



Red Light Despatch

Volume V Issue 6

June 2012

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My Dream

I want to become independent and live with dignity and full respect in my society.

A Message to Study

By Manisha

Dharpura, Najafgarh: I, Manisha*, am 17 years old and staying with my family at Perna Basti, Dharpura, Najafgarh. My family migrated from Kali Basti, Uttam Nagar, Delhi. I have five siblings and I got married three years ago. I have dropped my studies since 2007. I studied up to sixth class only and dropped my study when I was only 12 years old because I did not have desire to study. I copied two other girls who lived around my house. They did not study and spend their whole time at home so I wanted to spend my whole time at home like them and enjoy it with them, so I was not interested in studying.

When I was 14 years old, I got married. I was not ready to get marriage but I did so due to my family and I was thinking at that time of suicide but I did not do that and tried to manage myself during those circumstances. After getting my marriage, I felt that perhaps I should have studied. I could have done something to earn something for my family but now I cannot do anything due to low education.

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Apne Aap staff member falsely arrested for exposing trafficking ring

By Manish Jha

Forbesganj, Bihar: In a series of events that began on June 1, the Apne Aap office in Bihar came under sudden and unwarranted attack.

On June 1, police arrested long-term project officer and chief investigator Md Kalam on false charges of trafficking. In December, Kalam found that girls were being bought and sold in the Kali Mela, which comes to Forbesganj every January. On the basis of his findings, Apne Aap filed a complaint with the police. Within 48 hours the police retaliated against Apne Aap staff members by raiding their homes and a few neighboring brothels on 11th February at midnight. They illegally detained the 14 year old daughter of an Apne Aap staff member in a police lock up all night. They also fabricated an FIR claiming that two Apne Aap employees Soumya Pratheek and Manish Swarnakar had accompanied them on the raid of the homes of their own staff

members, though Apne Aap was not even aware of this operation till their staff members were harassed.

Twenty-four girls were “rescued” by the police on the raid. Strangely, some were returned to their exploiters or handed to a shelter in a neighboring district, Purnea, rather than placed at the short-stay home in Araria.

Mysteriously, three and a half months after this police operation, Sony, one of the girls sent to the Purnea shelter, filed a complaint before a magistrate under Section 164 Cr PC. She stated that someone called Kalam had arranged her marriage to a man who then sold her to a brothel in Delhi. Based on this complaint, the police arrested Md Kalam, without verifying whether this was the same Kalam, or on what basis he was then culpable for trafficking charges if his role was that of a match-maker.

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Students in Bihar to Receive Free Computer Training

Forbesganj, Bihar: The new computer training center in Forbesganj, Bihar, with over 70 students already enrolled, made a splash in Indian media earlier this month. Apne Aap Women Worldwide was recognized, in collaboration with the Asset Foundation,

USA, for starting the first computer training center in their office premises in Jagdishmills. The training will benefit girls and women from exploited and marginalized communities and will ensure their right to an education.

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Me, Myself, and the RLD

By Tricia Thompson

I never anticipated a relationship of such profundity – one frequented by hesitant expectations, the typical challenges, the general ups and downs, as well as an unusual multidimensionality – when I first set eyes upon the Red Light Despatch. That said, our courtship has not been a tenuous one, and throughout its nascent development, we have kept open lines of communication. I first saw it from afar, and from that initial moment, each day only brought our eventual union closer and closer. Now, at the end of my first month with Apne Aap, the RLD and I have grown more intimate than I could ever have expected – or dreamed of. In another month, when I head back to the New England countryside I call home, I will be quite affected by the impending separation. But I prefer not to brand our break-up with a definitive stamp of closure; rather, I will continue to keep up with the RLD from afar, knowing it is only a laptop and a few clicks away.

Before arriving at Apne Aap, I was the typical ignorantly idealistic do-gooder, eager to come to India and broaden my understanding of the current realities of the sex trade. I realized how truly unoriginal my intentions and motivations had been as I leafed through past intern and volunteer applications earlier this month, all singing the same songs to the tune of: “seek insight into issues and culture... participate in humanitarian work... provide help... prevent prostitution and trafficking... fight for women... gain experience... make a difference.” At the time, I smirked at these lines of sugarcoated naïveté, cynical as to how someone expected to accomplish any of

this within two weeks, or two months, or even longer. Then I paused a moment, typed “Apne Aap application” into my search bar, and pulled my own up on the screen. I skimmed. “Positive contribution... personal growth... open my eyes... challenges ahead... significant impact... invaluable insight.” I sat up from the screen. There wasn’t a lick of difference between me and every other name in that binder. It was a moment of lucid sobriety.

Yet, since my arrival, I can’t help but timidly posit that, (and going against the grain of my Scrooge-like skepticism,) all of these things have, in fact, happened, even if only in the most Lilliputian of ways. And while things move in different manners and at different speeds for everyone, my experience with Apne Aap has been formed by my relationship with the RLD.

I first grimaced at its shoddy formatting and poor journalism when I accessed it online many months ago. When I was offered an internship position in Delhi, I endeavored to take the bird under my wing and nurse it back to health. Looking recently through several years’ worth of past issues, I noted that the appearance and quality of the publication have experienced a rollercoaster of changes as it passed between shifting sets of hands.

Equipped only with Microsoft Publisher, a prehistoric piece of software that makes programs like Quark look simply futuristic, and my new hand-me-down Apne Aap intern email address, I settled into the Delhi office to see what I could do.

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Column
Volunteer Journal

(Continued from page 1 “My Dream”) After some time, I learned about Apne Aap Women Worldwide through its team. And I associated with the organization to learn computer skills and spoken English. Right now I am learning both things from the organization and now I want to get admission to the National Open School to get further education so that I can study and make myself capable.

I never thought that I would run a computer, but I did so after my first time with Apne Aap. I was just amazed as I completed my dream. Now I can speak in English little. When I was not associated with the organization, I felt nervous to talk to other people but now I can talk easily because I always attend awareness sessions on effective communication, leadership, good behavior, etc. I learned many things and got a lot of confidence by attending awareness sessions, and now I can think about my betterment.

After completing 10th, I want to get job. I learnt dance from Apne Aap and now I want to become a dancer/dance teacher. I want to become independent and live with dignity and full respect in my society.

I want to give a message to other girls, that girls should be studying and never do difficult work in prostitution; they must become themselves capable people. And they should not face violence against themselves.

**name changed*

Clinton Mentions Poonam at 2012 GTIP Report Conference

By Lindsey Sedgwick

Hillary Clinton's opening remarks to the 2012 Global Trafficking in Persons (GTIP) Report highlights our own Poonam Khatoon, who attends Apne Aap karate classes in Bihar, as a source of inspiration.

The report's official release on June 19 was attended by members of the US Department of State and leaders and activists of the anti-trafficking movement, as well as celebrity figures Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, who have shown deep interest in the issues around modern day slavery and trafficking. The report reviews the current state of global efforts to fight trafficking and places countries in different tiers (one, two, or three) based on their commitment to the issue.

In the first introduction by Maria Otero, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, she said,

“Trafficking challenges are one of the problems that we have. And it is also the one area that deals with one of our most fundamental values. That is the basic freedom and dignity of every individual. Trafficking also tears at the very fabric of society. It rips families apart. It devastates communities. It holds people back from becoming full participants in their own political processes in their own economies. And it challenges the ability of countries to build strong justice systems and transparent governments. That’s why fighting modern slavery is a

priority for the United States. In that fight, we partner with governments around the world to improve and increase the prosecution of this crime, to prevent the crime from spreading, and to protect those individuals who are victimized by it.”

Later, Clinton took the podium and shared that an estimated 27 million people are victims of modern slavery today. During her speech, she spoke of her experience meeting victims and activists in Kolkata, referring to the conference attended by several local representatives including members of Apne Aap. But one particular young girl received special mention, and though her name is not included, it is clear that Clinton is speaking of Poonam:

“This was a child who’d been born in a brothel to a young mother who had been forced and sold into prostitution. But when her mother finally escaped and took her daughter with her, they were out of harm’s way and finally able to make choices for themselves. Now I don’t know what’s going to happen to that young girl, whose image I see in my mind’s eye, in the years and decades ahead. But I do know that with a little help, her life can be so much better than her mother’s. And that’s what we need to be focused on, and it’s what we need to try to do for all victims and survivors. That’s why in this year’s report, we are especially focused on that third P, victim protection.”

(Continued from page 1 “Apne Aap staff member falsely accused for exposing trafficking ring”)

The police also did not arrest any other of the men mentioned by Sony, leading one to speculate that this was an attempt by the police to arrest Kalam falsely - to punish him for exposing the trafficking ring run by Kali Mela contractors.

Md Kalam has worked in anti-trafficking for eight years in honour of his mother and two sisters who were pushed into prostitution.

He holds an LLB degree, was named The Week Magazine's Anti-Trafficking Hero in 2004 and was nominated for the US International Visitor's Programme in 2011.

Following Kalam's arrest, he was paraded in handcuffs before the media in blatant violation of the law and put in judicial custody. He was granted bail, and since his arrest, the entire Apne Aap team, with the help of several

lawyers, has been working on bringing his case to trial.

While Kalam's arrest has been a terrible act of injustice, it also allows Apne Aap and all those involved in the anti-trafficking effort to see the movement's growing influence. His arrest has not only exposed the collusion between traffickers and police officers, but has also revealed that Apne Aap has begun to threaten these corrupt communities.

The Story of My Arrest

By Mohammad Kalam

I was very happy on 1st June 2012 i.e. on Friday because that was the day when I got my salary for the month of June. I took the money and went to the construction contractor because I had to reconstruct my house, which needed maintenance. I couldn't even go to the mosque for "jumma". When I was getting off from the office, I got a call from Soumya ji who told me that she has got a call from Forbesganj police station and they are seeking help from us to keep a rescued girl at KGBV for some days and if the CWC doesn't take action we need to take custody of the girl. I went home after that, got fresh and then went out to a friend's place and was sitting there chatting with him when I got a call from one of my colleagues named Raju. He said that an ASI (Asst. Sub Inspector) from the Forbesganj police station was inquiring about me with him and was asking my address and my father's name. I told Raju that maybe they are inquiring about me to seek help for the rescued girl. I asked Raju to inquire with the policeman who contacted him about the reason for which he was asking about me. But unfortunately I couldn't get through to Raju, who was in a bus and the network was getting disconnected.

Then I called up Manish ji and told the whole story and mentioned my worry. He consoled me by saying that it won't be anything other than the rescued girl's issue and still we can go to the police station together and will find out what is the actual fact. I was nervous and went to Manish ji's house but since I was nervous I couldn't find his house; finally I met him at the street near his house. Together we went to the police station but there was no official there except the clerk. I told Manish ji if he can call the SI who was enquiring about me. Manish ji called up the SI and then he said that SDPO, Forbesganj, was searching for me and wanted to talk to me. Then I called SDPO over the phone and asked him what was the matter and why he was searching for me. He asked me to wait at Forbesganj police station, where he would reach within half an hour.

When SDPO came, he asked me and Manish ji to come to his room and then he said that there was an arrest warrant against me. I was shocked to hear that a recently rescued girl from the RLA had given a statement that I had got her married into the Red Light Area and that's how she was prostituted. I asked the SDPO to investigate this first so that then

he would know that what the girl had said was not true because I was the one who gave information to my organization about the girls being trafficked and that's how the girl was rescued. But he was not ready to listen to anything and was saying that he had pressure from his senior officer. I asked for legal assistance also but I was denied and he was continuously saying the same thing - that he had pressure from his senior officer and so he can't help me. He then arrested me.

The world around me went still. I couldn't say anything or feel anything. The face of my family members came in front of me. My sister who gave her whole life to educate me and made me capable enough to fight against the traffickers who were my relatives, my wife who being from a Hindu religion left her family and relatives and married me thinking that I will take care of her and moreover I am the one who being from Nat community, not indulging in trafficking and moreover fighting against it. I started thinking about the feeling they are going to have about me.

When my mind was overwhelmed with all these thoughts, a policeman came to me and took me in their custody. They asked me to give my wallet, my mobile and all personal belongings to Manish ji and I told him not to inform my family about it. But anyway my family came to know about the whole thing.

The room inside in which I was kept was a very small room, which had a dirty bed mat in it and a toilet attached which I think hadn't been cleaned for months and a fan that was not working. The room smelled awful and there were rats and small worms running around. There were lots of mosquitoes in the room and I requested a policeman to light a mosquito coil but he refused. Meanwhile my wife and daughter came to meet me and I felt like crying but I held myself since I didn't want them to panic. I told my wife to take care of my sister and daughter and to be strong. Somehow I convinced my wife and sent her back home. My colleague Jamshed came up to me and gave me two packets of biscuits and a bottle of water thinking that I was hungry but I wasn't and I couldn't eat anything. I tried to sleep on the dirty mat where I was not even thinking of sitting. As soon as I close my eyes, rats and cockroaches ran around me and I woke up suddenly. I was really scared. I did not understand why this was happening to me. *(Continued on page 5)*

"The world around me went still. I couldn't say anything or feel anything"

The Story of My Arrest (cont.)

By Mohammad Kalam

(Continued from page 4) Next morning I wanted to go to the toilet but they were not ready to take me and after lots of requests they handcuffed me and tied a rope to the handcuff and a guard was holding one end of the rope as if I were a dangerous criminal.

I heard that Ruchira di has tried a lot to convince the police but they are not ready to listen. I was praying to God for my release from the jail and from this fabricated case. My sister and my brother-in-law came to meet me and got breakfast for me. Some of the cops in the police station were shocked to see me there and asked me how I had become involved in this case and that they had seen me rescuing girls and saving their lives. In between I heard that Ruchira di has threatened the DySP and so the SP has asked to file a case against her.

I was feeling very bad and was feeling - how can people who are fighting against the traffickers and working for a noble cause can be troubled like this? Manish ji made me talk to Ruchira di and she consoled me and said that after every hardship truth is going to win. Meanwhile someone said that SP is going to arrive at the station and so anything regarding this case was going to be decided by him. Sometimes I felt that I would be released but at the same time I would feel that I may not be released and would be sent to the prison.

When SP came he scolded Manishji and my wife who went up to him and said that the case is being fabricated and I haven't done anything as per the statement of the girl. When SP scolded Manishji, he went away and my wife stayed there. When I was presented in front of the SP, I said hello to him but he abused me in very bad language. I tried to convince him and said that he might have probably misunderstood me but he seemed to be very reluctant and didn't listen to me and moreover said very sarcastically that he knows what our organization does. I realized that he had made up his mind and he was part of this whole planning to detain me.

SP called all the media people and handcuffed me and presented before them as a trafficker. Camera lights were flashing on me and the reporters were looking at me as if they had very exclusive news to sell. A policeman came along with me and we all went to Araria to the court in our Apne Aap car. While going the policeman asked me if I have married a Hindu girl and I said yes. Then the policeman said that one of the news reporters was telling the SP

that I have married a Hindu girl and I am a bad guy. Somehow I reached the court with an expectation that maybe the judge would give a releasing order. A policeman had handcuffed me and tied me to a rope. A policeman held one end of the rope and he presented me in front of the judge.

It was a very miserable feeling to stand in front of the judge as a trafficker, where many times I have stood as an advocate for the girls who were being trafficked and where I had given statements against traffickers that led to the conviction of many traffickers.

The people who were around were looking at me as if I was a criminal. I stood there for almost half an hour as the judge attended each case. At the end, my name was being called. The Judge asked me if I have murdered Chanda's father and I was shocked. I said "Sir, I am Kalam and I have helped these girls get out of the hell of forced prostitution and I have worked hard against these traffickers and pimps to put them behind bars." The judge then said that he remember me and asked if I belong to the same organization which works against traffickers and who have given witness in many of such cases and I said yes.

He asked me how had I become involved in this case and I told him that it's all part of conspiring against me and my organization to stop us from working against these traffickers. The Judge then consoled me and asked me to wait, he called up the DySP and told me to wait in the office. My sister and brother-in-law had come by the court carrying food for me. The policeman and the guard who were with me also took money from my family and had their lunch. By evening all those who were with me left me and I was standing in front of the Sub-Jail. I was searched by the guard and then wrote my address and phone number on a register and then a guard took me in.

When I went inside the jail, the prisoners there started asking me as if for what case was I detained. I was quiet and then a criminal named Kare Mandal took me to his ward and said that there is no space for you to sit in the other ward. When I went there I was not allowed by the other prisoners to even sit or share their bed mat. I was standing there and when Kare Mandal, who I guessed was the leader of the ward, asked them to give some space for me to sit, then they did. *(Continued on page 6)*

The Story of My Arrest (cont.)

By Mohammad Kalam

(Continued from page 5) By the time, it was time for the evening “bhajan” and all the prisoners went for it and I was sitting there. The “bhajan” continued for almost two hours. After the “bhajan” all of them started for their dinner and I didn’t have my dinner as I wasn’t feeling like it. When I was searching for a place to sleep, the leader of the ward came to me and said that I have to pay to sleep there. And when I accepted the deal, only then I was given a space of six by two feet to sleep. Somehow I spent the night and then the next morning, I went out to the toilet and there was a long line of people waiting for their turn fighting with each other for the toilet usage. I came back and then a guy named Manjur took me with him and explained me about the “so-called rules” of the jail. He said that he was also convicted for a false case as his uncle married a Hindu girls and her family took revenge this way. By now I was habituated by the nastiness of the jail. I used to hang around with Manjur mostly and some of the prisoners were telling me that I will get a bail only after six months. My heart was pained when I hear such comments because I couldn’t think of staying there for so long and moreover I was also thinking about my family.

I took a book from the jail library and started reading it, trying to deviate myself from all these. One ward in the jail has a capacity to keep 35 to 40 prisoners, but there were 150 to 200 people in a ward. When my family used to come there to visit me and when I see my daughter and when I feel that I couldn’t even pamper her I used to cry and couldn’t control myself. I was breaking from inside but at the same time I wasn’t losing hope. I tried to convince myself that I have always worked for the truth and so I will win in the end.

I got bail on the fifth day after my detention. When I came out of the jail, Tinku di, Faizul and my family members hugged me and I started crying. I did not know why I was crying but I think it was a ventilation of all the pains I went through when I was in the jail. I returned home and I started getting many phone calls and I was tired of answering to the calls and explaining the truth. There were many eyes around me that looked sarcastically towards me even after I came out of the jail. And whenever I see a police van my heart would start beating so quickly. But after all this, I would console myself and convince myself by thinking that justice will be done at the end; the actual traffickers will be punished and I

(Continued from page 2: *Me, Myself and the RLD*) “Under my jurisdiction, the monthly newsletter has not, in fact, seen that much of a makeover. I added a few personal flourishes and clipped and trimmed some of the prose more to my taste, but I realized that my first judgment of the RLD had been far too myopic. It has taken trips to the community center at Dharampura, the office and classrooms in Kolkata, and the self-empowerment groups in Bihar, to truly appreciate the multifaceted sphere — or perhaps, more aptly, prism — that the RLD tries each month to capture on paper. The faceless names of Apne Aap staff members who sent in pieces that tried to preserve the voices of the girls and women with whom they work suddenly took shape in the form of smiles and handshakes and patient tour guides. Previously alien locations — “Kidderpore, Sonagachi, Forbesganj” — rose up around me, imbuing the pages of RLDs past with clamorous sounds, distinct smells, and unforgettable sights. In my time away from the cool, quiet Delhi office, the RLD sprung to

life, no longer a limp collection of text but a vessel bearing familiar voices from places now vivid in my mind.

Apne Aap’s Red Light Despatch will never come near *The New York Times* or the *Wall Street Journal*, or even your local town newspaper. It has no intention to. It may violate the hallowed pillars of journalism, never understand the concept of a lede or nutgraf, and lack *The New Yorker*’s excruciatingly scrupulous fact-checking process. We may not print Adam Gopnik, Elizabeth Kolbert or Nicholas Kristof (actually, we might be able to swing that last one), but we do give you Sonu, Fatima, and Roshni. What has taken me three issues and four weeks to truly come to terms with is that the RLD is not, and never will be, a piece of journalism (after all, this is an NGO, not a news agency). Hopefully all of its readers can realize this far more quickly than did I, and recognize this modest collection of pages for what it really is: a unification of invisible voices.

Ruchira Featured in *Half the Sky* Documentary, to be released in October

In 2010, acclaimed journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn published a best-selling book on the global oppression of women, *Half the Sky*. Since its release, innumerable men and women have been inspired by the stories shared by Kristof and Wudunn and have sought to find a way to contribute to the movement to end this oppression, which they call "the defining issue of our time."

Since the book's publication, The Half the Sky Movement has taken flight, bringing together videos, websites, games, blogs, and other educational tools to raise awareness and provide ways and opportunities to empower women, for organizations and businesses, but also for individuals.

The project includes a four-hour television series to be broadcasted on the US Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) and internationally. The film includes footage from 10 countries, India, of course, among them. Accompanying Kristof in the film are a number of US celebrity advocates including America Ferrera, Diane Lane, Eva Mendes, Meg Ryan, Gabrielle Union and Olivia Wilde. The series premieres Oct. 1, 2012 in the US, and shortly after on international broadcast.

Half the Sky includes praise of Apne Aap and lists it on its website as an organization making change and through which there are opportunities to contribute. Apne Aap Founder and President,

Ruchira Gupta, was interviewed for the Movement and a film clip is featured on the website's home-page. The collection of short clips also includes notable international figures such as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, President of World Vision Richard Stearns, and celebrity advocate Susan Sarandon. In her clip, Ruchira discusses the dynamics of the sex industry.

"The truth of the matter is," she says, "it is not a supply-driven industry, it is a demand-driven industry. It is not that I am making a craft and then I want to make it available to the world. The girls would actually rather be doing something else. They would rather be going to school, rather be becoming doctors, scientists, lawyers - you know, anything else - but their vulnerability, the fact that they're not educated, the fact that they don't have their own homes, they don't have control over their own bodies... this is what these traffickers take advantage of. And they take advantage of these girls because they see a profit at the end of this whole chain."

To see the video clip of Ruchira and to look further into the Half the Sky Movement and ways you can help, go to their website at <http://www.halftheskymovement.org/>

Jewelry Income Generation Program Takes Off

By Jill Williams

Forbesgunge, Bihar: An Apne Aap-run income generation program has started to pick up speed and is headed down an exciting road - the final destination being stores and boutiques in Delhi and in various cities in the US.

In Forbesganj, Bihar, Apne Aap has been graced by the aid and expertise of a volunteer artist from Israel. He is imparting his extensive knowledge as well as artistic talent and creativity to teach the women a unique and beautiful form of jewelry-making. Zeevic has traveled around the world volunteering and sharing his skills, and he has been with Apne Aap for several months, beginning in April.

Zeevic emphasizes two things in his art and jewelry-making: tradition and sustainability. The work draws from traditional Indian Mahdubani painting, adapting and implementing their designs and motifs

for the bangles, necklaces, and earrings produced by the women. Each piece is also environmentally friendly, made entirely from natural products. The base material is traditional Bihari papier-mâché; to make this, newspaper is soaked overnight, squeezed out in the morning and then mixed with crushed methi (fenugreek) and multani mitti (fullers earth). Mango pits are also used as a base for pendants. After the pieces have been placed in the sun to dry, the women paint them using natural colors (black from charcoal, sienna from burnt mud and green from crushed leaves). A final varnish ensures each piece will last and gives it the finishing touch. Zeevic currently works with about ten women in the Bihar community who have been taught the skills necessary to produce high-quality products.

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Visit by ASSET India Foundation

By Upasana Chakma

Delhi, Kolkata, Bihar: During the second half of June, Mr. Ray Umashankar of the Asset India Foundation paid visits to all three of Apne Aap's offices in India. Mr. Ray is currently a professor of engineering at the University of Arizona and founder of the philanthropic foundation, which he began four years ago in collaboration with Apne Aap. Ray began ASSET, which stands for Achieving Sustainable Social Equality through Technology, to educate and provide better opportunities for the children of prostituted women. The foundation wants to see children across India trained in computer education, a gateway to better employment opportunities for their futures.

On June 16, Umashankar met with Apne Aap President Ruchira and other members of the Delhi office before traveling to the community center at Dharampura, where he spent time with the girls there and observed the activities at the center.

The following Thursday, Ray made his way to the office in Kolkata, which has already benefited from his previous donation of twelve desktop computers that are used daily for different classes. During this visit, he sat in on the spoken English and computer classes. Ray is adept at engaging an audience and entertained both the students and staff; he began his conversation with the girls in the English class by asking them about their first crush. His, he said, was his childhood next-

door-neighbor.

A pizza lunch ordered by Ray offered the students an opportunity to speak one-on-one with him, and his interest in their hobbies and ambitions never appeared to wane. He urged them not to waste time watching television serials and movies, and instead focus on reading and learning.

From 22 to 24 June, Ray continued to the office in Bihar. During his stay, he attended computer classes at the Antyodya Centre and went out to the field to Basti Bijas Kendra, Uttari Rampur to interact with the girls from Kishori Mandals. The Asset Foundation has also donated computers for the boys and girls in Forbesganj and at KGBV, Simraha. In addition, he has donated money for sewing machines for Basti Bikas Kendra.

Sitting down with the team in Bihar, Ray explained his objective to set up a BPO and HUSK Power Unit at Forbesganj, to be later replicated in other states as well.

Mr. Ray Umashankar responded positively to all three of his Apne Aap visits and left an inspiring impression on all those to whom he spoke. He has expressed commitment to supporting Apne Aap's work in the future through both logistics and finance. Mr. Ray offers a wide array of expertise and insight, and Apne Aap is very lucky to have him and the Asset Foundation, on board. The partnership's continuation can only bring greater things in the future.

(Continued from page 7 "Jewelry Income Generation Program Takes Off")

Hopefully, these ten women will be able to pass on their knowledge to more women in the community, expanding this new form of income generation so that supply can meet what hopefully turns out to be high future demand.

Apne Aap staff members in Delhi are currently connecting with several boutiques to find markets for the beautiful work, and many store owners are already showing interest in the products. Apne Aap is very excited to see the work in Bihar make it into the homes of women around the world.

(Continued from page 1 "Students in Bihar To Receive Free Computer Training")

The computer training center was inaugurated on Tuesday by Professor Dr. Ashok K. Jha of Araria College.

On this occasion, Col Ajil Dutt, Professor Basuki N Jha, Apne Aap state coordinator, Manish K Jha, Praveen Kumar, Mohammed Kalam, Kalpana Basnet, Vinay Shankar Jha, and others were present.

Current reports say that this computer center will have 30 students learning computer skills free of cost. Out of these, 10 will be students from KGBV. The trainer/teacher Krishna Kumar Sharma, was present too. On this occasion, Manish K Jha stated that girls older than ten would be able to get enrolled. On the very first day, 70 students were enrolled.

Apne Aap is excited to launch this new computer program in Bihar with the help and teamwork of the Asset Foundation. There are now computer classrooms in Dharampura, Delhi, Kidderpore, Kolkata, and Forbesganj, Bihar. As Mr. Ray Umashankar of the Asset Foundation emphasizes, technological skill is critical in current fields of employment. Through ensuring children access to computer training, as well as English speaking and basic education, Apne Aap hopes to furnish them with clear strengths that will help them find steady jobs in the future, and avoid being pulled into exploitative work. With the new computer classroom in Bihar, we continue to take more steps forward and are excited to see the progress yet to be made.

Traffickers Arrested by Police in Forbesganj, Bihar

2009 - 2011

Md Mustafa
Md Tayab
Bibi Sulekha
Md Lalo
Md Jabbar
Md Allaudin
Bibi Mehnaj

2012

Md Wasim raja
Md Saddam
Tarun Kumar
Photo mandal
Md Jamir
Chandan Kumar
Brijnandan kumar
Ganesh Kumar Deo

Chandan Kumar
Premshankar Kumar
Santosh Kumar
Umesh Kumar Mandal
Rajiv Singh
Sadre Alam
Indrajeet kumar
Md Amjad
Md Jabir
Md Avesh
Aman Kumar
Shivnarayan Mehta
Himanshu Shekhar
Md najbul
Md Aslam
Md Satar
Md nasim
Vikash Yadav

Santoshkumar
Md Ahsan
Md Naushad
Md Sabir Alam
Md Javed
Md Parvej
Vijay Mandal
Kailash Kumar Mandal
Aash Mohamad
Md Idrish
Md Mustafa
Md Afroj
Md Ahsan
Bhumesh Mehta
Md Shamser
Jagir Ansari
Rajkumar Mandal
Shitlal Thakur



The *Red Light Despatch* is a monthly newsletter published exclusively by Apne Aap Women Worldwide. It compiles articles, testimonials, speeches and interviews by women participating in Apne Aap's Self-Empowerment Groups (SEGs) and other initiatives, as well as by staff members, volunteers, and media figures. The central objective of the RLD is to offer a space for the unique voices of our girls and women. The particular writing style has been implemented to best preserve the original tone of the speakers.

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