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BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY

RI District 3291 | Charter Date : 14/06/1995 | Club No. : 30869

EDITORIAL



The spirit of Rotary lives and breathes in villages and away from the city's high-rises and gated communities, I have always believed the more rooted you are to the ground the more is the spirit to do for others. Every individual you meet who has done the extraordinary are actually very ordinary in their disposition and demeanour. Recently I met a person during my visit to a remote village Nalua in Diamond Harbour, Gautam Bhandary, he works as a staff in one of the Girl's colleges in South Kolkata and post his working hours drives around an App cab across the city, all fine, we all need that extra money for a comfortable life, but no here is the difference between ordinary mortals like us and Goutam, he earns that money (salary and cab earnings) to run a 300 students strong school for the absolute underprivileged with practical-ly zero support except a few good Samaritans. He has students of all communities, religion and gender (zero bias). How humbly and almost under his breath he mentioned such a gigantic and mam-moth work day in day out for the past 8 years made me feel like a midget in terms of giving. He tells his wife to do her bit to earn extra money to educate their own 6 year old girl. Among those reading this editorial (I know many read and berate me for my mostly divergent and almost anarchist views on some of the happenings in Rotary), are high and mighty in terms of giving dollars and proudly wear- ing the pins but for me Goutam Bhandary is an AKS (Arch Klumph Society member) without the panache and smartness of a suited booted donor. Infact to me he is far bigger than that. 100% Literacy will come to India not through the politicians masquerading as educators or much flaunted literacy missions, they are good for photo opportunities on social media and for International accolades, it is the Goutam Bhandarys who will make India a 100% literate Nation and it is time we recognize them , learn from them and support them, I only hope our leaders take time out from their self created bub- bles to see the stark reality and get rid of tokenisms and posturing.

Subhojit Roy

Literacy Faces Challenges Across Continents

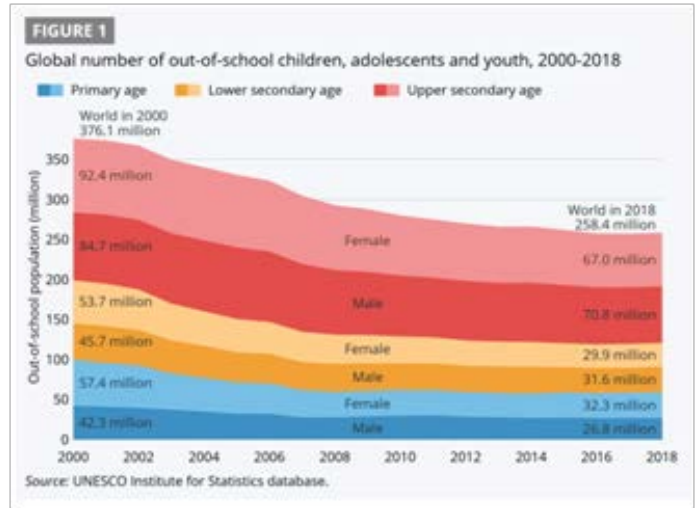


In 2018, 258.4 million children, adolescents and youth were out of school, representing one-sixth of the global population of this age group. This number is 3.4 million lower than the number of out-of-school children released by the UIS in September 2018 (261.8 million). Most of this reduction is due to a change in the methodology used to calculate the number and rate of out-of-school children. Until 2018, children enrolled in pre-primary education were included in the count of out-of-school children. Starting in 2019, any children enrolled in formal education, regardless of the level, are considered to be in school, including children of primary school age enrolled in pre-primary education. The world is moving towards gender parity

in out-of-school rates, although inequalities persist at regional and country levels. The decline in out-of-school rates and numbers over the past 15 years occurred with a reduction in gender disparity at the global level. Historically, girls and young women were more likely to be excluded from education. However, the most recent statistics show that globally, the male and female out-of-school rates for the lower secondary and upper secondary school-age populations are now nearly identical, while the gender gap among children of primary school age dropped from more than five percentage points in 2000 to two percentage points in 2018.

Of all regions, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of education exclusion. Over one-fifth of children

between the ages of about 6 and 11 are out of school, followed by one-third of youth between the ages of about 12 and 14. According to UIS data, almost 60% of youth between the ages of about 15 and 17 are not in school. Southern Asia is home to almost one-half of the global illiterate population (49%). In addition, 27% of all illiterate adults live in sub-Saharan Africa, 10% in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, 9% in Northern Africa and Western Asia, and about 4% in Latin America and the Caribbean. Less than 2% of the global illiterate population live in the remaining regions combined (Central Asia, Europe and Northern America, and Oceania).



RI Charters Rotary Club of World Disability Advocacy



The need for human rights for people with disabilities is world-wide. From the largest to the smallest countries, there are opportunities for Rotary to improve the dignity, respect, and quality of lives for people with disabilities. That is why we chartered the Rotary Club of World Disability Advocacy. We saw so many possibilities of what Rotary could do.

We reached out to disability advocates around the world, and many were willing to team up for the cause by agreeing to be charter members of this unique club. Disability advocates do not always get the recognition they deserve but they all are extremely passionate about human rights.

As a result, we formed a uniquely diverse club. Our 20 charter members represent eight countries – and 18 of our members are new to Rotary. We are also a comparably young club, with our average age being around 32.

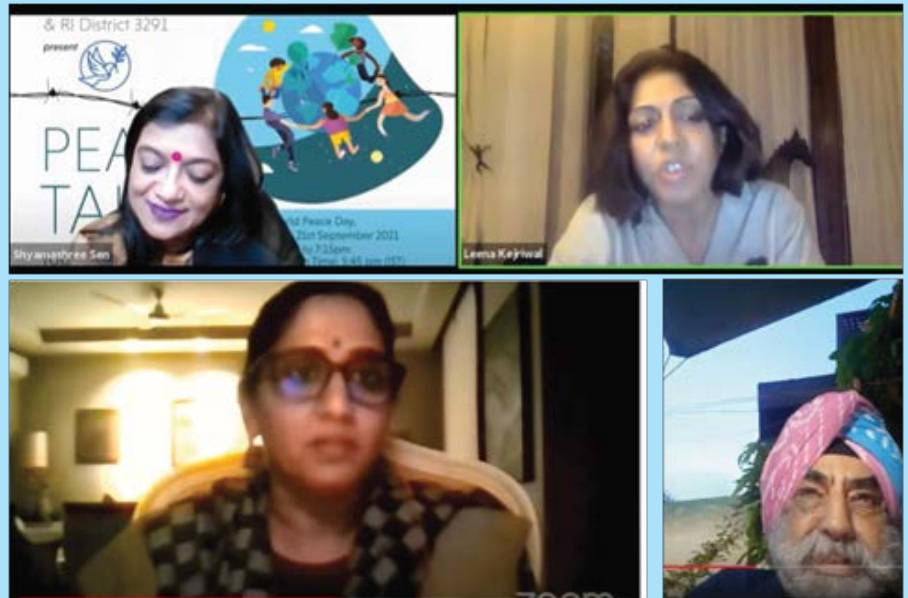
We are a cause-related e-club and are affiliated with the district's Rotary Disabilities Advisers Group. Since early this year, the group has been focusing on helping Rotary become more welcoming to people with disabilities.

There is no other club quite like this. Disability rights have always been lower in priority in many human rights endeavours. However, for us, it is our top priority – and we plan on having an impact in many counties and many people's lives.

We are thankful for the support we are receiving from other Rotary members. If you have a passion for increasing human rights for those with disabilities, contact us at rotarydag@gmail.com

More details: <https://rotary7910.org/Stories/ri-charters-rotary-club-of-world-disability-advocacy>

PEACE TALKS 1



On the occasion of International Day of Peace, watch this insightful panel discussion on "How prevention can change the narrative" by Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City and Missing Link Trust. Panellists led by PP Rtn Leena Kejriwal, Founder of the Missing Link project, Nicole Rangel, Co Founder of Leher and Lt Col Ravi Bedi of the Chandigarh-Mohali Child Helpline participated in an engaging discussion shedding light on the changing patterns in child trafficking, creating awareness among individuals, organizations, and the public about child trafficking and how partnerships can forge the path ahead. The panel was moderated with aplomb by PDG Shyamashree Sen and she drew out the issues, problems and challenges from the panel. The District Governor Prabir Chatterjee made his opening remarks and her partner Rubena Chatterjee, the first lady, chipped in with her views about child parenting and more. PP Rtn Subhojit Roy introduced the panel while club President Bandana Das initiated the program by welcoming the guests. An informative and thought provoking start to the series of 4 Peace Talks. The talks are available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mo8N5NdGUcE>.

Spreading Literacy

RC Calcutta Metro City as part of the Rotary Service Day literacy project visited Nalua South Merit Academy for underprivileged primary students and distributed 600 notebooks, 300 pens, 300 Fruit Juice and goodies for the children. They presented a cultural program in honour of the visiting Rotarians. President Rtn Bandana Das, Vice President Rtn Amrita Basu and Treasurer PP Rtn Subhojit Roy spent the entire day at the school. The gifts were sponsored by PDG Shyamashree Sen, PP Rtn Subhojit Roy, President Rtn Bandana Das, Rtn Amrita Basu & Dabur India. We have undertaken a process of sponsoring the organization as our Rotary Community Corps and briefed their officials of the duties, responsibilities and obligations of a RCC and spoke of a road map towards fulfilling the targets. Overall an extremely satisfying day spreading Rotary's message in a remote village beyond Diamond Harbour



Vivek Sharma speaks on Mental wellness and Building Mind Strength

Vivek Sharma a Social Entrepreneur, Author, Pod-caster, IIM Calcutta alumnus and a mental health advocate, he runs Mickey Amogh Foundation in the name of his son "Amogh". Vivek works on prevention of suicide amongst youth and a popular pod-caster amongst youth. His podcast God Is Not Fair? has more than 1 million listens and he has helped more than 300 young minds who were in depression and a few of them were suicidal. Vivek does what he does because he believes, 'suicide is not a solution for any problem in life'. After losing his then 5 years old son, Vivek attempted suicide with his wife, but life had other plans for them. They bounced back and together they're transforming thousands of human lives. These and more he narrated to the audience at the Regular Zoom Meeting attended by the members and many guests from other rotary clubs and organizations. This was followed by an interactive session eliciting numerous questions as well as thoughts and views exchanged. Rtn Samriddhi introduced Vivek to the audience while Rtn Arundhati offered the formal expression of gratitude



SNID- Polio Sunday





Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City after 2 days of intensive campaigning in KMC Ward 61, also participated on Sunday 26th September Polio Immunization Day (SNID).

Despite torrential rains members led by President Bandana, PDG Shyamashree, PP Rtn Subhojit, PP Rtn Jharna, Vice President Rtn Amrita, Rtns Shanker, Debankur and ofcourse the Polio champion of the Club PP Rtn Firoz assembled at the designated booth and the team welcomed District Governor Prabir, District team of PP Rtns Avijit, Sibabrata and Rakesh. The star of the morning was the little Zunairah, daughter of Firoz who was administered polio drops by DG Prabir.

The polio workers of the KMC led by Shahid and the lady volunteers were felicitated for their contribution towards the cause by the club and DG Prabir did the honours.

The count was slow to begin the day and picked up later as the rains stopped and the final figures would be known post the door to door mopping up exercise.



Coming up...

5th October, Rotary Sadan, 6pm- Seminar on Cervical Cancer, hosted by RC Adi Bhowinipore and supported by RC Calcutta Metro City

9th October, 7:30pm- Regular Meeting on Zoom

MAKE HISTORY TODAY

Rotary  

YOUR DONATION US\$ 25 + BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION US\$ 50 = TOTAL CONTRIBUTION US\$ 75

100 DOSES OF POLIO VACCINE **TRIPLE YOUR IMPACT!**

globalgiving.org/endpolio

Greetings!

Happy Anniversary ● Subarna & Nirjhar Bhaduri for 8th October!