

## **SSU Meet on 28.05.2016**

The Editorial Board, Production Team, friends and well wishers of '**Swasthya Siksha Unnayan (SSU)**' met together on 28.05.2016. Despite pan-election violence and terror in several parts of West Bengal, our friends from different parts of the state including Jharkhand participated. Another encouraging feature is that the leading organizers of on-going people's science and rationalist movement of our state also participated in the meeting.

Naturally an elaborate discussion on prospects and challenges of people's science and rationalist movement in present situation, where fundamentalist religious terrorist forces backed by the big capital and kowtow states are on rampage, was held with a call to strengthen and co-ordinate the movements. The meeting reiterated the resolutions and programmes of the meetings of 27 February and 26 March 2016; condemned the arrest and harassment of our colleague Dr. Saibal Jana, a people's doctor and The Director, Shahid Hospital, Chhattisgarh and hailed the initiatives of our colleagues to develop sustainable health services in the remote islands of Sundarban and peoples' science initiatives in North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Coochbehar and Paschim Medinipur.

Amidst unholy money-snatching networks comprising corporate and private hospitals – dishonest doctors – dishonest health workers – touts etc. as well as non-functioning, shabby and patient-unfriendly environment in government hospitals some of our friends would like to prepare a directory of health institutes where low – cost and / or rational treatment can be availed by common people. Wide variation of prices of drugs in different outlets, non availability of essential drugs, suspicious activities of Govt. sponsored 'Fair Price Shops', fallacies of so called 'Free Treatment', efficacy of drugs sold in the market in different ways, corruption from Big Pharma up to procurement and distribution set up etc. and their aftermath to the health of common people were seriously discussed. And it was decided that a popular updated and interesting booklet on 'Manusher Chikitsar Jonyo Osudh Na Brihat Puji O Mafiader Laver Jonyo Osudh' and an updated edition of the booklet ' Health System of West Bengal – Opportunities and Availabilities' will be published from our Publication Wing. Our publisher and printer friends are also taking an excellent initiative to arrange proper display and sale of different little magazines.

Next issue of SSU will be published in September and all are requested to collect suitable articles and fund from our friends and well wishers. The house decided to strengthen the education component in the magazine. Topics, detail lay out and distributions of job for the next issue were discussed. Editorial Board and Publication Team will meet regularly. Next General Meeting will be held on 27.08.2016. [29.05.2016]