

## **Report on the tenth year celebration program held on 20 November 2010**

The programme started at about 1.15 pm at Dr Triguna Sen Memorial Hall in the JU campus with the opening song '*Eso mili eso*' sung by the parents, after a brief introduction about the aims and objectives of Atmaja by Anup Dewanji. Then followed solo renditions by Subhra, Monali and Anjan. The children then took center-stage to sing '*Aaj amra chotto*' and '*A ha ha*' in chorus led by Subha Mukhopadhyay. Anup and Sanghamitra then partnered to deliver a hilarious *sruti-natak* which was liked by all. A break was announced for 10 minutes with tea and cakes served in the lobby. The children had cakes, chips, toffees and juice.

Following tea break, the stage was set for the Seminar on "Awareness about Adoption and Rationalization of Adoption Laws" in association with the Centre for Counseling Services and Studies in self-Development, Jadavpur. First, the souvenir for this occasion, marked as a special issue of Atmakatha, and the second edition of our booklet, The Child Meant for Us, were released by Professor Madhab Mitra, founder of Centre for Counseling Services & Studies in Self-development, JU. The panel for the Seminar consisted of the following speakers:

Mrs Aloka Mitra - Social worker with Womens' Link Foundation.

Dr Siddhartha Chatterjee - Specialising in the field of 'infertility treatment'.

Mr Debashish Boral - Special Superintendent of Police.

Ms Soumeta Medhora - Social worker, Indian Society for Sponsorship and Adoption.

Mr Sadhan Chakrabarty - Centre for Counseling Services & Studies in Self-Development, Jadavpur University.

Mrs Nilanjana Gupta, Chairperson, Atmaja.

The panelists were presented with bouquet by the children of Atmaja. Thereafter, each speaker spoke about the different aspects of adoption with everybody stressing upon the need for legal method of adoption. The whole seminar was moderated by Swapan Naskar who also delivered the opening address and the vote of thanks.

Immediately after the Seminar, we had to start the cultural programme '*Lal Neel Sabujer Mela*'. First there was a short dance drama '*Tuntunir Galpo*' by Tanisha, Anurag and Ritayan, followed by solo songs by Anjan and Anusha. Another absorbing recitation, '*Karna-Kunti Sangbad*,' was presented by Subha and Prasun, followed by a beautiful 'thought-play' depicting Rabi Thakur (Nabajit), Nehru (Amit) and Mother Teresa (Surashree) along with other children wondering about the Atmaja tenth year celebration. Recitation by Abir and Disha, solo song by Arindam and dance presentation by Srijata and Brataparna were probably the sweetest events in the whole programme. There were some more group songs by the children and Shounok accompanied in Tabla in few of them.

The entire cultural programme was conceived by Subha and anchored by Prasun. Many took photographs of the event (See our website) and there was also arrangement for videography. A vcd of the whole programme is under preparation which may be available soon. Then we broke for High Tea with luchi-aludam, veg. chop, sweets and coffee served to one and all. Sankar Naskar took all the pain to arrange for the food and snacks.

The biggest attraction of the day was the play AAL IZ WELL by Blank Verse which started at around 6:30 PM and went till about 8:30 PM; the hall was full till the end. This was a very well-directed play with mostly child actors enacting circumstances related to juvenile crime. After the play was over, the entire audience applauded profusely about the theme of the play and the acting by the entire star-cast, particularly the children. The show of appreciation was pretty spontaneous.