

## Child Friendly Corner at Kolkata International Book Fair 2020: A Report

29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020- 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, Central Park, Saltlake





## Inauguration

It was 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, Wednesday. It was raining cats & dogs since morning and dark clouds were hovering around the sky. But in the afternoon, overcoming all the threatening forecasts, the Child Friendly Corner of WBCPCR was inaugurated by Dr. Shashi Panja, the Hon'ble MOS (IC), Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal. Sri Chiranjit Chakraborty, renowned actor of Bengali cinema and Sri Surajit Chatterjee, famous music star were also among the special guests.



In her brief note, Dr. Shashi Panja said, “This is the third year WBCPCR is participating in the Kolkata International Bookfair. Children who will visit the book fair and this child friendly corner will get to know about their Rights and all the good jobs done by the government for them”.

Smt. Ananya Chakraborti, the Hon'ble Chairperson of WBCPCR said, "Our Commission is relentlessly working towards protecting of child rights. We organize lots of awareness building programmes throughout the year. Participation in the book fair with this child friendly corner is also part of them."

Sri Chiranjit Chakraborty was of the opinion that booklets published by the Commission on various child rights issues such as cyber safety, child marriage, POCSO and Hullor, the children's magazine of WBCPCR are very useful in enhancing awareness among children about their rights.

Sri Surajit Chatterjee also appreciated the role of the Commission in protecting child rights of the state.

### Publication & Release



*Monosamikkhon: Ekti Nirdeshika* , a handbook on counselling of children was also released by the dignitaries. It was originally published by the *National Commission for Protection of Child Rights ( NCPCLR)*. WBCPCR has translated this handbook from English to Bengali for training and skill development of staff of Child Care Institutions (CCIs).





## Planning



*Stall in making*

WBCPCR's planning for the Book Fair started six months back with sending the application letter to the Publishers & Booksellers Guild for having a stall at the 44<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Book Fair in 2020. Internal meetings were convened a number of times so that all aspects including budget, interior and exterior design of the stall, participation, strategy of awareness building campaign on child rights issues, sale & distribution of Hullor were to be looked into properly. On January, 2020, a rectangular space of 600 square feet was allotted by the guild committee to the Commission at the Central Park Mela Ground, Saltlake and Child Friendly Corner was created there by the Commission with the focal theme Hansel and Gretel, one of the most popular children's classics of Germany.



*Final shape*

## Participation & Activities

There were 4 kinds of activities at the CPRC's Child Friendly Corner at KBF 2020.

- a. Distribution of CPRC's child rights related publications & booklets .
- b. Sale of Hullor, quarterly children's magazine of CPRC.
- c. Performances by the children from community, Child Care Institutions and also by the children visited the stall.
- d. Workshops and programmes conducted by the celebs of different works of life.

### UNICEF Participation



*Child Friendly Corner \_ supported by UNICEF*

### List of NGOs participated in the child rights related events at the stall

1. Save the Children
2. Jayprakash Institute of Social Change
3. Don Bosco Ashalayam
4. Behala Krittika
5. Diksha
6. Prantakatha
7. Child Line, Howrah
8. Jabala
9. Women's Interlink Foundation
10. Vikramshila Education Resource Society
11. All Bengal Women's Union
12. OFFER

## Celebrities who graced the occasion

1. Chiranjit Chakraborty, Actor
2. Surajit Chatterjee, Singer
3. Pracheto Gupta, Writer
4. Biswanath Basu, Actor
5. Dr. Debiprasad Duary, Scientist
6. Satyarup Siddhanta, Mountaineer
7. Dr. Arundhati Sarkar, Director, Mono Chetana Academic & Research Centre
8. Dr. Anupam Pal, Agricultural Scientist
9. Bithi Chattopadhyay, Poet
10. Sharmistha Sarkar, Artist
11. Troy Roy Chowdhury, Quiz Master
12. DOHAR, Music Band
13. JOWAR, Folk Band
14. Mitra & Ghosh Publisher

## Anchor

Two popular radio jockeys of Kolkata **RJ Shekhar** & **RJ Manali** hosted the events of the Child Friendly Corner at KBF 2020.





## Media

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পশ্চিমবঙ্গ শিশু অধিকার সুরক্ষা আয়োগের প্যাভেলিয়নের সামনে  
খুদেদের সঙ্গে গায়ক সুরজিৎ চ্যাটার্জি, মন্ত্রী শশী পাঁজা, চিরঞ্জিত এবং  
সুদেষ্ণা রায়। কলকাতা বইমেলায় বুধবার। ছবি: কৌশিক সরকার

## Observation

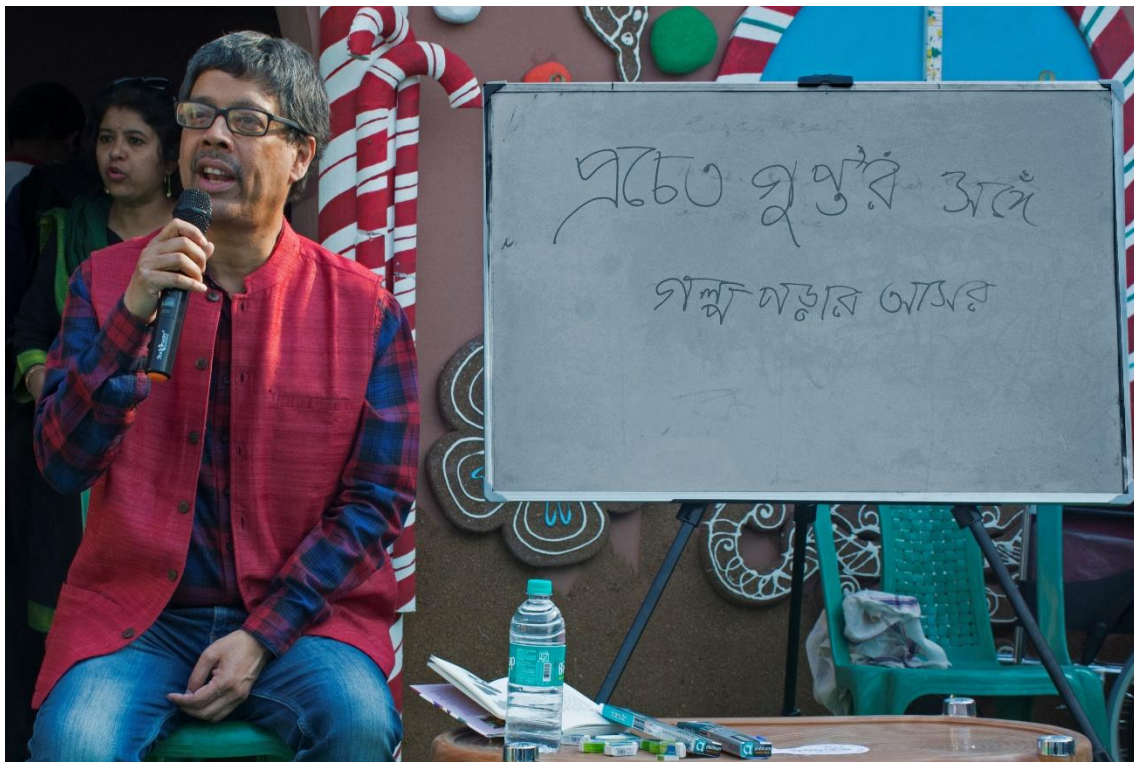
1. Child Friendly Corner of WBCPCR left a sizeable impact among the children and crowd visited the stall and Mela. Thousands and thousands of children including their guardians visited the corner and actively participated in the events and voiced their opinions.
2. Commission got excellent media coverage for its initiative of setting up of the Child Friendly Corner at KBF 2020. Almost all media appreciated the role of the Commission working towards sensitizing people on the rights of children and encouraging children for participating in different kinds of activities at the stall.



3. Children thoroughly enjoyed storytelling and poetry writing sessions and art workshops conducted by the celebrity writers and artists. This kind of workshop may be introduced in the Child Care Institutions also.
4. Visitors who went through the children's magazine Hullor at the stall, wanted to have that magazine in the district libraries as well.
5. People were asking for more children's publications from the CPCRC.



## Story Time



Story reading session by the eminent Bengali writer Pracheto Gupta



Story writing workshop: *Boi Bandhu* organized by *Mitra and Ghosh*, famous publishing house of Kolkata.



## Poetry Workshop



**Renowned poet of Bengali literature, Bithi Chattopadhyay took a poetry writing workshop for the children. Quite a few limericks were made by the children on spot which will be published in Hullor March issue, 2020.**

## Voices of the Mountains



**Satyarup Siddhanta, the incredible mountaineer of Bengal, interacted with the children on how to be on top of the Everest.**



## Acting Workshop



**Biswanath Basu, popular Tollywood actor took the acting workshop for the children.**



**Kuldeep Polley, theatre activist & a member of NANDIKAR taught the children about theatre acting.**



## Art Workshop



**Sharmistha Sarkar, famous painter and art teacher with her co-artists after finishing a large canvas.**



**Art workshop by DonBosco Ashalayam**



## **Meet the Scientist**



**It was all about space, galaxy and existence. Dr. Debiprasad Duari was the guest at the Meet the Scientist programme.**



**Dr. Arundhati Sarkar, Director of Monochetana Academic & Research Centre discussed the issue of mental health with the children.**



## Music



**Performance by famous Bangla folk band, DOHAR**



**Performance by JOWAR, Bangla folk**



## Activities by the Children





**Drama on good touch and bad touch**



**Every day, a huge crowd was seen in front of the WBCPCR's Child Friendly Corner at the Bookfair.**



