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December Newsletter



Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

As the year draws to a close, November and December at Ramdhanu have been magical—filled with gratitude, celebration, learning, and empowerment. We are delighted to share these moments that made us proud and strengthened our mission of hope.



Grandmothers' Day – Gratitude in Action

Our children celebrated Grandmothers' Day by feeding their grandmothers with love and presenting them warm shawls as a token of gratitude. The Telegraph beautifully covered this heartwarming story.

Warmth and Care for All

- 145 children in Kolkata and our tribal village received warm clothes.
- Nutritious food and gift packets were distributed among street children of Ward 87, with our children taking the initiative.



Honoured Guests and Special Launches

- Ramdhanu Calendar, featuring drawings by our children, was launched by renowned writer Shirshendu Mukherjee.
- We were honoured by Tim Grandage, founder of Future Hope Foundation, visiting Ramdhanu.
- Honourable Councillor of Block 87 visited to distribute new clothes to our children.



New Initiatives: Protecting and Empowering

Dignity Door initiative launched to protect girl children living on the streets. Coupons distributed allow free access to public toilets, ensuring safety and dignity.



Festive Joy: Christmas Market

Our Christmas Market was a spectacular event! Every product was handmade by the girls of Kolkata and Murgaboni Ramdhanu, showcasing their creativity, talent, and entrepreneurship.



Achievements and Growth

- Participation in Anondomela, organised by Pathobhawan School—an honour for our children.
- Excellent results in annual exams, reflecting their hard work.
- New admissions to reputed schools, opening doors to brighter academic futures.



HOUR OF CELEBRATION ON GRANDPARENTS' DAY Grandmothers who raise generations

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

ta: Sixty-three-year-old Moni Mondal managed to steal an hour from her workday to visit her daughter's school. She earns a living by picking up waste from the street and separating the recyclable she can sell. This week, Rashmoni and other grandmothers — most ragpickers from around Avenue — were invited to Grandparents' Day celebration at a centre run by an NGO. They arrived one, some with their bags of ill tucked at their waists. Setting aside, they washed their and settled in for some love and fun. These women, moments like almost unheard of. Most have their children single-handedly battling financial hardship and ostracisation. Now, some are raising their granddaughters the ray. They live on the streets and have to raise their children — daughters and sons — protecting them diversities and predators. Some are now raising their granddaughters," said Mitrobindu Ghosh, Tollygunge Ramdhanu Social Welfare Society. "The sacrifice they made is immense, and we wanted children to sit by their side and them some love and affection." The society provides education to children aged 5 to 18 who live on the streets, training them in dance, music and art.

Programmes like these cannot the harsh realities these grandmothers face. While Grandparents' Day has become an annual event in private schools — where children and grandparents arrive in best clothes — such celebrations bury the women living by the cannot afford.



The Grandparents' Day celebration at a centre run by the Tollygunge Ramdhanu Social Welfare Society



"It's a struggle for existence for them, which does not allow them to take a complete day off from work. They came in between work, carrying with them the burden of the rags," said Ghosh.

Age has not granted them rest. Old and often frail, they must compete with younger ragpickers who can gather more waste and earn more. Poverty leaves no room for retirement.

One woman, well past 70, still wakes up at 6am to begin her day's work. Her daughter-in-law left soon after the birth of her granddaughter.

and her son takes no responsibility. "It is this old woman who is bringing up the girl, who is now 13," Ghosh said.

The grandmother had one plea for Ghosh: "Take care of my granddaughter when I am not there."

Ghosh said she has faced resistance in her efforts to include the most marginalised Calcuttans in education but has also found allies. "Whenever I have faced resistance in the neighbourhood, there has always been a woman who speaks up for the education of girl children and for these girls," she said.





Looking Ahead

These months have reminded us that empowerment is built on love, opportunity, and community support. Every achievement, smile, and step forward belongs to you—our supporters, volunteers, and well-wishers. Together, we continue to turn dreams into reality.

With gratitude and hope,

Mitrobinda Ghosh

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Welfare Society

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