

International Women's Day-2016

Good Shepherd Social Action Project Virar

More than 80 sex workers including HIV infected women and others gathered to celebrate the International women's day on 12th March 2016 at Bhiwandi drop in centre, organised by Good Shepherd Social Action Project, Virar. Mrs .Sunita District Mission Manager (Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission), was the chief guest of the day and Julia a Korean Good Shepherd sister was the guest of honour who along with other three women inaugurated the celebration by lighting the lamp.

To mark the UN 2016 theme for International Women's Day "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" the theme was explained to them in an interactive way by Sr. Jacqueline. Prior to the celebration Sr. Zita gave an orientation to all the male children of the sex workers about gender equality and the importance of celebrating women's day. As a result these boys organised themselves and cleaned the hall, decorated it, helped with the cooking, decorated the board, performed an inaugural dance and conducted games.

During the chief guest's speech she highlighted on women's right, gender equality, "World Free of Violence Against Women" and alternative livelihood programme to empower them and raise their socio economic status. She encouraged them to tap the government schemes allotted for them and promised to get the schemes implemented if they take initiative to organise themselves.

While concluding the speech she interacted with the women and asked them to express their thoughts and feelings. Some of them said that they were happy to come to this centre to celebrate the women's day. Because we feel valued and cared for by the Good Shepherd Social Action Project. We are convinced of the importance of educating our children and we feel empowered more and more. This is one of the ways for us to feel free and enjoy ourselves. We always look forward to such celebrations. The programme concluded with some games, lots of fun and a well prepared lunch.

