



**DR. VASUDHA DHAGAMWAR**  
Founder Director - MARG  
(1940-2014)

## **Remembering Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar: A Tribute on Her 84th Birth Anniversary**

### **Introduction:**

Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar, a pioneer in the field of women's empowerment and social justice, left an indelible mark on society through her relentless advocacy and tireless efforts to uplift marginalized communities. As we commemorate her 84th birth anniversary on February 29th, 2024, it is imperative to reflect on her legacy and honour her contributions. This report encapsulates the collaborative event held with the Delhi State Domestic Workers Welfare Organisation (DSDWWO) aimed at raising community awareness on women's rights, paying homage to Dr. Dhagamwar's life and work.



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**Background:**

Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar's life was characterized by a steadfast commitment to social justice and gender equality. Her groundbreaking initiatives revolutionized the landscape of women's empowerment in India, laying the foundation for inclusive policies and transformative change. As a tribute to her enduring legacy, the DSDWWO organized a commemorative event to celebrate her remarkable journey and advocate for the rights of women, particularly domestic workers.

**Event Overview:**

The event, held on February 29th, 2024, served as a platform to honour Dr. Dhagamwar's legacy while addressing pressing issues faced by women, especially those in the domestic workforce. With approximately 20 domestic workers from various parts of Delhi in attendance, the event fostered a spirit of solidarity and empowerment. Registration commenced promptly at 2:45 p.m., welcoming participants with anticipation and excitement for a day filled with meaningful activities.



### **Symbolic Gestures and Ceremonies:**

At 3:10 p.m., the event officially commenced with a symbolic gesture of unity and empowerment: the lighting of the lamp by all female employees at MARG. This ceremonial act signified the beginning of a transformative journey towards gender equality and social justice. A beautiful song on women empowerment set the tone for the event, inspiring participants to unite in their shared pursuit of equality and dignity.





### **Acknowledging Dr. Dhagamwar's Legacy:**

Intern Samyuktha delivered a comprehensive introduction to Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar, highlighting her extraordinary life and achievements. Samyuktha's tribute underscored Dr. Dhagamwar's unwavering dedication to the empowerment of women, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration for future generations.

### **Insights and Advocacy:**

Executive Director Md Noor Alam Sir provided insights into MARG's support for the Domestic Workers Association and women's rights initiatives in Delhi. His remarks shed light on the impactful work being done to uplift and advocate for women's rights, reaffirming MARG's commitment to social justice and inclusivity.



Advocate Aashana Madhup facilitated a round of introductions, fostering connections and creating a welcoming atmosphere for all attendees. Her engagement marked the beginning of an insightful and empowering dialogue on women's rights and empowerment.



### **Interactive Activities and Discussions:**

The event featured interactive activities aimed at eliciting participants' perspectives on societal change and women's empowerment. Participants were divided into groups and tasked with expressing their aspirations for change on chart paper. This exercise provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by domestic workers and underscored the importance of collective action in advancing gender equality.





### **Key Themes and Aspirations:**

Groups articulated their visions for societal change, emphasizing the importance of unity, autonomy, education, housing reforms, and workplace rights. Their aspirations reflected a deep-seated desire for dignity, respect, and equal opportunities for all women, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

### **Empowerment through Knowledge:**

Advocate Aashana Madhup empowered participants with knowledge of their rights under the Constitution of India, highlighting the importance of awareness in safeguarding their well-being and dignity in the workplace. This session equipped participants with essential tools to advocate for their rights and resist exploitation.



### **Cultural Tribute and Reflection:**

Participants concluded the event with a heartfelt rendition of the inspirational song "Hum Honge Kamyab" ("We will be Successful"), symbolizing the resilience and strength inherent within each domestic worker. The performance served as a poignant reminder of Dr. Dhagamwar's enduring legacy and the collective spirit of empowerment.

**Conclusion:**

The commemorative event honoring Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar's 84th birth anniversary served as a catalyst for positive change within the community of domestic workers in Delhi. Through meaningful dialogue, advocacy, and solidarity, participants reaffirmed their commitment to advancing women's rights and empowerment. As we reflect on Dr. Dhagamwar's legacy, let us continue to build upon her vision of a more just and equitable society, where every woman has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.