

Report on Utsav

Background:

Utsav is usually organized prior to Durga Puja and the last working of PHP clinic. Utsav is a joint performing programme amongst the Konika children, their mothers and other Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) who attends PHPA clinic regularly. At this occasion members from Rotary Club of Calcutta South Central & members of S. B. Devi Charity Home were present. The programme was held on 23.09.09.

Introduction:

The programme began with Dr. Gitali Roy Mitra and Dr. Bikas Basu giving a few words of wisdom to the parents, children and everyone present on a few communicable diseases. The main reason we emphasized on this was to remind, motivate and encourage them to be conscious about what they eat and drink so that they stay healthy and enjoy during the festival. We also spoke on the Role of Iron & Folic acid.

Dr. Bikas Basu also took the opportunity to speak about Konika Night Shelter before this huge gathering. Mr. Sekhar Chattopadhyay also said that these children will prove themselves in future that they are totally different from the common masses. He thanked all the mothers for attending the programme. Mrs. Ruby Basu spoke to the mothers briefly about the ongoing activities of Konika Night Shelter as well as Konika Kindergarten. She also introduced the Children of Konika Night Shelter in front of the audience.

Programme:

The main purpose of the programme was to distribute the gifts to the Konika children of both night shelter & kindergarten, their mothers and CSWs. In this august gathering, Konika children performed different types of activities. The programme was started by recitation (two Bengali, two English & One Hindi) followed by 4 dances (2 Hindi & 2 Bengali). Miriam & Bettina (Studex) also

performed a Dance. The programme was concluded by performing Dance Drama depicting "welcoming of the Goddess Durga".

This year the total numbers of CSWs who came to watch the programme was near about 210. New outfits were distributed amongst 35 children - 14 girls and 21 boys. The guests were requested to handover the clothes to all the children in the presence of their mothers and other CSWs.

The programme was very colourful, interesting and enjoyable. As we all know that it is very hard to hold the interest of our target population for such a compact programme of 3 hours. All the guests thoroughly enjoyed and will cherish this moment for a long time.

Finally all the CSWs were received a packet consisting of Condom 200 pieces, Oral Contraceptive Pills- 2 cycle, Oral Rehydration Solution - 5 Packets, 30 tablets of Iron & Folic Acid and a small packet of refreshment.