



MEGHDUTAM
FOUNDATION

MEGHDUTAM FOUNDATION

Address : 29, Mohim Chandra Das Sarani, Kolkata – 700012

Contact : +91 70448 33300 / 81007 74425

Email Id : meghdutamfoundation@gmail.com

Web : www.meghdutamfoundation.org

Project Proposal

Single-unit Night-time Creche in Sonagachhi

Initiative of Meghdutam Foundation

29, Mohim Chandra Das Sarani, Kolkata 700012

Introduction

Meghdutam Foundation is dedicated to serving marginalized communities through sustainable development initiatives, education, and empowerment programs. From organizing educational workshops and skill-building programs to implementing sustainable development projects, our dedicated team is always on the ground, engaging directly with the communities we serve. Our impact resonates long after our projects are completed, leaving behind a legacy of positive change that transforms lives and communities for generations to come.

Background

When Meghdutam Foundation began its work of serving humankind in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the first areas we had received SOS calls from, and had subsequently reached out to, was Sonagachhi— one of the largest and oldest red-light areas of the world. According to a 2023 report by the National Human Rights Commission of India, more than 20,000 sex workers permanently reside in the multi-story brothel houses of Sonagachhi, with thousands more falling into the ‘floating sex workers’ category (workers who travel to Sonagachhi for work, but do not reside there). However, based on the field experience of Meghdutam Foundation members, the actual number of members who constitute the Sonagachhi workforce are much higher.

Purpose

Motherhood in Sonagachhi is a contentious issue which is invisibilized. In the economic and human rights-oriented fight for recognising sex work as work, and consider sex workers as human beings who have fundamental rights, it is often forgotten that they experience affective scenarios like motherhood.

In Kolkata’s red-light district of Sonagachhi, most women are single mothers. These women, especially those with very young children and infants, find it extremely difficult to work during the active business hours of the night, because they do not have any resources and support systems to look after their children. They are either compelled to leave such children sleeping alone at home, or in the care of unknown individuals who often do not provide safe spaces for these children. They are often the victim of child abuse and accidents caused by neglect.



MEGHDUTAM
FOUNDATION

MEGHDUTAM FOUNDATION

Address : 29, Mohim Chandra Das Sarani. Kolkata – 700012

Contact : +91 70448 33300 / 81007 74425

Email Id : meghdutamfoundation@gmail.com

Web : www.meghdutamfoundation.org

Situations & Problems

One of the most neglected and ignored aspects of the lives of sex workers is their role as mothers to their children. Many of these women were young girls when they were lured into Sonagachhi by relatives and/or neighbours who brought them to the place under the guise of providing them with 'domestic work' in respectable houses. Others entered the trade knowingly because they lived in extreme poverty and had no other choice, and had families to support. Needless to say, all these women have all been victims of extreme patriarchal and sexual violence.

Objectives & Goals

Having spent years engaging and interacting with the women of Sonagachhi, Meghdutam Foundation has discovered a common sentiment that characterizes these women— all the women in Sonagachhi who are mothers have expressed that despite life having taken everything away from them, their children are their source of joy, comfort, and purpose. Many mothers have adopted babies who were abandoned in the Sonagachhi lanes, indicating the yearning of motherhood that runs as a common thread through their lives. These women have continued to remain in the sex work industry to send their children to school, and are saving money for their education and well-being. All of them want their children to grow up and make something of themselves that will help them leave the area. They are of the opinion that the only good thing life has given them is their children.

Life of Children, Issues and Concerns

One of the most glaring problems in this situation is the lack of a crèche establishment, where mothers can leave their children when they head out for work, and can be assured of their safety and well-being. It is the fundamental right of every working parent to have access to resources that will help them raise their children, and crèches are an integral part of this welfare project. In the absence of a safe crèche, many women are compelled to work with their children in the room, or have to make them sit and sleep outside the room in which they are working. The situation is particularly difficult and horrifying in the night hours, because that is the busiest time of work in Sonagachhi, meaning that the children are either not able to get a good night's sleep, or they are left in creches with abysmal living conditions. Most of the children who are affected by this are children below the age of 12, some being as young as a few months old. It is absolutely unacceptable that infants and toddlers have to be left by their mothers in the care of unreliable strangers because they have to work to make ends meet, and have no other choice.



MEGHDUTAM
FOUNDATION

MEGHDUTAM FOUNDATION

Address : 29, Mohim Chandra Das Sarani. Kolkata – 700012

Contact : +91 70448 33300 / 81007 74425

Email Id : meghdutamfoundation@gmail.com

Web : www.meghdutamfoundation.org

Overall Plan for the Proposed Project

It is with this issue in mind that Meghdutam Foundation is proposing the establishment of a night creche centre in 15, Durga Charan Mitra Street. Kolkata - 700006 which will be solely dedicated to ensuring the care and wellbeing of children. The project will be supervised by the dedicated Meghdutam Foundation team led by Secretary Mrs. Swaguna Mukherjee, who has spoken at length with the concerned mothers and monitored by the Founder Jaydeep Mukherjee and the entire team.

Policies and Principles

- Availability of adequate shelter amidst sanitary surroundings.
- The area will be equipped with beds for the children.
- Adequate nourishment in terms of the provision of the right type of food of good quality in adequate quantity.
- A local resident woman as the caregiver for these children, a fully-functional washroom, stable source of electricity, safe drinking water.
- Presence of affection and love in the family environment.
- Comprehensive and timely immunization and protection against diseases.
- Protection from hazards of the environment endangering personal safety.
- Appropriate night guard to ensure maximum security and protection.
- Opportunity for indoor and outdoor play.
- Provision of adequate care for the early and immediate treatment of physical, mental, emotional Handicaps and maladjustment.
- Opportunity for training and development of children within the home community and institutional environment.

Infrastructure & Institutional set up

- Prime location at the heart of Sonagachi with access to basic amenities like water, sewage disposal, fire protection, hospital and recreational facilities.
- Each child is provided with a minimum capacity of 25 sq. feet of space.
- Beds in the dormitory with bedding, mattress, pillow, pillow covers, blankets.
- Bath and Lavatories.
- Main Dormitory Hall, auxiliary dormitory for staff.



MEGHDUTAM
FOUNDATION

MEGHDUTAM FOUNDATION

Address : 29, Mohim Chandra Das Sarani. Kolkata – 700012

Contact : +91 70448 33300 / 81007 74425

Email Id : meghdutamfoundation@gmail.com

Web : www.meghdutamfoundation.org

- Kitchen, small dishes, utensils and Store.
- Fans, tube lights.
- Nutrition diets.

Project Potential Cost for 1 Year

- Space renting Rs 35000 X 12 = Rs 420000.00
- Infrastructure including beds, mattresses, lighting, basic furnitures, sanitation facilities Rs 260000.00
- Kitchen equipment, cleaning person and supplies Rs 80000.00
- Food and supplies Rs 37500 per month x12 = Rs 450000.00
- Staff Salaries Rs 38000.00 per month X 12 = Rs 456000.00
- Utilities Rs 4000 x 12 = Rs 48000.00
- Transportation Rs 3000 x 12 = Rs 36000.00
- Education and playing material Rs 60000.00
- Legal & Regulatory compliance Rs 40000.00

Total Operational Cost for 1 Year is Rs 1850000.00 (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Fifty Thousand only)

Hands of Support

We implore you all for this project that Meghdutam Foundation wholeheartedly believes is fundamental to upholding the reproductive justice of mothers having access to safe support systems for bringing up their children, and the right of these children to have a safe space for inhabitants. With a track record of 5 years of dedicated service to humankind since the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are committed to support the children of these sex workers with safety, love and care for a better life.

MEGHDUTAM FOUNDATION

A/C NO : 33005093165

IFSC : SCBL0036007

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

NEW ALIPORE BRANCH , KOLKATA - 700053

MEGHDUTAM FOUNDATION

A/C NO : 39945446431 (FCRA CURRENT ACCOUNT)

IFSC : SBIN0000691 SWIFT : SBININBB104

STATE BANK OF INDIA

NEW DELHI MAIN BRANCH , NEW DELHI - 110001



MEGHDUTAM
FOUNDATION

MEGHDUTAM FOUNDATION

Address : 29, Mohim Chandra Das Sarani. Kolkata – 700012

Contact : +91 70448 33300 / 81007 74425

Email Id : meghdutamfoundation@gmail.com

Web : www.meghdutamfoundation.org

Photographs & Proposed site plan attached.



Certificate of Registration under section 60 and Rule 69 . Registration in Book – IV
Volume number 1902-2020, Page from 7621 to 7649. Being No 190200193 for the year 2020.