citizens. The information on above said questionnaires has been translated into simple Bengali and distributed among the general poor, marginalized people to castes their important ‘Vote in the elections. Different application forms in Bengali we have collected from BDO and Web Site (then translated) to be distributed among the target group people. Except all these at the time of any election we organizing and conducting ‘Camps’ to provide the necessary information to the Voters by the help of local registered Political Party members and volunteers. **Helped people to fill up forms; forms downloaded from web site to registrar their names as Voters.**

Domestic Violence Issue: On 2011, At Rajarhat areas, we have conducted D.V Act-2005 program’s activities among the 10,000 poor people (most of them were women). Regular meetings with direct stakeholders and direct beneficiaries were our success. In 2011, the same kind of program we have completed in Katwa areas with the support of Katwa Municipality. Around 6000 women became empowered through these initiatives. Number of Community catalyst also prepared to fight against the Domestic Violence.

Seminars on beggars: Some studies has completed with the help of a renowned Market Research concern on ‘Children Beggars’ in Kolkata and its surrounding areas. The study report has submitted to the Controller of Vagrancy. Beggars introductory card are the most innovative idea so far. Beggars registration policies never been implemented anywhere. Research based documentary book are one of the finest idea in this project; generally there are so little book on this regard, that for information are lacking in this connection.

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. Nevertheless, what is on paper should be actually implemented. Emphasis should be place 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 rendering habitable. Actually, there are so many things, which can do, or which are already being practice, 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 consider is counselling. 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.

Football tournament for youth: We participated in one day football tournament at Dankuni with local football players but lost at primary stage. And supported the tournament by offering Football and the days snacks for the players.

Research on Beggars: People's Participation studying on beggars at Dakshineswar Temple area of West Bengal. The study reports we use to submit to the Controller of Vagrancy - a Govt Department. Every year we are trying to conduct minimum three to four studies on beggars' situations to understand their different socio-economical & political problems.

Awareness on Consumer rights, Patents rights And IPR issue: Organization has been working to protect Consumers' Right e.g. Right to Safety, (The right to be protected against the marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property), Right to Information (The right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services, as the case may be, so as to protect the consumer against unfair trade practices), Right to Choice (The right to be assured, wherever possible, access to a variety of products and services at competitive prices), Right to Representation (The right to be heard and to be assured that consumers' interests will receive due consideration at appropriate forums), Right to Redressal (The right to seek redressal against unfair trade practices or restrictive trade practices or unscrupulous exploitation of consumers), Right to Consumer Education (The right to consumer education), Right to Basic Needs (The right to basic goods and services which guarantee dignified living. It includes adequate food, clothing, health care, drinking water and sanitation, shelter, education, energy and transportation) & Right to Healthy Environment (The right to a physical environment that will enhance the quality of life. It includes protection against environmental damage. It acknowledges the need to protect and improve the environment for future generations as well) since last 5 years in its project area through building awareness among the vulnerable inhabitants to protect them from every sort of exploitation. In this context, organization is grateful to the District level Consumer Affairs Regional offices to have their cooperation to get the training support, IEC support etc. and to State Consumer Affairs Welfare Department to have their financial support to reach its basic objective regarding this issue.

Awareness on Communal Harmony: **People's Participation** works against communal violence in different areas in India. It is an apolitical movement where we working as a pressure group. Signature Campaign, protest letters to Newspapers and Govt officials as well as to the leading political parties to stop violence. Hand written posters, Banners use to display against the communal violence.

Career & academic Counseling: Total 65 students from Kamarhati Municipal jurisdiction and Howrah Municipal Corporation have counseled academically as well as their future profession. It was a Network effort; along with two other NGO were also involved in this initiative. The Rural Youth Leadership and Personality Development Program would attempt to develop leadership qualities, national character, comradeship and personality development among the rural youth. It will motivate the youth to act as focal point for dissemination of knowledge in the rural area and involve them in nation building process.

Women & Girls Domestic Workers Program: A domestic worker is someone who works within the employer's household. Domestic workers perform a variety of household services for an individual or a family, from providing care for children and elderly dependents to cleaning and

household maintenance, known as housekeeping. Responsibilities may also include cooking, doing laundry and ironing, food shopping and other household errands. Some domestic workers live within the household where they work.

Goal: To upgrade the future life of those domestic workers through linking the Govt provided services; as health cards, provident funds, bank A/c opening, mediclaim policy, identity cards etc are some of the examples. In total 2011-12 **People's Participation** has conducted several meetings among the domestic Help women to empower themselves on their different rights and duties. On an average, every meeting consists of 30 to 32 domestic help women. Several social topics use to discuss in those meetings. Savings, Insurance, Identity Cards, Their trade Union, Voter Cards, ration Cards, Bank A/c and of course their children's' issue.

Adult Education for illiterate Women: People's Participation was engaged with adult education program with the Municipalities' CDSs of Chinsurah, Basirhat, Tarakeswar, North Dum Dum, Naihati, Champdany, Bhatpara but the responses were so good from the parts of beneficiaries. We also engaged with 'State Resource center of Adult education-W.P.' in this regard. Regular Examination use to hold to check the beneficiaries' performances and half-yearly and annual examination was also hold to encourage them. After completion of the final evaluation PP with the support of CDS, award them certificates.

Organized People's Participation Seminars: In 2012, People's Participation has conducted twelve Seminars on Human Rights in Dankuni, Purulia, Coopers' Camp, Katwa, Baruipur, Hindmotor, Madhyamgram and Bhatpara areas. Many people congrats our initiative to spread the ideas.

Celebration of Memorable Days': People's Participation has arranged of various programmes for the peoples, Village people and the students had celebrated various functions. Cultural programmers like songs follow this. Role - play recitations etc. to upkeep the spirit of cultural life of the villages, People's Participation celebrated Netaji Birthday, Rabindra Jayanti, Independence Day, Foundation Day, and X-Mass Day, EDD etc throughout the year by the help of local youths and clubs. **People's Participation** has found very importance to celebrate remarkable days of the year to attract the monotonous people for their recreation in their bright response of direct participation. Those years People's Participation has celebrated Independence Day, Netaji Birth Day and Rabindranath Birth Day, Nazrul-Sukanta Days, Independence Day Ceremonies with different program where 500 people participated in the recreation. In 2012 PP received Tagore Commemoration Grant from Ministry of culture to complete the programme with great success. Also in this year PP received another grant from Ministry of Culture under CFGS programme to conduct a programme on Advance Bengali- Bengali Culture & literature and The Great Personalities.'

Linking Govt social security Programs with the deprived poor people: People's Participation also helps those downtrodden poor people to let them link with those other Govt project where they can be benefited economically, socially or politically through insurance policies (LICI, RPLI, Mediclaims, provident fund for the poorest of the poor people Voter Cards, ration Cards, opening Bank Accountant etc.), loan, grants, educational supports and other Govt projects.

Road Safety:

People's Participation prepared some IEC materials; as leaflets and hand outs to motivate general people and 'The Drivers' to walking on the streets or footpaths as well as we also teaches drivers to drive their transports with care and under motor Vehicles rules and regulations to avoid unwanted accidents. Seven school campaigns conducted in this regard; drawing performances organized and prizes have been distributed to the participants.

Networking & Linkages: Creation of networks and linkages are an essential component of any development program and provide synergies for the program to build upon from a point of advantage to a point of strength. It is also a key area on which the performance of the **People's Participation** will be rated. Given the importance of the activity, it is pertinent to develop a vision and laid-down modalities for taking it forward in a manner that it builds into and converges with the greater People's Participation vision. Networks and Linkages can be formed with multifarious organizations that share the common vision and values for social development for any of the above-mentioned purposes. PP also working with its alliance to change the society, one of our partners is 'Sara Bharat Jori Shilpi Kalyan Sangha' - situated at Howrah.

PP working to established poor Jori workers' rights in India, 'National Alliance of People's Movements', 'AMNESTY International', 'Committee for protection of Democratic Rights', 'Griha Adhikaar March' along with various Govt. Depts. to strengthen our social movements.

Spread up of Sanskrit & Bengali Language as to protect our Cultural rights:

People's Participation is working on to establish our cultural rights through Seminar-Workshop- Meeting networking with other NGO, CBO and youths. We have conducted several meeting and seminars to spread Bengali and Sanskrit languages among our society. Some leaflets and banners were prepared and distributed among the target group people. But lack of individual funder we couldn't forward our languages movements strongly a long away. In each seminar and workshop on an average the participants was around 20-22 people. Most of them were very much interested to make lively those languages and its more official uses. It is our cultural rights to talk in our mother tongue and to use that language to express our thinking.

Volunteers' Force: PP is very much dependent on volunteers, Comsultants and Advisors. PP's volunteers coordinate most of our activities, task range from helping to organize events, to fund raising and motivating and encouraging the general people; our band of volunteers comprises people of different ages, different professionals, different religions, and different colours and all shapes and sizes. We have students, homemakers, professionals etc.

REMEMBER People's Participation does not belief any kind of Radical activities/Movements.

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