

8 January, 2014

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To: All Members of MCCI Ladies Forum

All Members of MCCI

Dear All,

Re: Brief Proceedings of the MLF Session on 'Women and Child Welfare' on the occasion of 'Donation to the Underprivileged Children through CINI' on January 7, 2014

Please find enclosed the Brief Proceedings of the MLF Session on 'Women and Child Welfare' on the occasion of 'Donation to the Underprivileged Children through CINI' on January 7, 2014 at the Chamber premises. Dr Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister of State, Independent Charge, Women and Child Welfare, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest. Ms Koneenica Banerjee, Actor and Dr Samir Chaudhuri, Founder Director, CINI were also present.

Thanking you,

Encl: Attached below

Yours faithfully,

**Muroti Chatterjee
(Assistant Director General)**

Brief Proceedings of the MLF Session on 'Women and Child Welfare' on the occasion of 'Donation to the Underprivileged Children through CINI' on January 7, 2014 at Somany Conference Hall

MCCI Ladies Forum (MLF) organized a Session on 'Women and Child Welfare' on the occasion of 'Donation to the Underprivileged Children through CINI' on January 7, 2014 at the Somany Conference Hall with Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister of State, Independent Charge, Women & Child Welfare, Government of West Bengal as the Chief Guest. Ms Koneenica Banerjee, Actor and Dr Samir Chaudhuri, Founder Director, CINI were also present. Five Girl Children from The Short Stay Home of CINI received a part of the donation.

Ms Divya Agarwal, Chairperson, MLF narrating the ongoing Social Endeavours of MLF, stated the association with CINI evincing keenness to explore the activities of NGOs concerned with varied spectrum of social service with the objective to 'identify and award the woman achiever from the 'deprived section'. She emphasized the need to make conscious efforts to assist the Government and the intermediaries like CINI so that all Government schemes and initiatives towards protection and assistance to the Deprived and specially Child and Women become successful and the Nation lives upto its MDG¹ promise to build a uniform, hunger free, educated and healthy world.

Dr. Shashi Panja unraveled appalling statistics with 'One out of every 10 children in India being abused, one child being raped every 16th minute, one child less than 10 year old being assaulted every 13th hour'. She urged the need for *convergence of health, protection, education and care* for children and also an initiative to make 'West Bengal as the role model for the nation'. 'Home to 35% of the underweight newborns in the World, 56% of under 18 marriages, girl children accounting for 65% of national school drop outs'- the situation of women is alarming in India- stated Dr Panja. She regarded ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) as one of the oldest Government support programmes with its State (SCDS) and District (DCDS) level components serving people through 1 Lac 16 Thousand centres. She also elucidated - 'Sneha Shivar - a INR 150 Crore new intervention of restructured ICDS to provide food to moderately malnourished children from 6 months - 6 years in 60 priority districts', 'Kanyashree - the scholarship for under 18 girl children to curb school drop outs, 'Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls -SABLA' among the incumbent and 'Village level Child

¹ Millennium Development Goals – eight such Goals were adopted by 189 countries at UN Millennium Summit in 2000 to be fulfilled by 2015

Protection society' and 'Safe Migration Card for Children' to track trafficking as the prospective programmes for Children and Women. She summarized her deliberation quoting German Protestant theologian & anti- Nazi activist -'The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children' which according to her should be the 'dictum' to guide us!

Dr Samir Chaudhuri, Founder Director, CINI described the activities of CINI as 'value addition to the Government schemes' and blamed all 'medical hospitals as failures in child care'. He added -'**We need to change our attitude towards girl and treat them well.** Malnutrition due to neglect of the pregnant mothers and early pregnancy result in underweight and unfit child adding to the child mortality in India. **The decline in the nationwide child sex ratio (as number of females per 1000 males in age group 0-6), from 945 to 914 during 1991-2011 and lowest ratio in Haryana at 830 underscore the widespread prevalence of 'selective abortions' in the State. 'Nature provides for Girls and we kill them' -** retorted Dr Chaudhuri. *He pointed to the shift in 'Face of Child in need 40 years ago from Child in Need today'*. He emphasized that **Children are victims of urbanization of the nation, being less loved, cared and underfed with 25% of school going children being obese and there is an ardent need to build the protection network at home. He mooted the suggestion of a zonal division of the city following a mapping of the pockets of requirements which may be assigned to different Social Service Providers to convert the beautiful Idea to help the helpless into a movement .**

Ms Koneenica Banerjee, Actor, discouraging 'child labour', committed to be associated with CINI and also promised to '**offer her patronage to serve the downtrodden and children'**. Regarding the MLF session as an '**eye opener'**, she stressed on the '**need of basic education'** to resolve the '**issue of discrimination against women'**.

Dr Panja, Ms Banerjee, Ms Agarwal and Ms Saroj Saraf, Co Chairperson ,MLF handed over blankets to each of the five **Girl Children** who were brought from the **Short Stay Shelter of CINI** . Altogether, 209 Blankets, 266 Kg of Rice, 25 Shawls, 17 Litres Oil, 58 Kg Pulses, 35 Kg Flour and 12 Kg Sugar and Garments were handed over to CINI.

The seminar was well attended by over 60 Participants comprising: MLF Members, Diplomats, Consultants from NGOs and Media.-

- Muroti Chatterjee