



Bandhan

'Hope for the Poor'

Ms. Helen LaFave, US Consul General visits Bandhan

Bandhan had the opportunity to host Ms. Helen LaFave, US Consul General on June 25, 2014. Upon hearing a lot about Bandhan's exemplary work in the microfinance sector, Ms. Helen expressed her interest to visit Bandhan. The US Consulate office in Kolkata wrote to Bandhan seeking an opportunity for Ms. LaFave to meet Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Chairman & Managing Director, Bandhan in order to learn more about the organization. They also indicated that she is keen to hear about Bandhan's plans to start banking operations. Bandhan readily agreed to host the US Consul General.

As per the program schedule, she reached Bandhan's head office in Salt Lake early morning where she was welcomed by Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Chairman & Managing Director, Bandhan along with his senior management members. Here, she was delivered a corporate presentation to provide a brief hindsight about the organization's history, programs, policies, processes, future plans etc. Ms. LaFave enquired about Bandhan's plans as it transforms itself into a bank.



Ms. Lafave then headed for the field visit to the district of North 24 Parganas. Mr. Ghosh accompanied her to the field. They travelled about an hour to reach the site. She walked straight into a microfinance group meeting where she interacted with the women borrowers of Bandhan who have taken loans and invested in various income generating activities.

Post the microfinance group meeting, Ms. LaFave dropped by one of Bandhan's Non – Formal Primary School. She was thrilled to interact with the students and the facilitator. These low cost schools are run under Bandhan's Education Program which is actually one of the many development programs run by the not for profit entity of Bandhan.



Ms. LaFave was accompanied on this visit by some senior officials from the US Consulate office in Kolkata. Some media friends were also present at the field. She was highly appreciative of the organization's achievement and extended all her good wishes to the proposed Bandhan bank. Before departing, she said "I have been hearing a lot about Bandhan and their work. It has been fascinating to see their work at the grass root level today. I am very impressed with the way they are transforming lives of the underserved section of the community".

Head Office: DN-32, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700091, West Bengal, India
Phone: +91-33-6609-0909 **E-Mail:** info@bandhanmf.com **Website:** www.bandhanmf.com