

: JOIN THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

Another World is Possible

# 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: 2014-2015

### SECRETARY'S DESK

Friends,

The annual general meeting of our society held on **1<sup>st</sup> August; 2015** at the registered office of the society and the members participated in the said meeting and formed a quorum by more than 1/3rd of the total members of the society. In the said meeting, the members have passed the audited accounts and elected the same new Executive Committee as previous. During the year **2014- 2015** a number of Community Development Programme viz., Human Rights issue, Women Empowerments, Children education, Sports, youth issue, Aged people, Tobacco control, Cultural programme. Superstations', renewable energy issue etc. We have helped the aged, sick, helpless and indigent people; we have improved the social and cultural life of the people by organizing 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. New external Auditor Firm will Audit our Accounts from this year as the old Firm has stopped their work from this year.

To conclude, our sincere rest gratitude and warm wishes to all the individual donors, members, volunteers and sympathizers of "**People's Participation**", whose unstinted support in every possible way has made our task much easier to accomplish. Hope you will co-operate the next committee to do more works in future.

This year we will drive to grab the Corporate Social Responsibility Grants from different corporate houses.

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 09 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 downtrodden people and empowerment of women and adolescent girls of the Society. To secure basic natural rights of **“Food-Shelter-Work”** for all' is our dream.

### **OBJECTIVES of PP:**

- 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 men and women.
- 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 on 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 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 2014-2015 '**People's Participation**' entered its **10<sup>th</sup> Year** of age. The year **2014-2015** 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 **2014- 2015**, 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 labour & 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', '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 organizing 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 2014-15**

<b><u>Cultural programmes</u></b>	
<b>Birth Day Celebration of Swami Vivekananda:</b>	PP has conducted a cultural function programme with support of Monoharpur Mallickpara Mandir Committee; Dankuni, Hooghly to celebrate Swamiji's Birth day. Local artists, children and youth were engaged with the programme to prove their cultural abilities.
<b>Celebration of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January:</b>	Conducted six programmes in different slums in Hooghly, North 24 Pgs and Kolkata by the help of local children and youth. Flag hosting; drawing performance and delivers of speech was the activities.
<b>Tagore Birth Day Celebration:</b>	PP has conducted a cultural function programme with Monoharpur Mallickpara Mandir Committee to celebrate Rabin-dranath's birth day.
<b>Celebration of 15<sup>th</sup> August:</b>	PP has organized Flag Hosting programmes in four slum areas in North 24 Pgs and Hooghly by local community youth and children. Drawing of Indian Flag was the other attraction in the programme.

**Organising local cultural function:** PP have organized and conducted three cultural functions locally with the support and assistance of local people. Dance, Songs and dramas were performed.

### **Environment and water Issue:**

- **Earth Day Celebration-2014; supported by MoES:** We have conducted Essay Competitions- Drawing Performances- Debate performances- Slogan Writing Competitions and Oath taking ceremony among the school and community children in Chanditala Block area under Sreerampore Sub Division of Hooghly District to protect our Earth. Programme financed by Ministry of earth Sciences; New Delhi.
- **Awareness against open defecation:** We have conducted lecture based activities and Street Theatre campaigns against open defecations and viral fever issue among street dwellers in North 24 Pgs- Kolkata- Howrah and Hooghly Districts.
- **Community meeting on Drinking water:** Community meeting organized on the demand of safe drinking water from Municipalities and Panchayats in North 24 Pgs, Hooghly and Howrah areas.
- **Advocacy with local Administration on water issue:** PP has conducted meetings among the Administrative Bodies of Baranagar – Kamarhati- Khardah- Panihati- Titagarh- Barrackpore- Bhatpara- Dankuni- Bally- Champdany- Bhadreswar- Uttarpara- Chandannagar and Chinsurah Municipalities on the demand of daily water issues in free of cost for the poor street and slum people.
- **Social Movement on Electric Burning and wetland protection issue:** Meeting conducted with local farmers and fishermen within Hooghly to Howrah Districts to understand the issue of dried up Saraswati River. They are suffering much lack of water for fisheries’ and farming the agricultural lands and depending only on Ground Water resources. RTI has applied to the Irrigation departments and other concerned departments but poor reply came from them. We are planning to file a Green Bench Court Case on demand of Functional of Saraswati River for the interest of Farmers & Fishermen communities.
- **Awareness Campaign in Schools on Biodiversity: Supported by W.B Biodiversity Board:** Received two grants from W.B Biodiversity Board for campaigning on ‘Save biodiversity ‘among the students of 12 schools in Chanditala Block; Hooghly District. Drawing - Debate- Essay writing Slogan writing etc were the activities under the programme to make aware the students on protection of Biodiversity and uses of medicinal plants for the future generation.
- **Awareness programme on New and Renewable energy:** Organised State Level Seminar on ‘Applications of solar technology in Human Life’ on 10.09.2014 at Kolkata by the technical support of MSME and other Govt institutions; financed by ‘Ministry of New and Renewable energy’, New Delhi. In total 65 participants has been participated the programme with an open conversation.

- ➡ **Building Smokeless Chulla:** We have trained and build 33 smokeless oven/Chulhas in Panchayatas areas in Hooghly-Howrah and North 24 Pgs among the poor and deprived families to uses the local resources' such as trees-leafs etc and to protect the women from different lungs related diseases.

**Human Right Education Course:** More than 20 Students have completed successfully the 'Six Months Human Rights Training Programme' through Distance learning mode and became barefoot human rights activists within the larger society to protect the deprived people through legal way.

**Human Right Awareness Programme:** PP has conducted more than 20 community awareness programme through lecture and question- answer based session to let them understand the issue of their natural rights. Programme conducted in different district by our volunteers with a success.

**Right to Information awareness programme:** PP has organized RTI Awareness programmes among the people in Kolkata- Howrah- Hooghly- Bardhaman- Purulia- North 24 Pgs and South 24 Pgs and assists the people to file RTI applications to the concerned departments to know the information sand much waited complain replies.

**Anti Superstition Campaign:** Illiteracy and lack of awareness are the main reasons for the superstitions to thrive. Some people endorse these superstitions out of fear from caste outfits, or due to the apprehension that they may be outcast from their community. It's not a child's play to eradicate superstitions from our society which are deeply rooted since ages. For this change should be brought in the mindset of people through a gradual process. Sacrificing animals in the name of 'offerings to god' is a dastardly act. Such act should be condemned by all the free thinkers and reformers. This may lead to a lot of resistance, but it should not be given up and it should be dealt cautiously. The serious challenge in front of us is to bring a scientific outlook in our minds.

PP conducted so many activities among the general people in different Districts in West Bengal to reduce superstitions from the larger societies. Community meeting, Meeting with religious leaders, school programme , protest letters to Temple and Mosque committees against Sacrificing animals in the name of 'offerings to god'; distribution of leaflets etc were the programme this year.

### **Empowerment of Women**

- ➡ **Domestic Violence Issue:** PP is networked with SLSA and DLSA to protect women from Domestic Violence issue. Regular awareness programme in continuing in this regards. Community meeting and meeting with local stake holders' were organized in different communities and different areas to deliver the message against domestic violence and its punishments. Leaflets in Bengali were distributed among the general people.

- ➡ **Adult Education for Women:** Six centers in different districts (Hooghly-Howrah- North 24 Pgs) are running to make the poor illiterate wom-

en to educate till read and write. In total beneficiaries are around 30 women.

- **Leadership programme of women:** In total 12 Leadership programme on women development were organized in Hooghly-Howrah- North 24Pgs- South 24 Pgs- Bardhaman- Midnapore- and Birbhum. Different programme contents were discussed with them; Bank Linkage- Training programmed provided by local Panchayatas and Municipalities, Loan and marketing of products etc was discussed. Women weavers' community meeting in Begampur of Hooghly District was the most impressive meeting in this regard. They need training, marketing and loan to continue their business.

**Programme for Elderly People:** The programme is for sensitization of the school/college going children towards the cause of elderly persons. Discussion session was held; essay and slogan writing are the activities under the programme.

We have planned for running a Volunteers Bureau. In order to utilize the skills, talents and experiences of the elderly for the benefit of society, and also to re-establish their social status, senior citizens register with this bureau and offer their valuable services to organizations, hospitals, schools, institutions for children with physical or mental challenges, etc. The Bureau will also conduct periodic meetings of the volunteers to review their experience and chalk out plans of action. The efforts of the Bureau are aimed at making volunteering a people's movement and to inspire other cities to follow on the same lines. Senior Citizen Associations of senior citizens for formation of **Vridha Sanghas** for mobilization of the senior citizens, articulate their interests, promote and undertake programmes and activities for their well being.

### **Children Education and their rights**

- **Support educational materials:** Provided 90 school text books against their school book- lists to the poor and under privileged school students. Link many students with different libraries to collect reference books.
- **Excursion tour to Zoo:** 22 beggars' children visited Zoo in Kolkata under an excursion tour programme; supported by some God Followers in Dakshineswar Temple side visitors.
- **Excursion tour to Science City:** 12 beggars' children visited **Science City** in Kolkata under an excursion tour programme; supported by some God Followers in Dakshineswar Temple side visitors.
- **Awareness programme against Child Marriage; Child Education; Substance uses; health & hygiene issue etc:** Meeting with beggars community, homeless people, brick kiln workers, slum people in different areas against child marriage- substance uses etc and provoke them to start children education for a better future and a dignified lives.

**Vocational Training for Youth: Financed & Supported by NPYAD :**  
**Programme: Career & Academic Counseling for Youth:**

**Working areas are :**

**Villages are-** Baksa, Barijhaty, Begampur, Chanditala, Garalgacha, Janai, Kapasaria, Monoharpur, Mrigala, Naity, Panchghora and the Dankuni Town.

**Program aims and objectives:**

- ✳ Encourage the young person to set goals for the future
- ✳ Provide support and resources for the young person to take steps towards reaching their goals
- ✳ Provide guidance and advice, possible pathways and avenues for investigation
- ✳ Provide a framework for career decision making which they can draw on in the future
- ✳ Provide time and space for the young person to explore career aspirations which they may not have been able to address due to life circumstances
- ✳ Assist the young person to identify potential employment and training opportunities with successful outcomes.

**Outcome:** More than 439 adolescent children and youth from different background; such as Sc-Obc and Muslim; economically weaker section class; unemployed, school drop outs, illiterate became guided by the Career Guidance Center and many of them engaged in different Vocational Training Centers run by Govt Deptt and NGOs.

A free career guidance center has been inaugurated in People's Participation office premises for the unemployed youth to assist them for their future thinking on employment and academic areas so far. People's Participation also making a large network to let them engaged its students with the larger social system to solve their problems by their own initiatives.

➡ **Vote for Democracy Camp : Celebration National Voter Day:**

2011 onwards People's Participation is campaigning on 'Right to Vote' among the youth and illiterate people to strengthening our democracy. From 2015, we are celebrating '**National Voters' Day**' through small meeting, preparation and distributions of paper made sun-guards etc with the poor-illiterate people and among the new generation. We experienced that this programme might help to strengthening our Voting system as well as democracy in coming future. We also help people to make their voter identity cards and other helps in the time of any elections as well.

**Consumer Rights issue:** Formation of '**Consumer Protection Cell**' to secure the rights of the consumers. 22 cases resolved and some cases forwarded to different **District Consumer & Fair Business Practices**. Street campaigning, preparation of leaflets, meeting with school students and local people and street campaigning are the common activities under the programme. Street theatre also helped the awareness programme. PP is very much engaged with **District Consumer & Fair Business Practices** of Hooghly and North 24 Pgs along with West Bengal Head office.

**Peace building and rights of Minorities:** PP organized many programmes to protect the National Integration issue through quiz competition among the children in different schools and taking oath to maintain the National Integrity of India.

**Beggars programme:** Clothes distribution, distribution of Beggars Identity Cards and linkage with Govt Hospitals for free treatments are the activities under the programme. Providing Shelters to the orphan beggars within Kolkata jurisdiction area were the most successive activity by our volunteers. Provide vocational training to the youth beggars also very fruitful initiatives.

### **Unorganized Workers' Rights**

#### **➡ Programmes on Construction Workers Rights:**

The Building & Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers Rules, 2004 framed there under aim to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building & other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures.

PP organizes awareness generation camps through its Volunteers throughout the year for spot registration of beneficiaries and distribution of benefits among the workers who gather at railway stations, bus stands and crossings in search of jobs. Registration under SASPFUW programme with the **Construction Workers** in different districts was most succeeding.

#### **➡ Programmes on Domestic Workers Rights:**

To provide adequate social assistance to the excluded majority, the Government of West Bengal has framed the West Bengal Unorganised Sector Workers Welfare Act, 2007 and the Government of India has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.

Registration under SASPFUW programme with the **women domestic help** in different districts was most succeeding. Awareness and linkage with the programme on the above mentioned Govt security measures were the activity of PP. In total three Training programmes on Domestic Help were hold and 11 poor trained women get enrolled with different Service Providers' Agencies to enter into the job markets with modest honorariums.

#### **➡ Programmes on Transport Workers Right:**

The Government of India enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Government of West Bengal in the Labour Department constituted the West Bengal State Social Security Board. The Board recommended for adoption of a scheme for the social security of the transport workers of the State and accordingly, the scheme under the name of West Bengal Transport Workers' Social Security Scheme, 2010 was introduced under Labour Department, Dated 13th August 2010.

A transport worker willing to join the scheme shall apply to the Registering Authority in Form-I for registration as a beneficiary under this scheme. Such application shall be accompanied with a registration fee of Rupees 30/- only. If the Registering Authority is satisfied with the submissions made in the ap-

plication he shall issue a Registration Certificate in Form- II declaring him/her as a beneficiary under the Scheme from the date of application. Such registration shall be valid for 12 calendar months including the month of application.

PP is assisting those transport workers to get enrolled in the process to grab the advantage of the scheme. Awareness' building programme and Form fill up by the transport workers was the activities under the programme.

**Anti Drug& Tobacco Campaign:** Last five years People's Participation is working to control and prevent the using of substances, drugs, tobacco and alcohols issue to protect the youth and children to build a strong dignified society for the future generations. The target communities are the street dwellers, beggars and unorganized workers. But the population is very much floating in characters. But now we are trying to build a network or to be a part of larger network to track them for their betterment. We have conducted some school campaign against tobacco issue. Writing essays-drawings etc were the activities for the programme. Some video shows also organized in different unorganised slums in North 24 Pgs-Hooghly and Howrah-Kolkata.

**Rural Development:** Worked with farmers groups and their wives through Mushroom training; vermin Compost training; Poultry farming and linkage with National level NGO to get technical supports to produce more crops and getting marketing supports. Help them to opening of Govt Bank Accounts, Rural Postal Life Insurance etc

**Street Theatre Team:** A four members' street theatre team has been formed and trained by different trainers and they are performing street dramas on social development issues. Different NGO use to hiring the team against nominal payment.

**Internships:** in 2014-2015, 03 M.S.W interns from IGNOU have completed successfully their internship from People's Participation.

**Human Rights Membership:** In 2014-15, 05 volunteer members have been engaged with People's Participation to work with us and new membership cards prepared for them.

**Networking:** People's Participation networked with Amnesty International, Youth for Human Rights, PUCL, School of Fundamental Research, District Consumer Department, ICPS- Hooghly District; District Cultural Department and others.