



नए समाज की ओर  
Towards a new dawn



# Nari ki Baat...

From the Vatsalya Mela, organised by the  
Ministry of Women and Child Development

Daily Newsletter 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2012



Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt Krishna Tirath spent some memorable moments at the 'Nari Ki Choupal' on the penultimate day of the Vatsalya Mela. She was welcomed by the sound of 'dholkis' and a red carpet re-modelled into a 'roadmap' to generate awareness on Child Rights. She then proceeded to sit in the Nari Ki Choupal, where a cultural programme by volunteers from Pali, Rajasthan, was put up. Smt Tirath added a special excitement to the occasion by joining the volunteers to match their steps for a few moments. She then felicitated and interacted with SC/ST women representatives from Panchayats.

## Baby Show

A model Anganwadi Centre – A vibrant early childhood development centre at the ICDS hall has been created for the children at the Vatsalya Mela. One of the highlights of the centre is the 'baby show' promoting healthy growth and development of children and hosting activities by children within the age-group of 3-6 years. Children were grouped as per their Body Mass Index (BMI) for the event and were dressed beautifully for the occasion. A special stage has been set-up where little children took a walk demonstrating their skills in story-telling, poems and songs.

The judges for the show comprised Dr. B. Sahoo, Dr. Tejander Kaur and Dr. Tarachand. The prizes were distributed by Dr. Vivek Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry for Women and Child Development and Dr. Neelam Bhatia, Joint Director NIPCCD. Consolation prizes were also given to all the children who participated in the show.

Other highlight of the ICDS hall is the section "Know your children". About 150 children were given their growth chart prepared by the experts based on their height and weight and age. The parents of the children were also given counseling on the importance of maintaining the growth chart.

The stall on "Health Services" catering to the adults conducted free tests for sugar (random), height, weight and blood pressure. More than 300 tests were conducted for first three days at the Vatsalya Mela.

### Highlights of the Day

1. Felicitation of Scheduled Caste Women Sarpanches of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar by Hon'ble Minister, Krishna Tirath, Women and Child Development Ministry.







## Activities at Naari-ki-Chaupaal

The day started with many women from the urban slums of Delhi participating in sensitization and awareness generation on the issue of Sanitation and Menstrual Hygiene organized by an NGO-Kalyanam. The women performed a play on Menstrual Hygiene and focused on collectivism, access to basic facilities, personal and menstrual hygiene and cleanliness. The play was interactive and was informative and sensitized the women about the use of sanitary napkins. The message promoted was "kapde ka chodo saath... aur napkin ka pakdo haath". A game was also conducted regarding menstrual health where the winners were given "Don't Worry" sanitary napkins as a token.

A play by Aradhya on female foeticide, sanitation and personal hygiene on the importance and need of a small family was enacted. It reminded everyone of the oft-repeated cliché 'a two-child family is a happy family' once more. Two issues in focus were the tyranny of superstition engulfing our society, and disregarding education and respect to girls, especially the girl child.

A play by Goonj on women related issues highlighted health risk of rural women living in a culture that gives little or no importance to sanitary hygiene. Open discussion over sanitary napkins is often not possible because doing so in the present social context is a taboo. Added to this the current status and delivery of education, many women in the rural areas is going through insurmountable pain in silence. Goonj has recently come up with 'Not just a Piece of Cloth' initiative, where they go to rural areas and distribute clean, sanitized clothes to womenfolk while raising awareness about the need of using hygienic sanitary napkins for their health.

All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch conducted the activity Awaaz- Mahila Panchayat, an experience sharing by elected women representatives from SC/ST communities. The elected representatives from SC/ST community from Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar came together at the Nari ki Chaupal for a Mahila Panchayat. Mrs. Asha Kotwal of All India Dalit Adhikar Manch said that though there are several laws to empower and protect women, Dalit women are unable to seek recourse in the laws and even the other programs and benefits that are available to all women. A short street play was performed by a group of young girls. The play portrayed the trauma faced by young Dalit girls who are assaulted and raped by upper castes and the failure of the police to file even an FIR. During discussions, Meera, a sarpanch from Palunda, district Dosa, Rajasthan, spoke of how she and her family were subjected to violence after she was elected. Asha from Aurangabad, Bihar, spoke of similar challenges faced by her. Many sarpanchs spoke of the successes they had in building schools, anganwadis and roads. The Minister, Smt. Krishna Tirath shared her thoughts with the Mahila Panchayat. She discussed an array of issues related with women and children and underscored the significance of their role.

The organization named **Independent Thought** conducted the activity *Baccho Ki Duniya*-Child Rights Awareness Highway. Independent Thought's activity, Walk the Highway was greatly successful in familiarizing the public with the six services the organization provides. For this activity they had a mini-highway built with six milestones in it. In each of the six milestones were the names of their services were listed. The six services Independent Thought is currently providing are Children restoration services, Children home/shelter, Child welfare committee, Hospital, Special Juvenile Unit, and Childline-1098.

Mahila Vikas Sansthan conducted the songs, plays and a quiz on issues related to women and child. The plays dealt with the issue of sexual harassment at workplace, molestation and eve-teasing in public places, and dowry. The event ended with a prize distribution ceremony.

Dyan Guru, Archana Didi from Celebrating Life Foundation gave a very powerful discourse on stress handling through meditation in this fast-track world in the session 'Parents Ki Pathshala'.







## Highlights of the Amphitheatre Programme

A demonstration of self defense techniques to help women to counter the eve teasing that they experience in buses and on the streets and markets was held by Delhi Police. The aim of the demonstration was on building awareness among women on the need to protect themselves and use their presence of mind and take action against the assailant with full confidence.

A session was organized by the National Commission for Women on sexual harassment at the work place. The team from The SBS Foundation presented a skit titled PUKAR. It was pointed out that though everyone is aware that sexual harassment is rampant the victims rarely protest for fear of social stigma. Ms. Asha Gambhir from AIWC spoke of the need to build awareness among women on how they can turn to the law for protection from sexual harassment at both home and work place. She added that women must take action if the menace of eve teasing is to stop and not be influenced by the fear of what people will say.

### Messages

1. "Aaj ke zamaan mein mahilayaan aasman choo rahen phir bhi, hum bacchi ko duniya mein aane se rokten hein."- GOONJ, NGO
2. "Kahan gayi insaniat... ek khoj", "Koshish karnewaleki kabhi haarne hi n hoti he... ek honsla" aur "beta aur beti main koi farak nehin... for equality" – Mahila Vikas Sansthan, NGO
3. "We need micro-level support to make our program reach at the doors of people who needed it and the Sarpanchas are the best means for it" – Smt. Rashmi Singh, Executive Director, NMEW







"Listening and watching the members of Mahila Sarpanch discuss and perform was an uniquely inspiring experience. It is good to see the society taking steps to raise awareness amongst the common people"  
Khushbo Mohanty, St.Thomas School



"Women will definitely feel more powerful and independent after seeing such elaborate programmes at Dilli Haat"  
Dr.Vibha Nagar, Mishika Educational & Social Welfare Society Meerut



"This is a good initiative and I believe this is a head start to a responsible and aware society"  
Poorva Aggawal, Student, New Delhi

### GLIMPSES FROM VATSALYA MELA 2012



### Winners of Slogan Writing Competition

**1st prize HEMANT KUMAR (Theatre Artist)**

बदलनी होगी हमें अपनी सोच  
लड़की नहीं है किसी पर बोझ  
लड़की लड़के के भेद-भाव को मिटाएंगे  
तभी समाज को सक्षम बना पाएंगे

**2nd prize VISHAKHA GAUTAM (Student)**

मासूम-सी नवही परी हूँ मैं...  
तुम्हें कुछ बताना चाहती हूँ मैं  
यूँ कोख में ही न मिटा वो मुझको...  
दुनिया में ज्ञाना चाहती हूँ मैं

**3rd prize SAJAN ARORA (Businessman)**

हर क्षेत्र में लड़की ब्राणे  
फिर क्यूँ हम लड़की से आगे  
लड़की होना है वरदान  
जो न समझे वो है नादान

CONSOLATION PRIZES: MADHU, ANURADHA (she did a beautiful painting of a baby in a flower which was in the shape of uterus), KOMAL, POONAM

### रेहाना: ए क्वेस्ट फॉर फ्रीडम

रेहाना है तो एक आम औरत, जो मुसलमान समाज में जन्मी और पली बड़ी है, पर उसके अंदर की एक चाहत उसे दूसरी मुसलमान औरतों से अलग कर देती है। यह चाहत है आजादी की। दूसरी लड़कियों की तरह बचपन में उसकी भी शादी हो जाती है, जब तक औरत होने का अहसास होता है, वह पाँच बच्चों की माँ बन चुकी होती है। हर तरफ पाबंदी पर्दादारी और बात-बात पर रोक-टोक रहने के बाद भी इस औरत ने संघर्ष का रास्ता चुना। इस औरत के संघर्ष की कहानी है : रेहाना-ए क्वेस्ट फॉर फ्रीडम।

नवंबर 18, वात्सल्य मेले के दौरान अभिमंच में इस फिल्म की स्क्रीनिंग की गई। पी.एस.वी.टी. द्वारा निर्मित 30 मिनट की इस फिल्म का निर्देशन गार्गी सेन और प्रियंका ने किया है। शाम 5 बजे 100 लोगों ने इस फिल्म को बड़ी तल्लीनता के साथ देखा और फिल्म के समापन के बाद स्त्री-स्वतंत्रता पर खुल के चर्चा की गई, जिसमें लोगों ने उत्साह के साथ अपने विचारों से अवगत कराया।

**Mentor:**  
Ms K Ratna Prabha, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NMEW  
**Editorial Board:**  
Ms Rashmi Singh, Executive Director, Dr Deepa Ahluwalia, Sr. Project Advisor, Ms Shubhashri R Kadakol, Sr Research Officer, Ms Nimisha Srivastava, Sr Research Officer  
**Reporting Team**  
Dr Bansari Nag, Sr Research Officer, Dr Vasudha Shukla, Sr Research Officer, Ms Manorama Del, Sr Research Officer, Dr Madhavi Jupaka, Sr Research Officer, Ms Yamuna Menon, Research Assistant, Dr Niravuddin, Research Assistant, Mr Laikhuram Premjit Singh, Research Assistant, Mr Devashish Prason, Research Assistant, CFAR team  
**Designing Team**  
Nidhie Ads Team  
**Photography**  
Mr Raju, Mr Ram  
**Volunteers :** Prashant Singh & Vikram Gupta

**National Resource Centre for Women**  
**National Mission for Empowerment of Women**  
Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India  
First Floor, Hotel Janpath, New Delhi—110001  
Tel: +91 11 23340304  
E-mail: nmew.cm@gmail.com  
Website: www.nmew.gov.in