



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

INTRODUCTION

Our strategy to network and collaborate with different organizations help us reaches out to the most vulnerable young women in West Bengal.

Our activities are: rescue support, partnerships with private and government shelter homes and projects in red light areas.

In the past few years we have seen girls struggle for jobs and shelter right after they exit shelter homes. They remain at the risk of being exploited all over again. Interviews of the survivors further revealed that a trusted community and mentorship is crucial along with training and employment, without which efforts will not create the desired impact. This is when we started thinking of building a group home for the most vulnerable women and girls.

This year, six young survivors of trafficking finished training, after which they joined workforce provided by Destiny. This opportunity has helped them gain financial security, access dignified and safe employment and heal from their past trauma. This empowering impact of Destiny's program can be seen in how some of the survivors have taken a stand to testify against their trafficker/ perpetrator and also made them sustainable to provide for their children and family.

The foundation has formed a network of supporters in the USA this year comprising five women from various backgrounds (doctors, lawyers, social workers, etc.).

A SUCCESS STORY one life at the time



Chandra - is from a small village in the mountains near Kathmandu, Nepal. Her father worked in fields to support his family. He tried to marry Chandra but was unsuccessful. There were few opportunities for education or work, so when she was offered a job she quickly accepted it without question.

Chandra was then sold to a lady in Sonagachi, the largest brothel in Kolkata, India. She was locked up, beaten, and forced into prostitution. The big, unknown city full of people speaking an unfamiliar language broke her spirit, it was too daunting to even try running away. She was trapped. After several years of working in a brothel, Chandra met Smarita and had a chance to develop her sewing and English-speaking skills. Destiny became Chandra's family. She was able to leave the brothel, earn a decent and dignified living to support herself while staying at a women's hostel. Chandra dedicated herself to helping Destiny to grow and help other women.

TEAM MEMBERS



- **Smarita Sengupta** - Founder, Director and Trustee
- **Sanjoy Sengupta** - Trustee and Business Director
- **Phil Bennett** - Board member (Projects and Technology)
- **Snigdha Ray** - Administration
- **Nandini Sarkar**- Social Worker (India)
- **Shayoni Dasgupta**- Counselor (India)
- **JayeetaBhowmick** - Advisory Team
- **Indrakshi Banerjee** - Advisory Team
- **Nilakshi Sengupta** - Advisory Team

PROJECTS

OPENING OF THE GROUP HOME



Destiny's group home was opened in January 2016 to provide accommodation to young women while they explore work opportunities. This was done keeping in mind the young girls' need for a safe place to stay in, after they leave the shelter homes. This home is for those women who are above 18 years and cannot be kept at a government shelter home. These women are either previously trafficked, orphaned or are still vulnerable to being trafficked. The group home provides the women with basic needs including bedding, utensils, primary nutrition and cleaning supplies. In addition guidance and mentorship from the 'house mother' (warden) and Destiny members is provided to these women. The 'group home' started off with housing four girls who feel safe and confident living there.

SUKANYA SHELTER HOME



Destiny has continued to partner with Sukanya Shelter Home (a government-run home for girls under 18 years of age) to deliver a life skills training program to about 120 girls. Our one to one mentorship has led to development of a bond with them. It has enhanced their interpersonal skills, improved their mental health and helped them foster a cheerful ambiance within the home.

The craft and stitching skills provided is useful for employment purposes as they grow older. The modeled workshops conducted by international and local students aim to increase the confidence of the girls, develop and refine their leadership skills from a young age.

Destiny's ongoing partnership with Sukanya Shelter Home reinforces the importance of starting the process of empowering women from childhood.

Destiny employees started a program called "Joy Of Giving" where they reached out to all the local supporters to raise funds to donate clothing and other basic necessities to the children at Sukanya home, a government shelter home for survivors. The program was a huge success and received an overwhelming response from our existing supporters and in the process we gained many new supporters and well-wishers as well.

KHIDIRPUR COMMUNITY CENTER - 1 YEAR COMPLETION



On June 6th 2015, Destiny completed a year of effort and intervention at the Khidirpur Community Center (which is located in a red light area in Kolkata). The center provides support to women in the trade as well as women living in the adjoining areas through education programs, vocational training and knowledge workshops.

Dignitaries, guests and staff recognized the achievements of trainees and certified the women who had completed different programs and workshops. Workshops on the topic of HIV/AIDS was specifically delivered to this community along with other health-related topics such as menstrual health, nutrition, etc.

These workshops allow women to enhance their knowledge in a safe space where they are able to engage in discussions and ask questions without judgement. It also supports young girls pursuing higher education.

There are currently 20 women benefitting from the community center. Destiny hopes to create further employment opportunities for these women in the coming years, and to move towards starting a small scale business.

PARTNERSHIPS AND EVENTS

EFFECT.ORG USA AND DESTINY COLLABORATION - (STARTUP WEEKEND)



After partnering with Effect.org, a USA based organization in March 2015 for filming of “Stolen Innocence,” a documentary on human trafficking, Team Destiny was invited to participate in a weekend program at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kolkata, to discuss technology as a tool to prevent and raise awareness against human trafficking in December 2015.

This partnership with Effect.org helped us to connect with various technology companies and with anti-trafficking organizations in India and Nepal.

A diverse group of participants including representatives from Google, Salesforce, IIM Kolkata along with NGOs gathered to discuss the use of technological innovation to combat human trafficking.

Ideas ranged from creating a signature product to brand trafficking and raising awareness. Some of the useful lessons from the other groups/ participants were: the idea of having a contact to find out when girls go missing and report it and a business strategy for social enterprises. This introduction to Google and Salesforce representatives has been crucial to Destiny's growth. Salesforce and Google have continued to partner with Destiny by upgrading technical skills and improving our website and branding.

MAKE A SMILE VOL.2 FASHION SHOW

In September, 2015, Destiny partnered with Mode for Smiles for “Make A Smile Vol. 2, ” an - Indian-Japanese Cultural Fashion Show, held in Kolkata, India. Mode for Smiles is a group based in Hiroshima, Japan that supports women in developing countries who are living in disadvantaged situations. They believe that through fashion, the women they support will become empowered and develop confidence through self-expression.

Mode For Smiles members brought in the clothes designed for the fashion show to Destiny’s main office. Some of the girls selected an outfit they wanted to accessorize. This gave the girls the opportunity to become stylists as they added accessories to the outfits, like bags and scarves, which they had sewn themselves.

The event was a huge success with approximately 150 attendees. Notable guests and dignitaries who attended included Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Deputy Consul General of Japan, and his wife, Mrs. Minako Tanaka, Mr. Tohru Watanabe, Chairman of the Kolkata - Japan Association and CEO of Numura Research Institute, Mrs. Sarbari Bhattacharya, Senior Officer in the Immoral Trafficking Department, CID, Mr Manobendro Mondal, Supreme Court Advocate and Head of Social-Legal Aid Research & Training Centre, and Ms. Smita Singh, Director of Mahima Shelter Home. Everyone enjoyed the fashion show, which showcased Japanese, Indian and Western clothing along with music and dance performances and a pantomime show. Guests were given opportunities to learn more about the work Destiny does.

The fashion show had a positive impact globally by connecting different organizations around the world to raise awareness about human trafficking, and locally by proudly showcasing products made by the women trainees at Destiny.



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MAKE A SMILE VOL.2
Indo-Japan cultural fashion show

26TH SEP 2015
12:00 noon to 3:00 pm

JOGESH MIMI ACADEMY
97B, S. P. Mukherjee Road, (Balganga Road) Kolkata - 700 026, West Bengal, India
For more details call: +91 70446 55440

Acknowledgment: SAAJ, Viole, eunpus

紫の風-SANFRECE

2016年 平成28年 1月13日 水曜日 13日 第126号

インド女子 解き放つ舞台

広大生ら現地でファッションショー

新たな「挑戦」監督始動

応援ありがとう!

虐待から保護 裏方で参加

県取り下げへ

介護施設を運営

KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

The members of Kolkata International Women's Club (KIWC) distributed shawls to the employees at Destiny's head office in Lake Gardens. In addition, they gifted 130 shawls to children at the Sukanya Government Shelter Home. KIWC lends continuous support to Destiny's sustainable shelter home project.



THERAPEUTIC ART CAMP



In January 2015, a group of visitors from Kingsland Church, Texas, visited Destiny to facilitate a multi-day art camp at both the main office and the Khidirpur Community Center. The aim of the art camp was to enhance the self-confidence, self respect and creativity of the survivors of sex-trafficking. The workshop helped the participants to enhance their self esteem and to explore their creative skills.

The activities further included personal experience sharing, music and games. The members of the community center were delighted to be a part of the workshop. It helped them in self reflection and to learn new forms of art and craft skills. The consistent support of the visitors from Kingsland church has helped with raising awareness and networking with well wishers.

VOLUNTEERS, VISITORS & INTERNS



Students and Volunteers arrived from different locations. Relationship with Simon Fraser at B.C, Canada and Santa Clara University, USA continued.

Destiny had visitors from MCC Bangladesh and Pabitra .

CNN IBN AWARD NOMINATION

hindustantimes

TV 18

HERO CYCLES PRESENTS CNN NEWS 18

INDIAN OF THE YEAR 2015

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH hindustantimes

Indianoftheyear.com

The selfless heroes of our community, their endeavours have made them catalysts for change. Watch the Public Service category nominees special of the CNN-News18 Indian of the year 2015.

NOMINEES - PUBLIC SERVICE

ANSHU GUPTA FOUNDER, GOONJ	CENTRE FOR SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT	OPERATIONS SMILE & MUSKAAN
SMARITA SENGUPTA FOUNDER, DESTINY FOUNDATION	THE PEOPLE OF CHENNAI	TEMSUTULA IMSONG

NOMINEES SPECIAL

TODAY@6:30 PM & 11:00 PM | TOMORROW@7:30 AM

In 2015, CNN and Network 18 - a major broadcasting network - delightedly nominated Smarita Sengupta of Destiny Foundation in their 'Public Service' category of the 'CNN-IBN Indian of the Year - 2015' award for our role in preventing human trafficking and rehabilitation of sex workers in Bengal through legal assistance and training programs in shelter homes and red light areas.